

Oracle® Retail Advanced Inventory Planning

Release Notes

Release 14.1

E65342-02

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This document highlights the major changes for Release 14.1 of Oracle Retail Advanced Inventory Planning (AIP).

Overview

Oracle Retail Advanced Inventory Planning 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 Oracle 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 is 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.

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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 on-order or in-transit quantities.
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.

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 Retail Predictive Application Server (RPAS) foundation to which it is tied.

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
December 19, 2008	Patch Update (AIX)	13.0.2	13.0.2.1
August 7, 2009	Full Release (Solaris, OEL, AIX, HP-UX)	13.1.1	13.0.4
March 31, 2010	Full Release and Patch Update (AIX 5.3, AIX 6.1, HP-UX 11.31, OEL 5.2, Solaris 10)	13.1.2	13.1.2.3
August 31, 2010	Patch Update (AIX 5.3, AIX 6.1, HP-UX 11.31, Linux 5.2, Solaris 10)	13.1.3	13.1.2.19
October 29, 2010	Full Release (AIX 5.3, AIX 6.1, HP-UX 11.31, OEL 5.3, Solaris 10)	13.2	13.2

Date	Version Category	AIP Version	RPAS Version
January 31, 2011	Hot Fix (AIX 5.3, AIX 6.1, HP-UX 11.31, OEL 5.3, Solaris 10)	13.2.0.2	13.2.1
July 8, 2011	Full Release (AIX 5.3, AIX 6.1, HP-UX 11.31, OEL 5.3, Solaris 10)	13.2.2	13.2.2.9
November 4, 2011	Patch Update (AIX 6.1, HP-UX 11.31, OEL 5.5, Solaris 10)	13.2.3	13.2.3
April 13, 2012	Patch Update (AIX 6.1, HP-UX 11.31, OEL 5.5, Solaris 10)	13.2.4	13.3
May 3, 2012	Full Release (AIX 6.1, HP-UX 11.31, OEL 5.5, Solaris 10)	13.3	13.3
December 21, 2012	Full Release (AIX 6.1, HP-UX 11.31, OEL 5.8, Solaris 10)	13.4	13.4.0.1
August 23, 2013	Patch Update (AIX 6.1, HP-UX 11.31, OEL 5.8, Solaris 10)	13.4.1	13.4.1
December 14, 2013	Full Release (AIX 6.1, 7.1, HP-UX 11.31, OEL 6.3, Solaris 11)	14.0	14.0
August 15, 2014	Patch Update (AIX 6.1, 7.1, HP-UX 11.31, OEL 6.3, Solaris 11)	14.0.1	14.0
December 19, 2014	Full Release (AIX 7.1, HP-UX 11.31, OEL 6.3, Solaris 11)	14.1	14.1

Hardware and Software Requirements

See the *Oracle Retail Advanced Inventory Planning Installation Guide* for information about the following:

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

Functional Enhancements

AIP 14.1 includes the following functional enhancements.

Discontinue Date

The discontinue date is now treated as a discontinuation date from the vendor. This means that only Available to Plan days that are sourced directly from a vendor are

knocked out of the receiving schedule. Available to Plan days for warehouse to warehouse and warehouse to store movements will remain the same to allow the SKU-pack to be exhausted from the supply chain.

The discontinue date is used to terminate a review time when no additional Available to Plan days can be found for a SKU/location combination. This prevents one long review time that covers the entire remainder of the planning horizon. In turn, this helps to terminate ordering and drain the remaining inventory out of the supply chain.

Event Replenishment Parameters

In many cases, users may wish to set different replenishment parameters for an event than what they would use in their normal day-to-day planning. To accommodate this, AIP has introduced the option to set existing replenishment parameters such as Replenishment Method, Min Stock and Max Stock at an event level. Using either the SRP Interactive Evaluation workbook or the Network Replenishment workbook, AIP users can now set these parameters for use with a specific event such as a Promotion with Variant Event.

Pack Breaking

In pack breaking, a shipping pack of a SKU is broken apart at a warehouse into smaller pack sizes. The pack sizes that are broken must be an even multiple of the larger pack. For example, a pack size of 12 can be broken into two packs of 6, but not one pack of 8 and one of 4.

The smaller pack sizes that have been broken can themselves be broken into even smaller pack sizes. A predefined order must be set of the sequence of smaller sizes a larger pack size can be broken to. A new screen has been created in AIP Data Management Online for users to view and edit the pack breaking details on a SKU/warehouse basis.

Pack Change Events

A pack change is an event where a source provides a new pack size of a particular SKU to the supply chain in place of the pack size it previously provided. This change can either be a permanent pack change, where the new pack size will be used indefinitely for the foreseeable future, or a temporary pack change, where the source will transition back to the original pack size on a specific date.

