

Oracle® Retail Advanced Inventory Planning
Release Notes
Release 13.0.1.1

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Value-Added Reseller (VAR) Language

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- (vi) 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.
- (vii) 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.
- (viii) the software component known as **Style Report™** developed and licensed by InetSoft Technology Corp. of Piscataway, New Jersey, to Oracle and imbedded in the Oracle Retail Value Chain Collaboration application.
- (ix) the software component known as **DataBeacon™** developed and licensed by Cognos Incorporated of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, to Oracle and imbedded in the Oracle Retail Value Chain Collaboration application.

Preface

A Release Notes document can include some or all of the following sections, depending upon the release:

- Overview of the release
- Functional, technical, integration, and/or performance enhancements
- Assumptions
- Fixed and/or known issues/defects

Because of their brevity, Release Notes do not include chapters, appendices, or a table of contents.

Audience

Release Notes are a critical communication link between Oracle Retail and its retailer clients. There are four audiences in general for whom a Release Notes document is written:

- Retail clients who wish to understand the contents of this release.
- Integrators and implementation staff who have the overall responsibility for implementing Oracle Retail Advanced Inventory Planning into their enterprise.
- Business analysts who are looking for high-level functional information about this release.
- System analysts and system operation personnel who are looking for high-level functional and technical content related to this release.

Related Documents

For more information, see the following documents in the Oracle Retail Advanced Inventory Planning Release 13.0.1.1 documentation set:

- *Advanced Inventory Planning Operations Guide*
- *Advanced Inventory Planning Data Management Online - Online Help*
- *Advanced Inventory Planning Data Management Online User Guide*
- *Advanced Inventory Planning Order Management - Online Help*
- *Advanced Inventory Planning Order Management User Guide*
- *Advanced Inventory Planning Data Model Volume 1 Oracle Data Model*
- *Advanced Inventory Planning Data Model Volume 2 Measure Reference Guide*
- *Advanced Inventory Planning Patch Installation Guide*
- *Advanced Inventory Planning Implementation Guide*
- *Advanced Inventory Planning Administration Guide*
- *Advanced Inventory Planning Store Replenishment Planning User Guide*
- *Advanced Inventory Planning Warehouse Replenishment Planning User Guide*

Customer Support

<https://metalink.oracle.com>

When contacting Customer Support, please provide the following:

- Product version and program/module name
- Functional and technical description of the problem (include business impact)
- Detailed step-by-step instructions to re-create
- Exact error message received
- Screen shots of each step you take

Review Patch Documentation

For a base release (".0" release, such as 13.0), Oracle Retail strongly recommends that you read all patch documentation before you begin installation procedures. Patch documentation can contain critical information related to the base release, based on new information and code changes that have been made since the base release.

Oracle Retail Documentation on the Oracle Technology Network

In addition to being packaged with each product release (on the base or patch level), all Oracle Retail documentation is available on the following Web site:

http://www.oracle.com/technology/documentation/oracle_retail.html

Documentation should be available on this Web site within a month after a product release. Note that documentation is always available with the packaged code on the release date.

Conventions

Navigate: This is a navigate statement. It tells you how to get to the start of the procedure and ends with a screen shot of the starting point and the statement “the Window Name window opens.”

Note: This is a note. It is used to call out information that is important, but not necessarily part of the procedure.

This is a code sample
It is used to display examples of code

A hyperlink appears like this.

Release Notes

Overview

Oracle Retail Advanced Inventory Planning (AIP) is a suite of modules designed to manage the supply chains of large retailers at the supplier, warehouse, store, and e-commerce levels. The system couples time-phased replenishment and allocation algorithms to produce an actionable receipt plan over time. This plan is based on demand forecasts, replenishment parameters, and inventory availability at the numerous supply points within the supply chain.

The user interacts with the AIP system through a number of modules:

- Store Replenishment Planning (SRP) Workbooks are used to maintain the replenishment characteristics for stores. These workbooks allow the user to analyze system output and perform what-if style analysis when replenishment parameters are changed.
- Warehouse Replenishment Planning (WRP) Workbooks are used to maintain the replenishment characteristics for warehouses. These workbooks allow the user to analyze system output and perform what-if style analysis when replenishment parameters are changed.
- Data Management is used to maintain the supply chain and network flow information. Sourcing links, lead times, and other data are managed in this module.
- Using the receipt plan, Order Management formally prepares those orders that need to be fulfilled. This preparation includes the assignment of an order number.

