

Oracle® Retail Store Inventory Management
Operations Guide
Release 12.0.0.1IN

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Preface

Oracle Retail Operations Guides are designed so that you can view and understand the application's 'behind-the-scenes' processing, including such information as the following:

- Key system administration configuration settings
- Technical architecture
- Functional integration dataflow across the enterprise

Audience

Anyone who has an interest in better understanding the inner workings of the Oracle Retail Store Inventory Management (SIM) system can find valuable information in this guide. There are three audiences in general for whom this guide is written:

- System analysts and system operation personnel:
 - who are looking for information about SIM's processes internally or in relation to the systems across the enterprise.
 - who operate SIM on a regular basis.
- Integrators and implementation staff who have the overall responsibility for implementing SIM into their enterprise.
- Business analysts who are looking for information about processes and interfaces to validate the support for business scenarios within SIM and other systems across the enterprise.

Related Documents

For more information, see the following documents in the Oracle Retail Store Inventory Management Release 12.0.0.1 documentation set:

- Oracle Retail Store Inventory Management Release Notes
- Oracle Retail Store Inventory Management Installation Guide
- Oracle Retail Store Inventory Management Implementation Guide
- Oracle Retail Store Inventory Management Data Model
- Oracle Retail Store Inventory Management Licensing Information
- Oracle Retail Store Inventory Management Online Help
- Oracle Retail Store Inventory Management User Guide
- Oracle Retail Store Inventory Management Handheld Terminal Quick Reference Guide
- Oracle Retail Store Inventory Management Data Migration Guide

Introduction

This operations guide serves as an Oracle Retail Store Inventory Management (SIM) reference to explain 'backend' processes. SIM is designed as a standalone application that can be customized to work with any merchandising system.

Overview

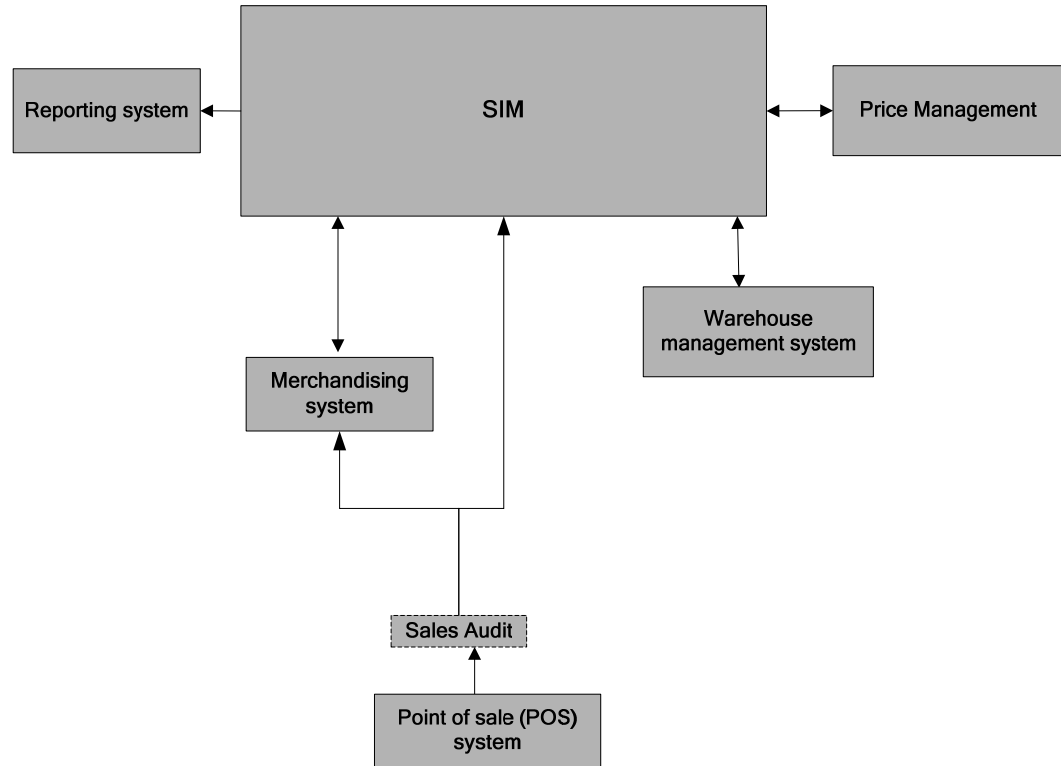
SIM empowers store personnel to sell, service, and personalize customer interactions by providing users the ability to perform typical back office functionality on the store sales floor. The results are greatly enhanced customer conversion rates, improved customer service, lower inventory carrying costs, and fewer markdowns. SIM delivers the information and flexible capabilities that store employees need to maintain optimal inventory levels and to convert shoppers into buyers.

