

Oracle® Retail Predictive Application Server Cloud Edition

Release Notes

Release 18.0

F11442-05

October 2019

This document highlights the major changes for Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Cloud Edition 18.0.

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 pluggable 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:

- Ability to create a new workspace from the dashboard for the selected alert type. The dashboard filters will be applied to the wizard selections for the new workspace. Ability to launch and create this new workspace contextually.
- Ability to view dashboards, and view and edit plans using a Smart phone and a tablet.
- Ability to hide measures on the pivot table using a context menu.
- Ability to clear the Sort applied on a particular dimension using a context menu.
- All the views of the workspace have a synchronized Z-Axis scrolling when the Synchronize Z-Axis option is turned on.
- Non-calendar positions in the Segment Wizard and Edit View are sorted in ascending order by the Label attribute. The Calendar positions are sorted chronologically by default.
- Attribute filters are introduced along with Special Filters, to filter by attributes on the fly in order to quickly and efficiently target specific information. These are useful in cases when the user wants to retain the traditional product rollout scheme, but simply filter the set of visible positions to those that meet certain attribute-based requirements.
- Validations are added to the Add Product/Modify Product dialog boxes in Placeholder Maintenance, to identify value, hierarchy level, or attribute errors while trying to import, add, modify, and delete placeholder positions.
- The Measure tab in Edit View is enhanced with features such as Cut, Paste Before, and Paste After to make positioning measures in the list easy. Also, the Move Up/Down/First/Last keys will move measures relative to the list of filtered measures.

For more information, see the *Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Cloud Edition User Guide*.

IDCS Uptake

With this release, Oracle Identity Cloud Service (IDCS) is now available for authentication and authorization in RPAS CE. IDCS is Oracle's next generation comprehensive security and identity platform that is cloud-native and designed to be an integral part of the enterprise security fabric, providing modern identity for modern applications.

A key functionality provided is Single Sign On to sign in once into Identity Cloud Service and gain one click access to applications. IDCS provides security at the logical, physical, and data layers. For more information on Oracle IDCS, see the following: <https://www.oracle.com/assets/idcs-datasheet-3097388.pdf>.

Expanded Workspace Capabilities

The Oracle Retail Development team has partnered with RPAS CE customers to identify several key areas to further improve usability. The workspace is the main area where work occurs, RPAS CE now includes features such as improved Selection of Measure Profiles, Show all Dimensions' levels on Z-Axis, and Copy/Paste entire rows/columns.

Capabilities include the following:

- Measure Profiles provide the user with a quick and easy way to change their views to focus in only on the information they want to see at that moment in their planning process. RPAS CE has extended these capabilities and now:
 - Displays the currently selected Measure Profile on the Measure tile.
 - Provides a way to easily step through the Measure Profiles by selecting from the drop-down list of Measure tile.
 - Creates/Edits/Removes the measure profiles from the Measure Edit View.
- Where am I in my planning process? Many users are responsible for planning large amounts of data, and moving back and forth often between various products, locations, and time (Dimensions) at multiple levels. It is now much easier to see where you are working with the enhancement to Show all Dimensions' levels on Z-Axis:
 - All the selected levels of all the dimensions on Z-Axis are visible on clicking the All Dimensions button.
 - This gives the planner a better picture of what they are working on in the Workspace.
 - Synchronizing page edge when All Dimensions is selected in one view, will select All Dimensions in all the views for that Workspace, so users can move between dimensions for multiple views at a time.
- RPAS CE now has the ability to Copy/Paste rows or columns.
- When new/updated attributes from Oracle Retail Merchandising System (RMS) are available, a notification is displayed to the planner when opening the workspace. The planner is now aware of the new/updated attributes and can immediately use them for planning.

Technical Enhancements

The technical enhancements described below are included in this release:

- Ability to provide better labels for the attribute values/curve labels/cluster labels instead of using the system-generated/configured default position labels.
- Ability to import attributes and use them in plans without the need of a domain patch.
- Ability to multi-select rows/columns and resize them using a context menu or by dragging the edges.
- Log file and batch improvements to provide better visibility.

