

# Oracle® Retail Demand Forecasting Cloud Service

Release Notes

Release 19.0

F24924-01

May 2020

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This document introduces Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting Cloud Service 19.0.

## RDF Cloud Service Overview

Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting Cloud Service (RDF CS) provides accurate forecasts that enable retailers to coordinate demand-driven outcomes that deliver connected customer interactions. With a single view of demand, RDF CS provides pervasive value across retail processes, including driving optimal strategies in planning, increasing inventory productivity in supply chains, decreasing operational costs and driving customer satisfaction from engagement to sale to fulfillment. RDF CS, is a comprehensive solution that maximizes the forecast accuracy for the entire product lifecycle; with tailored approaches for short and long lifecycle products; the ability to adapt to recent trends, seasonality, out-of-stocks and promotions; and reflect the unique demand drivers of each retailer.

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**Note:** Because RDF 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 RDF.

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## Oracle Retail Cloud Services and Business Agility

RDF Cloud Service 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

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**Note:** With this release, Microsoft Windows 7 is no longer supported for the Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting Cloud Service. Microsoft Windows 10 is the only supported operating system.

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The following technology is supported:

- Operating system:
  - Microsoft Windows 10 with Microsoft Office 2010 or 2013

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

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- Web browsers supported on Microsoft Windows 10:
  - Mozilla Firefox 68+ ESR
  - Google Chrome 79+
  - Microsoft Edge 44+

## Functional Enhancements

RDF 19.0 includes the following functional enhancements.

### Demand Transference

Demand transference across items in an assortment is a challenge for all retailers. How one item affects the performance of another is difficult to predict and can significantly impact an assortment's performance overall. With release 19, the science functionality of Demand Transference is embedded in RDF CS and A&IP FSL so the system can generate more accurate and robust forecasts and optimize the assortments to deliver the ideal mix of styles. Accurate forecasts from RDF CS translate to high service levels and fewer lost sales, which in turn means better margin and improved customer satisfaction. The built-in demand transference capability in A&IP FSL utilizes similarity scores and elasticity algorithms to refine the assortment to its optimal mix based on whether a user wants to add, remove, or swap items within the created assortment, prior to approving the assortment at the cluster level for use downstream. With this release, RDF CS is enhanced to layer the demand transference impact on top of the base demand, trend, and seasonality, as well as price and promo information, to create a holistic version of the forecast. A&IP FSL provides visibility to the results of demand transference, details of substitutable items, as well as the ability to set parameters to optimize the assortment to meet Merchandise Financial Plan (MFP) targets.

## What-if

For release 19.0, the What-if functionality in the Forecast Review workspace is enhanced to help with the approval workflow. It also gives the user tools to decide on how to set forecast parameters and evaluate the results. Finally, the setup can be committed, and will be used the next time the forecast is run.

## Related Documentation

For more information, see the following documents in the Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting Cloud Service Release 19.0 documentation set:

- *Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting Cloud Service Administration Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting Cloud Service Implementation Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting Cloud Service Release Notes*
- *Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting Cloud Service Starter Kit*
- *Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting Cloud Service User Guide*
- Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Cloud Edition documentation

## 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.

## 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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