

Oracle® Retail Item Planning Configured for COE

Release Notes

Release 13.2

July 2010

Oracle Retail Item Planning Configured for the Clearance Optimization Engine (IP COE), facilitates the translation of merchandise financial plans into execution level, item driven strategies to be followed throughout the life of a product. It represents the bottom-up planning process, complementing and working in concert with the top-down financial plans. By providing weekly visibility into item performance and financial targets, the item planning process increases the likelihood that merchandising strategies are successfully executed within the financial plan parameters.

Item Planning is part of an overall planning process that involves planning at multiple levels of the product hierarchy. The planning process can be thought of as a continual process where each step enhances the following step, and prior performance affects plans for future performance. Planning takes input from multiple parties, and good communication enhances the process so that it can help drive a financial roadmap for success. Multiple versions of the plan are created to benchmark success as well as to provide insight to opportunities and risk for the in season period.

In addition to the basic item planning process described above, Item Planning Configured for COE supports in-season markdown optimization, analysis, and execution. This is achieved through batch integration and a real-time service call to the Clearance Optimization Engine (COE). COE represents an effort to open up the markdown optimization engine for use in external applications such as IP COE that need an in-season price recommendation and a forecast that accounts for planned promotions and future markdowns and product life cycle. The IP COE exit strategy process has been configured to load the weekly batch forecasts calculated in COE. Based on this recommended information, the user has the ability to run a what-if scenario to the COE optimization engine. In real time, the user receives a revised forecast. Within IP COE, analysis of the key planning metrics, using both the recommended and revised forecasts, takes place in order to execute the optimal markdown recommendation.

Overview of the Fashion Planning Bundle

The Fashion Planning Bundle is the integration of Item Planning (IP), Clearance Optimization Engine (COE), Assortment Planning (AP), Merchandise Financial Planning (MFP), and Size Profile Optimization (SPO) as a full-suite planning solution for fashion retailers.

Hardware and Software Requirements

See the *Oracle Retail Item Planning Configured for COE Installation Guide* for information about the following:

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

Functional Enhancements

IP COE 13.2 includes the following functional enhancements.

IP COE on the RPAS Fusion Client

With the introduction of the Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server (RPAS) Fusion Client, customers have a choice to use IP COE with either the RPAS Fusion Client or the RPAS Classic Client. This choice is now available to the following applications in the Fashion Planning Bundle:

- IP, including IP Configured for COE
- AP
- MFP
- SPO

For details on the features of the RPAS Fusion Client, see the 13.2 *Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server User Guide for the Fusion Client*. The only change made to the IP COE solution in order to use the solution with the Fusion Client was the addition of the taskflow.

When using the Fusion Client for IP COE, the users can utilize the new taskflow feature to understand and follow the IP COE business process. IP COE has been preconfigured to contain a default taskflow. This taskflow shows the overall business process and allows the users to understand the tasks they must complete in order to finish the business process.

The taskflow components are described in the table below.

| Name | Description |
|----------|--|
| Activity | High level business process or solution. An activity provides visibility to the full business process, supports application navigation, and drives end user activities. Tasks and steps are assigned to an activity to further describe the business flow. |
| Task | The second level of an activity flow. A task is associated with a single RPAS workbook template. Steps are assigned to a task. |
| Step | The lowest level of an activity flow. A step is associated with an RPAS worksheet or set of worksheets to achieve a specific action. |

The setup of the taskflow is accomplished within the RPAS Configuration Tools. Workbook information is mapped to activities, tasks, and steps. For additional details on this process, see the taskflow section of the Configuration Manager chapter of the *RPAS Configuration Tools User Guide*.

Current Plan Represents Actual Data in Elapsed Weeks

When actual data is loaded into the domain, the data is loaded into the Current Plan (Cp) measures in addition to the Working Plan (Wp) measures. Therefore, Cp now represents the actual sales, receipts, and end of period inventories in elapsed weeks. In non-elapsed weeks, it represents the most recently approved Current Plan.