Note: AIP Java/Oracle, AIP on Oracle, and AIP Online are often used interchangeably to refer to those parts of AIP that access the Oracle relational database. This includes the Data Management and Order Management GUI components and a host of UNIX shell scripts and PL/SQL modules.

AIP Within the Oracle Retail Suite

AIP takes its place as one of several integrated applications within the Oracle Retail Suite. The suite allows a retailer to manage its supply chain from demand forecasting to the generation of orders, which can then be shared with collaborative planning partners.

Viewed at a high level, the process across the Oracle Retail Suites takes the following form:

1. Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting (RDF) provides a forecast of consumer demand. This data is made available to AIP.
2. The AIP batch run produces an actionable receipt plan using replenishment parameters maintained inside AIP. Hierarchy and inventory data are provided by a merchandising system such as Oracle Retail Merchandising System (RMS).
3. The receipt plan is then sent to the Order Management module within AIP, where those orders that need to be fulfilled are formally prepared for execution. This preparation includes the assignment of an order number.
4. Order Management then submits the appropriate orders to the merchandising system, where purchase orders and transfers are communicated to other systems. These orders are returned to AIP in subsequent batch runs as in-transit orders.

5. Sales forecasts and order plans can then be shared at the appropriate level with suppliers by using a collaborative planning, forecasting, and replenishment (CPFR) product, so that trading partners can prepare for the forthcoming orders.

At the core of the AIP batch process are five replenishment sub-processes. These sub-processes perform calculations on a set of loaded static and dynamic data, using replenishment parameters, to produce a replenishment receipt plan for all locations in the supply chain. This gives retailers the ability to project their demand at all levels of the supply chain and to share these projections with their suppliers whenever applicable.

A key design in producing an actionable receipt plan is the inclusion of known inventory constraints. To implement this design, AIP performs the five replenishment sub-processes across all locations in the following order:

1. Replenishment (in the fixed period) generates an unconstrained receipt plan during the constrained period.
2. Shortfall Reconciliation (in the fixed period) modifies the receipt plan, applying inventory shortages.
3. Substitution (in the fixed period) applies product substitutions where possible to address inventory shortages.
4. Stockless (in the fixed period) pushes any remaining excess product from stockless sources.
5. Replenishment (after the fixed period) generates an unconstrained receipt plan after the constrained period.

The resulting receipt plan is exported to the Order Management module, where order numbers are produced and the orders are released to external systems. Following formal order generation, these quantities are fed back into the system, and the plan is updated to account for these orders as expected receipts. This type of planning allows the retailer to identify potential supply chain issues before they arise, so that stock-outs and excess inventory problems can be prevented or reduced.

Note: The volume of the receipt plan produced by AIP is quite large, so user involvement should be kept to a minimum. However, in order to avoid persistent costly supply chain problems, super users must be able to review plans and change parameters quickly to see the effects of their changes. Oracle Retail recommends that these parameters be managed primarily by exceptions in the receipt plan. *Manage by exception* means that not every SKU or warehouse is reviewed or updated on a regular basis. Items with exceptions (alerts) should be reviewed and updated if necessary.

Note: AIP 13.0.1.1 supports English only. When integrated with Oracle Retail Merchandising System (RMS) 13.0.1, some hierarchy description values are partially truncated.

AIP Versions and Corresponding RPAS Versions

The following table provides a history of AIP since the 13.0 release. The table lists each version of AIP together with the version of the RPAS foundation to which it is tied. For more information on compatibility and integration with RPAS, please see the Compatibility and Hardware Requirements section of the *AIP Installation Guide*.

| Date | Version Category | AIP Version | RPAS Version |
|------------------|------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| June 9, 2008 | Full Release | 13.0 | 12.1.2.21 |
| August 15, 2008 | Patch Update (AIX, HP-UX) | 13.0.1 Patch | 13.0.1.2 |
| August 22, 2008 | Full Release (Solaris) | 13.0.1 | 13.0.1.2 |
| October 31, 2008 | Patch Update (AIX) | 13.0.1.1 | 13.0.1.11 |

Functional Enhancements

The table below identifies the key functional enhancements for AIP 13.0.1.1.

| Technical Enhancement |
|---|
| <p>Store Promotional Presentation Stock</p> <p>Store Promotion Presentation Stock (SPPS) refers to a level of inventory desired in a store from an aesthetic perspective to support Promotion activities. SPPS can be specified by the user in AIP or loaded from an external source. This release features a functional enhancement that allows the specified SPPS quantity to be reduced automatically in the days prior to the end of a promotion. This allows inventory levels to be automatically reduced to normal levels at the end of a promotion, thus reducing the likelihood of excess inventory beyond the promotional period.</p> |

