

Oracle® Retail Item Planning Configured for COE

Release Notes

Release 13.4

December 2012

Oracle Retail Item Planning Configured for COE (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 workbook enhances the following, and prior performance affects plans for future performance. Planning takes input from multiple parties, and communication enhances the process to help drive a financial road map for success. Multiple versions of the plan are created to benchmark success as well as 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.

Note: Because IP COE uses the Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server (RPAS) platform, Oracle Retail recommends that you review the *Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Release Notes* for fixed and known issues that may affect IP COE.

In addition, RPAS 13.3 and later releases have significant technical enhancements related to hierarchy management (such as integer indexing) that have an effect on the configuration and maintenance of IP COE. You must upgrade to key RPAS versions and complete the upgrade process as described in the chapter, "Patch Installation," in the *Oracle Retail Item Planning Configured for COE Installation Guide* before upgrading to a 13.4 IP COE domain.

Overview of the Fashion Planning Bundle

The Fashion Planning Bundle is the integration of Item Planning (IP), Item Planning configured for Clearance Optimization Engine (IP-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

Upgrade Note

While not directly related to Item Planning Configured for COE, the 13.3 release of Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server (RPAS) had undergone a major change to simplify hierarchy administration. Full details of these changes are outlined in the 13.3 *Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Release Notes*. Due to these changes, configuration updates have been made to Item Planning Configured for COE, and you will need to perform additional steps to upgrade your Item Planning Configured for COE domain, such as setting dimension sizes. The upgrade to RPAS 13.3 or later releases for this application includes a conversion process in addition to the normal upgrade process. Details are provided in the chapter, "Patch Installation," in the *Oracle Retail Item Planning Configured for COE Installation Guide*.

Technical Enhancements

IP COE 13.4 includes the following technical enhancement.

Batch Script Architecture

All batch scripts that are developed and delivered as part of this application have been rewritten using the Batch Script Architecture. The Batch Script Architecture (BSA) is designed to provide a robust, enterprise-ready architecture for parallel process control, restart control, log consolidation, and dependency checks.

Functionally, the batch operability is enhanced by making it easier to diagnose and correct problems. Errors and exceptions are isolated (contained) within the domains in which they occur. Processing is designed to easily restart and proceed with execution. Parallel tasks are managed, logged, and checked for errors, to the same standard as non-parallel tasks.

Oracle Retail Batch Script Architecture Implementation Guide

The *Oracle Retail Batch Script Architecture Implementation Guide* is new for this release. It documents the features and configuration details for implementing the Batch Script Architecture.

Known Issues

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

Known Issue/Defect	Defect Number
There is an issue with the calculation for the COE Revised Price % Off Original Price metric. After completing a What-If call in the application, it is expected that the COE Revised Price % Off Original Price metric would calculate. In the scenario, for the WP Original Ticketed Price measure, there is a value of 30. There is a COE Revised Clearance Retail Price value of 25.46. However, the COE Revised % Off Original Price measure is calculating as zero.	14311258
The WP Current Ticketed Price, COE What-If Clearance Retail Price, and What-If Clearance Retail Price % off are not calculating together. The expectation is what the COE What-If Clearance Retail Price is calculated from the WP Current Ticketed Price and the What-If Clearance Retail Price % off measures.	14311533
When the COE What-If Current Inventory U measure is set to 0 on the What If Request screen, COE Revised Current Inventory U measure is not set to 0, which is fine. However, what the inventory value COE Revised Current Inventory U is set to is not correct. It is expected to be set to BOP total inventory as of the first forecasted week, but instead it takes the EOP inventory of that week. This also makes the COE Revised EOP Inventory U measure on the Forecast Analysis screen calculate off the incorrect number.	14311565

Related Documentation

For more information, see the following documents in the Oracle Retail Item Planning Configured for COE Release 13.4 documentation set:

- *Oracle Retail Batch Script Architecture Implementation Guide*
- *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 Item Planning Configured for COE 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 documents in the Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server documentation set.

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 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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