

Oracle® Retail Predictive Application Server
Release Notes
Release 12.1.2

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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 (RPAS) 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 12.1.2 documentation set:

- *Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Administration Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server User Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Configuration Tools User 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.

Review Patch Documentation

For a base release (".0" release, such as 12.0), Oracle Retail strongly recommends that you read all patch documentation before you begin installation procedures. Patch documentation can contain critical information related to the base release, based on new information and code changes that have been made since the base release.

Oracle Retail Documentation on the Oracle Technology Network

In addition to being packaged with each product release (on the base or patch level), all Oracle Retail documentation is available on the following Web site:

http://www.oracle.com/technology/documentation/oracle_retail.html

Documentation should be available on this Web site within a month after a product release. Note that documentation is always available with the packaged code on the release date.

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 12.1.2

Release Information

The following table provides information about the current release.

Release information	Release Details
Application	Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server (Client, Server, and Configuration Tools)
Version Number	12.1.2
Code Cut Off Date	11-02-2007
Release Date	11-27-2007
Type of Release	Patch
Base	12.1
Patch	2
Supported OS, Server	AIX 5.3 (TL5 or greater) gcc 4.1.1 HP-UX 11iR2 (11.23) on Itanium Chipset aCC 03.70
Supported OS, Client	Windows NT, XP, 2000
Required 3rd Party Software	JRE 1.4.2 (installed on client and server machines for administrative purposes, not end-user); 1.4.2_10 is recommended for IBM installations
Related Documentation	RPAS 12.1.2 Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Administration Guide RPAS 12.1.2 Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server User Guide RPAS 12.1.2 Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Configuration Guide

Note for HPUX and AIX Customers: The libz.sl/libz.so is required by RPAS. As well, the PATH environment variable should include the directory in which it is located on the server. The environment variable for shared libraries is LD_LIBRARY_PATH for Solaris, LIBPATH for AIX, and SHLIB_PATH for HPUX. This shared library typically comes pre-installed on AIX operating systems; however it does not come installed on HPUX servers. Libz.sl/libz.so may be obtained by contacting your Operating System customer representative.

Note for HPUX Customers: The RPAS 12.1.3 patch will have a compiler upgrade to **aCC 6.15**.

Resolved Issues

The following table provides information about resolved issues in the current release.

Resolved Issue	Defect Number
Corrected an issue in the RPAS Client that caused user edits to data (deferred changes) to be lost when switching between grid and chart mode. Now, if there are any deferred changes when switching between the modes, the user will be prompted to Keep, Discard, or Cancel the operation before proceeding.	5479379
Performance enhancements have been implemented within <code>loadmeasure</code> when the utility is executed with the <code>-splitonly</code> parameter.	5739976
Corrected a problem in the domain build log that caused incorrect errors to be reported while validating rules.	5899862
Corrected a problem in the domain build log that caused incorrect errors to be reported while validating rules.	5933821
Enhanced the Dimension Manager utility in the RPAS Configuration Tools to allow changes to the following dimension attributes to be patched into a domain: Translate, Buffer % Low, Buffer % High, and Enable DPM.	6009123
Corrected an issue that prevented the proper deletion of forecast from RDF.	6059643
Performance improvements have been made to the <code>updateFnhbi</code> utility when multiple instances of the utility are being run simultaneously in multiple domains. It is recommended that this utility only be run from the Master domain.	6143028
Corrections have been made to the <code>updateFnhbi</code> utility to return a return code of 2 and a program-failed message in instances when exceptions are generated.	6278929
Corrected issues that prevented Synchronized Page Scrolling from remaining enabled both in saved workbooks and in workbooks in which the functionality is enabled for a saved style.	6281818
Corrected issues that prevented RPAS Web-deployment using WebSphere.	6029790
Corrected issues with saving workbooks or user formatting changes in workbooks that contain the "£" character.	6229964
Corrected a problem that prevented multiple users from generating batch Grades simultaneously.	6272562
Corrected performance issues in <code>loadMeasure</code> .	6276005
Corrected issues with the <code>-Add</code> and <code>-Remove</code> options in <code>regTokenMeasure</code> . These options were behaving incorrectly, the same way as the <code>-list</code> option.	6313774
Corrected an issue that prevented the proper editing of cells when the user had locked a cell on a percent of parent measure.	6319622
Removed an incorrect error message that resulted when more than 10,000 edited cells were being calculated.	6320057
Corrected an issue where privileges were denied on the Security Administration template to not affect the administrator.	6332042

