

# Oracle® Retail Store Inventory Management

Release Notes

Release 13.2.1

January 2011

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This document highlights the major changes for Release 13.2.1 of Oracle Retail Store Inventory Management (SIM).

## Product 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 you 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 you 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.
- Item, supplier, container, and customer order lookups are available. Each lookup has its own set of search criteria.
- Using the handheld mobile device, you 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.

## Release Overview

The Oracle Retail Store Inventory Management 13.2.1 release focuses on increasing store inventory efficiencies and customer enablement. The release includes the following:

- Functional enhancements (see "[Functional Enhancements](#)")
  - Store inventory efficiency: Auto receiving, support for shipments to and from finishers, Context field
  - User experience enhancements: Direct store delivery expected quantity defaulting, on-order display
  - Additional inventory controls: Unique identification number (UIN) scanning audit trail, status display of UINs on PC, restrictions for over-receiving, bill of lading (BOL) reporting
  - Web service extensions
  - Miscellaneous other improvements
- Technical enhancements (see "[Technical Enhancements](#)")
- Deployment enhancements (see "[Application Server Deployment Options](#)")

## Hardware and Software Requirements

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

- Hardware and software requirements
- Oracle Retail application software compatibility

## Application Server Deployment Options

SIM 13.2.1 supports two different application servers for deployment:

- Oracle WebLogic Server 11g Enterprise Edition (10.3.3)
- Oracle Application Server 10g Enterprise Edition (10.1.3.x)

Your choice of application server is determined by the release levels of Oracle Retail software with which SIM integrates.

- You must use Oracle WebLogic Server 11g to integrate with
  - Oracle Retail Merchandising 13.2 applications using Oracle Retail Integration Bus (RIB) 13.2
  - Oracle Retail Point-of-Service 13.3
- You must use Oracle Application Server 10g to integrate with
  - Oracle Retail Merchandising 13.1 applications using Oracle Retail Integration Bus 13.1
  - Oracle Retail Point-of-Service 13.2

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**Note:** The option to continue to deploy SIM Release 13.2.1 with Oracle Application Server is provided for customers who do not want to change their current release levels of Oracle Retail Merchandising and Point-of-Service applications.

- New installations of SIM 13.2.1 should only be installed with Oracle WebLogic Server. Oracle WebLogic Server is the required application server for Oracle Retail Merchandising 13.2 applications. It allows integration of SIM with current and future release levels of Merchandising applications.
  - Some functional enhancements for SIM 13.2.1 are available only when SIM is deployed with Oracle Retail 13.2 applications, which require Oracle WebLogic Server (see "[Functional Enhancements](#)").
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## Functional Enhancements

Oracle Retail Store Inventory Management 13.2.1 introduces the following functional enhancements.

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**Note:** The following functional enhancements are available only if you integrate SIM 13.2.1 with RMS and RIB 13.2 release levels. These functional enhancements are unavailable with RMS and RIB 13.1 release levels:

- Auto-receiving through ASN
  - Shipping to and from finishers
  - Auto-removal of direct store delivery over-receiving
  - Context fields
  - Bill of lading reporting
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## Store Inventory Efficiency

### Auto-receiving

SIM 13.2 enhanced its auto-receiving feature beyond the standard store-to-store transfers. A system option allows control of warehouse, finisher, and store deliveries in these ways:

- Auto-receiving can be turned off.
- Auto-receiving can be controlled through the incoming ASN.
- Auto-receiving can be date-driven ( $x$  days after shipment of a transfer).

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**Note:** Auto-receiving controlled through incoming ASN is available only if you integrate SIM 13.2.1 with RMS and Oracle Retail Fiscal Management (ORFM) 13.2 using RIB 13.2.

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### Finishers

To better support value-add processes by entities outside of the store, SIM now supports internal and external finishers. For example, for a repair, SIM can ship to a finisher. Because finishers act like warehouses from the SIM perspective, the return and warehouse delivery dialogs are used for shipping and receiving processes.

A system option specifies whether a retailer uses finishers.

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**Note:** Support for shipments to and from finishers is available only if you integrate SIM 13.2.1 with RMS and RIB 13.2.

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### Context Fields

Transfers between stores, returns to a warehouse or finisher, and deliveries from a warehouse now have an additional field that can indicate the purpose of the delivery. For example, the corporate system can indicate whether a delivery from the warehouse is for a specific promotion or a repair.

A security option controls use of the context field information.

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**Note:** Context fields are only available if you integrate SIM 13.2.1 with RMS and RIB 13.2.

