

# Oracle® Retail Replenishment Optimization

Release Notes

Release 14.0

December 2013

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## Replenishment Optimization Overview

The primary goal of Replenishment Optimization (RO) is to harness the replenishment methods available in the client's replenishment system. To make best use of the available replenishment capabilities, RO recommends optimized replenishment parameters at the item/location level. The recommendations take into account sales volume, volatility, availability of forecast data, seasonality, client business rules and constraints, and financial objectives to determine the optimized values.

RO automatically monitors item/location demand and supply chain variables to determine optimal inventory for greatest return. It recommends replenishment settings, either automatically approving the changes or raising alerts; for example, alerting higher impact items. The optimal replenishment settings recommended by RO may be used to update Oracle Retail Advanced Inventory Planning (AIP) replenishment parameters or the retailer's legacy replenishment system.

The automated management of replenishment settings based on item/location selling characteristics ensures accurate replenishment and allows the user to focus on maximizing profit rather than the time consuming business of managing individual item/location level replenishment.

RO can help you address the following, which vary for every client:

- Improve service levels
- Reduce inventory
- Increase turns
- Maximize stock profitability

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**Note:** Because RO 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 RO. In addition, RPAS 13.3 has significant technical enhancements related to hierarchy management (such as integer indexing) that have an effect on the configuration and maintenance of RO. You should closely review enhancements listed in the *Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Release Notes*.

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## Overview of Integrated Inventory Planning Suite

The Integrated Inventory Planning Suite consists of Demand Forecasting (RDF), Advanced Inventory Planning (AIP), Replenishment Optimization (RO), and Analytic Parameter Calculator Replenishment Optimization (APC RO) as a full-suite inventory management solution for retailers.

## Upgrade Note

While not directly related to RO, the Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server (RPAS) has undergone a major change to simplify hierarchy administration. Full details of these changes are outlined in the *Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Release Notes*. Due to these changes, configuration updates have been made to RO, and you will need to perform additional steps to upgrade your RO domain, such as setting dimension sizes. The upgrade to RPAS 13.3 for this application includes a conversion process in addition to the normal upgrade process. For instructions about upgrading RO, see the following sections in these Oracle Retail Guides:

Section	Guide
"Converting a Domain"	<i>Oracle Retail Replenishment Optimization Implementation Guide</i>
"Upgrade Process"	<i>Oracle Retail Replenishment Optimization Installation Guide</i>
"Upgrading and Patching Domains"	<i>Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Administration Guide for the Classic Client</i> or the <i>Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Administration Guide for the Fusion Client</i>

## Hardware and Software Requirements

See the *Oracle Retail Replenishment Optimization Installation Guide* for information about the following:

- Hardware and software requirements
- Oracle Retail application software compatibility information

## Functional Enhancements

RO 14.0 includes the following functional enhancements.

### Custom Subgrouping

For replenishment purposes, RO performs better if products with certain attributes are grouped together. For instance seasonal items and basic items should be treated differently.

Prior to this release, RO provided limited options for subgrouping metrics, and a single subgrouping method applied to all of the subgrouping metrics. However, the options provided might not suit every retailer's business case, so that restrict RO's abilities to yield good replenishment policies.

This release of RO supports configurable subgrouping metrics and hybrid subgrouping methods. By having configurable subgrouping metrics, RO now opens the source of defining subgrouping metrics. Users can write various rules to define subgrouping metrics to suit their own subgrouping process. By having hybrid subgrouping methods, RO lets users to assign a subgrouping method to each subgrouping metric. This enhancement allows RO to generate more relevant and consistent subgrouping to accommodate various business cases.

For more information, see the *Oracle Retail Replenishment Optimization User Guide*.

## Streamlined Optimization Review Workbook

In the Optimization Review workbook, RO presents optimal and constrained versions of statistics measures and metrics. The constrained version of results is calculated based on the constraints set up by the users. The optimal version of results is calculated without considering the constraints.

Starting from this release, the constrained version of results is not populated during the build of the Optimization Review workbook. It is available to view upon users' request by clicking a custom menu. This function reduces the build time and opening time of workbook, improving RO's performance significantly without losing any existing function.

For more information, see the *Oracle Retail Replenishment Optimization User Guide*.

## Performance Enhancements

RO 14.0 includes the following performance enhancements.

Some rule groups in the Optimization Review workbook were moved to a custom menu. The corresponding measures are not populated when the workbook is built. This enhancement speeds up the build of the workbook. The run time is expected to be reduced by 50-75 percent.

## Noteworthy Defect Fixes

The following table contains issues that have been fixed for the current release.

Product and Affected Component	Fixed Issue/Defect	Defect Number
Workbooks	Custom menus were not visible in Fusion Client for RO workbooks. This has been resolved by adding the custom menus to each step in the task flow.	17205547
Installer	An installer change is needed for OSSA requirements. The installer was updated to do all necessary file cleanup.	15904667
Configuration	For user names containing invalid characters, RO previously displayed the User ID. RO now displays the user label, which is much more useful than the User ID.	17341848

## Related Documentation

For more information, see the following documents in the Oracle Retail Replenishment Optimization 14.0 documentation set:

- *Oracle Retail Replenishment Optimization Implementation Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Replenishment Optimization Installation Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Replenishment Optimization User Guide for the RPAS Classic Client*
- *Oracle Retail Replenishment Optimization User Guide for the RPAS Fusion Client*
- *Oracle Retail Batch Script Architecture Implementation Guide*
- Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server documentation

For more information about the RPAS Fusion Client, see the 14.0 Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server documentation set.

For more information about RPAS and the ODI Enabled Integration, see the following documentation sets:

- Oracle Retail Enabled ODI Integration documentation
- Oracle Data Integrator documentation
- Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server documentation

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