Oracle® Retail Price Management

Release Notes

Release 13.0.1 Patch

June 2008

This document highlights the major changes for Oracle Retail Price Management (RPM) Release 13.0.1 Patch. RPM 13.0.1 introduces significant new enhancements in promotions functionality. The release also includes other functional and technical enhancements and fixes.

Functional Enhancements

The following enhancements are included in this release.

Enhanced Promotion Capabilities

There have been significant RPM limitations for complex promotions. For the RPM 13.0.1 release, the promotion structure was modified to add enhanced promotion capabilities. The new multi-buy promotion component type replaces the former buy/get component type. The multi-buy component type allows promotion types such as meal deal, link saver, and cheapest item free.

Multi-buy options, such as AND and OR conditions for buy and reward lists, allows considerable flexibility in the design of promotion components. The following are examples of new promotion types that are supported with the multi-buy component type:

- Meal deal promotion

  This type of promotion allows for the purchase of items from buy lists for a discount. The discount can be either percent off, amount off, or fixed price. This should be offered with multiple buy lists and no reward list. The reward in this type of offer is not product-related: for example, buy a sandwich, a bag of chips, and a soda for $5.00.

- Link saver

  With a link saver, you can offer customers promotions with multiple buy lists and reward lists. The reward list in this type is product-related: for example, buy a laptop computer and a printer and get an ink cartridge for $5.00.

- Cheapest free

  This type of promotion allows the cheapest item from a list of buy items (minimum of 2 items in the list) to be offered at a fixed price or discount: for example, buy any 3 pairs of shoes and get the cheapest pair free.

- Multi-buy with and/or conditions for buy and reward lists

  You can use both AND and OR selections in both the buy and reward lists: for example, buy a sandwich and chips or salad and get a cookie or drink free.

System Options for Multi-Buy Components

To support the new multi-buy promotion component functionality, three new system options were added:

- Maximum Number of Buy Lists

  You must specify a limit on the number of buy lists that can be set up for one promotion component.

- Maximum Number of Reward Lists

  You must specify a limit on the number of reward lists that can be set up for one promotion component.

  When an attempt is made to add more buy or reward lists than allowed by this system option setting, an error message is displayed: "The maximum number of <buy/reward> lists has been exceeded for a single promotion component. A new list can't be added."

- Display And/ Or Condition

  For multi-buy components, this system option controls whether the OR condition is available. If this system option is selected, both AND and OR conditions can be used in multi-buy components (default AND). If this system option is not selected, only AND conditions can be used.

System Option for ORPOS Integration

The system option Promotion End Date Required has been added to support integration with the Oracle Retail Point-of-Service (ORPOS) application.

ORPOS requires an end date for promotions. When a promotion is sent that does not have an end date, it is rejected by ORPOS and not executed. To avoid this, the system option Promotion End Date Required must be enabled for integration with ORPOS.

Maximum Number of Overlapping Promotion Component Details (System Option)

The RPM_FUTURE_RETAIL table now allows an unlimited number of promotion slots (see "Normalization of RPM_FUTURE_RETAIL Table"). This number of promotion slots is controlled by a new system option Maximum Number of Overlapping Promotion Component Details. With this change, the number of promotions no longer pertains to promotion exclusions, only inclusive promotions. The number of exclusions is not restricted.

System Options Clean-Up

Several system options are no longer required and have been eliminated:

- Allow Buy/Get Cycles: With the introduction of the multi-buy promotion, component type, this system option is no longer necessary.
- Background Conflict Check (price change, clearance, promotion, worksheet): With the removal of this system option, conflict checking is always in background mode.
- Future Retail Seed Days Before VDate: This system option was used during the New Item Location batch process to decide the action date that should be used to seed the RPM_FUTURE_RETAIL table. Without this system option, the action date for the seed record is decided as follows:
    - If there is no active promotion for the item/location to inherit, the action_date of the seed record is VDate minus 1.
    - If there are active promotions for the item/location to inherit, the action_date of the seed record is the minimum active promotion start date minus 1.

