

# Oracle® Retail Demand Forecasting

Release Notes

Release 13.2

July 2010

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## Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting Overview

Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting (RDF) is a Windows-based statistical and promotional forecasting solution. It uses state-of-the-art modeling techniques to produce high quality forecasts with minimal human intervention. Forecasts produced by the Demand Forecasting system enhance the retailer's supply chain planning, allocation, and replenishment processes, enabling a profitable and customer-oriented approach to predicting and meeting product demand.

## Important Steps to Address RMS-RPAS/RDF Integration

This section describes important steps to address the RMS-RPAS/RDF integration.

### Change of Class and Subclass Naming

Oracle Retail Merchandising System (RMS) sends hierarchy files to Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting (RDF). RMS ensures that a class is unique to only its department and a subclass is unique to only its own class. In other words, Dept10 and Dept 20 both can contain Class 100. However, within RPAS, unless class names are unique across the domain, it results in a multi-parent problem. Until this release, RDF tried to ensure uniqueness by concatenation of positions as follows:

- RDF Class = RMS Dept + RMS Class
- RDF Subclass = RMS Dept + RMS Class + RMS Subclass

However, this can result in a multi-parent problem. For example:

RMS Department	RMS Class	RPAS/RDF Class
10	110	10110
101	10	10110

In this scenario, Clss10110 rolls into both Dept10 and Dept101. This is not acceptable in any RPAS application.

## Resolution

Position names are made unique by adding an underscore. In the example above, the classes would be named Clss 10\_110 and Clss101\_10. However, when these position names are corrected and new hierarchy files are created, the existing class/subclass name no longer exists. Therefore, if the upgrade process is not specifically followed, any data that was stored at the class or subclass level (such as Clss10110 above) is erased.

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**Important:** Failure to follow these upgrade instructions could result in data loss.

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The following upgrade process needs to be followed only by the customers who:

- Use standard integration between RMS and RPAS based applications (other than AIP).
- Have stored data at class or subclass levels.
- Upgrade from a version prior to 13.0.4.18 to 13.0.4.18 or later. Those customers must apply the process described below. In the future, customers already on 13.0.4.18 or later do not need to use this process again.

### Upgrade Process

1. Point the environment variable RPAS\_HOME to the new RPAS\_HOME.
2. Run the script \$RPAS\_HOME/rfx/src/rmse\_rpas\_merchhier.ksh to generate the rmse\_rpas\_merchhier.dat file. This is how the new position names are generated.
3. Run repos.ksh with the -a n flag to produce the position rename file and run renamePositions **without** applying the changes. Examine the log file PRODrename.log for errors.
4. When ready, run the repos.ksh script without the -a y flag to apply the changes.

## Change of Position Label Widths

Fields lengths for RDF hierarchies were increased to accept wider labels from RMS. These new field lengths are currently not patchable directly in any RPAS domain. Therefore, the following upgrade process must be followed:

### Upgrade Process

All customers applying 13.0.4.18 and above should perform the steps below every time a new hot fix is applied.

1. Export the following environment variables in the environment before running the upgrade scripts.
  - UPGRADE\_HOME: This variable should point to the path of upgrade scripts where environment.ksh, updateschemafiles.ksh, updatetoolsconfiguration.ksh, and other configuration files are present.
  - RDF\_DOMAIN\_PATH: The path of RDF domain which you are going to patch. The dimension field length of this RDF domain is taken and applied to the configuration and schema files.

- `RDF_SCHEMA_DIR`: The RETL RDF schema files directory. This must be the latest release directory, which you use for patching. It points to the SCHEMA files location in the release, which you use for patching the RDF domain.
  - `TOOLS_CONFIG_DIR`: The Configuration Tools XML files directory. It points to the directory where the `hierarchy.xml` file is present. It must be the latest release directory which you use for patching.
  - `UPGRADE_BACKUP_DIR`: A backup of SCHEMA and `hierarchy.xml` files is kept in this directory.
2. Set up the following upgrade scripts:
    - `updateschemafiles.ksh` script updates the dimension field length of schema files to the length as available in the domain.
    - `updatetoolsconfiguration.ksh` script updates the dimension field length of configuration files to the length as available in the domain.
  3. Change the directory to UpgradeScripts directory.

```
$ cd UpgradeScripts
```
  4. Run `updatetoolsconfiguration.ksh`. This updates the `hierarchy.xml` file.

```
$ ./ updatetoolsconfiguration.ksh
```
  5. Run `updateschemafiles.ksh`. This updates the RETL RDF schema files.

```
$ ./ updateschemafiles.ksh
```

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**Note:** For added visibility for retailers, these instructions are included in both the *RDF Release Notes* and the *RDF Installation Guide*. In the future, see the *RDF Installation Guide* for more information.

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## Technical Enhancement

RDF 13.2 includes the following technical enhancement.

