Oracle Retail Assortment Planning (AP) Release 16.0 is available only using the RPAS Fusion Client User Interface.

**Functional Overview**

The assortment planning process establishes the breadth and depth of the product offering (including the color/fragrance/flavor and size level), for Points-of-Commerce (stores, sites, applications, catalogs, social commerce networks, wholesale/franchise locations/groups, and so on) and for a given period of time. The analysis of past performance such as color effectiveness, trend adoption, size preferences, customer segmentation, styling visualization, in-store placement, and geographic selling are key inputs into revising a currently planned/executed assortment or building a new assortment.

Assortment Planning is a role-based solution enabling each role (Senior Merchant, Buyer/Trader, Planner, and so on) to use the solution to develop, record, and track their assortment decisions and strategies. A role-based user can do the following:

- Decide the breadth and depth of the assortment by Point-of-Commerce (stores, sites, applications, catalogs, social commerce networks, wholesale/franchise locations/groups, and so on).
- Identify the number of styles or items and the number of options (colors/fragrances/flavors) per assorted style or item.
- Evaluate both the sales-margin potential as well as the sales/inventory capacity for a single or group of Points-of-Commerce.
- Create a shopping list for use when going to market, meeting with designers/vendors, reviewing Look Books, and so on, that can be used to flesh out the assortment as the user make decisions.
- View the look and feel and of the assortment from the customer's perspective as a collection and at the detail level.
- Determine where to make receipt and inventory investments in the assortment.
- Create a buy plan (sales, margin, inventory, receipts, and sell-thru) to guide the execution of the assortment and track its results.
- Align the assortment plan with the Merchandise Financial Plan (MFP) and/or Location Plan (LP).
- Re-trend the assortment plan to make in-season assortment decisions.
- Assign the color runs (or fragrance of format groups) to be carried for each style/item.
■ Set up (if not using Oracle Retail Size Profile Optimization (SPO)) or review size and pack profiles to be used when executing the assortment in each Point-of-Commerce.

■ Use Oracle Retail Science to convert the Buy Plan’s receipt quantities into a style-color-size receipt plan in in eaches and/or in pre-packs.

■ Use the Weekly/Performance analysis to apply what has been learned from in-store and prior assortments when creating new or revising planned assortments.

■ Execute assortment decisions through the packaged integration.

There are several processes by which an assortment can be established in this solution:

■ Collaborate with internal design teams to develop house brand assortments.

■ Take an initial super-set is supplied by Product Lifecycle Management (PLM) solutions and then choose from a super-set of options in AP.

■ Select options and request adjustments to be made from an assortment offered by third-party vendors.

■ Create a global assortment from which each regional business unit selects a subset to carry in their region.

■ For the wholly owned, wholesale, and franchise model:
  - Build an assortment for wholly owned Points-of-Commerce (stores, sites, applications, networks, and so on).
  - Recommend an assortment for wholesale customers.
  - Identify an assortment to be sold through franchised locations.

All of the Oracle Retail Planning solutions are highly configurable to enable each retailer’s assortment business-specific, successful business methods to be embedded in the solution and business process. Oracle Retail has identified several keys to success with the Assortment Planning solution, including:

■ Align with the Merchandising Plan - The Assortment Plan must be aligned with the Merchandise Financial Plan (MFP) and/or Location Plan (LP) to insure the inventory investment required to support the Assortment Plan is financially viable and risk approved (AP offers packaged and configurable integration that links assortment plans to financial plans).

■ Process Flexibility - Assortment planning processes vary widely within each retailer and across retailers. The business process must be flexible so that merchants can keep current with fashion trends, market shifts, economic changes, and customer preferences.

■ Build the assortment in layers - Build and view the assortment in attribute-based layers. Evaluate the assortment by brand, color, color family, fabric, silhouette, fit, length, embellishment, trend, and so on, and compare the prevalence by attribute to recent trend, last season, last floor set, customer panels and social network, or Endeca search results.

