

Oracle® Retail Pricing Cloud Service

Release Notes

Release 16.0.030

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This document highlights the major changes for Release 16.0.030 of Oracle Retail Pricing Cloud Service.

Overview

Retailers leverage Oracle Retail Merchandising Cloud Services to execute core merchandising activities, including merchandise and inventory management, replenishment, purchasing, sales auditing, and pricing. As a critical part of this suite of cloud services, the Oracle Retail Pricing Cloud Service (RPCS) provides the ability to define, maintain, and review price changes, clearances, and promotions, as well as provides the ability to execute the price events by passing approved price events onto downstream selling systems for execution.

Oracle Retail Cloud Services and Business Agility

Oracle Retail Pricing 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

Note: Oracle Retail assumes that the retailer has ensured its Operating System has been patched with all applicable Windows updates.

Browser Support

- Mozilla Firefox ESR 60+
- Microsoft Internet Explorer 11
- Google Chrome (Desktop) 73+

Functional Enhancements

The functional enhancements below are included in this release.

New Promotional Offer Types

As part of this release, a number of new offer types have been introduced to provide more flexibility in how promotional discounts are offered to your customers. The new offer types are classified as item-level discounts and include:

Offer Type	Template	Examples
Buy/Get	Buy X, Get Discount	Buy any 3 DVDs, get \$10 off
Buy/Get	Spend X, Get Discount	Spend \$25 in Back-to-School, get \$5 off
Buy/Get	Buy X, Get Y for Discount	Buy 2 pairs of shoes; get a pair of socks for 50% off
Buy/Get	Spend X, Get Y for Discount	Spend \$15 on bagels; get 25% off any 2 tubs of cream cheese
Buy/Get	Buy X of Single Item for Discount	Buy 2 avocados for \$3
Buy/Get	Buy X and Y, Get Discount	Buy a sandwich, chips, and drink for \$5.00
Buy/Get	Buy X and Y, Get Z for Discount	Buy a scarf and hat, get 50% off gloves
Gift with Purchase	Buy X, Get Gift with Purchase	Buy any 2 ornaments, get a free ornament holder
Gift with Purchase	Spend X, Get Gift with Purchase	Spend \$100 in back-to-school, get free insulated lunch bag

Promotion Campaigns

In this release, a new promotion concept called "Campaigns" has been introduced. Campaigns are an optional level above the promotion which may be used to group together promotions across a retailer's organization, such as for larger marketing driven promotions. Promotion campaigns can be added or updated via the spreadsheet upload in the Merchandising Foundation Cloud Service (RFMCS). Once added, the campaigns can be linked to a promotion in RPCS.

Promotion Planner Dashboard

A new dashboard and report was added in this release targeted at a promotional planner. This dashboard will provide the promotional planner with visibility to upcoming promotions, to better gauge the promotional activity in their area of responsibility.

Configurable Templates for Price Changes and Clearances

In a previous release, the ability to upload a spreadsheet of price changes or clearance markdowns and resets was introduced. This functionality was expanded in this release to support configurable templates. This will allow you to configure the spreadsheets used for uploading price events in the way that best suits your business, including the ability to define default values for common attributes. The configuration for these templates is managed in the RMFCS Template Configuration screens and can then be downloaded via the Download Blank Template option in RPCS.

Updated Conflicts Screen

To better help pricing analysts resolve issues in a timely manner, updates have been made to the layout of the screen where conflicts are viewed to make the conflict details easier to manage and to improve the readability of the conflict details.

Simplified Pricing Mode

For retailers who are implementing the Merchandising Cloud Services, a new option is available to access limited functionality in RPCS to manage the initial pricing of new items and also to keep RMFCS updated for any regular price changes or clearance markdowns. This mode is intended for retailers that have their own pricing solution used to manage price. This mode also provides the latest updates to their selling solutions.

If running RPCS in this mode, the following key features within RPCS are available:

- Price zone setup and configuration, as well as initial zone group definitions for merchandise hierarchies
- Bulk load of price changes, clearance markdowns, and clearance resets from an external source
- Execution of price events into RMFCS to record markdowns, to update price history and item/location price details
- Access to a subset of batch processes related to the above mentioned functionality
- Access to a subset of system options for configuration of the above features

Clearance Reset Flexibility

In previous releases, the only way to reset an item/location on clearance using the Pricing screens was to select an executed clearance markdown in the Clearance Group screen and select Add Reset. It could not be created and approved independently. With this release, the Add Reset will now open the wizard in "reset mode" to allow the items, locations, and dates for the reset to be selected. The ability to create a reset based on a markdown will still exist, but that option has been renamed Reset Item. The Reset change type was also added to the Quick Create panel for clearances, which allows resets to be created via this option as well.

Quick Create Update

With the introduction of the spreadsheet upload and wizard-based approaches for price changes and clearance in the last couple releases, the need to use the Quick Create panel for creating both price changes and clearances has lessened, such that it can be used more for exceptions, which was its original intent. Due to that expected decreased usage and due to some performance issues with the Add to Existing option in the Quick Create panel, this capability has been removed. Now all price changes or clearances that are created through this method are created in a new group.

Other Notable Enhancements

The other notable enhancements described below are included in this release.

Add Next Markdown for Location

In the Clearance Group screen, the ability to perform the Add Next Markdown action was added from the Locations table, in addition to the existing option in the Items table. This will allow the pricing analyst to select a subset of the locations for a given item/markdown when adding a new markdown for this method of adding markdowns. This ability is better than having to use the item level action, which impacts all locations, and then requires the deletion of those locations not needed.

