

Oracle® Retail Markdown Optimization

Release Notes

Release 13.0

April 2008

These release notes contain the following information:

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What's New in Markdown Optimization 13.0

The MDO 13.0 release includes the following new features:

- **Seasonality Manager** – Seasonal curves in MDO represent the lifecycle of the item and the relative lift from week to week for the item. Seasonal curves impact the markdown recommendation coming from the MDO. Because of class re-organizations, inadequate history, and business requirements for a product launch that is different from last year in terms of the time, it is possible to get an inappropriate seasonal curve.

MDO provides a way to override the seasonality curve at item and higher levels. Since this is often an involved process that has far-reaching impact on the recommendations from MDO, this task is only available for analytically trained administrators.

- **What If** – What-If has been enhanced to show more information about the forecast that under-pin our recommendations. What-If can show the base sales profile, the impact of promotions, the current and forecasted inventory positions, the projected sales, the current and projected ticket and sales prices until end of life.

This approach can help the pricing analyst to analyze all the relevant information together in a highly configurable chart. The pricing analyst can also view the forecast of an override scenario in the same way.

- **Model Start Date** – determines the date at which the item is considered available for sale by MDO. This date is arrived at based on a set of rules. In this release, a new rule has been added that computes model start date based on a Sell Through percent target.
- **MDO Governor** – Given the inadequate rate of sales in the initial weeks and potentially incorrect visibility into inventory positions, MDO may recommend taking a markdown too soon. MDO Governor refers to a series of enhancements to the optimization calculation engine that makes it more robust and prevents it from making markdown recommendations sooner than expected.

- **Platform Support** – With this release, the number of supported hardware and operating system platforms increase. MDO v13 introduces support for RAC and Oracle Enterprise Linux. By enabling MDO to run on RAC and Linux, MDO 13 will significantly reduce the total cost of ownership.
- **Migration from MicroStrategy to OBIEE** – Oracle Business Intelligence Enterprise Edition is a fully featured robust reporting tool. This is the standard reporting tool for all Oracle Retail applications. OBIEE is integrated with the Oracle retail portal (dashboard) and with Oracle single sign-on. OBIEE for MDO 13 represents all the dimensions, facts, and metrics that were available in MicroStrategy. OBIEE provides a basic set of reports that support key use cases within MDO as well as the same look and feel as the other Oracle reporting tools.
- **Single Sign On** – Markdown Optimization can now be accessed through Oracle Retail Workspace. The Workspace application 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.

For this release, the Markdown Optimization CD image includes a Single Sign-On cookie plug-in. You can install this plug-in on the server implementing Oracle Application Server Single Sign-On (OSSO) to achieve a one-way interoperability with the Retail applications. When you log on to the OSSO server using a user account configured at both the systems, a User Management cookie gets registered in your browser session. This enables you to access the Markdown Optimization URL directly. If you access the Markdown Optimization application first and then later attempt to access the OSSO URL, you will need to log on to the OSSO system because the User Management module cannot create an SSO cookie. For more information on the Single Sign-On plug-in, refer to the Installation Guide.

- **OCM Integration** – Oracle Configuration Manager is an optional configuration data collector that provides continuous tracking of key Oracle and system configuration settings for the 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 that 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 Installation Guide.

Fixed Bugs

The following bugs have been fixed in MDO 13.0.

15721 – Installer debug messages now appear in the log file.

16070 – The CE now provides libstdc++ and libgcc.a as part of the Solaris installation, so the installation procedure no longer prompts the user for these values.

16605 – The path for plalerts.sh has been updated in the Configuration Guide.

16724 – The Configuration Guide provides details about how to define worksheets in MDO.

16995 – In the Operations Guide, the LoadDCInventory name has been changed to LoadDcInventory.

17630 – What-If "Discount Dollars" do not include permanent markdown dollars.

17920 – The French UserManagementResources.property file is translated correctly.

18527 – Worksheet becomes available for edit to second user after the first user leaves the worksheet.

18757 – The -c and -t options have been removed from reQueueErrorItems.sh.

18903 –The assertion failure message in enginectl.sh displays correctly.

