Oracle® Retail Predictive Application Server
Release Notes
Release 12.0
May 2006

ORACLE

Customer Support

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- Product version and program/module name.
- Functional and technical description of the problem (include business impact).
- Detailed step-by-step instructions to recreate.
- Exact error message received.
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Release Notes

Release Summary

Version 12.0 of the Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server contains the following enhancements and changes. These features are new since the Generally Available version 11.2 release of RPAS that was released in September 2005.

RPAS 12.0 is not a completely new release from RPAS 11.2. In fact, RPAS 11.2 was re-branded to become RPAS 12.0. Specifically, RPAS 12.0 is equivalent to patch 3 of RPAS 11.2 (11.2.3). The enhancements and changes listed for 12.0 were all released and communicated in a patch of RPAS 11.2.x (either 11.2.1, 11.2.2, or 11.2.3). Customers that are upgrading from an 11.2 patch will have already been notified about these enhancements and changes.

The primary new features and changes in RPAS 12.0 are as follows:

- New local domains were added partitions were moved between local domains in a global domain environment with a new argument for the **reconfigGlobalDomainPartitions** utility.
- There is a new aggregation method ('**hybrid'**) that allows the aggregation of a measure to be calculated differently up different hierarchies.
- A subset of a domain environment was created with a new argument for the **copyDomain** utility.
- Load multiple measures from a single input file using the **loadmeasure** utility.
- Export more than 2 GB of data using the **exportdata** utility.
- Automatic evaluation of position queries in workbooks when position queries are updated.
- Ability to load UTF8 data. Data can be loaded into a domain in the UTF8 encoding method. This capability was added to support the loading of data in languages other than English, and specifically to accommodate multi-byte languages, such as Japanese, Korean, and Chinese.
- Generally available translation of RPAS in eight languages. RPAS has been translated into the languages listed below. These translations are available with the RPAS 12.0 installation package. Instructions for setting up the environment to use these translations is available in the RPAS 12.0 Installation Guide.
    - French
    - German
    - Spanish
    - Brazilian Portuguese
    - Japanese
    - Korean
    - Simplified Chinese
    - Traditional Chinese

Miscellaneous Information

Documentation

All of the standard RPAS documentation was updated for the 12.0 release. Some of the key notes and highlights are as follows:

- The RPAS Configuration Guide has had substantial improvements made, and it provides much more information about the features that can be configured using the Configuration Tools.
- The RPAS Configuration Guide now includes the content from two documents that were previously released as standalone. The content from both of these documents is now included in an appendix of the Configuration Guide:
  - RPAS Rule Functions Reference Guide
  - RPAS Calculation Engine Users Guide

Installation Tool for UNIX Environments

A new installation tool is available to install the server components of the RPAS distribution on UNIX environments. This tool is Java-based and automates the following:

- Installation of the RPAS server
- Installation of Configuration Tools on the server (installation of the Tools on Windows machines is accomplished using an InstallShield package)
- Installation of Acumate
- Licensing of Acumate
- Creation of a sample domain

Individuals installing RPAS components on a Windows machine can use an InstallShield package.

Complete installation instructions are in the RPAS 12.0 Installation Guide.

Curve and Grade Extensions

Grade is a clustering tool that provides insight into how various parts of a retailer's operation can be grouped together. Curve is a profile generation tool that is used to produce ratios (profiles) from historical data at user-specified intersections.

Previously, Grade and Curve were only available through the Demand Forecasting solution, which is sold separately from RPAS. They are now available as a "base RPAS extension" for RPAS 12.0.

The data for Curve was translated into the eight supported languages, and it is included with the rest of the translation packs with RPAS 12.0. However, a translation of Grade is not currently available and will be released in an RPAS patch at a later date.

Java 1.4.2

Oracle recommends the use of Java 1.4.2 when running RPAS 12 on all operating systems. Customers running RPAS on IBM's AIX UNIX operating system should use Java 1.4.2.0.9 or a newer version due to a technical issue with Java Virtual Machine on IBM hardware and the AIX operating system.

New Functionality

Add new Local Domains and move Partitions between Local Domains

RPAS has implemented two enhancements for the administration of global domain environments. These enhancements are available through the RPAS utility for reconfiguring global domain partitions (**reconfigGlobalDomainPartitions**).

- Ability to add new local domains to existing global domain environments
- Ability to move existing positions at the partition level (and their data) between local domains

Both operations can be executed by using their respective argument in a call to the utility (–add and –move) or by using an XML input file with the specified command. The complete usage of the utility is included in the RPAS 12.0 Administration Guide.

New Aggregation Method – "hybrid"

'Hybrid' is a new aggregation method that allows the aggregation of a measure to be calculated differently up different hierarchies. Therefore, it is approximately functionally equivalent to the 'aggregate' procedure. Measures that use the hybrid aggregation type cannot be manipulated above their base intersection because there is no mechanism to spread changes, but it may be used with the old modifier where measures that use the aggregate procedure cannot. The hierarchy aggregation parameters are specified in a new measure property ─ '**Agg Spec**.' See the RPAS 12.0 Configuration Guide for more information.

