Oracle® Retail Merchandising Foundation Cloud Service

Release Notes

Release 16.0.027

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This document highlights the major changes for Release 16.0.027 of Oracle Retail Merchandising Foundation Cloud Service.

Overview

Retailers leverage Oracle Retail Merchandising Foundation Cloud Service (RMFCS) functionality to execute core merchandising activities, including merchandise management, inventory replenishment, purchasing, import processes, sales auditing, and financial tracking. Its Trade Management module is used to manage the import process, including automating the steps necessary to import goods, managing file exchanges with trading partners, and providing a central database of critical import order information.

Merchandising Foundation Cloud Service also includes Sales Audit and Pricing modules. The Sales Audit module evaluates sales transaction from all channels, identifying any missing, duplicate, or erroneous data and highlighting any suspicious transactions, to ensure errors are resolved so that downstream systems operate off the same cleansed sales information. The Pricing module provides the ability to define, maintain, and review price changes and clearances, as well as provides the ability to pass approved price events onto downstream selling systems for execution.

Oracle Retail Cloud Services and Business Agility

Oracle Retail Foundation Cloud Service is hosted in the Oracle Cloud with the security features inherent to Oracle technology and a robust data center classification, providing significant uptime. The Oracle Cloud team is responsible for installing, monitoring, patching, and upgrading retail software.

Included in the service is continuous technical support, access to software feature enhancements, hardware upgrades, and disaster recovery. The Cloud Service model helps to free customer IT resources from the need to perform these tasks, giving retailers greater business agility to respond to changing technologies and to perform more value-added tasks focused on business processes and innovation.

Oracle Retail Software Cloud Service is acquired exclusively through a subscription service (SaaS) model. This shifts funding from a capital investment in software to an operational expense. Subscription-based pricing for retail applications offers flexibility and cost effectiveness.

Client System Requirements

The following technology is supported:

Operating Systems

- Microsoft Windows 7
- Microsoft Windows 10

Browser Support

- Mozilla Firefox ESR 52+
- Microsoft Internet Explorer 11
- Google Chrome (Desktop) 55+

Functional Enhancement

The functional enhancements below are included in this release.

Search Sales Audit Transactions using Reference Fields

The ability to use certain Sales Audit reference number fields when searching for transactions has been added. Reference numbers 1-4 and 25-27 at the transaction header level have been included in the 'Add Fields' list of the Advanced Search in the Transaction Search screen.

Ability to Open a Store/Day Manually

Modifications have been made to sales audit functionality to support the manual creation of a new store/day in cases where the system did not automatically generate one because the store was marked as not open for the day. The create Store/Day process is initiated from the Store/Day Summary screen.

Handling Unmapped Transactions to the General Ledger (GL)

In the course of business, situations can arise where a GL cross reference mapping may not exist for combination of attributes (Tran Code/Location/Dept/Class/Subclass). This condition may be due to a variety of reasons, such as the addition of a new location, creation of new hierarchy elements (Dept/Class/Subclass), or an expected transaction posting to an unmapped combination.

Previously, such instances of unmapped transactions resulted in the integration failing and consequently resulted in the failure of the posting process.

Enhancements have been made to enable this process to avoid failing in cases where one or more cross reference mappings does not exist. The changes have been made to all financial posting processes in both the merchandising and sales audit areas of the system. Additionally, a notification is raised to those assigned to the Finance Analyst role to address the missing mapping issue.

Bypass Inventory Availability Check for External Transfers and Customer Orders

New system parameters have been added to support disabling the available inventory validation when processing warehouse-sourced transfers created and managed through the external interface, as well as customer orders. If these parameters are configured to disable the validation, a negative inventory position may result if the

transfer or customer order quantity exceeds the available quantity for an item/location.

Customer Data Service

The RMFCS utilizes a web service provided by the Oracle Retail Integration Cloud Service to retrieve customer information for customer order and sales/return transactions. This web service is leveraged by the RMFCS when it is configured to not persist customer data.