A pack change event is created by the user for one or more sources and one pack. The sources identified by the user should be the sources highest in the supply chain where the pack change will start, not all affected sources. Typically this will be a supplier or a set of warehouses that break packs for their destinations.

The benefit of creating a pack change event is that AIP will automatically update the preferred orderable unit of all downstream locations from the source at the start of the event without the user needing to update these manually. A location may be excluded from the event if the user does not wish for this location to participate in the pack change.

Pack Change Events are handled in a new AIP Online Data Management screen that has been introduced for events.

Pack-specific Planning

AIP is now better able to handle pack-specific inventory movements through a supply chain. Warehouses within AIP now have the capability to track inventory levels of specific pack sizes of a SKU. Delivery quantities into stores can now be planned at a pack size level instead of only in terms of individual units.

A new Reconciliation Planning Level flag has been introduced into AIP for the user to indicate whether a SKU should be tracked at a pack level.

Post Fixed Period Reconciliation

In past releases of AIP, reconciliation would typically only occur at any given location over that location's fixed period. Any available delivery date within the planning horizon that falls after the fixed period was assumed to receive the full quantity of whatever was asked for. In AIP terms, this means that the Constrained Receipt Plan was assumed to equal the Unconstrained Receipt Plan for any day post fixed period.

Starting with this release, AIP no longer makes the assumption that a location's need will always be fulfilled post fixed period. There are certain situations where supply may be constrained even after the fixed period has ended. Therefore, AIP now runs the reconciliation calculations in the post fixed period in the same way that they are run during the fixed period.

Promotion with Variant Events

In a Promotion with Variant Event, a variant SKU is temporarily sold in place of a standard SKU over a specified time period. This variant SKU is usually the same basic item as the standard SKU, but has a slight difference in one of its attributes for the purposes of a promotion. For example, the variant SKU might be the standard item offered in special packaging for a holiday. Or it might be the standard product offered in a larger quantity at the same price to give the customer a certain percentage free. Each variant SKU created in the merchandising system will be identified as the variant of one and only one standard SKU.

A Promotion with Variant Event can either be created automatically by AIP based on specific data present in the system or it can be created manually by the user in a new AIP Online Data Management screen that has been introduced to handle events.

A key benefit of using an event in AIP is the ability to combine inventory of related SKUs for planning purposes. After a promotion has ended, there still may be some of the promotional variant SKU available at various supply chain locations. Some customers may still wish to buy the promotional variant SKU in place of the standard SKU if they see it available. This could potentially result in overstocking or ordering too much of the standard SKU if this is not taken into account in replenishment. To handle this, AIP now has the ability to consider the inventory of the promotional variant SKU still present at a location when determining the need for the standard SKU at that location for a specific period of time after the promotion has ended. This period of time is known in AIP as the Combine Inventory Period and can be defined by the user for any event.

Another benefit of events in AIP is the option to prioritize the clearing of a temporary SKU in order to remove as much of it as possible from the supply chain before it goes off sale. In a Promotion with Variant scenario, this means attempting to sell off any remaining quantity of the promotional SKU after the promotion has ended before switching back to the standard SKU. If the user has chosen to clear inventory with regards to a specific promotional event, AIP will prioritize sending remaining

quantities of the promotional variant in place of the standard SKU to fulfill need even after the promotional event has ended. This will continue until inventory of the promotional variant is exhausted from the supply chain.

Users also have the ability to determine whether or not substitution can be used along with an event. In a Promotion with Variant event, this means that the standard SKU can be sent as a substitute in place of the promotional variant SKU if the variant experiences a shortage. Users are able to specify the earliest date during the event in which this substitution can occur.

Replacement Events

In a Replacement Event, an older version of a SKU is being replaced by a newer version. For example, the current year's model of a television might be replacing the previous year's. The replacement relationship between two SKUs is set up in the merchandising system.

A Replacement Event can either be created automatically by AIP based on the presence of specific data in the system, or it can be created manually by the user in a new AIP Online Data Management screen that has been introduced for events.

A key benefit of using an event in AIP is the ability to combine inventory of related SKUs for planning purposes. In a replacement scenario, some customers may still wish to buy the older SKU even after the new model has become available. This is especially true if the price of the older version has been reduced as an incentive. In order to limit the potential for the over ordering or overstocking of the new item that could result if this is not taken into account, AIP considers the inventory of the old SKU still present in the supply chain when determining replenishment need for the new SKU for a specific period of time after the new SKU has become available. This period of time is known in AIP as the Combine Inventory Period and can be defined by the user for any event.

