Oracle® Retail Price Management

Release Notes

Release 13.2

January 2011

This document highlights the major changes for Release 13.2 of Oracle Retail Price Management.

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 multi-buy 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

Functional Enhancements

RPM 13.2 introduces the following functional enhancements.

Price Events at Item List Level

In previous releases, when the user selects an item list in the item selection panel to create a price event, RPM explodes the item list into all items in that list and creates the price events at the item level. For example, if an item list contains 1,000 items, RPM creates 1,000 price events. For a very large item list, this could cause performance degradation for the user interface.

This functional enhancement allows the user to create simple promotions, threshold promotions, price changes, and clearances at item list level. For example, if an item list contains 1,000 items and the user creates the price event at item list level, RPM creates only one price event that affects all 1,000 items in the item list.

This is a point-in-time item list, however. RPM captures the items in the item list during the creation of the price event, when the price event is saved to the database. RPM uses that captured list of items throughout the lifetime of the price event. After the price event has been created and saved, adding items to the item list or removing items (through RMS) does not affect which items are included in the price event.

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For this enhancement, the new system option Allow Item List Explosion has been added. If this system option is not selected, the user cannot explode the item list into items. When the user selects an item list when creating simple promotions, threshold promotions, price changes, or clearances, the price event is created at item list level. If this system option is selected, the user can explode the item list into its items; if the user chooses to do that, RPM creates item-level price events.

Skip Conflict Checking During Submit

This enhancement allows the user to skip the conflict checking process during the price event submit action. A new system option named "Do not run Conflict Check for Submit" has been added. If this system option is selected, RPM does not perform the conflict checking process and does not show conflicts, if any, when the user performs a price event submit action. The price event status is switched to Submit immediately. If this system option is not selected, RPM uses previously existing functionality to execute the conflict checking process, and shows conflicts found, when the user performs the price event submit action.

Skip Conflict Checking During Complex Promotion Approval

This enhancement allows the user to skip the conflict checking process during complex promotion (multi-buy and threshold) approval and disapproval. When the user approves or disapproves a multi-buy or threshold promotion, RPM does not update the future retail table and does not perform conflict validation. RPM populates the payload tables, however, so that RPM can communicate the complex promotion to other systems (through RIB or the ORPOS extract, for example).

A new system option named "Do not run Conflict Check for Complex Promotion Approval" has been added. If this system option is selected, RPM does not perform conflict checking, and does not show any conflicts, when the user approves or disapproves a complex promotion. If this system option is not selected, RPM uses previously existing functionality to execute a complete conflict checking process, and show conflicts found, when the user approves or disapproves a complex promotion.

Choosing this option can dramatically improve the performance of an approval of a large multi-buy or threshold promotion (for example, at department/zone level). You should consider the use of this option carefully, because some functionality is lost with this option. For example:

- For overlapping promotions, an item/location in a complex promotion is not considered when validating overlapping promotion counts.

- For price change promotion overlaps or clearance promotion overlaps, an item/location in a complex promotion is not considered when validating these types of overlapping.

- Complex promotion information is not available in the future retail tables.

Although the new system option can be changed from one status to the other in the System Options Edit screen, changing this system option could produce unpredictable results when there are active or pending complex promotions .

Unique Unit of Measure

This enhancement provides the ability to inform RPM that there is only one unit of measure (UOM) to be used throughout RPM. This is particularly useful to improve performance when a fixed-price price event is created. Previously, when the user created a fixed-price price event without entering a new UOM, RPM validated that all item/locations affected by the price event had a unique UOM. For a very large price event (for example, a promotion at department/zone level), this validation process could cause performance degradation.

For this enhancement, two system options were added:

- Unique UOM is used for all items

- Unique UOM to be used for all items

The "Unique UOM is used for all items" system option informs RPM that there is only one UOM in RPM. When this system option is selected, RPM does not perform UOM validation when the user creates a fixed-price price event. If this system option is selected, the user must provide a valid unique UOM to be used throughout RPM as the value of the "Unique UOM to be used for all items" system option. These two system options are set during the RPM installation. For an existing RPM environment, these system options should be updated from the back end by the database administrator.

Maximum Number of Promotion Component Details

A system option has been added that can restrict the promotion component detail user interface to a predetermined limit. The option is named Maximum Number of Promotion Component Details per Promotion Component. The RPM application will restrict the . Limitations on the number of promotion component details affect any possible way in which a user can create promotion component details. Item lists, parent, parent diff, or transaction-level item/location combinations that are exploded to the item/location level are controlled through the value set for this system option. The default setting is 500.

Clearance Resets

Two functional changes were made for clearance resets:

- Users are now able to reset a clearance for an item/location for the very next day.

- Users with appropriate privileges are now able to reset a clearance on the same day.

Integration Enhancements

Because of the Oracle Retail Merchandising System (RMS) new VAT/TAX requirement, RPM has been modified to work with the new TAX/VAT functionality in RMS. Functionality affected is initial pricing, worksheet, and markup calculation in price inquiry and in column detail for price events.

Technical Enhancements

The following technical enhancements are included in Oracle Retail Price Management Release 13.2.

Price Event Execution Threading

The threading logic for the price event execution batch has been changed from price event ID to item/location. Previously, this batch job split into several threads based on the number of price events to be processed. This number is represented in the THREAD_LUW_COUNT column of the com.retek.rpm.batch.PriceEventExecutionBatch entry in the RPM_BATCH_CONTROL table. With this enhancement, the batch job splits into several threads based on the number of item/locations. Because of this, the user must update the THREAD_LUW_ COUNT column of the com.retek.rpm.batch.PriceEventExecutionBatch entry in the RPM_BATCH_CONTROL table to represent how many item/locations must be processed by each thread for this batch job.