Note: Store-sourced externally generated transfers and customer orders are not validated for available inventory through these interfaces.

Maintain System Date in Transaction Data Tables

With this change, the current system date (vdate) is posted to the transaction data tables along with the transaction date. These dates may differ if the transaction occurred during a time window after the calendar date has rolled, but before the Merchandising system date has changed. This additional date is being made available for reporting purposes.

Ability to Post Only Positive Debit and Credit Amounts to Financials

When financial transactions are posted into General Ledger systems, normally taking the form of GL Journals, the postings come in the form of balanced entries with the value of debit equaling the value of the credits.

For any given GL Account, there can be both Debits and Credits. Depending on the type of account (for example, Asset, Liability, Revenue, Expense, and so on), the Debits may increase the value and Credits may decrease (that is, Assets, Expense), or Credits may increase the value, and Debits may decrease the value (that is, Liabilities, Revenue).

The combination of Debits and Credits to an account results in an overall balance in the account (that is, Debits - Credits or Credits - Debits). Many GL systems allow the actual amount value for Debits and Credits to be a positive or a negative value and will factor in that sign as part of the overall calculation of the balance. Negative postings are typically only seen when there is a reversal of a prior transaction or journal. However, not all accountants or accounting departments want to use negative values in these cases. They would rather use positive Debits and Credits but reverse the Debits and the Credits instead to accomplish the financial reversal. This enhancement allows the system to be configured to only post positive debit and credit values.

Price Change Wizard

Enhancements were made to the price change functionality to allow price changes to be able to be created from the Price Change Group screen through the use of a wizard. The wizard, accessed from the Items table in a Price Change Group, walks the user through adding one or more items, one or more locations, and finally will specify the price change amounts or percentages for the selected items/locations. After that step, new price changes will be added to the existing group based on the item and location

combinations selected. This provides an alternative to setting up price changes using the Quick Create panel.

Price Change with Implied Reset

In previous releases, in order for a price change to be made on an item/location that was on clearance, the item/location first needed to have its price reset to regular price, and then once that had executed, a price change could be created to give the item/location a new regular retail price. This enhancement allows for a price change to be created for an item/location that is currently on clearance, such that the price change both changes the regular selling price, as well as takes it off clearance as one action.

For point of service (POS) and order management system (OMS) integration, the price change will be sent as it previously had been, but may be received for an item/location that is currently on clearance. If this occurs, the receiving system must be able to interpret this as both a price change and a reset and set the clearance flag for the item/location to "off". This functionality can be disabled via a system option if this functionality is not supported in the POS or OMS.

Price Inheritance Rule Changes

In previous releases, when an approved item was ranged to a new location, it would default a retail price onto the item. However, the more complex process of determining the correct retail price for the item at the location was completed through an asynchronous process between Merchandising and Pricing, which also included the inheritance of future events that the new item/location would now be part of. This process has been changed in this release to decouple the initial retail assignment and the future event inheritance, such that the initial retail assignment is performed in real-time for most situations, while future inheritance remains an asynchronous process. The exception is the "Like Store" process in Merchandising that can be performed when a new store is created, which continues to process inheritance in a batch process due to volume.

Related to this change in processing, new attributes were added to the Store and Warehouse tables in Merchandising to persist the Pricing Like Location that is defined when a new store or warehouse is set up. Previously, this attribute was not retained once the new location was fully set up in Merchandising, because it is primarily used to determine the correct zones for the new location. Retaining this attribute will allow for additional flexibility in determining the price of a new item/location relationship, such as when a zone price is not available for the item to otherwise inherit. This could occur in situations where, for an existing item, the new store is moved to a new zone after creation. In this case, there would not be an established zone price for that store for the existing item. This enhancement allows for the pricing like store to be used as an alternative to just using the hierarchy markup to price the item.

Technical Enhancement

The technical enhancements described below are included in this release.