The SIM solution performs the following:

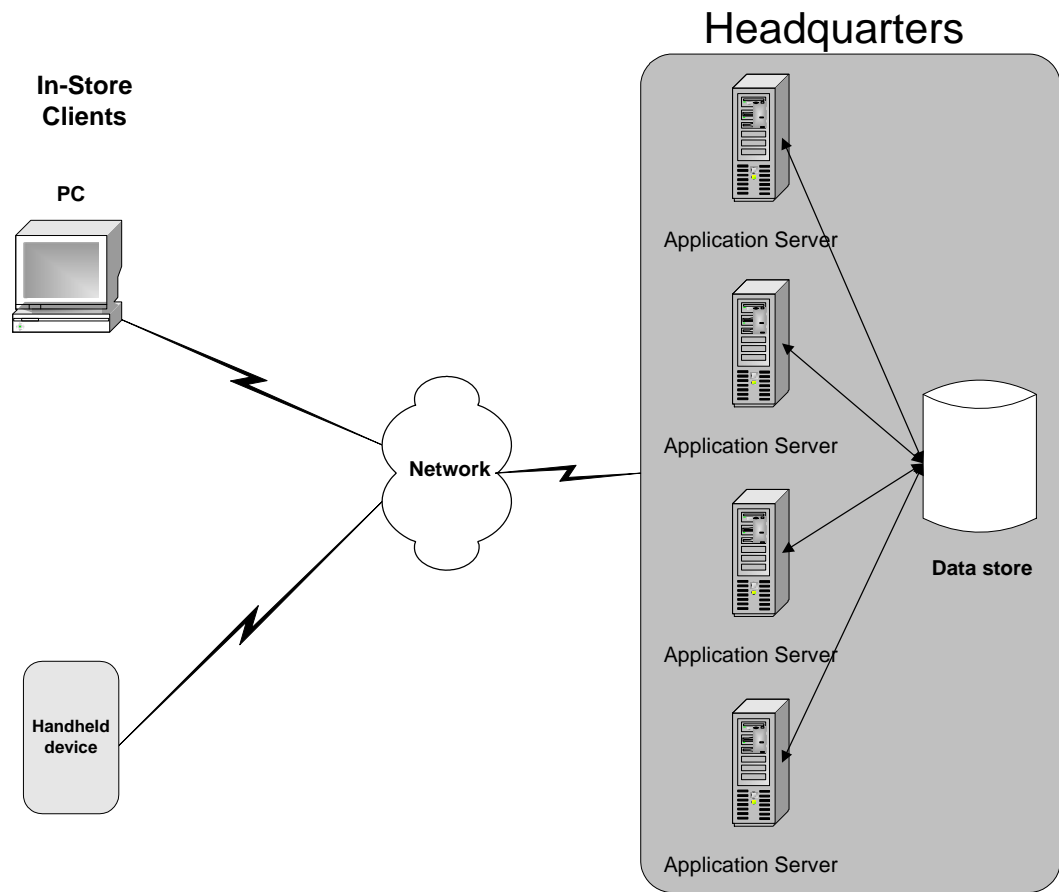
- Improves perpetual inventory levels by enabling floor-based inventory management through handheld devices and store PCs.
- Minimizes the time to process receipt and check-in of incoming merchandise.
- Receives, tracks, and transfers merchandise accurately, efficiently, and easily.
- Reduces technology costs by centralizing hardware requirements.
- Guides users through required transactions.
- Allows customizations to the product through an extensible technology platform. The retailer's modifications are isolated during product upgrades, lowering the total cost of ownership.

