

Oracle® Retail Predictive Application Server
Release Notes
Release 12.0.2

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Preface

A Release Notes document can include some or all of the following sections, depending upon the release:

- Overview of the release
- Functional, technical, integration, and/or performance enhancements
- Assumptions
- Fixed and/or known issues/defects

Because of their brevity, Release Notes do not include chapters, appendices, or a table of contents.

Audience

Release Notes are a critical communication link between Oracle Retail and its retailer clients. There are four audiences in general for whom a Release Notes document is written:

- Retail clients who wish to understand the contents of this release.
- Integrators and implementation staff who have the overall responsibility for implementing Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server into their enterprise.
- Business analysts who are looking for high-level functional information about this release.
- System analysts and system operation personnel who are looking for high-level functional and technical content related to this release.

Related Documents

For more information, see the following documents in the Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Release 12.0.2 documentation:

- Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Administration Guide

Customer Support

- <https://metalink.oracle.com>

When contacting Customer Support, please provide:

- 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.
- Screen shots of each step you take.

Conventions

Navigate: This is a navigate statement. It tells you how to get to the start of the procedure and ends with a screen shot of the starting point and the statement “the Window Name window opens.”

Note: This is a note. It is used to call out information that is important, but not necessarily part of the procedure.

This is a code sample
It is used to display examples of code

[A hyperlink appears like this.](#)

Release Notes

Current Patch — RPAS 12.0.2

Release Information

The following table provides information about the current release.

Release information	Details Regarding this Release
Application	Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server (Client, Server, and Configuration Tools)
Version Number	12.0.2
Code Cut Off Date	07-31-06
Release Date	10-27-06
Type of Release	Patch
Base	12.0
Patch	2
Supported OS, Server	Sun Solaris 8, AIX 5.1/5.2/5.3, HP-UX 11i (11.11), Windows NT
Supported OS, Client	Windows NT, XP, 2000
Required 3rd Party Software	JRE 1.4.2 (installed on client and server machines); 1.4.2_09 is recommended for IBM installations CVS (installed on server - if using integrated Source Control)
Related Documentation	RPAS 12.0 Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Installation Guide RPAS 12.0.2 Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Administration Guide RPAS 12.0 Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server User Guide RPAS 12.0 Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Configuration Guide RPAS 12.0 Rule Functions Reference Guide RPAS 12.0 Calculation Engine User Guide

Resolved Issues

This patch ONLY includes programs supporting the integration of RPAS 12.0 solutions to the following Oracle Retail 12.0 solutions (see the RPAS Administration Guide for more information on integration programs packaged with RPAS):

- Oracle Retail Merchandising System
- Oracle Retail Data Warehouse
- Oracle Retail Price

RPAS OS Certification Strategy

Oracle Retail Product Strategy has provided clear direction on Operating System certifications in order to better support our customer's OS upgrade plans. For RPAS 12.0.3 patch, the following OS certifications will be completed:

- **Sun Solaris 9**
- **AIX 5.3 (TL4 or greater)**

For the RPAS 12.0.4 patch the following OS certifications will be completed:

- **HP-UX 11.23 (PA-RISC)**

Previous versions of the above Operating Systems will no longer be certified, however the release may be backwardly compatible. Backward compatibility verification is not included in Oracle's OS certification methodology. The RPAS Server will no longer be certified for Windows NT, however OS support will continue for the RPAS Client and RPAS Configuration Tools on Windows NT, XP and 2000.

For any questions or concerns about Oracle Retail's OS certification strategy, please contact or Oracle Retail Customer Support Representative.

Previous Release Information

The following table provides information about the previous release.