Changes to Promotions Search

RPM promotions search was modified to provide search capabilities consistent with other price events. Changes include the following:

- Ability to search by zone
- Ability to search by department
- Ability to enter multiple component IDs in the promotion ID search field

Removal of Department Header Security

It is no longer necessary to enter valid departments at the promotion header level. The workflow "Add Department to Promotion" is removed from the task pane.

Removal of Promotion Exclusion Date Field

Start or end dates are disabled from the exclusion dialog for promotions. Dates are still held in the RPM_FUTURE_RETAIL table to account for back-end exclusions created as a result of the new item/location batch and location move batch, but you can no longer edit dates associated with exclusions through the user interface.

Removal of the Total Markup System Option and Field

The Total Markup system option and field are completely removed from RPM.

Technical Enhancements

The following technical enhancements are included in this release.

Operating System Certification

In addition to the support of Linux in RPM 13.0, the 13.0.1 patch release introduces certification with the following operating systems:

- IBM AIX 5.3
- HP-UX Itanium 11.23
- Sun Solaris 10

Normalization of RPM_FUTURE_RETAIL Table

The RPM_FUTURE_RETAIL table was restructured. The promotion information was moved from the RPM_FUTURE_RETAIL table to a new child table named RPM_PROMO_ITEM_LOC_EXPL. This enhancement removed the limitation of maximum two promotions per item/location per day and two promotion components per promotion per item/location per day.

Because the RPM_FUTURE_RETAIL table is rebuilt during installation, all price event data in this table is purged. If this table was previously seeded with the demo data scripts from Release 13.0, this process will need to be run again. The RMS script populate_rpm_futureretail.sql should be sufficient to reseed any demo data back into RPM_FUTURE_RETAIL.

To ensure data consistency after the table is rebuilt, all price events (price changes, clearances, and promotions) should be removed from their corresponding tables.

Restructuring of Promotion Data and Object Model

To support new multi-buy promotion component types and possible future promotion types, the RPM promotion data model and object model was restructured. In the previous version, the data and object model are different for different types of promotion. In this release, simple, threshold, and multi-buy promotion components all have the same data and object models.

Restructuring of Promotion RIB messages

The RIB messages structure was modified to work with the new promotion data and object model. Because RPM now has only one promotion data and object model for all types of promotion components (simple, threshold, and multi-buy, there is only one RIB message structure for all types of promotion components.

Replacement of Finite State Machine in Promotion State Model

In previous versions, the promotion state model was implemented using a finite state machine that was complex and difficult to maintain and debug. In this release, the finite state machine for the promotion component detail state model was replaced with Core Services, implemented using the Business Process Framework.

Known Issues

The following are known issues for RPM Release 13.0.1 Patch.

Price Injector Batch on Linux

The Price Injector batch (injectorPriceEventBatch.sh) does not execute properly on the Linux platform.

Running injectorPriceEventBatch.sh on Linux gives a "No such file or directory" error. This is caused by the incorrect sourcing of the shell in the first line of the shell script. To resolve the error, modify the first line of the script to change the incorrect **`#!/usr/bin/sh`** to the correct value: **`#!/bin/sh`**

Internal reference: Defect # 404

Pricing Event Data Clean-Up

With this release, there may be pricing event data that needs to be cleaned up after the installation. Because of changes to the RPM_FUTURE_RETAIL table and the RPM promotion tables, any existing price event data will be invalid, because the corresponding future retail information will be deleted.

To resolve this issue, manually delete all pricing data from the Price Change, Promotion, and Clearance tables after installation.

A hot fix for this issue can be provided upon request.

Internal reference: Defect # 405

Related Documentation

For more information, see the following documents in the Oracle Retail Price Management Release 13.0.1 Patch documentation set:

- *Oracle Retail Price Management Data Model*
- *Oracle Retail Price Management Installation Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Price Management Online Help*
- *Oracle Retail Price Management Operations Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Price Management User Guide*