Oracle® Retail Predictive Application Server Cloud Edition

Release Notes

Release 17.1

E95213-03

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This document highlights the major changes for Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Cloud Edition 17.1.

Overview

Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Cloud Edition (RPAS CE) is characterized as Experience Inspired and Cloud Engineered.

Experience Inspired: Oracle Retail solutions are built for users and user experience is paramount in RPAS CE. In particular, the focus on the user manifests itself through the following core principles:

- *Context*: by enabling users to evaluate plans with contextual dashboards and address priorities with intuitive launch points.
- *Convenience*: by enabling users to work where it counts with exception-driven process and accelerate intent into action with Oracle Retail's purpose-built planning platform.
- *Consistency*: by providing a common user experience from planning through execution and across any device.

Cloud Engineered: Oracle Retail is a Cloud First company. RPAS CE is engineered to harness the full potential of cloud and provide retailers with the tools to effectively manage their Oracle Retail subscription service (SaaS) portfolio. In particular, Oracle Retail's cloud first focus manifests itself through the following core principles:

- *Flexibility*: by enabling retailers to tailor their Oracle Retail cloud ecosystem based on business priorities with plugable cloud services and take advantage of Oracle technology and scale purposed for retail.
- *Service*: by enabling retailers to manage their solutions with self-service processes, dashboard-supported administration, and prioritized notifications.
- *Journey*: by enabling retailers to migrate from anywhere in their path to SaaS.

Key Features

RPAS CE platform is the foundation for Oracle Retail's Planning Solutions and provides a highly configurable platform and fit-for-purpose user interface. This empowers retailers to tailor planning processes that enable their business strategies and define these strategies through a user interface designed specifically for planning.

Following is a summary of the key features of RPAS Cloud Edition.

Dashboards

The dashboard presents a contextual and interactive view of key performance indicators, notifications, and exceptions by role and business process, as well as intuitive launch points to business activities. Users can easily access the recent plans that they have worked on.

The capabilities include:

- Profiles tailored to business processes (such as pre-season and in-season)
- Summary KPIs (through dashboard tiles)
- Filters to focus on priorities
- Visual representation of KPIs using dynamic charts
- Personalized layouts
- Quick access to recent plans

Workspaces

The Workspace facilitates the personal working copy of data for the user and enables the user to perform large-scale operations such as build, open, refresh, calculate, and commit. Other convenience operations available include the ability to sort, find, format, lock, unlock, and scroll through the page edges.

The capabilities include:

- Easy to launch from multiple areas
- Simultaneous work allowed in multiple workspaces
- Quick text and cell resize
- Exclusive Auto-Save
- Simple and flexible to format to the user's preference
- Instantly save and clear formats

Exception-Driven Processes

The exception dashboard with summary tiles includes exceptional conditions to help the user focus on the specific areas of the plan that needs attention. Exception-driven processes are a key evolution from RPAS on the Fusion Client where batch and real-time alerts used to support a process projected on top of the alerts rather than exceptions driving the process from end to end.

The capabilities include:

- Type of exceptions with Exception summary and alert counts
- Supporting dynamic charts
- Filterable exception dashboard
- In-contextual launch to predefined workspace with automated alert navigation
- True end-to-end exception-driven process with ability to launch alert navigation mode to the point of resolution

Responsive UI

Utilizing the built-in features of the Oracle JavaScript Extension Toolkit (Oracle JET) framework, dashboard and workspace layouts provide responsiveness from large desktop down to small tablet form factors. Charts and tables automatically resize to adapt to the viewport and are implemented using touch-friendly controls for ease-of-use on a touch device.

Navigation

A redefined navigational structure emphasizes the user's ability to move quickly throughout the workspace. Task flow navigation has been limited to focus on the initial building of a workspace, with frequently used areas migrated into the top navigation bar (Mega Menu), which provides simple access to all the steps and sub-steps within a plan.

What-If Scenarios

What-if scenarios is a strategic method of scenario planning that the planner can use to make flexible plans by keeping the Initial scenario intact. What-if scenarios are additional plan versions that are created to simulate outcomes with different inputs. This allows the planner to maintain and re-forecast their primary plan while preparing a stretch plan to quickly react to upward trends or more aggressive business growth targets.

The planner can quickly promote the what-if scenario to be the primary plan and make it the go-forward plan.

With the addition of what-if scenarios, the planner is not only able to make more informed decisions, the planner is able to be more responsive in adjusting plans.

View Management

View management enhances the user's ability to customize their layout. Users can specify display preferences to suit their particular needs at any given stage in the planning process. View management uses a simple drag-and-drop interface enhanced for touch devices, making rearranging the user's data quick and easy. Once a layout is decided within a step, it will not change, so users can move about freely without fear of losing their display preferences.