Another benefit of events in AIP is the option to prioritize the clearing of a temporary SKU in order to remove as much of it as possible from the supply chain before it goes off sale. In a replacement scenario, this means selling as much of the old SKU as possible before it is fully phased out in favor of the new SKU. If the user selects the option to clear inventory in a replacement event, AIP will prioritize sending remaining quantities of the old SKU in place of the new SKU to fulfill need even after the new SKU has become available. This will continue until inventory of the old SKU is exhausted from the supply chain.

Users also have the ability to determine whether or not substitution can be used along with an event. In a Replacement event, this means that the new SKU can be sent as a substitute in place of the old SKU if the old SKU runs out early. Users are able to specify a date at which this substitution is able to take place.

SKU-Specific Priority Matrix

In past releases of AIP, users were able to set priority levels that determine how available inventory is to be distributed when using the shortfall and surplus matrices within reconciliation. Up until now, however, users have only been able to set priority at a store level. Starting with this release, AIP allows for a SKU-specific override of the store priority. This means that any SKU can be given higher or lower priority for the purposes of reconciliation than what the location it is being planned for would indicate.

Substitution

Substitution is the act of sending one SKU in place of another when demand for the original SKU cannot be met. This is done with the expectation that in the event of a stock out of a specific SKU, at least some shoppers will select a similar, alternative SKU instead of going without.

For example, if shoppers come in to a grocery store wanting to buy frozen pepperoni pizzas and the store has none of that particular item in stock, some of the shoppers will decide to buy frozen sausage pizzas instead. Others may opt for a frozen cheese pizza or a frozen veggie pizza. In this example, the other varieties of frozen pizza that shoppers may buy instead of leaving empty-handed are the substitute SKUs for the frozen pepperoni pizza.

The rate at which customers can be expected to buy these substitute SKUs in place of a missing original SKU is known as the Demand Transfer Percentage (DTP). Using this percentage, unmet demand of the original SKU is transferred to demand for the substitute SKUs. These DTP values for substitute SKUs can be loaded into AIP from the Oracle Retail Advanced Science Engine (ORASE) or can be manually created by the user.

Substitution is performed only after all other attempts to meet demand have been exhausted. These transactions are only performed in the last batch run of a SKU prior to release of the store order.

Warehouse Stop Receiving Date

The warehouse stop receiving date knocks out the Available to Plan days at the destination warehouse where it is set. It also is used to terminate a review time when no additional Available to Plan days can be found for a SKU/location combination. This prevents one long review time that covers the remainder of the planning horizon. In turn, this helps to terminate ordering and drain the remaining inventory out of the supply chain.

Documentation Enhancements

AIP 14.1 includes the following documentation enhancement.

Oracle Retail Supply Chain Creation AIP White Paper

Available on My Oracle Support, this white paper describes the supply chain process and provides a reference to manually create a supply chain in AIP if you are not using Automation.

Noteworthy Defect Fixes

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

Affected Component	Fixed Issue/Defect	Defect Number
Pre-allocation	<p>In pre-allocation, some constrained receipt plans may not be added after iterating through the allocation periods. Constrained receipt plans that may be missed occur in one of the three following scenarios.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Are in the shared availability period before the first allocation period ■ Are in between allocation periods if the staging window is set ■ Occur after the final allocation period has ended 	17607515
AIP RPAS Fusion Client Dashboard	When multiple users access the AIP Dashboard with different locales, they only see the first locale used irrespective of their locale settings.	17707591
RPAS Batch - Integration	Batch script to load non RMS files expects a fixed file format and fails when attempting to load a csv file.	17782511
AIP Upgrade	When upgrading from a previous version of AIP to AIP 14.0, there may still be issues with some of the registered measures even if the patch has been successfully applied and the domain upgraded. The issue with these measures is that the suffix array is not updated properly during the upgrade process. Any measure which previously had an aggregation method that was not HYBRID and was changed to HYBRID experiences this issue.	17853395
RPAS Batch	Unable to clear arrays when local domains reside outside of global domain.	17893515
AIP Oracle Batch - Export	After making several changes to an existing order group in Data Management Online, the changes are not being reflected in the RPAS side.	17893536
AIP Oracle Batch	The process_external_data script fails if the optional wh_type file is not present in the input directory.	17912533
AIP Oracle Batch	The process_external_data script fails due to log level not being set correctly.	17912625
AIP Oracle Installer	Install script for AIP Online database server fails on AIX due to an error in the upgrade script.	17912687
AIP Oracle Batch – External Loads	Script to reconfigure domain partitions fails when product hierarchy file contains uppercase letters in the subclass field.	17930798
RPAS Batch	Batch failure for SETNAVAL if local domains are not under the global domain.	18083696
RPAS Batch	Cross docking should not restrict the ordering packsize to only be packsize 1.	18434525