19723 – A script error no longer occurs when the user edits a rule in the Business Rule Manager and then clicks the 'X' button (Close) in the top right corner of the Business Rule Manager window.

21577 – The serializable error for What If on both the servers in a cluster no longer occurs.

21897 – The hierarchies in UM and BRPM do not display duplicates.

22316 – The ActiveXInstaller.zip is now available on the CD Image.

22363 – The Browse/Search functionality in the BRPM works as designed.

22548 – The load location hierarchy procedure has been updated to include flexible clustering.

22905 – The labels on the buttons in the BRM have been modified to match the information in the dialog box that appears after a user clicks Done.

22966 – The performance of Export to Excel has been improved.

23047 – During the Price installation, error messages appear in the logs stating that the Help applications (UMHelp, BRMHelp, PriceHelp) are not available for removal before the Installation is completed. However, Price and Help are functioning correctly and no errors are seen in the Price UI.

23142 –The modify columns/defining custom metrics in the Worksheet works correctly.

23159 – The popup error message that appears when a page does not load properly has been updated to correct the text.

23983 – Run IDs no longer being re-used.

24496 – The load procedure for ash_cluster_mapping_tbl has been modified.

24631 – Any action on the Maintaining Merchandise screen returns the user to the same location in the grid afterwards.

24741 – The j2ee.jar file is available in PriceCD/tools/lib directory.

Impact of Bug Fix on MDO

The following table shows the TestTrack issues that were fixed in MDO v13.0 and that impact either the Price front-end configuration (specifically the p4p-column-list.xml, p4pgui-config.xml, and config.properties files), the inference rules, load statements, schema, Standard Load, or Calc Engine. (Note that some issues do not fall into any of these categories.)

TT#	FE Config.	Inference Rules	Load Statements	Schema Change	Standard Load	CE
22548					X	
24496			X			

Known Issues

The following are the known issues in this release.

22554 – The Installer configures the application-level cluster at the component level in \$OAS_HOME/j2ee/home/application-deployment/\$COMPONENT/orion-application.xml. If the directory application-deployment is removed and the application server is restarted, the cluster configuration at the component level disappears.

23141 – Worksheet - Modify Columns scroll bar freezes. The freezing of the vertical scroll bar when the window size is increased is an inherent problem in IE 6.0. This problem does not occur in IE 7.0. The solution to this problem is to drag the dialog box to increase the window size so that the horizontal scroll bar disappears.

24255 – To run the installer in GUI mode on Windows machine, do the following:

- At the Windows command prompt, execute the following command from Product CDImage directory.

```
install.cmd -p <path to install.properties>
```
- If "cygwin" is installed, the following command will start the installer in GUI mode.

```
bash install.sh -p <path to install.properties>
```

24667 – The following information concerns the GUI installation of OAS 10.1.3 and upgrading to the OAS 10.1.3.3.0 patch set on the HP-UX IA64 platform.

1. Installation of the base server, OAS 10.1.3, goes smoothly.
2. While upgrading to OAS 10.1.3.3.0, when the installation has progressed 40%, the installer asks: "Please insert LABEL1 disk3 into your disk drive or specify an alternate location."
3. Point the installer to the location of the second disk.
4. When the installation has progressed to 80%, the installer again asks: "Please insert LABEL1 disk3 into your disk drive or specify an alternate location."
5. Point the installer to the location of the second disk again and the installation completes successfully.

24671 – When installing OAS 10.1.3 and upgrading to OAS 10.1.3.3.0 using the GUI Installer on an AIX platform, the user is asked to run the /usr/sbin/slibclean command twice. After this, the Configuration Assistant fails.

To resolve this problem, run the /usr/sbin/slibclean script for the third time and click Retry in the Configuration Assistant.

24676 – On the AIX 5.3 platform, when upgrading from OAS 10.1.3 to OAS 10.1.3.3.0 using the silent installation method, the upgrade fails. Use the following procedure to work around this problem.