SIM's Integration Points into the Retail Enterprise

The following high-level diagram shows the overall direction of the data among systems and products across the enterprise. For a detailed description of this diagram, see “Chapter 6 – Functional Integration Interface Dataflows”.



b. SIM-related dataflow across the enterprise

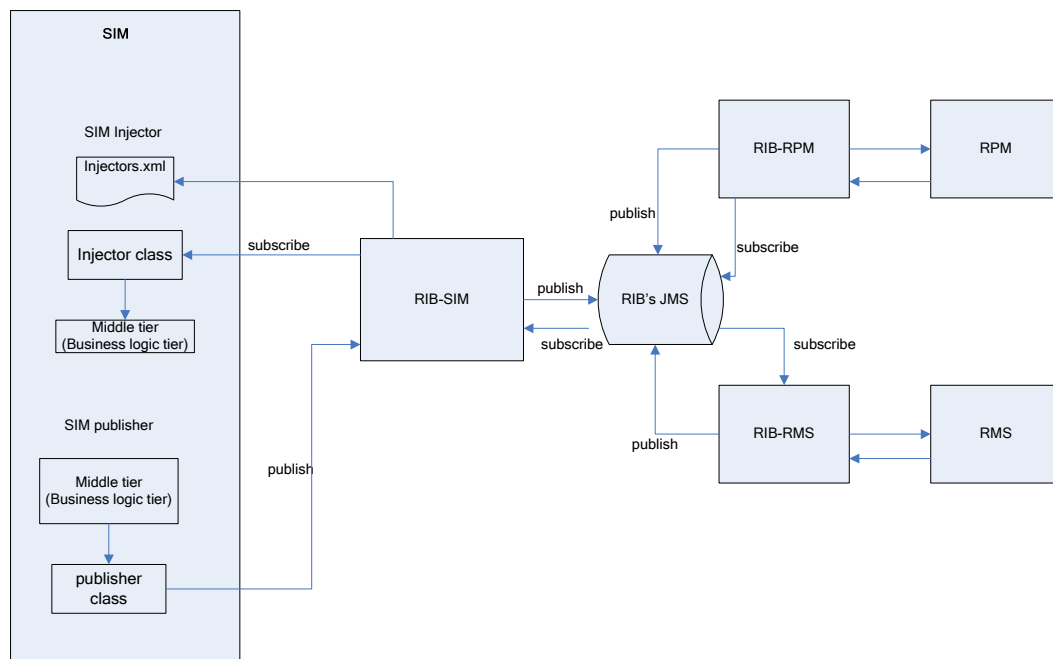


d. SIM's deployment

A Word About Activity Locking

Activity locking has been designed to be controlled from within SIM. The following example illustrates the logic of activity locking.

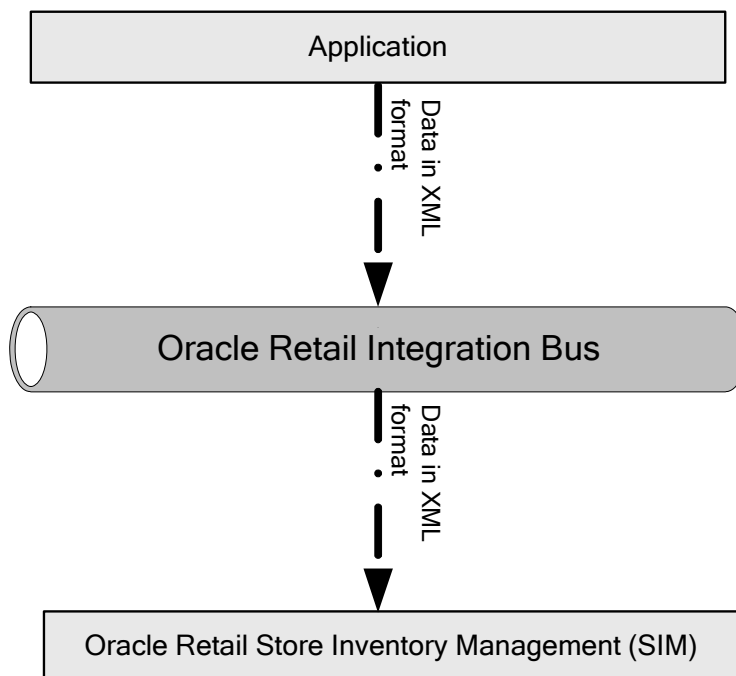
A user becomes involved with a warehouse delivery that includes containers with multiple items in containers; that is, a significant amount of back and forth processing between screen and server is occurring. From the GUI, a call is made to the activity lock that instructs the system that the user is working with the warehouse delivery. If some other user has the lock, the system asks the user whether he or she wishes to break it and take over. A 'yes' response to the prompt implies that former owner of the lock left the lock dangling without a good reason (left to get lunch and so on). A 'no' response to the prompt implies that the former owner of the lock continues to legitimately need it in place in order to finish processing.