The capabilities include:

- Create, copy, and remove views
- Drag-and-drop interface
- Detach views to full screen
- Pre-configured responsive view layouts (1X, 2X Horizontal, 2X Vertical, 4X)
- Touch-friendly layout management
- Quick ability to switch between pivot table and charts per view
- Ability to change chart types
- Page edge synchronized views

Administrator Dashboard

The Administrator Dashboard provides administrators with a visual system health check to quickly identify the actions needed. With the task status dashboard, the user can click on the status tiles directly to filter the data.

The Administrator Dashboard table view provides the flexibility to sort by process status, job name, task name, submitted by, submitted, started, and completed. When the Administrator wants to view more data, the detached view provides multi-layered sorting.

The Administrator can also filter by status, tasks, period, and the user who submitted the task. A convenient user interface provides access to system logs and a comprehensive portfolio of self-services tasks. It is easy to refresh the task dashboard for any updates.

Oracle Retail Cloud Services and Business Agility

Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Cloud Edition is hosted in the Oracle Cloud with the security features inherent to Oracle technology and a robust data center classification, providing significant uptime. The Oracle Cloud team is responsible for installing, monitoring, patching, and upgrading retail software.

Included in the service is continuous technical support, access to software feature enhancements, hardware upgrades, and disaster recovery. The Cloud Service model helps to free customer IT resources from the need to perform these tasks, giving retailers greater business agility to respond to changing technologies and to perform more value-added tasks focused on business processes and innovation.

Oracle Retail Software Cloud Service is acquired exclusively through a subscription service (SaaS) model. This shifts funding from a capital investment in software to an operational expense. Subscription-based pricing for retail applications offers flexibility and cost effectiveness.

Client System Requirements

The following technology is supported:

- Operating system:
  - Microsoft Windows 7 Professional and Windows 10 with Microsoft Office 2013

    Note: Oracle Retail assumes that the retailer has ensured its Operating System has been patched with all applicable Windows updates.

- Web browsers supported on Microsoft Windows 7 and 10:
  - Mozilla Firefox 52+ ESR
  - Google Chrome 52+
- Web browser supported on Microsoft Windows 10:
  - Microsoft Edge

Functional Enhancements

The functional enhancements described below are included in this release:

Formatting

- The format is saved with the segment rather than the workbook. This ensures the availability of saved formats across all workbook builds for a segment. Also, this retains the format even after the workspace is deleted.
- The format can be restored to the Workspace Template or the selected Group template. This allows the user to quickly revert back to the default Workspace template or update the format to the Group template to align with the team.
- The export/import of formatting is added. The user can save the formats to a file, import, and then apply to another environment. This saves the effort put into building multiple similar environments.
- Committed and saved changes to a segment, including format, will persist even after an environment is patched.

Visual Planning

- Visual Planning helps the planner to visualize the assortments and plan by looking at the actual assortment with images of style/colors.
- Visual Planning is supported by the Available/Assorted Styles view.
- The user can see the overall summary of the assorted options with respect to budgets, target receipts, target margins, and so on, in the Total Summary.
- The user can filter the Available Styles by Product, Location, and Calendar Hierarchies.
- The user can filter the tiles by Name and sort them by Product attributes in both the Available and Assorted Styles views.

Position Filtering

- This feature provides an easy, convenient way of filtering large data sets in the workspace with one or more views down in the same or different step to the subset of the data the user is interested in viewing.
- On the application of Position filter to a view, the view title is appended with (Filtered) text and a funnel (filter) icon is shown in the view tile in Manage Views.

Partial Refresh on Calculate Operation

- When the user performs a long running calculate operation, the partial refresh of the pivot table on calculate allows the user to continue to see the grid data behind a glass pane while the calculate is processing, so that the user can continue the analysis during a long running calculate operation.

Filter Positions by Attribute

- The user can filter the positions by attributes when creating/reviewing the plan in the Segment Wizard or Edit view. The user can easily look at the different products because of the filter and quickly make/modify decisions as needed.
- The Attribute filter is visible only when there are attributes associated with at least one of the selected levels.

Placeholder Maintenance

- In addition to copying attribute information from Like Positions, metric information is also copied to the new positions, under the assumption that the new position will perform in a manner similar to the source of the copied metric data.
- A proper message is displayed to the user based on the availability of the measure and attributes on the particular level for each dimension that supports Placeholder Maintenance.

Special Filters

- The user can define Special filters that lack a page-edge driving dimension, that is, static data-driven filters. This will allow the user to filter a view by a position query that does not vary across page-axis positions.
- Position Queries without a driving dimension can be added to the Configuration.

Performance Diagnostic Tool

- This new tool is added for Performance Diagnostic. This will capture the diagnostics related to performance for different RPAS server operations triggered during workbook build/calc/refresh/commit processes.