When seeding last year measures, the Cp version of the data is used rather than the Wp. When actual data is not loaded for the last year, the submitted Cp version of last year's plan is used for comparison.

In addition, all rules related to elapsed weeks have been reviewed and updated to be consistent with the Fashion Planning Bundle applications. These updates include the following:

- All measures for elapsed weeks are locked.
- No calculations result in the elapsed weeks being recalculated.
- When a workbook is committed, the weeks in the elapsed period are skipped.

Standardization of Forecast Methods and Measures

The names and labels of the demand forecast measures in the Item Plan workbook have been changed to the following:

- IpFiDemandU has been changed to Wp Fcst In-Season U.
- IpFpDemandU has been changed to Wp Fcst Pre-Season U.

The forecast method used for in-season is now Automatic Exponential Smoothing. For preseason, the forecast method is now Bayesian forecasting.

This ensures consistency with other solutions in the Oracle Retail Planning suite.

Rationalization of Dashboard Boundary Measures

Redundant boundary measures have been eliminated from the Dashboard Boundary worksheet. Only the following measures are visible after activating the position query:

- 03. Total Act/Proj diff to Total Plan
- 04. Total Act/Proj var to Total Plan
- 07. LTD Actuals diff to Plan
- 08. LTD Actuals var to Plan
- 11. Remaining Projection diff to Plan
- 12. Remaining Projection var to Plan

What-If Call Returns Price Point

When a what-if call to the Clearance Optimization Engine occurs, the result is now available as a price point as well as a markdown percentage.

The call to the COE has been enhanced so that it can receive and accept this price point in place of the markdown percentage.

Sales and Markdown by Type

The Sales and Markdown measures available in Item Planning are now available by type. Sales measures are available for regular, promotional, and markdown sales types. Markdown measures are available at promotional, clearance, and permanent markdown types.

These types are visible in the MFP Review worksheet to facilitate better comparison with MFP.

New Confirmation and Error Handling Messages

All planning actions and custom menu options in Item Planning have been implemented with user-friendly prompts and error messages.

If all the conditions for a planning action are not met (such as selecting a seeding source or approval action) the user will be prompted upon requesting the Planning Action.

Upon successful completion of a planning action, such as seed or approve, a confirmation message is displayed for success.

Commit ASAP for Approval

Through the approve custom menu option, the approved measures are automatically committed using the Commit ASAP feature. Therefore, users do not need to perform a separate commit action after approving the plan.

However, this action does not commit the working plan measures, which must be committed separately.

User-Defined Dimensions

Two new user-defined dimensions are now available for both the product and calendar hierarchies.

The labels for the product hierarchy dimensions are Product Dim 1 and Product Dim 2. The labels for the calendar hierarchy are Event and Holiday. The product dimensions are parents of style-color, and the calendar dimensions are parents of week.

Noteworthy Defect Fixes

The following noteworthy defect fixes and enhancements are included in IP COE 13.2.

| Fixed Issue/Defect | Defect Number |
|--|---------------|
| The refresh rule group in Item Planning contained a redundant rule that caused refresh action to result in an error. This rule has been removed. | 9747899 |
| When users attempt to approve a plan to the Current Plan (Cp) when the Enable Op Approval flag was disabled, the approval action failed and the following message appeared: "Please enable Op for approval before continuing." This validation should only occur when attempting to approve the Original Plan (Op). This has been corrected. | 9788127 |