Integration Enhancements

The table below identifies the key integration enhancements for AIP 13.0.1.1.

| Integration Enhancement |
|---|
| <p>Compatibility with RPAS 13.0.1.11</p> <p>AIP 13.0.1.1 is compatible with RPAS 13.0.1.11</p> |

Fixed Issues/Defects

The table below represents known issues that have been fixed during the development of this release of AIP. Oracle Retail recommends that AIP retailers familiarize themselves before they begin implementation.

| Fixed Issue | Functional Impact |
|--|--|
| Repeated calls to "What If - Constrained" in the WRP Interactive Evaluation workbook caused forecasted receipts to become 0. | Forecasted receipts are now calculated correctly. |
| SRP Workbook Wizard errors. | Users can now cancel out of the SRP Evaluation and Interactive Evaluation wizards prior to the workbook builds and subsequently reenter the wizard without errors. |
| AIP Oracle database interaction. | The AIP Oracle Java servlet code was modified to provide enhanced logging and to prevent database cursors from remaining open longer than necessary. |

Known Issues/Defects

The table below represents known issues as of this release of AIP. Oracle Retail recommends that AIP retailers familiarize themselves before they begin implementation.

| Known Issue | Functional Impact | Mitigation |
|---|---|---|
| Some RMS UPC item number types cannot be used with AIP | The 'UCC12 with Supplement' and 'EAN/UCC-13 with Supplement' RMS item number types, which are 18 and 19 digits, respectively, cannot be used when interfacing RMS items to AIP. | Under consideration by Oracle Retail development, but not yet scheduled. |
| In pack mode, store inventory is double-counted when a store receives a mix of pack and singles orders. | This issue only occurs when inventory tracking mode is set to packs and occurs when a store has received both a full case of a SKU with a packsize larger than one and a singles order of the same SKU with a quantity less than the packsize. In such situations, the receipt of multiple packsizes of the same SKU at a store causes the received inventory to be double-counted and thus the inventory position at the store is overstated. | It is recommended that singles ordering not be used in conjunction with an inventory tracking level set to packs. In active Oracle Retail development. |

| Known Issue | Functional Impact | Mitigation |
|--|---|---|
| <p>After the promotional period, the promotional SKU continues to be ordered.</p> | <p>This issue applies to promotional substitutions where, during the promotional period, a promotional SKU is replenished instead of the normal SKU. To facilitate this functionality, various pieces of data including the sales forecasts are copied from the original SKU to the promotional SKU.</p> <p>However, the information is being copied to the promotional SKU for the entire planning horizon and not just the promotional period. Therefore, the promotional SKU is being ordered after the promotional period has ended.</p> <p>It is recommended that the promotional substitution functionality not be used at this time.</p> | <p>Under consideration by Oracle Retail development, but not yet scheduled.</p> |
| <p>Workbook access level.</p> | <p>When selecting new workbooks at the local domain level, the Inventory Capping Management workbook is available for selection.</p> | <p>It is recommended that clients set user security permissions so that the Inventory Capping workbook can only be accessed at the Global Domain level.</p> <p>Under consideration by Oracle Retail development, but not yet scheduled.</p> |
| <p>AIP Oracle GUI database connection wait times.</p> | <p>Under heavy concurrent user load, the Data Management Online and Order Management Online screens can experience database connection wait times.</p> | <p>Add the following line to the db.properties file created in the <INSTALL_DIR>/config directory by the AIP Oracle Application Installer:</p> <pre>common.prop.poolsize=25</pre> |
| <p>Residual excess quantity not being calculated correctly in case of stockless scenario with inventory cap.</p> | <p>In stockless situations where an inventory cap is present, any inventory that cannot be pushed to stores because of the presence of the cap should be logged as a residual excess quantity. However, at the current time, the quantity is not correctly being logged.</p> <p>However, it is recommended that inventory capping should not be applied in situations where the warehouse is stockless.</p> | <p>In active Oracle Retail development.</p> |

Metalink Note 731804.1: Creating an AIP RPAS Domain with Customer Hierarchy Data

This white paper resolves the issue surrounding the creation of an AIP RPAS domain loaded with customer hierarchy data, using the AIP installation package with the included sample hierarchy data as a starting point.

Previous Releases

For information on previous AIP release enhancements and additional information, refer to the release notes and documentation that accompany the previous release.