

Oracle® Retail Demand Forecasting

Release Notes

Release 13.2.2

January 2011

Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting Overview

Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting (RDF) is a 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.

Note: The 13.2.2 release of RDF is a repackaging of the previous release. There were no changes made to the code.

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.

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

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
```

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.

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

Note: After the 13.2.2 release, MKS will no longer be supported as a requirement for operating demonstration configurations on all versions of Windows operating systems. Use of Cygwin is in development as a replacement.

Supported Oracle Retail Products

The following Oracle Retail products are supported:

Requirement	Version
Oracle Retail Analytic Parameter Calculator for Replenishment Optimization (APC RO)	13.2
Oracle Retail Merchandising System (RMS)	13.2
Oracle Retail Replenishment Optimization (RO)	13.2.2
Oracle Retail Regular Price Optimization (RPO)	13.2.2

Known Issues

The following table contains issues that have been identified for the current release.

Defect Number	Known Issue/Defect
11677741	Simple (non-global) domains cannot be upgraded to 13.2.2.

Related Documentation

For more information, see the following documents in the Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting 13.2.2 documentation set:

- *Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting Installation 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.

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