Oracle® Retail Store Inventory Management

Release Notes

Release 13.0

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ORACLE

Oracle® Retail Store Inventory Management Release Notes, Release 13.0

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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.

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 performance enhancements
- Assumptions
- Fixed defects
- Known issues

Audience

Release Notes are a critical communication link between Oracle Retail and its retailer clients. There are four general audiences for whom a Release Notes document is written:

- Retail clients who want to understand the contents of this release
- Staff who have the overall responsibility for implementing Oracle Retail Store Inventory Management in their enterprise
- Business analysts who want high-level functional information about this release
- System analysts and system operation personnel who want high-level functional and technical content related to this release

Related Documents

For more information, see the following documents in the Oracle Retail Store Inventory Management Release 13.0 documentation set:

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

Customer Support

https://metalink.oracle.com

When contacting Customer Support, please provide the following:

- Product version and program/module name
- Functional and technical description of the problem (include business impact)
- Detailed step-by-step instructions to re-create
- Exact error message received
- Screen shots of each step you take

Review Patch Documentation

For a base release (".0" release, such as 13.0), 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

Overview

The Oracle Retail Store Inventory Management (SIM) software can manage any physical inventory functions that can be performed in a store, with the exception of selling the items. SIM has the following features:

- SIM allows the user to create or act upon external generated transfer requests between stores or generated its own transfers.
- Returns can be dispatched between the store and the warehouse. Returns can be generated in external systems or created within SIM.
- Receiving from a warehouse can be performed at the advanced shipping notice (ASN), container, or individual item level.
- Direct supplier delivery can be handled with or without a purchase order. If no prior purchase order exists for the delivery, SIM generates one.
- There are different stock count types in SIM:
  - Annual unit and amount counts synchronize SIM with an external merchandising system and allow re-evaluation of inventory. These counts can be performed by a third party or in-house, by sequenced location level or merchandise hierarchy.
  - Scheduled unit counts allow systematic counts of priority items.
  - Ad hoc counts allow the user to verify stock-on-hand values when amounts seem wrong.
  - Problem line stock counts generate stock counts based on stock-on-hand exceptions.
- Inventory adjustments can be performed with different reason codes. These adjustments can move inventory from available to unavailable, from unavailable to available, from out-of-stock to in-stock, from in-stock to out-of-stock, and from unavailable to out-of-stock.
- Ordering items can be totally controlled in the store by directly creating purchase orders from the supplier or warehouse. Alternatively, additional items can be requested from the Oracle Retail Merchandising System (RMS) through the Item Request dialog.
- Sequencing allows the retailer to indicate where specific items are located in the store. This feature allows restocking of the shop floor shelves from the backroom when out-of-stock positions occur.
- Tickets and labels can be printed based on price changes, purchase orders, and stock-on-hand positions.
- Emergency price changes can be requested by SIM; these are validated by the Oracle Retail Price Management (RPM) application before they are activated.
- Three different kinds of lookups are available to the user: item, container, and supplier. Each lookup has its own set of search criteria.
- Using the handheld mobile device, the user can bring floor-based inventory management, which normally runs in the back office, to the shop floor and backroom, increasing user and store efficiency. The handheld is used to capture and validate data.

- Data captured in SIM can be sent to external systems, including a corporate-level merchandising or warehousing system. The Oracle Retail Sales Audit (ReSA) application provides inventory sales updates to SIM, to assure accurate and timely inventory positions.

Hardware and Software Requirements

See the Oracle Retail Store Inventory Management Installation Guide for critical information about the following:

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

Functional Enhancements

Bulk Price Processing

SIM can use Oracle Retail Price Management (RPM) flat files to import regular, promotion, and clearance price changes. Most of the time, price changes do not need to be available to the store the moment they are created; therefore, flat file imports can be used as an alternative.

If real-time processing is required, Oracle Retail Integration Bus (RIB) should be used, but the Bulk Price Processing batch program can be used in conjunction with RIB for processing during high-volume periods.

Merchandise Hierarchy Messages

A new interface enables SIM to subscribe directly to merchandise hierarchy department, class, and subclass creation and modification messages.

Improved Inventory Coordination Between SIM and RMS

Previous versions of SIM did not publish reserved transfer or return quantity information until the transfer was dispatched. For replenishment reasons, SIM now updates RMS when the transfer is created, modified, and shipped, improving overall stock positions between both applications.

This modification affects transfers between stores, returns to warehouse, and returns to vendor.

Supplier Restriction

A supplier site is a name to define a relationship between supplier and store. Through the use of supplier site management, SIM has the option to restrict suppliers to only those suppliers that are assigned to the same supplier site as the store. (See RMS documentation for more information.)

Each supplier and store in RMS has a supplier site attached to it. When supplier site functionality is used in RMS, it restricts the display of suppliers to those that have a site ID that matches that of the store.

Use of this functionality is set up in RMS and is optional. If supplier site functionality is not used, all suppliers are available for all stores.

Automatic Breakdown of Large Stock Counts

To improve interface usability, SIM added a new feature to break down large stock counts, item requests, and pick lists into more manageable pieces. SIM added new parameters to specify the maximum size of a unit of work for stock counts, item requests, and pick lists. Using this defined maximum size, SIM automatically breaks down the transactions into more manageable pieces.

Wholesale and Franchise Integration

A retailer that is both a wholesaler and a merchant often wants to use the same store system for corporation and franchise stores. This offers a consistent means of interaction within the organization, efficient training, and a seamless experience for customers moving between stores.