1. Install OAS 10.1.3 and set the ORACLE_HOME environment variable for the application server.
2. Shut down the instance post installation.
3. Run the /usr/sbin/slibclean command (sudo /usr/sbin/slibclean).
4. chmod -R go -rwx \$ORACLE_HOME (as specified in the Metalink Note: 454811.1).
5. Make the change specified in the Metalink Note: 454811.1 – Appendix A: IBM specific 10.1.3.3 patch set installation instruction.
6. Start the OAS 10.1.3 instance.
7. Install OAS 10.1.3.3.0.

After the installation, log on to the AS control and click the "About Oracle Enterprise Manager 10g Application Server Control" hyperlink on the bottom of the Cluster Topology page. The version displayed on this page (10.1.3.3.0) is the correct version of the application server.

Note that the ias.properties file will not have the correct version information, so it can be ignored.

24704 – The table A-1 in section A.4.1 in the Oracle Application Server 10g Release 3 (10.1.3) for HP-UX Itanium Installation Guide references multiple response files for the different installation types of OAS. The table shows them to be located in the stage/Response directory in the CD image.

1. Integrated Web Server, J2EE Server and Process Management - oracle.as.j2ee.top.allProducts.rsp
2. J2EE Server and Process Management - oracle.as.j2ee.top.core.rsp
3. Web Server and Process Management - oracle.as.j2ee.top.httpServer.rsp
4. Oracle TopLink - oracle.as.j2ee.top.toplink.rsp

None of the above response files are available in the CD image. There is no Response sub-directory under the stage directory. Instead of the response files specified in the document, the following response files are available in the CD image:

1. install/Response/as10g_advanced.rsp
2. install/Response/as10g_basic.rsp

24705 – This issue affects the Linux, HP, and Solaris platforms.

After upgrading from OAS 10.1.3.0 to 10.1.3.3.0, the configuration assistant for OAS 10.1.3.3.0 fails with the following message:

"The following configuration assistants have not been successfully completed. These assistants must be completed for your product to be completely configured. Execute file <ORACLE_HOME>/cfgtoollogs/configToolCommands to re-run all skipped/failed configuration assistants."

Running `<ORACLE_HOME>/cfgtoollogs/configToolCommands` from the command prompt resolves the issue.

24706 – For OAS 10.1.3.0 in the HP-UX IA64 platform, two `rsp` files are provided.

1. `./OAS-10.1.3.0-B30681-01/install/Response/as10g_basic.rsp`
2. `./OAS-10.1.3.0-B30681-01/install/Response/as10g_advanced.rsp`

These files are missing some fields referenced in the document - Oracle Application Server Installation Guide 10g Release 3 (10.1.3) for HP-UX Itanium.

Here are the missing fields for each `rsp` file:

For `./OAS-10.1.3.0-B30681-01/install/Response/as10g_basic.rsp`

- `UNIX_GROUP_NAME`
- `szL_PortListSelect`
- `sl_AdminInstanceSettingsSelections`
- `sl_adminDialogReturn`

For `./OAS-10.1.3.0-B30681-01/install/Response/as10g_advanced.rsp`

- `UNIX_GROUP_NAME`
- `szL_PortListSelect`
- `sl_DlgClusterInfoWebReturn`
- `sl_AdminInstanceSettingsSelections`
- `b_autoPortDetect`
- `sl_adminDialogReturn`

Include the above flags in their respective response files before using them.

24721 – The `sl_DlgClusterInfoWebReturn` parameter does not work in silent installations.

Oracle Application Server Installation Guide 10g Release 3 (10.1.3) lists `sl_DlgClusterInfoWebReturn` as one of the parameters that can be included in the response file for silent installations. This parameter is supposed to allow you add the instance to a cluster; however, it does not work, and you will find that the instance is not clustered after the installation has completed.

To work around this problem, you can add the instance to a cluster by manually updating the `opmn.xml` file with the following tags after you finish the silent installation:

```
<topology>
<discover list= "*ip_address:port"/>
</topology>
```

These tags must be nested within the `<notification-server>` tag.

For more detailed information, refer to Oracle Application Server High Availability Guide 10g Release 3 (10.1.3), section 3.2.1.2, "Discovery Server Method."