Resolved Issue	Defect Number
Corrected an issue that caused the <code>exportData</code> utility to output an extra space at the end of the value field when used with the <code>-useLoadFormat</code> parameter.	6332525
Corrected an issue in the ODBC driver that prevented users from accessing all measures to which they have access.	6338942
Updated <code>AutoWorkbook</code> (<code>wbatch</code> utility) to return a non-zero error code when a failure occurred while executing the utility.	6339643
The usage of <code>alertmgr</code> has been modified; the user can now use a new option called <code>sumAlerts</code> , which needs to be run from the global domain only. The <code>findAlerts</code> option can now be run from both from Master and local domains.	6342574
Updated the <code>loadhier</code> utility to remove duplicate positions in the loaded hierarchy. Issues were being encountered when a hierarchy file was reloaded, ignoring the case-sensitivity of positions. The result caused duplicate positions in the domain.	6346394
Corrected an issue that prevented the registration of token measures using <code>regTokenMeasure</code> with the <code>-fnhbi</code> parameter.	6352301
Corrected an issue that prevented the sorting of Boolean measure types if <code>ambig</code> values were present.	6355437
Corrected an issue that prevented alerts from displaying properly when "Change Alert Measure" was used.	6357391
Performance improvements have been made to the rollup correction process when <code>loadHier</code> is executed with the <code>-forceInputRollups</code> parameter.	6364757
Corrected an issue that prevented user measure format changes to text and fill colors from being preserved when a saved workbook was re-opened.	6368123
Corrections have been made to the <code>cleanDomain</code> utility; the usage and version information are now properly displayed.	6369335
Corrected issues in <code>loadHier</code> that caused the utility to fail when it rebuffered dynamically during the roll-up correction process.	6377110
Corrected issues when using the Find feature immediately after using <code>Alt+Tab</code> on the user's desktop.	6391819
Corrected issues with the Edit – Fill functionality that prevented the proper use of the "Don't spread to NA values" option.	6395228
Corrected an issue in the RPAS Client that prevented floating-point numbers in the range of -1.0 to 0 from displaying with a zero between the negative sign and the decimal.	6372573
Corrected an issue that prevented workbooks that only contain scalar measures from building.	6408718
Fixed an issue with the attribute function such that it handles appropriately.	6413005
Corrected an issue in the <code>loadHier</code> utility that prevented the backup/restore (dimension databases) mechanism from running in parallel when the <code>maxProcesses</code> parameter is set to greater than 1.	6417576

Resolved Issue	Defect Number
Corrected an issue that prevented the opening, deleting, and saving of workbooks in the Master domain in instances when a corrupted workbook was present.	6417747
AlertMgr has been decentralized; it can now be run on the local domains individually. The administrator may now spawn several processes in parallel, and when needed, run <code>AlertMgr -sumalerts</code> again to aggregate the results to the global domain. If parallelization is desired, the administrator should create a script to spawn processes in parallel.	6429111
Corrected an issue in the RPAS Configuration Tools that caused random errors to be generated in instances when a new metric was added when the user switched to the Measure tab before the measure was realized.	6438905
"Create Percent of Parent" functionality has been changed in the RPAS Client to filter out all measures that have an agg type other than "TOTAL."	6439620
Corrected an issue that prevented the proper display of measures in the Show/Hide dialog when "Create Percent of Parent" was used.	6441942
Corrected issues in Dimension Splitting functionality that caused the client and server to crash due to a code validation error.	6446092
Corrected sparsity issues when using the Hybrid aggregation method.	6449742
Corrected an issue in the <code>reconfigglobaldomainpartitions</code> utility that caused run-time errors when executed with the <code>add</code> parameter.	6456874
Corrected a formatting issue that prevented the user from applying a Fill Color only to the label of Read/Write measures; instead, the fill color was applying to all cells, but not the measure label.	6456953
Resolved lock contention issues when building multiple workbooks using the <code>wbatch</code> utility.	6486653
Corrected an issue with the <code>usermgr</code> utility that prevented error codes from returning when required arguments were missing.	6489545
Corrected an issue in the RPAS Client that caused an error message to be generated when the user attempted to execute copy, paste, or fill functionality from the "ALL" dimension.	6490939
Fixed a rebuffering issue during the hierarchy load process. This issue manifested itself with an "ArrayNotFound" error message.	6497915
Addressed a performance issue in the two-tree wizard page.	6521557
The <code>loadHier</code> utility has been updated to support the parallelization of the data cleaning process.	6525022
Corrected an issue in the RPAS Configuration Tools that caused issues in the configuration by changes to the Tools name of a dimension.	6526993
Corrected issues in the <code>wbatch</code> utility that prevented the build of workbooks from the master domain.	6595879
Corrected an issue with the <code>copydomain</code> utility that prevented the copy to execute properly when run with the <code>partitionpositions</code> parameter.	6596217
Corrected an issue with the <code>navalue</code> function that prevented the function from executing if the LHS measure name was occurring as a substring (substr) of the RHS measure name.	6602487