RMS has developed a whole range of new features for wholesale, and some of these have an impact on the integration points with SIM. For the initial implementation of wholesale integration, SIM does not include specific logic for wholesale; however, SIM subscribes to franchise and wholesale messages so that a retailer can use SIM for its franchises.

This functionality does not imply that RMS is fully integrated with SIM for wholesale franchise stores. Additional customizations need to be made to RMS to handle messages coming from SIM for wholesale or franchise locations.

Technical Enhancements

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.

Oracle Real Application Clusters (RAC) Database Support

Oracle Store Inventory Management has been validated against a RAC 10.2.0.3 database.

Single Sign-On Enablement

SIM 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.

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.

The first OCM collector distribution that will be aware of the Oracle Retail applications is in Oracle development. For more information, see the Oracle Retail Store Inventory Management Installation Guide.

Integration with Oracle Retail Workspace

Oracle Retail Store Inventory Management can be integrated with Oracle Retail Workspace (ORW). The integration between these applications is optional, and no data flows between the applications. ORW 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. ORW functionality provides single sign-on, central launch, role-based security, user management, and retailer-specific customization capabilities. ORW also provides a kit and instructions for dashboard development. For more information, see the Oracle Retail Workspace documentation and the following:

Metalink Note 559554.1: Oracle Retail Reports Resizing Guide

Due to the space constraints of the content area in Oracle Retail Workspace, reports accessed in a dashboard may need to be resized. This guide provides a quick and simple step-by-step process for resizing reports in both Oracle Business Intelligence Enterprise Edition (Oracle BI) and Oracle BI Publisher.

Performance Assumptions

The following topics describe environmental requirements to provide acceptable SIM PC client performance.

Transaction Size Limitation

SIM does not support display of a single transaction larger than 10,000 lines. This is most often seen in the Stock Count module; therefore, product groups should be limited to 10,000 line items or fewer. Business process and application features can help provide relief for this limitation. Retailers should contact their Oracle Customer Support representative to learn about options, if single transactions need to include more than 10,000 line items.

PC Client–Server Bandwidth

SIM is designed as an in-store application with a centralized application server and database. SIM is sensitive to the bandwidth between the SIM PC client and the data center. Oracle Retail does not recommend or support installations with less than 128 KB bandwidth available between the PC client and the data center. Limiting the client to less than 128 KB total available bandwidth causes unpredictable network utilization spikes, and performance of the client degrades below requirements established for the product.

The 128 KB requirement provides reasonable, predictable performance and network utilization for transactions within the limits noted in the Transaction Size Limitation section above.

The SIM client that runs on wireless handheld devices is not limited in this way. The handheld client can provide a workable alternative to customers who require SIM functionality in locations that do not provide 128 KB bandwidth.

PC Client–Server Latency

SIM is also sensitive to the network latency between the SIM PC client and the data center. Oracle Retail does not recommend or support installations with more than 50 ms total round-trip network latency between the PC client and the data center. Latency beyond the 50 ms limit causes unpredictable network utilization spikes, and performance of the client degrades below requirements established for the product. The 50 ms limitation provides reasonable, predictable performance and network utilization for transactions within the limits noted in the Transaction Size Limitation section above.

The SIM handheld client is significantly less affected by network latency and can provide a workable alternative to customers who require SIM functionality in locations with excessive network latency.

Known Issues

The following are known issues with the SIM 13.0 release.

Data Seeding

There is a known issue with data seeding for the SIM 13.0 release.

After data seeding, recheck the RK_ITM_LCN and RK_CODE_DETAIL tables:

- If data is not populated in the RK_ITM_LCN table, execute data_seeding/database/oracle/data_seeding/sql/sequencing_pop_rk_itm_lcn.sql and sequencing_pop_location_count.sql in the order specified in the sqlplus section.
- If data is not populated in the RK_CODE_DETAIL table, make sure all environment variables in DataSeeding.sh are set before executing the following command:

```
sqlldr userid=$SIM_USER/$SIM_PWD@$SIM_DB control=../ctl/RkCodeDetail.ctl
log=../logs/RkCodeDetail.log ROWS=$SIM_COMMIT_BLOCK direct=false
```

Metalink note **19499.1** contains more information. Access Metalink at the following URL:

http://metalink.oracle.com

If the problem noted in Metalink note 19499.1 occurs, or if you want to completely rerun data seeding, follow these steps:

1. Drop the schema.
2. Drop the sim directory in the install drive.
3. Unzip sim13dbschema.zip
4. Re-create the schema.
5. Rerun DataSeeding.sh.
6. Verify that the RK_ITM_LCN and RK_CODE_DETAIL tables are populated. If not, follow the two steps specified above.

Price Changes

In some cases in which RPM recalculates a promotion because a regular or clearance price is changed, SIM does not extract the correct pricing event:

- The promotion price is not put into effect for a clearance/promotion overlap when the promotion price is less than the clearance price.
- The promotion price is not put into effect for a regular price/promotion overlap when the regular price is changed and the promotion is recalculated.
- Reverting to the clearance price does not occur correctly when there is a clearance/promotion overlap in which a promotion was recalculated because a clearance went into effect.
- Reverting to the clearance price does not occur correctly when there is a clearance/promotion overlap in which a promotion was in effect before the clearance went into effect.

Japanese Language Support

Because of technical limitations of the SIM handheld, Japanese language support is not provided for SIM 13.0.

Canadian Locale

The SIM 13.0 application will not work correctly with stores set up with Canadian locale, because of an error in the date.cfg file.

Transfer Requests

For SIM 13.0, transfer requests can only be created on the PC.