

Oracle® Retail Price Management

Release Notes

Release 13.0.1

August 2008

This document describes Oracle Retail Price Management 13.0.1. RPM Release 13.0.1 is a full product release that replaces RPM 13.0.

Product Overview

Oracle Retail Price Management (RPM) is a pricing and promotions execution system. RPM functionality includes the definition, maintenance, and review of price changes, clearances, and promotions. RPM capabilities range from simple item price changes at a single location to complex buy/get promotions across zones.

Hardware and Software Requirements

See the *Oracle Retail Price Management Installation Guide* for information about the following:

- Hardware and software requirements
- Oracle Retail application software compatibility information

Functional Enhancements

The following functional enhancements are included in this release.

Wholesale

The Oracle Retail Merchandising System (RMS) was enhanced to support wholesale for retailers. These enhancements allow users of RMS to take orders from wholesale customers and fulfill those orders from their warehouse inventory. RPM must account for these different costs and suggest the proper retail to the user.

Wholesale and franchise locations are considered non-stockholding locations in RMS; however, RPM did not recognize non-stockholding locations. For these wholesale locations to be recognized by RPM so that the retail can be maintained, a new store type has been created in the RMS Store table to indicate whether the store is a wholesale or franchise location. RPM now recognizes the new wholesale (W) and franchise (F) store types and accepts these stores as valid locations. Because these stores are valid locations, RPM assumes current functionality to suggest a retail price.

The ability to create or attach existing deal funding to a price event (price change, clearance, or promotion) is disabled for wholesale and franchise locations. If the user creates deals before selecting locations to add to the price event, wholesale and franchise locations are not available for selection in the list of values (LOV) or for manual entry of the location. If the price event is at the zone level, the warehouse and franchise locations are not included in the funding functionality LOV.

Configurable Location Move

The RPM application had restrictive rules for location move scheduling that restricted users concerning how they manage promotions and price changes.

These restrictive rules and limitations, and the changes that were added to handle them, are as follows:

- When a location was moved from one zone to another, there could not be a promotion that overlapped the move date. For grocery, promotions typically run week to week, and there are no breaks in between promotions. Because of this, the RPM rule that restricted overlapping promotions for a location move was a hindrance to the normal business process. The only way to work around this was to change their business process, which was unlikely, or to schedule the location move and create an emergency promotion the morning after the location moved to the new zone.

RPM was modified to allow the user to schedule a location move with a promotion that overlaps the move date. New system options were added to allow the flexibility to configure how location moves should work regarding pending and active zone level promotions.

- When a location was moved from one zone to another, the location did not inherit the retail of the new zones except by manual creation of a price change. This method worked for some customers, but those who only perform zone level price changes preferred the location to automatically receive the retail of the new zone on the move date.

RPM was modified to allow the option for the location to inherit the zone level retails of the new zone into which it is moving, if it is in the primary zone group. This functionality is controlled by a system option and is configurable.

- A location could not be scheduled to move on a date that overlapped a pricing strategy worksheet review period. If a location move was scheduled, no worksheets for the zone into which or out of which the location was moving would be generated.

RPM was modified to allow a location move to be scheduled and a worksheet to be generated when a location move overlaps.

Other noteworthy changes to the location move process include the following:

- The addition of the status of Approve
- A batch process to process location moves

Enhanced Promotion Capabilities

There have been significant RPM limitations for complex promotions. 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.

Merger of Oracle Retail Security Manager into RPM

Oracle Retail Security Manager (RSM) has been merged into the RPM application. To access the RSM client, use the application drop-down control on the task pad, as shown in [Figure 1](#).

Figure 1 Accessing RSM



System Option for ORPOS Integration

The system option Promotion End Date Required has been added to support integration with the Oracle Retail Strategic Store Solutions suite of applications.

Oracle Retail Point-of-Service (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.

Oracle User Interface Standards

The “Swan” user interface is a set of user interface definitions designed by Oracle. These interface definitions create a consistent interface for Oracle products and an improved user interface for application users. The Oracle Retail Price Management application windows have been updated to use the standard color palette and fonts.

Technical Enhancements

The following technical enhancements are included in this release.

Operating System and Database Support

RPM 13.0.1 is compatible with Oracle Database 10g and the following operating systems:

- Oracle Enterprise Linux 4 Update 5
- HP-UX Itanium 11.23
- IBM AIX 5.3
- Sun Solaris 10

Merger of RPM and RSM

Both the server and client components of Oracle Retail Security Manager (RSM) have been merged with RPM. It is no longer necessary to install a standalone RSM application, although a separate LDAP server is still required. The RPM application server now contains all server components that were previously deployed within the RSM application, and the RPM client now contains all RSM workflows.