Filter Diff and Zone Tables

When a pricing analyst uses the wizard method of creating a price change, clearance markdown, or clearance reset, they are able to select differentiators and zones from a table to apply en masse to the event. For differentiators, a change has been made in the Items train stop of the Add Price Change, Add Markdown, and Add Reset wizards such that as a pricing analyst selects one or more differentiators from the Diffs table and clicks the Apply button to add the parent/diff combinations to the Selected Items table, these diffs should be removed from the Diffs table after the user clicks Apply. For zones, when in the locations train stop of the Add Price Change, Add Markdown, or Add Reset wizards, if the pricing analyst chooses to add locations by Zone and the price zone group has been selected, the Zones table will be further filtered to exclude any zones already present in the Selected Locations table.

Updated Inventory Summary Report

The Inventory Summary report, which is visible in the contextual pane of the Price Change Group and Clearance Group screens, provides visibility to the user of the current inventory levels for the item or item/location highlighted in the screen. This inventory information includes on hand, on order, and in transit. In past releases, the on order quantity shown was based on the price event date as it compared to an order's not before date, instead of showing all on order. This date limitation has now been removed because it was causing confusion to users by not showing all incoming inventory for future price event dates. This change means that all open on order will be shown for the item/location for the point in time the user is reviewing data in the screen.

Technical Enhancements

The technical enhancements described below are included in this release.

Purging Expired Price Changes and Clearances

In the existing clearance and price change purge programs, updates were made to support the automated housekeeping of expired price changes, clearance markdowns, and resets. A new system option, Expired Price Changes and Clearances, allows you to define the number of days to keep expired events, once their effective date has passed. Expired events are those that have an effective date in the past but are still in Worksheet, Submitted, or Rejected status. Additionally, the logic to purge executed events was moved to separate programs.

Purging Executed Price Changes and Clearances

New purge processes were added for both price changes and clearance to manage the removal of executed events, once they have aged beyond a certain number of months. This number of months is determined by two new system options - one for price changes and one for clearance markdowns and resets. These options will allow you to determine the number of months for each event type that executed events will be retained. All older price events will be removed when these processes run.

Platform Enhancements

The platform enhancements described below are included in this release.

Security Policies Differences View

An enhancement has been made to the feature in the application that is used for managing application security policies. This enhancement will allow you to more easily see the differences in application security policies between patches, which will aid you in merging the base policies back to custom policies after a patch is applied to your environment.

Base & Custom Models View

An enhancement has been made to the feature in the application that supports customization of the sidebar, tasks, reports, dashboards and contextual reports. With this release, you can view the differences between the base functionality and any customizations you have made to help in re-applying customizations after a patch is applied to your environment.

Arabic Translations

In the previous release, the ability to support Arabic was added, but the solution itself was not available in Arabic. In this release, the translated strings for the solution were also added, extending the number of languages fully supported in the application to 18.

Query Access to Production Database

In this release, a new option in the task list has been made available to users with the right privileges to support query-only access to the database. Accessing a task in the RMFCS task list takes the user to a workspace that has been configured for this purpose and is available as part of the Oracle database via Application Express (APEX). The intent of this access is to allow your application support team to have real time access to the data in the database to troubleshoot issues or answer end-user questions.

Oracle Identity Management Cloud Service

With this version, RPCS adds integration with Oracle Identity Cloud Service (Oracle IDCS) for new customers. IDCS is a cloud-native, identity and security, multi-tenant platform designed to provide a full set of Identity Access Management and Governance capabilities. IDCS provides a powerful set of hybrid identity features to maintain a single identity for each user across their on premise and in the cloud services. IDCS also includes a set of rich access control policies to allow or grant access to applications.

Integration Enhancements

The integration enhancements described below are included in this release.

Price Changes and Clearances

As part of this release, new integration capabilities were introduced for price changes and clearances that will provide more flexibility in integrating price event details to selling solutions, such as POS and OMS, in cloud to cloud and hybrid cloud/on premises implementations using the Oracle Retail Integration Cloud Service (RICS) bulk data integration method (BDI). This allows RPCS to move away from flat file integrations for price changes and clearances, which makes enhancements to integration complex for both the source and destination applications. You can still configure RICS to produce a flat file if that is required by your POS or OMS solution.

Promotions

In support of the new offer types introduced in this release (and described below), enhancements were made to the BDI integration for promotions. The changes are added attributes for offers related to the new offer types supported, as well as some changes to the valid values for existing offer attributes.

Documentation Enhancement

The Merchandising Cloud Services documentation libraries have been enhanced functionally and technically. Their new look and feel and navigational structure provides better content usability. The new architecture also better supports ongoing modernization. Changes include easy-to-access links for important user tasks and a unified look and feel that is consistent with content produced by other Oracle lines of business.

Related Documentation

For more information, see the following documents in this documentation set:

- Merchandising Cloud Services Administration Guide
- Merchandising Cloud Services Implementation Guide
- Merchandising Cloud Services Batch Schedule
- Operations Guide
- Foundation Data User Guide
- RPCS Do the Basics User Guide

- Clearance User Guide
- Price Change User Guide
- Promotions User Guide

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<http://www.oracle.com/education>

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Value-Added Reseller (VAR) Language

Oracle Retail VAR Applications

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