### Language Enablement

#### New Translations

For Release 13.2, Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server is translated into the following languages, in addition to the language translations supported in Release 13.1.2:

- Dutch
- Greek
- Hungarian
- Polish
- Swedish
- Turkish

#### Supported Translations

RPAS is now translated into all of the following languages:

- Brazilian Portuguese
- Dutch
- French
- German
- Greek
- Hungarian
- Italian
- Japanese
- Korean
- Polish
- Russian
- Simplified Chinese
- Spanish
- Swedish
- Traditional Chinese
- Turkish

## Hardware and Software Requirements

See the *Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting Installation Guide* for information about the following:

- Hardware and software requirements
- Oracle Retail application software compatibility information

## Fixed Issues/Defects

The table below contains issues that have been fixed for the current release.

Fixed Issue/Defect	Defect Number
While using "kmeans" method, cluster special expression could sometimes fail due to the membership vector getting "out-of-bounds." This problem is now corrected.	9754436
For an implementation with RDF but not Curve, the application errors when trying to create a Forecast Scorecard workbook. This issue has been resolved.	9677242
Promo Effectiveness workbook fails to build due to the ability to assign different source measures to different forecasting levels. This issue has been resolved.	9563832
The RDF transform programs failed because of warning messages. This issue has been resolved.	9432455
Turning Disable Causal to true creates NANQ values for the system forecast. This issue has been resolved.	9509321
When running Causal forecast, with a forecast startdate override in the future, if external baseline is used, the forecast is shifted several weeks from the external baseline. This issue has been resolved.	9523877
When a prod/loc measure is selected through the extra measures wizard, the system parameters worksheet is created, even if nothing is selected in the Additional Forecast Measures wizard. This issue has been resolved.	9450923
In the Forecast Approval workbook, the approval flag was not getting updated when the user pressed the refresh button. This issue has been resolved.	9475484
The final level source data measure does not show up in the Forecast Maintenance workbook, even if it is included in the workbook template. This issue has been resolved.	9548570
The rdf_e_aip_cumint,ksh script does not accept variable path lengths. This issue has been resolved.	9582708
The rdf_e_aip_cumint,ksh script does not check the exit codes of the 'mace' calls, or other RPAS binaries' calls. This issue has been resolved.	9652042
After patching a forecast level intersection, the forecast generation failed for that level. This issue has been resolved.	9672415
Running out of memory in pregenerateforecast when deleting multiple forecasts. This issue has been resolved.	9316527

<b>Fixed Issue/Defect</b>	<b>Defect Number</b>
When running Causal forecasting, if there is an external baseline and no fit, RDF applies the external baseline as the forecast, without considering 'Override' variables. This issue has been resolved.	8971690
Forecast Approval workbook build failure due to rule duplication. This issue has been resolved.	9469516
The output of the product hierarchy transform script was in the wrong format. This issue has been resolved.	9441355
The output of the calendar transformation script was missing entries. This issue has been resolved.	9432816
The level labels entered by the user are not used in the picklist for source level selection. This issue has been resolved.	9384540
When the user was selecting Bayesian in the Interactive Forecast workbook, the forecast was zeroes. This issue has been resolved by not displaying forecasting methods that are not available in the Interactive Forecasting workbook.	9377929
The forecast generation dates were not formatted according to the user's regional settings. This issue has been resolved.	9372997
When setting different Days to Keep Forecasts for different final levels, the settings are not respected for each final level. This issue has been resolved.	9179363
Rekeying the same adjusted forecast may impact adjusted cumulative intervals by large amounts. This issue has been resolved.	9163627
The rdft_daily_sales.ksh transform script failed due to platform specific awk commands. This issue has been resolved.	9399540
In RDF AutoSource, the source level forecast length does not match the setting in the Forecast Administration workbook. This issue has been resolved.	9212073
Customized data interface info for plugin generated measures get lost when the plugins are re-run. This issue has been resolved.	8577469
When running a batch forecast in the client, then changing and committing forecast parameter changes (such as 'Days to Keep Forecasts'), subsequent batches use the original versions of the parameters instead of the updated ones. This issue has been resolved.	9760853
curveValidate' fails when the root of the domain's calendar hierarchy is 'HOUR'. This issue has been resolved.	9538595
The 'defrag' utility is returning an exit code of 10 due to missing databases. This issue has been resolved.	9478471
The intersection change in Curve is not patchable. This issue has been resolved.	9468480
Error message in Config Tools due to a measure that is part of a workbook, but has no rules associated with it. This issue has been resolved.	8475631
st9bad_alloc exception in the forecast generation, when trying to create a vector of negative length. This issue has been resolved.	9325494
Committing a change in the user maintained hierarchy takes a very long time. The process has been sped up considerably.	9315426

Fixed Issue/Defect	Defect Number
In a two-tree wizard page, any selection change made to the tree will cause the right (secondary) tree to be refreshed and scroll to the top. This issue has been resolved.	9089548

## Related Documentation

For more information, see the following documents in the Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting 13.2 documentation set:

- *Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting Installation Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting Implementation Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting Configuration Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting User Guide*

## Previous Releases

For additional information on previous Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting release enhancements and additional information, refer to the release notes and documentation that accompany the previous release.

## Supplemental Documentation at My Oracle Support

The following document is available through My Oracle Support. Access My Oracle Support at the following URL:

<https://support.oracle.com>

## Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting 13.2 Cumulative Fixed Issues (Doc ID 1138806.1)

This document details the fixed issues and defects for all RDF patch releases prior to and including the current release.

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