Dashboard

- Different dashboard profiles can include or exclude the calendar dimension. Removal of the calendar dimension allows the user workflow to be optimized around the information relevant to the current period.

Technical Enhancements

The technical enhancements described below are included in this release:

Enhanced Java Special Expression Framework

- For the ease of accessing measure data, new interfaces have been added to enhance the existing Java Special Expression API.

Configurable Label used to Represent Workbooks

- A Solution Implementer can provide a solution label that describes RPAS entities as appropriate for the application.
- For example, this allows a change to the label of Recent Plans (section on Dashboard) to the application-specific label (Recent MFP Plans).

TimeShift Enhancement

- More than one dimension is supported for the mapping measure during the timeshift process.

Refresh Attributes

- This action menu is used to update the attribute values displayed in the pivot table. The user can manually trigger this action to get the latest attribute values, to plan more accurately. This action is separate from the Refresh action.

Noteworthy Defect Fixes

The following noteworthy defect fixes are included in this release:

Affected Component	Fixed Issue/Defect	Defect Number
RPAS Enterprise Edition Batch Control Framework	The log level for the Enterprise Edition Batch Framework tasks was not getting updated by setting the log level in the OAT task. It now works as expected.	28439453
RPAS CE Server	The error description for opening a workbook simultaneously in a concurrent user session was not shown in the selected browser language. This has been resolved.	27076182
RPAS CE Server	The Product attribute did not roll up to the selected attributes. This has been resolved.	27138469, 27187234
RPAS CE Server	The Bootstrap OAT task failed during install. This has been resolved.	27896337
RPAS CE Server	Import format did not work for the only user group level. The validation has been fixed to allow the import format of group or template alone.	28284818
RPAS CE Server	The Clone domain task was not only exclusive. It has been made exclusive only.	28470580
RPAS CE Client	Vertical scrolling did not work sometimes with alert navigation. This is resolved.	27620937
RPAS CE Client	The selected measure again came back on top of the list when the viewable area was scrolled down. This issue has been resolved.	27987850
RPAS CE Client	The RPAS CE Client version was missing in the About Application popup. This is resolved.	28281926
RPAS CE Client	Smart edits should not be allowed for extended measures, but were still allowed. This has been resolved by showing an appropriate error.	28327544
RPAS CE Client	An error occurred when applying multiple special filters with different driving dimensions to a single view. This is resolved.	28343715
RPAS CE Client, Dashboard	Recently built plans were not appearing on the dashboard Recent Plans panel. This has been resolved and the newly created plans are displayed on the Recent Plans panel.	28218943
RPAS CE Client, Export to Excel	Entering an invalid name in the Export to Excel process would save the file with the default name instead of throwing a validation error. This has been resolved.	28375221
RPAS CE Client, Format	The Exceptions tab in the Format dialog kept processing when trying to select a worksheet view from the Visible In drop down. This issue is resolved.	28484456
RPAS CE Client, Security	The Strict Content security policy prevented drag/drop in the pivot table. This is resolved.	28481281
RPAS CE Client, Visual Planning	Snackbar notification did not show up sometimes when a smart filter filtered out all visible positions. This is resolved.	28343653
RPAS CE Client, Wizard	Wizard selection did not save all selected positions when multiple levels were visible. This is resolved by considering the position selections at all visible levels.	28409219

Affected Component	Fixed Issue/Defect	Defect Number
RPAS CE Configuration Tools	Configuration Tools was not getting closed on selecting Exit from the File menu or clicking the Close icon. The Close and Exit operation has been implemented and the issue has been resolved.	27959654

Related Documentation

For more information, see the following documents in the Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Cloud Edition 17.1 documentation set:

- *Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Cloud Edition Administration Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Cloud Edition Configuration Tools User Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Cloud Edition User Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server and Applications Cloud Edition Security Guide*

Supplemental Training

The following training is available.

Oracle Retail Learning Subscriptions at Oracle University

The Oracle Retail Learning Subscription is a digital training solution for anyone on your team seeking training on Oracle Retail Products. With the learning subscription you get the key elements of an effective learning program and the conveniences of a digital format, making this training unmatched in the industry.

You get modern learning at its best, such as:

- 12 months of 24/7 access to a comprehensive set of high quality videos delivered by Oracle experts.
- Detailed coverage and step-by-step demonstrations.
- Periodic updates for new features and product enhancements.
- Flexibility to search, access, and learn about specific topics of interest.

The learning subscription enables current users to continually refresh and upgrade their product skills. It also enables new employees with a self-paced learning guide to help them quickly become proficient on Oracle Retail Products.

For training opportunities, see the following web site:

http://www.oracle.com/education

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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