25053 – Script errors were occurring during the installation of MDO on AIX. A stop has been added to `plconfigure.sh` that terminates the installation in case of

failure. If the installation fails because of this error, increase the NCARGS AIX system value from default of 6 to 64 and restore it to the original value after the installation.

25166 – In order to test the new Seasonality Manager functionality with the Price Dataset, you need to run a DB patch script that populates the SEASONALITY_MAPS_TBL with new records. The script and readme documentation are available in the CD Image under <CD Image>/13.0.0/releases/Datasets/PriceDatasetDemoPatches/seasonality_patch.sql.

25282 – The installation process used for OAS 10.1.3.3 for this release is to first install the base version OAS 10.1.3.0 and then upgrade to OAS 10.1.3.3.

During this process, on AIX only, the ias.properties did not update the version to 10.1.3.3, but instead continued to display 10.1.3.0 after the successful application of the patch. It has been confirmed with OAS development that this is not a blocking issue.

To verify that the patch installation has been successful, do one of the following:

- Open the index page of the Application server and verify the version number (It should display 10.1.3.3.0)
- Open the OUI and click on Installed products and verify that the patchset components display the 10.1.3.3.0 version number (This should also display 10.1.3.3.0.)

25326 – Running the OCM install GUI (install.sh -x OCM.xml) on HP-UX causes the following error in the log. This does not occur on the other platforms when the installer is run in the same way. This is a known OCM issue and currently there is no workaround for it.

ERROR: stty: : Not a typewriter

25327 – The BRPM loads slow when the Browsable and Findable levels are increased from the default. The default/recommended values (from businessrulemanager.properties) are:

number of Browsable levels in the merchandise hierarchy filters	numBrowsableMerchLevels=4
number of Browsable levels in the location hierarchy filters	numBrowsableLocLevels=2
number of Findable merchandise levels in the grid	numFindableMerchLevels=2
number of Findable location levels in the grid	numFindableLocLevels=1
number of Expandable location levels in the grid	numExpandableLocLevels=3

If the browsable merchandise level is increased to 8 and the browsable location level is increased to 5, then:

number of Browsable levels in the merchandise hierarchy filters	numBrowsableMerchLevels=8
number of Browsable levels in the location hierarchy filters	numBrowsableLocLevels=5

The BRPM performance will be slow. The user gets warning message that the script is taking too long. The user has to continue running the script. This is a known issue and the recommended solution is to use the default settings.

25394 – The script `cluster_data_setup.sql` that is provided on the product CD under `<CD IMAGE>/Datasets/PriceDatasetDemoPatches` can be used to modify the clustered feed for an existing MDO client who wants to upgrade to 13.0 without changing the data feed. (In this release, the clustered data feed has been deprecated.) This script only manipulates the feed for the clustered location hierarchy and its levels. This script should be run after staging the weekly feed and before running the data load procedures.

Master Bug List

The following table lists all the bugs described in this document, arranged in TestTrack numerical order. If a bug has a BugDB number, that number is also listed.

Table 1 *Master Bug List*

TestTrack #	BugDB #	Fixed/Known Issue
15721		Fixed
16070		Fixed
16605		Fixed
16724		Fixed
16995		Fixed
17630		Fixed
17920		Fixed
18527		Fixed
18757		Fixed
18903		Fixed
19723	5112078	Fixed
21577		Fixed
21897		Fixed
22316		Fixed
22363		Fixed
22548		Fixed
22554	6076546	Known Issue
22905		Fixed
22966		Fixed
23047		Fixed
23141		Known Issue
23142		Fixed
23159		Fixed
23983		Fixed
24255		Known Issue
24496		Fixed
24631	6694532	Fixed
24667	66720254	Known Issue
24671	6720276	Known Issue
24676	6899368	Known Issue
24704	6729764	Known Issue
24705	6342073	Known Issue

Table 1 (Cont.) Master Bug List

TestTrack #	BugDB #	Fixed/Known Issue
24706	6729878	Known Issue
24721	6738427	Known Issue
24741		Fixed
25053		Fixed
25166		Known Issue
25282	6942102	Known Issue
25326		Known Issue
25327		Known Issue
25394		Known Issue

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