e. SIM/RIB Integration Diagram

The XML Message Format

As shown by the diagram below, the messages to which SIM subscribes are in an XML format and have their data structure defined by document type definitions (DTDs) or XML schema documents.



f. Data across the RIB in XML format

Publishers Mapping Table

This table illustrates the relationship among the message family, message type and the DTD/payload object that the application creates. For additional information, see the latest Oracle Retail Integration Guide and other RIB documentation.

Family	Type	Payload
ASNOUT	ASNOUTCRE	ASNOOutDesc
DSDRECEIPT	DSDRECEIPTCRE	DSDReceiptDesc
INVADJUST	INVADJUSTCRE	InvAdjustDesc
INVREQ	INVREQCRE	InvReqDesc
PRCCHGREQ	PRCCHGREQCRE	PrcChgReqDesc
RECEIVING	RECEIPTCRE	ReceiptDesc
RECEIVING	RECEIPTMOD	ReceiptDesc
RTV	RTVCRE	RTVDesc
SOSTATUS	SOSTATUSCRE	SOStatusDesc
STKCOUNTSCH	STKCOUNTSCHCRE	StkCountSchDesc
STKCOUNTSCH	STKCOUNTSCHDEL	StkCountSchRef
STKCOUNTSCH	STKCOUNTSCHMOD	StkCountSchDesc

RSL Service	Payload
PriceChangeService	PrmPrcChgDtl
PriceChangeService	ClrPrcChgDtl

For specific information about the request and response processing associated with the services below, see the latest Message Families and Types Report, which is part of Oracle Retail Integration documentation.

Web Service-based Integration

SIM web service is deployed as a separate web-module within the SIM application. The document literal type (Doc-Lit) message format is used to define the messages. The SIM web service provides the external application exchange information with SIM. Currently SIM web service only provides one operation; Store Inventory Lookup.

File-based Integration

Currently SIM has three file-based integrations:

- Sales data: SIM imports sales data through flat file from Sales Audit System.
- Third Party Stock Count: SIM import third party stock count file and upload the files to RMS for future processing
- Direct EXchange (DEX) and Network Exchange (NEX) Receiving

See Chapter 6 – Batch Processes for additional details on SIM file-based integrations.

SIM Integration – Functional

This chapter provides a functional overview of how SIM integrates with other systems (including other Oracle Retail systems).

Overview

The first section in this chapter provides you with a diagram illustrating the various Oracle Retail products and databases that SIM interfaces with as well as the overall dataflow among the products. The accompanying explanations are written from a system-to-system perspective, illustrating the movement of data.

Functional Descriptions of RIB Messages

The table below briefly describes the functional role that messages play with regard to SIM functionality. The table also illustrates whether SIM is publishing the message to the RIB or subscribing to the message from the RIB. For additional information, see the latest *Oracle Retail Integration Guide* and other RIB documentation.