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 batch script eebatch_calc.ksh failed when using loglevel error. This failure was actually due to a false positive error flagged by a BSA log verify function. This has been fixed.	28533737
RPAS Enterprise Edition Batch Control Framework	An Online Administration Tools (OAT) task is added to clean up the domain input directory and clean up files from all the directories under SFTP Incoming and Outgoing paths.	28800562
RPAS Enterprise Edition Batch Control Framework	Both the Enterprise Edition Batch bootstrap and patch scripts now clean their internal directories before pulling in files from the \$INCOMING directory.	28800598
RPAS CE Server	Process definition needs to be completed for holding/starting/stopping the batch to plan around maintenance activities in the Cloud environments. When the monthly maintenance occurs, often times, a batch process will be running at the time the maintenance is started. This batch should be completed prior to the maintenance starting, as an example.	27872866
RPAS CE Server	When the dynamic hierarchy position/label arrays are on the partition dimension, an error occurred when trying to add Placeholder positions on the source dimension. This has been fixed.	28818779
RPAS CE Server	Domain installation showed a success message even though there were some errors during domain creation. This has been fixed. If any errors are encountered during the process, the users will see a domain installation failure message.	28863990
RPAS CE Server	An error occurred while adding a user because the browser language was set to English_CA. This has been fixed. All languages that start with English_ are handled.	28872085
RPAS CE Server	The List Directory Contents OAT tasks are added back to the list.	28894107
RPAS CE Server	The Dashboard was not showing up despite having built the dashboard segment through the OAT Task. This was due to the existing dashboard segment from a previous build. This has been fixed and users are now given an option to Delete the Segment and Rebuild Dashboard.	28901556
RPAS CE Client	The child positions of a Dynamic level could not be collapsed. This has been fixed.	28818780
RPAS CE Client	The shortcut for Refresh Workspace is now changed to (Alt + F5) to separate it from the Browser refresh shortcut (Ctrl + R).	28919525
RPAS CE Client, Dashboard	The Dashboard did not show the configured tile because the measure names in the Dashboard Settings file were case sensitive. This has been fixed by allowing measure and dimension names to be case insensitive.	28967637

Affected Component	Fixed Issue/Defect	Defect Number
RPAS CE Client, Edit View Overlay	Features such as Cut, Paste Before, and Paste After make positioning measures in the list easier. Also, the Move Up/Down/First/Last keys will move measures relative to the list of filtered measures.	28938375, 28951810
RPAS CE Client, View Management	All the measures are now loaded on the measure tab of Edit View Overlay during dialog open. This fixes the scroll issue.	28932887

Known Issue

The following table contains a known issue that has been identified for the current release:

Affected Component	Known Issue/Defect	Defect Number
RPAS CE Client	Some users may encounter the popup "Your session has expired. Click OK to login in again." If this occurs, the workaround is to log back in.	NA

Related Documentation

For more information, see the following documents in the Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Cloud Edition 18.0 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 Documentation on My Oracle Support

The following document is available through My Oracle Support using Doc ID 2492295.1. Access My Oracle Support at the following URL:

<https://support.oracle.com>

Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server (RPAS) Cloud for Planning and Optimization / Supply Chain Cloud Services Documents (Doc ID 2492295.1)

The following types of documents are available:

- Release Value Proposition identifies major enhancements, and articulates expected business benefits in an upcoming release.
- Advance Release Notification provides a summary of the enhancements that are planned and defects that are scheduled to be fixed in the specified service patch.
- Release Notes provide a summary of the enhancements and fixed defects in the specified service patch.

- White Papers provide additional information to supplement the official documentation published for the specified releases.

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>.

Access to Oracle Support

Oracle customers that have purchased support have access to electronic support through My Oracle Support. For information, visit

<http://www.oracle.com/pls/topic/lookup?ctx=acc&id=info> or visit

<http://www.oracle.com/pls/topic/lookup?ctx=acc&id=trs> if you are hearing impaired.

Copyright © 2019, Oracle and/or its affiliates. All rights reserved.

This software and related documentation are provided under a license agreement containing restrictions on use and disclosure and are protected by intellectual property laws. Except as expressly permitted in your license agreement or allowed by law, you may not use, copy, reproduce, translate, broadcast, modify, license, transmit, distribute, exhibit, perform, publish, or display any part, in any form, or by any means. Reverse engineering, disassembly, or decompilation of this software, unless required by law for interoperability, is prohibited.