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## User Experience Enhancements

### Default Expected Quantity for Direct Store Delivery

A system option controls whether expected quantities are defaulted for direct store deliveries with ASNs or Dex/Nex. This allows more detailed control by the retailer. If units are not automatically defaulted, the user can scan each unit individually to ensure that the correct quantities are delivered. If the units are defaulted, only a visual inspection can be done, because scanning the items will automatically increase the received units.

### **On Order Quantity for Direct Store Delivery**

SIM displays the on order quantity in the direct store delivery dialog. This quantity represents the remaining on order quantity for the purchase order.

### **Quick Jump**

This feature allows the user to navigate between different functional areas of SIM in one step, without using the standard navigation buttons.

## **Additional Inventory Controls**

### **Stock Count Unique Identification Number (UIN) Audit Scans**

When UINs are scanned for stock counts, each invalid UIN scan is tracked (for example, the UIN does not exist, or the UIN was already scanned in this session). The authorizing user can review these invalid scans and bring them into the stock count if so desired.

### **Item Request Timeslot Restriction**

Using the standard security model, SIM 13.2.1 adds the ability to secure which timeslots are available for the user to select when creating an item request. This new flexibility allows some timeslots to be available only for certain stores, or to restrict timeslots by user/store.

### **Sales History**

Sales history information stored in the SIM database can incorporate sales transactions coming from either the ReSaFileParser or from the sales Web services.

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**Note:** It is assumed that only one method is used with SIM at the time of sales integration.

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### **Direct Store Delivery Restrictions**

Some organizations do not allow over-receiving or receiving damaged items from a supplier. SIM has added new options to control this functionality better:

- Security can prevent a user from over-receiving for direct store deliveries. When the expected quantity is reached, the user is prompted that no additional units can be received.
- Security can also control whether the user is able to receive damaged units.
- A system option allows the user to receive more than expected, but remove any quantities above expected (and unexpected items) to a separate table. Stock on hand is not updated with these over-received values.
- A different system option allows the user to receive damaged units, but remove them to a separate table when confirming the delivery. No stock-on-hand positions are updated for these damaged units.
- The over-received or damaged units can be published to an external system.

Additional security controls have been added to prevent users from creating a direct store delivery on the fly, or creating a delivery on the fly against an existing purchase order.

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**Note:** The new system options for direct store deliveries are available only if you integrate SIM 13.2.1 with RMS and RIB 13.2.

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### **Bill of Lading (BOL) Reporting**

A new screen has been added to SIM for users to identify certain required information for bills of lading, such as tax ID and third-party transporter information.

A new report was also added so that the user can print a bill of lading.

### **Web Service Extensions**

Several new Web services can be used by external systems for data input into SIM, or just for information. For more information on the APIs, see the *Oracle Retail Store Inventory Management Implementation Guide*.

### **Externally Generated Inventory Adjustments**

A new Web service has been added to SIM to allow external systems, such as a scale or a point-of-sale system, to create inventory adjustments in SIM. This allows a point-of-sale system to accept a return but immediately destroy the item, or move it to unavailable, by pairing this Web service with the near-real-time POS integration Web service.

### **Find Item**

Based on general information such as description, department, class, or subclass, SIM returns basic item information that can be used to retrieve more detailed item information.

### **Item Details**

This Web service provides the most common item attributes, as well as inventory positions for the item.

### **Find Returns**

SIM provides basic return header information based on several search criteria.

### **Return Details**

SIM provides detailed information such as item, quantity, and header information of a return transaction.

### **Update Return**

This Web service allows the user to update quantities of an item and dispatch a return.

### **Find Transfers**

SIM provides basic store-to-store transfer header information based on several search criteria.

### **Transfer Details**

SIM provides detailed information such as item, quantity, and header information of a store-to-store transfer transaction.

### **Update Transfers**

This Web service allows the user to create a new transfer, update quantities, or dispatch a store-to-store transfer.

### **Lookup Markdowns**

The Lookup Markdown Web service returns a list of items based on a date/markdown type provided by the external system. This list can be used to manually reduce the price of an item or perform a price check, for example.

## **Other Enhancements**

### **Item Requests**

The user is allowed to create timeslot deliveries for today.

### **Item Images**

If images have been set up in a merchandising system, Item Lookup now allows the user to view images of the item by clicking the Image button from the Item Detail screen. If there are multiple images for the item, the user can navigate back and forth to view the different images.

### **QR Code Images**

In addition to regular images, SIM can also display QR codes if they are converted into images. To facilitate printing QR codes on labels or tickets, some configurable options are added so that if new QR codes are introduced, tickets and labels can be generated automatically.

Because QR codes can start and expire on specific dates (for example, to coincide with promotions), SIM can also create new tickets and labels that can be printed when the QR codes are activated or expire.