| Fixed Issue/Defect | Defect Number |
|---|---------------|
| In the Item Planning COE Preseason Planning workbook, selecting Do Nothing as the approval option and using the approval custom menu action resulted in an incorrect confirmation that the plan was approved. This message has been corrected so that it appears only when the plan is approved to the Current Plan, Original Plan, or both. | 9788319 |
| <p>When an item plan is approved to the current plan and the original plan, following measures were emptied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ OpBOPClrC: Original Plan Beginning of Period Clearance Cost ■ OpBOPRegC: Original Plan Beginning of Period Regular Cost <p>The commit rule groups were updated to ensure that the domain array is updated with the worksheet array so that the commit works correctly.</p> | 9796327 |
| <p>If an Item Planning workbook is built using non-consecutive periods (some in the past and some in the future and excluding the current period), earlier versions of Item Planning made all weeks editable. Therefore, it was possible to override the past actuals through the workbook template.</p> <p>A rule has been enforced to ensure that when disconnected intervals of time are used to create a workbook, the entire workbook is read-only and none of the measures can be edited.</p> | 9800614 |
| <p>The refresh action in the Data Validation workbook caused a calculation engine exception due to the redundant rule group described in Bug 9801227.</p> <p>This rule group has been removed.</p> | 9801164 |
| <p>The Data Validation workbook contained an incorrect rule group that made measures editable in elapsed weeks. This rule group has been removed to ensure that elapsed weeks are not editable.</p> | 9801227 |
| <p>In the Dashboard worksheet, the following measures were removed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ LTD Plan Percentage of Plan ■ LTD Actual Percentage of Plan <p>These measures cannot be evaluated for exceptions displayed in the Dashboard worksheet. Therefore, they are hidden when the Position Query is enabled.</p> | 9823778 |

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 Fashion Planning Bundle Reports Documentation (Note ID 1132783.1)

The Oracle Retail Fashion Planning Bundle Reports package includes role-based Oracle Business Intelligence (BI) Enterprise Edition (EE) reports and dashboards that provide an illustrative overview highlighting the Fashion Planning Bundle solutions. These dashboards can be leveraged out-of-the-box or can be used along with other dashboards and reports that may have already been created to support a specific solution or organizational needs. This package includes dashboards for the Assortment Planning, Item Planning, Item Planning Configured for COE, Merchandise Financial Planning Retail Accounting, and Merchandise Financial Planning Cost Accounting applications.

The Oracle Retail Fashion Planning Bundle Reports documentation set includes the following documents that describe how you can install and use the reports and dashboards:

- *Oracle Retail Fashion Planning Bundle Reports Installation Guide* – This guide describes how you can download and install the Fashion Planning Bundle reports. This guide is intended for system administrators and assumes that you are familiar with the Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server (RPAS) and Oracle BI EE.
- *Oracle Retail Fashion Planning Bundle Reports User Guide* – This guide describes the reports and dashboards included for the Oracle Retail Fashion Planning Bundle solutions.

Related Documentation

For more information, see the following documents in the Oracle Retail Item Planning Configured for COE 13.2 documentation set:

- *Oracle Retail Item Planning Configured for COE Installation Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Item Planning Configured for COE User Guide for the RPAS Classic Client*
- *Oracle Retail Item Planning Configured for COE User Guide for the RPAS Fusion Client*
- Oracle Retail Item Planning documentation set

For more information about the Fashion Planning Bundle applications see the following documentation sets:

- Oracle Retail Item Planning documentation
- Oracle Retail Clearance Optimization Engine documentation
- Oracle Retail Assortment Planning documentation
- Oracle Retail Merchandise Financial Planning documentation
- Oracle Retail Size Profile Optimization documentation

For more information about the RPAS Fusion Client, see the following documents in the Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server 13.2 documentation set:

- *Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Release Notes*
- *Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Licensing Information*
- *Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Installation Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Administration Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server User Guide for the Classic Client*
- *Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Online Help for the Classic Client*
- *Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Configuration Tools User Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Configuration Tools Online Help*
- *Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server User Guide for the Fusion Client*
- *Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Online Help for the Fusion Client*

For more information about RPAS and the ODI Enabled Integration, see the following documentation sets:

- Oracle Retail ODI Enabled Integration documentation
- Oracle Data Integrator documentation
- Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server documentation

Previous Releases

For additional information on previous Oracle Retail Item Planning Configured for COE release enhancements and additional information, refer to the release notes and documentation that accompany the previous release.

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Value-Added Reseller (VAR) Language

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