

Oracle® Retail Item Planning Configured for COE

Release Notes

Release 13.3.1

June 2012

Oracle Retail Item Planning Configured for COE (IP COE) facilitates the translation of merchandise financial plans into execution level, item driven strategies to be followed throughout the life of a product. It represents the bottom-up planning process, complementing and working in concert with the top-down financial plans. By providing weekly visibility into item performance and financial targets, the item planning process increases the likelihood that merchandising strategies are successfully executed within the financial plan parameters.

Item Planning is part of an overall planning process that involves planning at multiple levels of the product hierarchy. The planning process can be thought of as a continual process where each workbook enhances the following, and prior performance affects plans for future performance. Planning takes input from multiple parties, and communication enhances the process to help drive a financial road map for success. Multiple versions of the plan are created to benchmark success as well as provide insight to opportunities and risk for the in-season period.

In addition to the basic item planning process described above, Item Planning Configured for COE supports in-season markdown optimization, analysis, and execution. This is achieved through batch integration and a real-time service call to the Clearance Optimization Engine (COE). COE represents an effort to open up the markdown optimization engine for use in external applications such as IP COE that need an in-season price recommendation and a forecast that accounts for planned promotions and future markdowns and product life cycle. The IP COE exit strategy process has been configured to load the weekly batch forecasts calculated in COE. Based on this recommended information, the user has the ability to run a what-if scenario to the COE optimization engine. In real time, the user receives a revised forecast. Within IP COE, analysis of the key planning metrics, using both the recommended and revised forecasts, takes place in order to execute the optimal markdown recommendation.

Note: Because IP COE uses the Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server (RPAS) platform, Oracle Retail recommends that you review the *Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Release Notes* for fixed and known issues that may affect IP COE.

In addition, RPAS 13.3 and later releases have significant technical enhancements related to hierarchy management (such as integer indexing) that have an effect on the configuration and maintenance of IP COE. You must upgrade to key RPAS versions and complete the upgrade process as described in the chapter, "Patch Installation," in the *Oracle Retail Item Planning Configured for COE Installation Guide* before upgrading to a 13.3.1 IP COE domain.

Overview of the Fashion Planning Bundle

The Fashion Planning Bundle is the integration of Item Planning (IP), Item Planning configured for Clearance Optimization Engine (IP-COE), Assortment Planning (AP), Merchandise Financial Planning (MFP), and Size Profile Optimization (SPO) as a full-suite planning solution for fashion retailers.

Hardware and Software Requirements

See the *Oracle Retail Item Planning Configured for COE Installation Guide* for information about the following:

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

Upgrade Note

While not directly related to Item Planning Configured for COE, the 13.3 release of Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server (RPAS) has undergone a major change to simplify hierarchy administration. Full details of these changes are outlined in the 13.3 *Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Release Notes*. Due to these changes, configuration updates have been made to Item Planning Configured for COE, and you will need to perform additional steps to upgrade your Item Planning Configured for COE domain, such as setting dimension sizes. The upgrade to RPAS 13.3 or later releases for this application includes a conversion process in addition to the normal upgrade process. Details are provided in the chapter, "Patch Installation," in the *Oracle Retail Item Planning Configured for COE Installation Guide*.

Noteworthy Defect Fixes

The following noteworthy defect fixes are included in IP COE 13.3.1:

Fixed Issue/Defect	Defect Number
The script <code>updatePositionsStatus.ksh</code> called a utility that no longer exists in RPAS 13.3.0 and beyond. As a result, this script is removed and is no longer part of the Item Planning package.	13592368

Fixed Issue/Defect	Defect Number
While executing the what-if call on HP-UX in an encrypted environment using Weblogic 10.3.5, an exception was thrown stating "Class not found exception." The reason was that the XPATHEXception class was not included in the RPAS_JAVA_CLASSPATH. The missing com.bea.core.xml.weblogic.xpath_1.4.0.0.jar file is added to the IP COE package under IP_HOME/java/lib and RPAS_JAVA_CLASSPATH.	14118966
An illegal option message showed up while building domains on some platforms (like AIX). The build process called the uname command with the -o option. This option is not valid on all platforms. The build process is updated to be independent of that option.	12836589
For the GA release of IP and IP-COE, several messages were produced while loading GA measure data. The GA data sets for COE and RPAS based IP and IP-COE were not exactly the same. While there are common intersections and products in both, neither of them are a subset of each other. There were some positions present in the latest COE data that did not exist in the IP and IP COE product files. The product file is updated to include these missing positions.	10134663
There were issues with measures not being populated after running flat file integration from Assortment Planning to Item Planning. These issues are resolved and the data is now updated correctly.	13578617

Related Documentation

For more information, see the following documents in the Oracle Retail Item Planning Configured for COE Release 13.3.1 documentation set:

- *Oracle Retail Item Planning Configured for COE Installation Guide*
- Oracle Retail Item Planning documentation set

For more information about the Fashion Planning Bundle applications see the following documentation sets:

- Oracle Retail Item Planning documentation
- Oracle Retail Item Planning Configured for COE documentation
- Oracle Retail Clearance Optimization Engine documentation
- Oracle Retail Assortment Planning documentation
- Oracle Retail Merchandise Financial Planning documentation
- Oracle Retail Size Profile Optimization documentation

For more information about the RPAS Fusion Client, see the documents in the Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server documentation set.

For more information about RPAS and the ODI Enabled Integration, see the following documentation sets:

- Oracle Retail ODI Enabled Integration documentation
- Oracle Data Integrator documentation
- Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server documentation

Previous Releases

For information on previous Oracle Retail Item Planning Configured for COE release enhancements and additional information, refer to the release notes and documentation that accompany the previous release.

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Value-Added Reseller (VAR) Language

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