To facilitate the induction of QR images into the SIM database, SIM has a Web service that can be called by a retailer's third-party systems.

### **Search Limits**

The search limits for all dialogs with search limits have been increased from 99 to 999 with an additional system option control.

### **Unique Identification Numbers (UIN)**

- All UIN security options are moved under the UIN topic.
- Viewing UIN history and updating the UIN status have become separate security options.
- There is added security for who can print tickets.
- An added security option can prevent some users from adding new inventory for auto-generated serial number (AGSN) items through inventory adjustments, but they can still add inventory for regular items.

### **UPC-E**

The barcode algorithm for UPC-E conversion has been added to SIM 13.2.1. This allows the user to scan or enter a shortened UPC-E in SIM, and SIM will find the associated SKU without the item file containing the UPC-E.

## Technical Enhancements

The following technical enhancements are included in Oracle Retail Store Inventory Management Release 13.2.1.

### Oracle WebLogic Server 11g (Java 6)

For Release 13.2.1, the standard application server for Oracle Retail Store Inventory Management is Oracle WebLogic Server 11g. Oracle WebLogic Server 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.

See "[Application Server Deployment Options](#)" and the *Oracle Retail Store Inventory Management Installation Guide* for more information about deployment options and considerations.

## Integration Enhancements

### Polling Timers

The polling timer framework code has been enhanced for Release 13.2.1. This is the subsystem that processes inbound and outbound messages for SIM. The threading portion has been updated for better performance, especially in clustered environments. Changes include the following:

- The INTEGRATION\_STAGING table was renamed the STAGED\_MESSAGE table. There were additional changes to column names in accordance with performance-related code changes.
- The POLLING\_TIMER table has been modified.
- The STAGED\_MESSAGE table now holds message data as CLOB (Character Large Object) type instead of BLOB (Binary Large Object) type. The serialized\_deo column is now named message\_data.

## Known Issues

The following are known issues for SIM 13.2.1.

### Return Requests

Return requests from Oracle Retail Merchandising System (RMS) to SIM are flagging inventory as returned from either available or unavailable stock, based on the inventory status selected. When a return request created in RMS for unavailable stock is accepted and shipped in SIM, SIM sends an inventory adjustment in addition to the return to RMS. The inventory adjustment moves the stock to available stock on hand first, before making the return from available stock. RMS is already removing the return quantity from the unavailable stock, based on the unavailable inventory status defined in the return request in RMS. This causes a discrepancy in unavailable stock. This problem only applies to those return requests for unavailable stock created in RMS.



## Warehouse Quick Receiving on the Handheld

There are two issues related to the use of Warehouse Quick Receiving:

- In the unusual circumstance that a container contains items that require serial numbers, as well as other items that require auto-generated serial numbers (AGSN), the user is prompted to scan UINs for both types of items. While serial-numbered items do require scanning of UINs, the user should not be prompted to scan UINs for items that require AGSNs. The UINs scanned for the AGSN items are associated with the item upon confirmation, which is incorrect. Instead, the UINs for an AGSN item should be auto-generated upon confirmation of the delivery, based on the quantity entered for the AGSN item.

If a delivery contains both items that require serial numbers and items that require AGSNs, the user should receive the delivery through the regular Warehouse Receiving dialog, instead of Warehouse Quick Receiving.

- After scanning a container in the Warehouse Quick Receiving dialog, the user is asked whether UINs are required. When the user chooses to continue with the quick receiving process, the next screen prompts the user to enter the UINs. If the user presses the Enter key from this screen without first scanning a UIN, an unknown exception error occurs. The user is then returned to the main menu.

To avoid this error, the user should always scan a UIN before pressing Enter.

Fixes for these issues are in development.

## Keyboard Shortcuts for Keyboards Without Roman Characters

SIM keyboard shortcuts (accelerator keys) that use Alt+ key combinations do not work if your PC keyboard has no Roman characters. This problem has been observed with Greek and Cyrillic keyboards. Java 6 does not currently support keyboard mapping using multibyte characters.

The standard function keys F1, F2, and so on are mapped to the buttons of SIM windows. F1 is mapped to the first button, F2 to the second button, and so on. This keyboard mapping is supported for all languages, and you can use the function keys instead of Alt+ key combinations on any keyboard. See the *Oracle Retail Store Inventory Management User Guide* for more information.

## Related Documentation

For more information, see the following documents in the Oracle Retail Store Inventory Management Release 13.2.1 documentation set:

- *Oracle Retail Store Inventory Management Data Model*
- *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*

See also:

- *Oracle Retail Fiscal Management/RMS Brazil Localization Implementation Guide*
- 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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