Data Access Schema (DAS) Additions

The following tables have been included in the DAS with this release.

Table Name	
ADD_TYPE	ORDSKU_REV
ADD_TYPE_TL	PO_TYPE
ALC_XREF	PO_TYPE_TL
APPT_DETAIL	PRICE_HIST
APPT_HEAD	REPL_DAY
BUYER	REPL_RESULTS
CALENDAR	RTV_DETAIL
CORESVC_COSTCHG_ERR	S9T_ERRORS
CORESVC_ITEM_ERR	SA_COMB_TOTAL
CORESVC_PO_ERR	SA_FIF_GL_CROSS_REF
COST_CHG_REASON	SA_MISSING_TRAN
COST_CHG_REASON_TL	SA_PARM
COST_SUSP_SUP_DETAIL	SA_REALM
COST_SUSP_SUP_DETAIL_LOC	SA_RULE_COMP
COST_SUSP_SUP_HEAD	SA_RULE_ERRORS
COST_ZONE	SA_STORE_DAY_READ_LOCK
COST_ZONE_GROUP	SA_STORE_DAY_WRITE_LOCK
COST_ZONE_GROUP_LOC	SA_TOTAL_HEAD
COST_ZONE_GROUP_TL	SA_TOTAL_LOC_TRAIT
CURRENCY_RATES	SA_TOTAL_RESTRICTIONS
CVB_DETAIL	SA_TOTAL_USAGE
CVB_HEAD	SA_VR_PARMS
CVB_HEAD_TL	SA_VR_REALM
DAILY_PURGE	SIT_DETAIL
ELC_COMP	SIT_EXPLODE
EXP_PROF_DETAIL	SIT_HEAD
EXP_PROF_HEAD	SKULIST_DEPT
FIF_GL_ACCT	SKULIST_DETAIL
HTS	SKULIST_HEAD
HTS_TARIFF_TREATMENT	STORE_FORMAT
INVC_DETAIL	STORE_FORMAT_TL
INVC_HEAD	SUP_IMPORT_ATTR
ITEM_EXP_DETAIL	SUP_INV_MGMT
ITEM_EXP_HEAD	SUP_TRAITS
ITEM_HTS	SUP_TRAITS_MATRIX
ITEM_HTS_ASSESS	SUP_TRAITS_TL
ITEM_SUPP_COUNTRY_LOC	TICKET_TYPE_DETAIL

Table Name	
LOC_TRAITS	TICKET_TYPE_HEAD_TL
LOC_TRAITS_MATRIX	TRAN_DATA_CODES
LOC_TRAITS_TL	TRAN_DATA_CODES_REF
ORDCUST	TRAN_DATA_CODES_REF_TL
ORDCUST_DETAIL	VAT_DEPS
ORDLOC_EXP	WALK_THROUGH_STORE
ORDLOC_REV	WO_DETAIL
ORDSKU_HTS	WO_HEAD
ORDSKU_HTS_ASSESS	

Integration Enhancements

The integration enhancements described below are included in this release.

Price Change and Clearance Bulk Upload

New upload processes were added to upload price changes and clearances, including resets, from an external system. These uploads allow price changes, clearance markdowns, and clearance resets to be created, updated, or deleted via a batch process. Validation is performed in a similar way to entering, updating, or deleting the events in the Pricing screens, including initiating conflict checking. However, conflict checking errors are a separate process from the load itself for events that are loaded in approved status, or loaded in submit status, if those types of events are subject to conflict checking.

MFPCS and RDFCS Integration Updates

New integrations were added to support cloud-to-cloud integration between Merchandising Cloud Services and Merchandise Financial Planning Cloud Service (MFPCS) and Retail Demand Forecasting Cloud Service (RDFCS). These replace the RETL flows used in previous releases. The integrations support sending foundational data, such as hierarchies, items, and calendars, as well as transactional data, such as on order and out of stock.

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