Enhancements

Support for ODBC Querying from an Open Workbook

The initial release of the ODBC querying mechanism did not provide adequate support for concurrent access to a workbook from an RPAS client user and an ODBC report. RPAS now allows reporting from an open workbook while an interactive client user modifies the workbook. This support includes simultaneous reporting and client-side modification from a workbook. The reporting occurs from the saved version of the workbook and modification occurs on the current state of the workbook. Additional details for ODBC querying from an open workbook are as follows:

- The ODBC/JDBC driver will report from any saved workbook. Changes to the workbook that have yet to be saved will not be included in any queries.
- If a workbook Open, Close, Save, or Delete operation is requested while a query is running, a notification message is returned to the client stating that the operation cannot be completed until the query is finished.
- A workbook cannot be saved, closed, opened, or deleted while an ODBC/JDBC query is in progress in the workbook. Tools like OBIEE and Crystal Reports could hold a connection for hours or days. Workbook calculations, as well as operations such as Open, Save, and Close, can run while a connection passive, when no ODBC query is in progress. All connections to an existing workbook must be closed before deleting the workbook. A workbook can be deleted without closing the connection to the corresponding domain. The actual time to run a query is probably minutes. The query time affects the item mentioned above.
- In situations where the ODBC connection is through the domain, workbooks get added to the SQL metadata tables as soon as they are built. They will be removed from the SQL metadata tables as soon as they are deleted.

OBIEE Performance Tuning

The RPAS ODBC driver has been modified to process join queries more efficiently. As a result of these enhancements, the performance of OBIEE queries on fact and dimension tables have been improved.

Improved Domain Size

There has been an enhancement in the Oracle Retail Embedded Database such that String-type measures are stored more efficiently. This enhancement will make a significant impact on reducing the database size when large size string-type measures are present.

Audit-Level Logging

Audit-level logging allows customers to log audit information related to specific domain and workbook activities. These activities include the following:

- Workbook build
- Workbook calculation
- Workbook save
- Workbook commit
- Custom menu operations
- User login to domain
- User logout from domain

Audit information related to workbook activities gets recorded in `rpas.log` under each user's working directory. Information related to domain activities (such as user sign-on and sign-off) gets recorded in `DomainDaemon.log`.

The new logging level is named "audit." The Logger now defines eight levels: all, profile, debug, audit, information, warning, error, and none. Severity levels are ordered. The minimum severity level indicates which messages will and will not be displayed. Setting the minimum severity level to audit indicates that only messages with a level equal to "audit" and above (that is, audit, information, warning, error, and none) will be displayed.

To implement audit level logging, access the properties of the RPAS Client (`foundation.exe`). In the **Target** field, add `-loglevel audit` at the end of the target path and commit changes.

Patch Support Dimension Manager Properties

Enhanced the Dimension Manager utility in the RPAS Configuration Tools to allow changes to the following dimension attributes to be patched into a domain: Translate, Buffer % Low, Buffer % High, and Enable DPM.

Known Issues/Defects

The table below identifies known issues or defect in the current release.

Outstanding Issue	Expected Resolution
Although OBIEE connectivity has been verified using the RPAS Reporter Tool on Windows, the UNIX verification could not be completed.	Resolution is a top priority for the RPAS development team. Timing for the resolution is TBD.
6032211: The Reporter Tool provides limited query support for the "where" clause. The driver needs to expand the where clause into lists of OR'ed condition list.	The issue is in active development for a future patch. See the <i>RPAS Administration Guide</i> for more information on this limitation.
6019386: copyDomain using -partitionPositions is copying all subdomains rather than the partition positions specified by the administrator.	To be resolved in a future patch.
The Category Management libraries (ASOExpression) are delivered with RPAS 12.1.2 patch release.	The libraries, as well as the planogram enhancements, will be delivered as a hotfix to 12.1.2.

Previous Enhancements and Additional Information

For information on previous RPAS release enhancements and additional information, refer to the release notes and documentation that accompany the previous release.