The RSM schema was merged into the RPM schema, and all tables and sequences were renamed with an RSM prefix. No functional changes have been made to the RSM application, other than merging the application with RPM.

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.

Integration Using Oracle Streams Advanced Queuing

Prior versions of SIM used SeeBeyond software as the RIB integration layer. Among other changes to the RIB, the SeeBeyond software has been replaced with Oracle Streams Advanced Queuing (AQ) as the Java Messaging Service (JMS) provider.

For more information about AQ, see the Oracle Streams Advanced Queuing documentation.

For more information about the technical enhancements to RIB 13.0, see the RIB documentation.

Single Sign-On Enablement

RPM can be enabled to use Oracle Application Server Single Sign-On (SSO). SSO is a component of Oracle Identity Management. In an SSO environment, a user signs on once with user name and password during a Web browser session. The SSO server authenticates the user, and this SSO identity is propagated to each SSO-enabled application used within the same browser session.

Integration with Oracle Retail Workspace

Oracle Retail Price Management can be integrated with Oracle Retail Workspace. The integration between these applications is optional, and no data flows between the applications. Workspace provides a single point of access to the Oracle Retail applications used by your business. It also provides an integrated platform that can display operational and analytical information from multiple sources. Workspace functionality provides single sign-on, central launch, role-based security, user management, and retailer-specific customization capabilities. Workspace also provides a kit and instructions for dashboard

development. For more information, see the Oracle Retail Workspace documentation and the *Oracle Retail Price Management Operations Guide*.

Oracle Configuration Manager

Oracle Configuration Manager is an optional configuration data collector that provides continuous tracking of key Oracle and system configuration settings for machines on which it is installed. This tool collects configuration details for customer environments and uploads them to a repository that is viewable through the Software Configuration Manager Metalink Web site. The OCM collector is optionally installed as part of your application installation.

Using Oracle Configuration Manager can reduce a retailer's support costs by providing extra configuration information that otherwise requires a phone call or e-mail correspondence.

Note: Sensitive configuration information (such as passwords) is not included in Oracle Configuration Manager collection.

For more information, see the *Oracle Retail Price Management Installation Guide*.

Known Issues

The following are known issues for RPM Release 13.0.1.

Promotion Searches (Defect 7268787)

When searching for either promotions or promotion components using the Maintain Promotion or Maintain Component task, a fatal exception occurs.

A hot fix is available for this defect.

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 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*
- *Oracle Retail Merchandising Batch Schedule*
- *Oracle Retail Merchandising Data Conversion Operations Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Merchandising Implementation Guide*

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Value-Added Reseller (VAR) Language

(i) the software component known as **ACUMATE** developed and licensed by Lucent Technologies Inc. of Murray Hill, New Jersey, to Oracle and imbedded in the Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server - Enterprise Engine, Oracle Retail Category Management, Oracle Retail Item Planning, Oracle Retail Merchandise Financial Planning, Oracle Retail Advanced Inventory Planning and Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting applications.

(ii) the **MicroStrategy** Components developed and licensed by MicroStrategy Services Corporation (MicroStrategy) of McLean, Virginia to Oracle and imbedded in the MicroStrategy for Oracle Retail Data Warehouse and MicroStrategy for Oracle Retail Planning & Optimization applications.

(iii) the **SeeBeyond** component developed and licensed by Sun Microsystems, Inc. (Sun) of Santa Clara, California, to Oracle and imbedded in the Oracle Retail Integration Bus application.

(iv) the **Wavelink** component developed and licensed by Wavelink Corporation (Wavelink) of Kirkland, Washington, to Oracle and imbedded in Oracle Retail Store Inventory Management.

(v) the software component known as **Crystal Enterprise Professional and/or Crystal Reports Professional** licensed by Business Objects Software Limited ("Business Objects") and imbedded in Oracle Retail Store Inventory Management.

(vi) the software component known as **Access Via™** licensed by Access Via of Seattle, Washington, and imbedded in Oracle Retail Signs and Oracle Retail Labels and Tags.

(vii) the software component known as **Adobe Flex™** licensed by Adobe Systems Incorporated of San Jose, California, and imbedded in Oracle Retail Promotion Planning & Optimization application.

(viii) the software component known as **Style Report™** developed and licensed by InetSoft Technology Corp. of Piscataway, New Jersey, to Oracle and imbedded in the Oracle Retail Value Chain Collaboration application.

(ix) the software component known as **WebLogic™** developed and licensed by BEA Systems, Inc. of San Jose, California, to Oracle and imbedded in the Oracle Retail Value Chain Collaboration application.

(x) the software component known as **DataBeacon™** developed and licensed by Cognos Incorporated of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, to Oracle and imbedded in the Oracle Retail Value Chain Collaboration application.