

Oracle® Retail Item Planning Configured for COE

Release Notes

Release 13.4.1

May 2013

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 13.4.1 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 13.4.1:

| Fixed Issue/Defect | Defect Number |
|---|--------------------|
| When building an IP COE domain, the build_item.ksh script output contains an error stating ". /build_item.ksh[84]: /IPCOE/bin/coe2rpas.sh: not found". There was a line of code that had an extra space in it. The space caused the command to be interpreted as setting an environment variable to a blank string and then running the grep command using its output as a new command. Because the output of the grep command was a count of 0 when no errors were found, the command '0' was run as a command on the command line which then failed. The space is removed in the error checking command and the errors are no longer present. | 1407425 |
| The refresh.ksh batch script appeared to not be working correctly. Where the script filters the output from wldata.dim-wb, there was a grep that failed due to case sensitivity and a cut that took too few characters. This is updated to correctly handle the grep and cut operations. | 16433736, 16808424 |
| The following scripts were not fitted with Oracle Retail Batch Script Architecture (BSA) functionality in the previous release: processactuals.ksh, runforecast.ksh, loadhier.ksh, autobuild.ksh and refresh.ksh. As a result, some logging and parallelization were not working as the previous methods had been deprecated. These scripts have been fitted with BSA functionality, restoring the proper logging and parallelization functionality as well as using standardized BSA return code capturing. | 16807890 |
| A lock contention running rule groups inside processactuals.ksh is resolved. | 16809282 |

Known Issues

The following table contains known issues that have been identified for the current release:

| Known Issue/Defect | Defect Number |
|---|---------------|
| There is an issue with the calculation for the COE Revised Price % Off Original Price metric. After completing a What-If call in the application, it is expected that the COE Revised Price % Off Original Price metric would calculate. In the scenario, for the WP Original Ticketed Price measure, there is a value of 30. There is a COE Revised Clearance Retail Price value of 25.46. However, the COE Revised % Off Original Price measure is calculating as zero. | 14311258 |
| The WP Current Ticketed Price, COE What-If Clearance Retail Price, and What-If Clearance Retail Price % off are not calculating together. The expectation is that the COE What-If Clearance Retail Price is calculated from the WP Current Ticketed Price and What-If Clearance Retail Price % off measures. | 14311533 |

| Known Issue/Defect | Defect Number |
|---|---------------|
| When the COE What-If Current Inventory U measure is set to 0 on the What If Request screen, the COE Revised Current Inventory U measure is not set to 0, which is fine. However, what the inventory value COE Revised Current Inventory U is set to is not correct. It is expected to be set to BOP total inventory as of the first forecasted week, but instead it takes the EOP inventory of that week. This also causes the COE Revised EOP Inventory U measure on the Forecast Analysis screen to be calculated off the incorrect number. | 14311565 |

Related Documentation

For more information, see the following documents in the Oracle Retail Item Planning Configured for COE Release 13.4.1 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.

Documentation Accessibility

For information about Oracle's commitment to accessibility, visit the Oracle Accessibility Program website at <http://www.oracle.com/pls/topic/lookup?ctx=acc&id=docacc>.

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Oracle® Retail Item Planning Configured for COE Release Notes, Release 13.4.1

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