Functional area	Subscription/ publication	Integration to Products	Description
ASN in	Subscription	RWMS, Vendor (external)	These messages contain inbound shipment notifications from both vendors (PO shipments) and warehouses (transfer and allocation shipments).
ASN out	Publication	RMS, RWMS	These messages are used by SIM to communicate store-to-warehouse transfers (returns to warehouse) to both RMS and RWMS. These messages are also used to communicate store-to-store transfers to RMS.
Diff IDs	Subscription	RMS	These messages are used to communicate differentiator IDs from RMS to SIM.
DSD receipts	Publication	RMS	These messages are used by SIM to communicate the receipt of a supplier delivery for which no RMS purchase order had previously existed.
Items	Subscription	RMS	These are messages communicated by RMS that contain all approved items records, including header information, item/supplier, and item/supp/country details, and item/ticket information.
Item/location	Subscription	RMS	These are messages communicated by RMS that contain item/location data used for ranging of items at locations and communicating select item/location level parameters used in store orders.
Inventory adjustments	Publication	RMS	These messages are used by SIM to communicate inventory adjustments. RMS uses these messages to adjust inventory accordingly.

Functional area	Subscription/ publication	Integration to Products	Description
Inventory request	Publication	RMS	These messages are used by SIM to communicate the request for inventory of a particular item. RMS uses this data to fulfill the requested inventory through either auto-replenishment or by creating a one-off purchase order / transfer.
Price change	Subscription	RPM	These messages facilitate price changes for permanent, clearance and promotions.
Price Inquiry	RSL calls	RPM	This service, provided by RPM, allows an inquiring system to request the effective retail for an item at a specified location on a given date. RPM provides the retail value and indicates whether the value is promotional, clearance or regular.
Purchase orders	Subscription	RMS	These messages contain approved, direct to store purchase orders. SIM uses these to receive direct deliveries against.
Receipts	Publication	RMS	These messages are used by SIM to communicate the receipt of an RMS purchase order, a transfer, or an allocation.
Receiver unit adjustments	Publication	RMS	These messages are used by SIM to communicate any adjustments to the receipts of purchase orders, transfers, and allocations. These messages are part of the RECEIVING message family (receiving unit adjustments only use the RECEIPTMOD message type).
Return to vendor	Publication	RMS	These messages are used by SIM to communicate the shipment of a return to vendor from the store.
RTV request	Subscription	RMS	These are messages communicated by RMS that contain a request to return inventory to a vendor.

Functional area	Subscription/ publication	Integration to Products	Description
Seed data	Subscription	RMS	These messages communicated by RMS contain differentiator type values.
Stock count schedules	Publication	RMS	These messages are used by SIM to communicate unit and value stock count schedules to RMS. RMS uses this schedule to take an inventory snapshot of the date of a scheduled count.
Stock order status	Publication	RMS	These messages are used by SIM to communicate the cancellation of any requested transfer quantities. For example, the merchandising system can create a transfer request for 90 units from a store. If the sending store only ships 75, a cancellation message is sent for the remaining 15 requested items.
Stores	Subscription	RMS	These are messages communicated by RMS that contain stores set up in the system (RMS).
Store ordering	Publication	RMS	These messages are used by SIM to communicate the request for inventory of a particular item.
Transfer request	Subscription	RMS	These messages are communicated by RMS and contain a request to transfer inventory out of a store. Upon shipment of the requested transfer, SIM uses the ASN Out message to communicate what was actually shipped. In addition, SIM uses the stock order status message to cancel any requested quantity that was not shipped.
Warehouses	Subscription	RMS	These are messages that are communicated by RMS that contain warehouses set up in the system (RMS). SIM only gets physical warehouse records.

Batch process	Description	Batch dependencies
WastageInventoryAdjustment PublishJob	The batch process picks up all items that were flagged for publishing to the merchandising system. After an item is published, the flag is reset.	No dependencies

Record name	Field name	Field type	Description
File trailer	location description	Char(30)	Where in the location the item exists. Ex: Back Stockroom or Front Window Display
	file type record descriptor	Char(5)	hardcode 'FTAIL'
	file line identifier	Number(10)	Id of current line being processed, internally incremented
	file record count	Number(10)	Number of detail records.

Appendix: Batch File Layout Specifications

Flat File Used in the ResaFileParser Batch Process

This batch program imports sales that originate in a point of sale (POS) system. SIM uses the sales data to update the stock on hand for the store/items combinations in the POS file. For more information on the POS file format, see the POS Upload [posupld] section of the *Oracle Retail Merchandising System Operations Guide – Volume 1*.