■ Plan the full lifecycle - Plan the entire lifecycle, from launch to normal selling to clearance and exit. (The AP solution plans the entire life of the assortment and integrates with its promotion and clearance pricing solutions to maximize the assortment’s profitability.)
Plan the assortment visually. Because customers do not shop from a spreadsheet, Oracle Retail believes that merchants should not have to plan the assortment with only a spreadsheet. Oracle Retail’s Assortment Planning solutions enable the merchant to view the assortment from silhouettes at the beginning to finished goods at the end.

Plan once and execute everywhere - Be able to make a decision in Assortment Planning and execute it everywhere without manual reentry of the decision in multiple solutions. The Oracle Retail Assortment Planning solution can, depending on the implementation, integrate data with the Oracle Retail Merchandising System, as well as, Oracle Retail’s Planning, Clearance Optimization, Size/Pack Optimization, and Allocation/Replenishment solutions.

Note: See the Oracle Retail Assortment Planning Installation Guide for compatible integrated Oracle Retail applications.

These same integration options, as most are configurable, can be used for integration with non-Oracle solutions as well.

Overview of the Fashion Planning Bundle

The Fashion Planning Bundle is the integration of Item Planning (IP), Item Planning configured for Clearance Optimization Engine (IP-COE), Assortment Planning (AP), Merchandise Financial Planning (MFP), and Size Profile Optimization (SPO) as a full-suite planning solution for fashion retailers.

Hardware and Software Requirements

See the Oracle Retail Assortment Planning Installation Guide for information about the following:

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

Noteworthy Defect Fixes

The following noteworthy defect fixes are included in this release:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Affected Component</th>
<th>Fixed Issue/Defect</th>
<th>Defect Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Application Core</td>
<td>TransformAgg and TransfrmSpread are fixed to add a validation to capture the exception in case of incorrect expressions.</td>
<td>23713347</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application Core</td>
<td>The WP ROS calculation in the AP shopping list is fixed by modifying the aggregation method of &quot;LY # of Style-Colors&quot; as total for product and maximum for cluster.</td>
<td>24339438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application Core</td>
<td>The MFP store target workbook does not seed correctly when one of the stores is deselected for seeding at the quarter/channel level. The seeding process is corrected to allow seeding of all stores or subset of stores at the quarter/channel level.</td>
<td>24341934</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Known Issue

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Affected Component</th>
<th>Known Issue/Defect</th>
<th>Defect Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Integration</td>
<td>AP batch script importdata.ksh was removed and replaced by importdata_batch.ksh and importdata_initial.ksh. However, the AP batch script importFromSPO.ksh still calls importdata.ksh and should be changed to instead use one of the two replacement scripts.</td>
<td>24927412</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Related Documentation

For more information, see the following documents in the Oracle Retail Assortment Planning Release 16.0 documentation set:

- Oracle Retail Assortment Planning Implementation Guide
- Oracle Retail Assortment Planning Installation Guide
- Oracle Retail Assortment Planning User Guide for the RPAS Fusion Client

For more information on the Fashion Planning Bundle applications, see the following documents:

- Oracle Retail Assortment Planning documentation
- Oracle Retail Item Planning documentation
- Oracle Retail Item Planning Configured for COE documentation
- Oracle Retail Merchandise Financial Planning documentation
- Oracle Retail Size Profile Optimization documentation

For more information about the RPAS Fusion Client and Batch Script Architecture (BSA), see the documents in the Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server documentation set.

Supplemental Training

The following documents are available through My Oracle Support. Access My Oracle Support at the following URL:

https://support.oracle.com

Transfer of Information (TOI) Material (Doc ID 732026.1)

For applicable products, online training is available to Oracle supported customers. These online courses provide release-specific product knowledge that enables your functional and technical teams to plan, implement and/or upgrade and support Oracle Retail applications effectively and efficiently.
Previous Releases
For information on previous Oracle Retail Assortment Planning release enhancements and additional information, refer to the release notes and documentation that accompany the previous release.

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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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Value-Added Reseller (VAR) Language

Oracle Retail VAR Applications

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(iii) the software component known as Access ViaTM 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 FlexTM licensed by Adobe Systems Incorporated of San Jose, California, and imbedded in Oracle Retail Promotion Planning & Optimization application.

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