The information contained herein is subject to change without notice and is not warranted to be error-free. If you find any errors, please report them to us in writing.

If this is software or related documentation that is delivered to the U.S. Government or anyone licensing it on behalf of the U.S. Government, then the following notice is applicable:

U.S. GOVERNMENT END USERS: Oracle programs, including any operating system, integrated software, any programs installed on the hardware, and/or documentation, delivered to U.S. Government end users are "commercial computer software" pursuant to the applicable Federal Acquisition Regulation and agency-specific supplemental regulations. As such, use, duplication, disclosure, modification, and adaptation of the programs, including any operating system, integrated software, any programs installed on the hardware, and/or documentation, shall be subject to license terms and license restrictions applicable to the programs. No other rights are granted to the U.S. Government.

This software or hardware is developed for general use in a variety of information management applications. It is not developed or intended for use in any inherently dangerous applications, including applications that may create a risk of personal injury. If you use this software or hardware in dangerous applications, then you shall be responsible to take all appropriate fail-safe, backup, redundancy, and other measures to ensure its safe use. Oracle Corporation and its affiliates disclaim any liability for any damages caused by use of this software or hardware in dangerous applications.

Oracle and Java are registered trademarks of Oracle and/or its affiliates. Other names may be trademarks of their respective owners.

Intel and Intel Xeon are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation. All SPARC trademarks are used under license and are trademarks or registered trademarks of SPARC International, Inc. AMD, Opteron, the AMD logo, and the AMD Opteron logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of Advanced Micro Devices. UNIX is a registered trademark of The Open Group.

This software or hardware and documentation may provide access to or information about content, products, and services from third parties. Oracle Corporation and its affiliates are not responsible for and expressly disclaim all warranties of any kind with respect to third-party content, products, and services unless otherwise set forth in an applicable agreement between you and Oracle. Oracle Corporation and its affiliates will not be responsible for any loss, costs, or damages incurred due to your access to or use of third-party content, products, or services, except as set forth in an applicable agreement between you and Oracle.

Value-Added Reseller (VAR) Language

Oracle Retail VAR Applications

The following restrictions and provisions only apply to the programs referred to in this section and licensed to you. You acknowledge that the programs may contain third party software (VAR applications) licensed to Oracle. Depending upon your product and its version number, the VAR applications may include:

(i) the **MicroStrategy** Components developed and licensed by MicroStrategy Services Corporation (MicroStrategy) of McLean, Virginia to Oracle and imbedded in the MicroStrategy for Oracle Retail Data Warehouse and MicroStrategy for Oracle Retail Planning & Optimization applications.

(ii) the **Wavelink** component developed and licensed by Wavelink Corporation (Wavelink) of Kirkland, Washington, to Oracle and imbedded in Oracle Retail Mobile Store Inventory Management.

(iii) the software component known as **Access Via**™ licensed by Access Via of Seattle, Washington, and imbedded in Oracle Retail Signs and Oracle Retail Labels and Tags.

(iv) the software component known as **Adobe Flex**™ licensed by Adobe Systems Incorporated of San Jose, California, and imbedded in Oracle Retail Promotion Planning & Optimization application.

You acknowledge and confirm that Oracle grants you use of only the object code of the VAR Applications. Oracle will not deliver source code to the VAR Applications to you. Notwithstanding any other term or condition of the agreement and this ordering document, you shall not cause or permit alteration of any VAR Applications. For purposes of this section, "alteration" refers to all alterations, translations, upgrades, enhancements, customizations or modifications of all or any portion of the VAR Applications including all reconfigurations, reassembly or reverse assembly, re-engineering or reverse engineering and recompilations or reverse compilations of the VAR Applications or any derivatives of the VAR Applications. You acknowledge that it shall be a breach of the agreement to utilize the relationship, and/or confidential information of the VAR Applications for purposes of competitive discovery.

The VAR Applications contain trade secrets of Oracle and Oracle's licensors and Customer shall not attempt, cause, or permit the alteration, decompilation, reverse engineering, disassembly or other reduction of the VAR Applications to a human perceivable form. Oracle reserves the right to replace, with functional equivalent software, any of the VAR Applications in future releases of the applicable program.