New Future Retail Locking Strategy

In previous releases, RPM utilized database level locks to ensure that only one user was able to modify data in the future retail tables. With this enhancement, RPM utilizes database locks to initially ensure that only one user is able to modify data. In addition, a new table is used to hold locking records at the price event level, to ensure that only one user can modify data across multiple database transactions. If a price event is being approved, checks are done for any item/locations that overlap between locking records and the price event being approved. If any overlap exists, the conflict checking process is completed without doing any processing, and the user is alerted to the existing lock.

Performance Improvement in Chunk Conflict Checking

RPM can process conflict checking logic in either bulk or chunk fashion, depending on the number of item/locations in the price event. When using the chunking conflict checking logic, previous releases could execute using multiple concurrent threads for all steps in the conflict checking logic, except for the push-back portion of the processing, which processes in a single thread regardless of the number of item/locations in the price event.

With this enhancement, the push-back portion of the conflict checking logic can be executed across multiple concurrent threads by utilizing the same breakout of item/locations used for the other steps in chunk conflict checking. It is possible that one or more push-back threads could encounter an issue with the database. To remedy this, a new batch has been introduced that will pick up any threads that did not complete successfully and attempt to finish processing them. Before this new batch is run, a dataabase administrator must verify the issue encountered (this is stored in a table) and take any necessary action to correct this issue in the database.

Oracle Exadata Database Machine X2 Support

Oracle Exadata Database Machine X2 is a combination of smart software and industry-standard hardware. It provides database-aware storage services, such as the ability to offload database processing from the database server to storage, transparently, without affecting SQL processing and your database applications.

RPM Release 13.2 is supported on Oracle Exadata Database Machine X2 through the binary compatibility with Oracle Linux Release 5 Update 3 and Oracle Database 11g Release 2 Enterprise Edition on Oracle Real Application Clusters (RAC) 11g.

Oracle WebLogic Server 11g (Java 6)

For Release 13.2, the Oracle Retail merchandising operations management product suite uses Oracle WebLogic Server 11g, which replaces Oracle Application Server used in previous releases. Oracle WebLogic Server 11g is the industry's most comprehensive, standards-based platform for developing, deploying, and integrating enterprise applications. It provides the foundation for an application grid, an architecture that enables enterprises to pool and share resources with dynamic adjustment across multiple applications, to lower operational costs.

Discontinued Support for Oracle Retail Data Warehouse (RDW) Interfaces

A new analytical application is in development. Because of this strategic decision, support for interface between Oracle Retail applications and Oracle Retail Data Warehouse has been discontinued for Oracle Retail 13.2 releases. Oracle Retail Extract, Transform, and Load (RETL) extract scripts for RDW are not supported for use with Oracle Retail 13.2 applications and databases.

Known Issues

The following are known issues for Oracle Retail Price Management Release 13.2.

Menu Bar for Swedish Language Users (Defect 10196891)

For Swedish language users only, the drop-down menus for the menu bar (File, View, Help) do not work. A fix is being developed.

Related Documentation

For more information, see the following documents in the Oracle Retail Price Management Release 13.2 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*

See also:

- *Oracle Retail Merchandising Batch Schedule*
- *Oracle Retail Merchandising Data Conversion Operations Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Merchandising Implementation Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Merchandising Licensing Information*
- Oracle Retail Integration Bus documentation
- Oracle Retail Service Layer documentation

Supplemental Documentation

The following documents are available through My Oracle Support. Access My Oracle Support at the following URL:

https://support.oracle.com

Oracle Retail Integration Bus Integration Guide (ID 1277421.1)

The RIB Integration Guide is an HTML document that summarizes the Oracle Retail messaging integration by functional area. Each functional area (or message family) includes the publishing and subscribing application's components, message documents, and TAFR operations (if applicable).

Oracle Retail Upgrade Guide 13.1 to 13.2 (ID 1073414.1)

Because the upgrade process varies among Oracle Retail applications, the *Oracle Retail Upgrade Guide* describes the approach that each Oracle Retail application takes for the upgrading, or uptaking, process, as well as product-specific upgrade assumptions and considerations. Actual procedures for the upgrade may be included in the application's Installation Guide.

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Value-Added Reseller (VAR) Language

Oracle Retail VAR Applications

The following restrictions and provisions only apply to the programs referred to in this section and licensed to you. You acknowledge that the programs may contain third party software (VAR applications) licensed to Oracle. Depending upon your product and its version number, the VAR applications may include:

(i) 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.

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

(iii) 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.

(iv) 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.

You acknowledge and confirm that Oracle grants you use of only the object code of the VAR Applications. Oracle will not deliver source code to the VAR Applications to you. Notwithstanding any other term or condition of the agreement and this ordering document, you shall not cause or permit alteration of any VAR Applications. For purposes of this section, "alteration" refers to all alterations, translations, upgrades, enhancements, customizations or modifications of all or any portion of the VAR Applications including all reconfigurations, reassembly or reverse assembly, re-engineering or reverse engineering and recompilations or reverse compilations of the VAR Applications or any derivatives of the VAR Applications. You acknowledge that it shall be a breach of the agreement to utilize the relationship, and/or confidential information of the VAR Applications for purposes of competitive discovery.

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