Affected Component	Fixed Issue/Defect	Defect Number
AIP Oracle Batch	Store schedule records are generated into the <code>release_schedule</code> table, however these records are not being exported by the <code>cron_export_sched</code> script.	18978348
AIP RPAS Installer	755 permission for libraries on AIX server causes caching issue.	19049881
AIP Oracle Batch – Scaling	Replace RPAS schedule import with AIP Online schedule data for scaling batch.	19324540
RPAS Batch	External Demand is being subtracted twice from Net Remaining Inventory when performing push to store.	19697546
AIP RPAS Fusion Client Dashboard	Class level data is aggregating too slowly in the AIP Dashboard. Need to pre-calculate class level measures to speed up the aggregation.	19722552
RPAS Data Management Batch	RPAS Data Management Batch experiences a failure when adding a secondary source warehouse to an existing supply chain.	19820469
AIP Oracle Batch – Batch Scripting Architecture	Setting <code>BSA_SCREEN_LEVEL</code> to Information or Debug causes <code>vdate.sh</code> to output incorrect file.	19875742
RPAS Batch – Inventory Capping	Inventory Capping not correctly constraining order when using Fixed SPQ vendor to store scenario.	19905186

Known Issues

The following table contains known issues for the current release.

Known Issue/Defect	Defect Number
In AIP Online, some of the foreign language translations are too long for the current fields and are being truncated. This is occurring for different fields depending upon the language it is translated into.	15986091

Related Documents

For more information, see the following documents in the Oracle Retail Advanced Inventory Planning Release 14.1 documentation set:

- *Oracle Retail Advanced Inventory Planning Administration Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Advanced Inventory Planning Data Management Online Help*
- *Oracle Retail Advanced Inventory Planning Data Management User Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Advanced Inventory Planning Data Model Volume 1—Oracle Database Data Model*
- *Oracle Retail Advanced Inventory Planning Data Model Volume 2—Measure Reference Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Advanced Inventory Planning Implementation Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Advanced Inventory Planning Installation Guide*

- *Oracle Retail Advanced Inventory Planning Operations Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Advanced Inventory Planning Order Management Online Help*
- *Oracle Retail Advanced Inventory Planning Order Management User Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Advanced Inventory Planning Security Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Advanced Inventory Planning Store and Warehouse Replenishment Planning Online Help*
- *Oracle Retail Advanced Inventory Planning Store and Warehouse Replenishment Planning User Guide for the RPAS Fusion Client*

The following documentation may also be needed when implementing AIP:

- Oracle Retail Planning Batch Script Architecture (BSA) Implementation Guide
- Oracle Retail Integration Bus (RIB) documentation, based on type of deployment
- Oracle Retail Extract Transform and Load (RETL) documentation
- Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server (RPAS) documentation

My Oracle Support Documents

These Oracle Retail Advanced Inventory Planning Release 14.1 documents are available on My Oracle Support:

<https://support.oracle.com>

- *Oracle Advanced Inventory Planning Calculations for Store and Warehouse Replenishment Planning*
- *Oracle Retail Commerce Anywhere AIP White Paper*
- *Oracle Retail Supply Chain Creation AIP White Paper*

Supplemental Documentation on My Oracle Support

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

<https://support.oracle.com>

Enterprise Integration Guide (located in the Oracle Retail Integration Suite Library on the Oracle Technology Network)

The Enterprise Integration Guide is an HTML document that summarizes Oracle Retail integration. This version of the Integration Guide is concerned with the two integration styles that implement messaging patterns: Asynchronous JMS Pub/Sub Fire-and-Forget and Web Service Request Response. The Enterprise Integration Guide addresses the Oracle Retail Integration Bus (RIB), a fully distributed integration infrastructure that uses Message Oriented Middleware (MOM) to integrate applications, and the Oracle Retail Service Backbone (RSB), a productization of a set of Web Services, ESBs and Security tools that standardize the deployment.

Supplemental Training on My Oracle Support

The following document is available on the My Oracle Support Web site. Access My Oracle Support at the following URL:

<https://support.oracle.com>

Transfer of Information (TOI) Material (ID 732026.1)

Online training is available to Oracle supported customers at product release. 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.

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>.

Access to Oracle Support

Oracle customers that have purchased support have access to electronic support through My Oracle Support. For information, visit

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Value-Added Reseller (VAR) Language

Oracle Retail VAR Applications

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