Resolved Issue	Defect
A documentation error was corrected in the configuration guide. "For measures of type 'String,' the value in the 'range' field is ignored, and there is nothing in RPAS that restricts the width of a string measure."	5335904
A fix was made in the Security Template workbook allowing it to refresh after calculating. When 'refresh' is clicked, all data is now restored from the global (master) database.	5261397
In the RPAS configuration tool, a fix was made when using filtering in the Rules. When measures were selected and a rule label or rule expression was modified, the screen would freeze up preventing the user from continuing.	5233510
A fix was made to correct an issue that prevented the sorting of data in workbooks when using a measure with calendar in the base intersection.	5231546
Corrected an issue that prevented exception formatting to be applied to cells that contain the NA value.	5230649
Corrected an issue when building a workbook that includes alerts (not through Alert Manager), and there are no alert hits in the workbook. This issue caused the following message to appear for every worksheet that was opened: "The alert does not have any hits. Find Next Alert functionality is disabled." This message will now appear only once on the first opened worksheet.	5206518 5026943
The usage for exportData was updated with usage information about -params option.	5189281
Corrected an issue that occurred when measure values were being unlocked by a user. The measure had to be refreshed for the unlocking to occur. This change prevents the need to refresh the measure.	5162897
Corrected an issue that caused calculations to fail when different arrays of the same measure are used at both LHS and RHS of the expression. The fix required RPAS to re-order the sequence of operations such that the LHS measure arrays are opened before the RHS measures.	5137805

Resolved Issue	Defect
<p>Corrected an issue in the RPAS Configuration Tools that prevented the opening of a configuration immediately following the renaming of a dimension.</p> <p>The renamed dimension will be flagged red in all solutions, but the configuration will now open.</p>	5108594
<p>The workbook commit (Commit ASAP and Commit now) no longer fails when entering a value for a user group that has no users associated with it in the Security Administration workbook on the Workbook Limit per Group/Template worksheet.</p>	5107657
<p>A fix was made to the rule tool such that it no longer allows duplicate renaming by case sensitive comparison. In other words, you can no longer create two rules with the exact same name, but with different alphabetical cases; such as "BUcalc0001" and "bucalc0001"</p>	5099732
<p>RPAS now prevents recalc measures from being inserted into a workbook. Recalc measures require recalc expressions, and if such expressions are active the measure should already be in the workbook.</p>	5092471
<p>A fix was made in the RPAS configuration tool where it is now possible to remove the hier mods if edited and saved. Clearing the entry of a hier mod removes that hier mod from the workbook.</p>	5091033
<p>Corrected an issue when using auto-workbook build that caused the hierarchy selections from the previous run of auto-workbook build to be selected, resulting in the failure of the workbook.</p>	5051629
<p>Commit Later and Commit ASAP are now grayed out for instances when committing should not be a valid option, which is typically due to not having a commit rule group in the workbook.</p>	5026516
<p>Corrected an issue that prevented the use of position query and synchronized scrolling at the same time.</p>	4857674 5395958
<p>A new button was added in the Rule tool that allows the user to run comprehensive JNI based validation. In the installer the JNI validation runs as a task at install time.</p>	4851578
<p>Corrected an issue in Single Hierarchy Select that caused the position name rather than the position label from being displayed.</p>	5456460

Resolved Issue	Defect
Corrected an issue that prevented the use of most hybrid aggregation methods in workbooks. This issue caused workbook builds to fail.	5395884
Corrected an issue that prevented the selection of positions along alternate roll-ups in the wizard in cases where selections along the same hierarchy occur earlier in the wizard process on a separate wizard screen.	5347292
The RMS Sample Hierarchy configuration may now be generated in the RPAS Configuration Tools for new configurations.	5344267
Corrected an issue when using auto-workbook to build different workbook templates using Alert Manager. The workbook builds would fail due to auto-workbook attempting to use the last template built rather than the current template.	5325372
The usage for exportData has been updated to reflect the use of the -params option	5189281
Corrected an issue when using Commit Later that caused the message: "your workbook will be added to the commit queue when you save changes" to display every time the user selects the save button.	5026454

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 (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 can be added to a global domain. Partitions can be moved between local domains in a global domain environment by using a command-line argument on 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 can be created with a new argument for the **copyDomain** utility.
- Capability to 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 are 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 the following documents is now included in an appendix of the Configuration Guide:
 - RPAS Rule Functions Reference Guide
 - RPAS Calculation Engine User 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**) and provide the following functionality:

- 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 posiDi{n} 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 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.