Creating a Subset of a Domain Environment

The RPAS utility **copyDomain** is used to perform a number of tasks related to moving and copying domain environments. This utility was enhanced with a new argument (**–clone**), which is used to copy a subset of a domain environment.

To use this feature, the administrator user must determine which positions they wish to include in the copy. This list of positions is then passed to the utility as a parameter to the –clone argument. The user can specify individual positions along multiple hierarchies. These positions and their corresponding data will be copied to the new domain.

Usage:

```
copydomain –clone dimposlist
```

Where dimposlist is a list of positions in the format:

```
dim1,pos1,…,posn:dim2,pos1,…,posn:…
```

Notes:

Only one dimension for each hierarchy can be specified.

The –clone argument is supported in both global domain environments and simple domains.

Existing hierarchy input files can be backed up in the same directory if –skipInput is not specified.

The –copyWorkbooks argument can be used with –clone. If copyWorkbooks is not specified, all workbooks are copied

Loading Multiple Measures from a Single Input File

The **loadmeasure** utility was updated to allow multiple measures to be loaded from a single input file in a single call to the utility. Previously, each measure had to be specified in individual calls to the utility. This change was made primarily for performance reasons. When loading a measure into the master domain of a global domain environment, the input file is split by the **loadmeasure** utility so that the data can be loaded into the individual local domains (if the data resides in the local domains). This enhancement ensures that an input file is only read and split once when loading into multiple measures.

The complete usage of the **loadmeasure** utility can be found in the RPAS 12.0 Administration Guide.

Ability to Export more than 2 GB of Data – exportdata

The **exportdata** utility was enhanced such that it can export more than 2 GB of data in a single call to the utility. The utility was verified to test 5 GB of data, although there is no known effective limit for the amount of data that can be exported in a single call.

The complete usage of the **exportdata** utility can be found in the RPAS 12.0 Administration Guide.

Automatic Evaluation of Position Queries

RPAS supports the use of Position Queries to drive the positions that are visible on a window. Those position queries are updated when certain events occur, such as changing the 'driver' position in the Z-axis while the view is opened. In RPAS 12.0, the behavior of the position queries was enhanced so that they are now updated when the associated Boolean measure is changed as the result of a calculation. Users can toggle whether or not the position queries are automatically updated. For performance reasons, this option is disabled by default. A new position query button is displayed when there are position queries on the Z-axis of the worksheet. If this button is disabled, the position queries are up to date. If this button is enabled, which can only happen if the auto evaluation option is off, the position queries need to be updated by clicking the button.

Split Measure Data Files without Loading

In RPAS 11.2.2 and earlier versions, **loadMeasure** is responsible for splitting input files in global domains. Data splitting is run as a single-threaded process prior to running parallel measure data loading. There are times that administrators are interested to write scripts that split multiple input files in parallel. These files may correspond either to a single measure or to multiple measures.

There is an enhancement in RPAS 12.0 that allows input data files to be split without being loaded. Before this enhancement, it was not possible split multiple files in parallel because data splitting and loading were integrated processes.

A new argument (–**splitOnly**) was added to the **loadMeasure** utility. This option causes the input file in the global domain to be split into the local domains, but it does not do any further processing of the input files. An administrator can then use the –**noSplit** argument to load these pre-split input files into the local domains. These two arguments can only be used on global domain environments and are mutually exclusive. Also, the –**splitOnly** option is mutually exclusive with the –**processes** argument.

Modified Functionality

Changes to the utility that is used to move data from one domain to another ─ 'mapdata'

The **mapdata** utility copies data from an existing domain, database, or array to a new domain, database or array.

The usage of the RPAS utility mapdata was modified in this release. Changes include:

Previous Argument	Current Argument	Function
–srcDomain	–d	Specifies the path of the domain from which data is being moved.
–destDomain	–dest	Specifies the path to the domain to which data is being moved

The complete usage of this utility can be found in the RPAS 12.0 Administration Guide.

Miscellaneous Changes to the Configuration Tools

- **Position Format ─** There were some changes to the Position Format, which is the date/time format used for the names of positions in the root dimension of the CLND (Calendar) hierarchy.

  Changes include:

  - a new title ─ "Position Format for Calendar's Root Dimension"
  - special characters are not allowed
  - system now validates that there is a dimension named DAY in the CLND hierarchy, but DAY does not have to be root
- **Rule Group Simulator ─** The rule group simulator enables the verification of the interaction between measures from within the configuration tools.

  The rule group simulator no longer fails with a spurious error saying that the measures should have an agg type of recalc when there is a rule that uses the "aggregate" procedure in the rule group.

Known Issues

Some of the data elements for RDF and RPAS (including the Grade and Curve extensions) are not translated for one or more of the supported languages. These translation issues will be addressed in the first patch of RPAS 12.0.