

Oracle® Retail Category Management

Release Notes

Release 14.0.1

May 2014

Effective category management (also sometimes referred to as merchandising) is the cornerstone of a successful retail business because it determines the variety and presentation of merchandise, which defines the customer's in-store experience. It involves managing individual product or merchandise categories, such as independent business units, which play a specific role in the retailer's scheme of things to achieve the set business objectives. Broadly, this practice facilitates determination of merchandise-mix, space-allocation, roles, strategies, and tactics assignment to individual merchandise categories, pricing, promotion, and inventory-related decisions across the retail chain. In recent years, retailers have experienced increased difficulty in achieving desired levels of same store sales growth, gross margin, and inventory productivity. This is partly due to smaller buying staffs, shorter product life cycles, increasingly savvy and demanding customers, and cutthroat competition.

Note: Due to changes since the 13.4.0 release, it is not possible to upgrade a domain from 13.4.0 to this release. It is required that a new domain be built.

Hardware and Software Requirements

See the *Oracle Retail Category Management Installation Guide* for the hardware and software requirements.

Technical Enhancement

The following technical enhancement is included in RCM 14.0.1:

Transform Scripts for Integration of RCM and Oracle Retail Advanced Science Engine

Scripts are provided to transform the Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server (RPAS) flavor of Oracle Retail Merchandising System (RMS) position names to the Oracle Retail Advanced Science Engine (ORASE) flavor of RMS position names and vice versa.

For more information, see the *Oracle Retail Category Management Implementation Guide*.

Noteworthy Defect Fixes

The following noteworthy defect fixes are included in this release:

Fixed Issue/Defect	Defect Number
When a single branch Consumer Decision Tree (CDT), or a linear tree, was created in the RCM application and the generation of new alternate product hierarchies was triggered, the following error was being generated: Error parsing CDT file: null	16598690
After a new CDT was created in the RCM application and the generation of new alternate product hierarchies was triggered, these new hierarchies were not showing up in the newly built Assortment Planning @ Cluster workbook.	16598834
When using a CDT with a single node as a child of a top level category and if the single node had multiple possible attribute values, but only one was selected, an error was generated when trying to process the CDT either through the custom menu or command line.	17283184
When exporting for Space Optimization, the role, strategy, and tactics information was coming out blank on IBM AIX.	17585418
When exporting for Space Optimization, the tactics were exported as IDs as opposed to the actual tactics. For example, while the export value should have been "Assortment: Maintain, Space: Adjust," the output was produced as "Assortment: 03, Space: 02."	17651433
In the Analyze Category Role graphs, Item Penetration and Purchase Frequency were not on the correct axes.	17773816
In the bubble chart of Category Planning / Assign Category Role / Analyze and Assign Category Role - Industry Model B / 2. Analyze Forecast Performance - Industry Model B, the Product level was sub-category. It is now at the category level to make it consistent with Industry Model A.	17776477
In the Category Planning / Assign Category Role / Analyze Sales Trend chart, the graph was plotted with Sales U. It is now plotted with Sales R.	17780496
The IPI process is simplified by reducing several metric weights. In particular, the Demand Transference focus area weight is removed.	17825292
The Administration views did not have complete formatting.	17829229
The views for the Review IC Assortment Recommendation tab did not have complete formatting.	17829269
IPI rank was calculated at Sub-category/Store Cluster level. Since IPI Score is at Category, the ranking calculation is changed to the Category level.	17835925
When the Category Planner was trying to assign tactics, the available choices sometimes appeared as numbers and often disappeared.	17836275
The export to ASO custom menu was sending forecast sales revenue rather than forecast sales units.	17836331
Like-item mappings for attributes were preserved only for the life of the workbook. Now, they are stored in the domain for use in other workbooks.	17880036
When building the Assortment Planning @ Cluster workbook, all the Right Hand Side (RHS) Product was loaded into the workbook and not pre-ranged for the selected Product category.	17882964
Performance improvements are made for associating a placeholder item with its corresponding item in the RHS product hierarchy. The trade-off is that now the user must ensure the position IDs are the same for the placeholder in both the product and RHS product hierarchies.	17891049

Fixed Issue/Defect	Defect Number
The IPI process is simplified by reducing several metric weights. In particular, the Worth, Exclusivity, and Switching metrics are removed.	17904450
The sequence of views under Category Management Administration / IPI Setup is changed to synchronize with the sequence of views presented in Assortment Planning at Cluster / Create IPI Assortment / Review IPI Criteria.	17992054
Running the CDT processing script either from a command line or custom menu used to fail when a local domain was not a subdirectory of the master domain.	18028554
The forecast method is changed from Winters to AutoES.	18015512
IC Core and IC Optional were not editable in the 1a. Review IC Assortment Recommendation view.	18151431
The top level of CDTs, the category level, used to show the category position ID, not the position label. For example, "1000" was shown instead of "Coffee."	18183202

Known Issue

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

Known Issue/Defect	Defect Number
Private Label Sales planning should be a streamlined process within Total Sales (WP Sales) planning. Currently, RCM does not support this process. Private Label Sales planning is done separately and does not interact with Total Sales (WP Sales). Users cannot easily aggregate sales to view total Private Label Sales for the category/sub-category.	18238998

Related Documentation

For more information, see the following document in the Oracle Retail Category Management 14.0.1 documentation set:

- *Oracle Retail Category Management Implementation Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Category Management Installation Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Category Management User Guide for the Fusion Client*

Previous Releases

For additional information on previous Oracle Retail Category Management release enhancements and additional information, refer to the Release Notes and documentation that accompany the previous release.

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