

Oracle® Retail Merchandise Financial Planning Cloud Service Release Readiness Guide



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Preface

This guide outlines the information you need to know about Oracle Retail Merchandise Financial Planning Cloud Service new or improved functionality in this update, and describes any tasks you might need to perform for the update. Each section includes a brief description of the feature, the steps you need to take to enable or begin using the feature, any tips or considerations that you should keep in mind, and the resources available to help you.

Audience

This document is intended for the users and administrators of Oracle Retail Merchandise Financial Planning Cloud Service.

Documentation Accessibility

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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

Oracle Help Center (docs.oracle.com)

Oracle Retail product documentation is available on the Oracle Help Center at <https://docs.oracle.com/en/industries/retail/index.html>.

(Data Model documents can be obtained through My Oracle Support.)

Comments and Suggestions

Please give us feedback about Oracle Retail Help and Guides. You can send an e-mail to: retail-doc_us@oracle.com

Oracle Retail Cloud Services and Business Agility

Oracle Retail Merchandise Financial Planning 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.

1

Feature Summary

This chapter describes the feature enhancements in this release.

Noteworthy Enhancements

This guide outlines the information you need to know about new or improved functionality in the Oracle Retail Merchandise Financial Planning Cloud Service update and describes any tasks you might need to perform for the update. Each section includes a brief description of the feature, the steps you need to take to enable or begin using the feature, any tips or considerations that you should keep in mind, and the resources available to help you.



Note:

This Release Readiness Guide is based on updates made in Oracle Retail Merchandise Financial Planning Cloud Service release 21.0.001.

Column Definitions

- **Feature:** Provides a description of the feature being delivered.
- **Module Impacted:** Identifies the module impacted associated with the feature, if any.
- **Scale:** Identifies the size of the feature. Options are:
 - **Small:** These UI or process-based features are typically comprised of minor field, validation, or program changes. Therefore, the potential impact to users is minimal.
 - **Large:** These UI or process-based features have more complex designs. Therefore, the potential impact to users is higher.
- **Delivered:** Is the new feature available for use immediately after upgrade or must the feature be enabled or configured? If no, the feature is non-disruptive to end users and action is required (detailed steps below) to make the feature ready to use.
- **Customer Action Required:** You must take action before these features can be used. These features are delivered disabled and you choose if and when to enable them.

Table 1-1 Noteworthy Enhancements

Feature	Module Impacted	Scale	Delivered	Customer Action Required?
Retail Analytics Platform Capabilities	All	Large	Enabled	Yes

Table 1-1 (Cont.) Noteworthy Enhancements

Feature	Module Impacted	Scale	Delivered	Customer Action Required?
Technical Architecture Enhancements	All	Large	Enabled	No
Updated Solution URLs	All	Large	Enabled	No
Nested Dynamic Location Hierarchies	Location Planning	Small	Enabled	No
Real Time Integration of MFP Plans and A&IP	Integration	Small	Enabled	No
Enhanced Refresh Batch Job	Batches	Small	Enabled	No
Standardize MFP Retail and MFP Cost Export	Usability	Small	Enabled	No
MFP Forecasting Enhancements	All	Small	Enabled	Yes

**Note:**

Because MFP uses the Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Cloud Edition, Oracle Retail recommends that you review the *Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Cloud Edition Release Readiness Guide* for information on the RPASCE enhancements.

Reference Documents

The following documents are available on My Oracle Support in the Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server (RPAS) Cloud for Planning and Optimization / Supply Chain Cloud Services Documentation Library MOS Doc ID [2492295.1](#):

- *Oracle Retail Analytics Platform System Implementer Handbook*
- *Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Cloud Edition User Upgrade to Release 21.0 Quick Start Reference*
- *Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server Cloud Edition Administrator Upgrade to Release 21.0 Quick Start Reference*

Also refer to the *Oracle Retail Analytics Platform Implementation Guide* and planning guides available on Oracle Help Center: <https://docs.oracle.com/en/industries/retail/index.html>

A Note to Existing Customers about 21.0

This move to the latest Oracle Retail architecture is not automatic and not immediately available for existing customers. MFP environments already provisioned in the existing

architecture will continue to use current processes such as SFTP and Basic authentication for REST services with no changes to your day-to-day activities. For further information or to start discussing your move, contact your Customer Success Manager (CSM) or log an SR. This release is available for Merchandise Financial Planning; additional Planning and Supply Chain Cloud Services will be available in upcoming releases.

New Feature Description

This section describes the new features.

Retail Analytics Platform Capabilities

Oracle's Platform for Modern Retail provides retailers with the solutions and toolkits to manage their business their way. The Retail Analytics Capabilities, a part of the Platform for Modern Retail, provide an extensible delivery model for analytics and planning solutions, supporting Oracle Retail applications across each of the major analytical categories, including:

- Descriptive and diagnostic functionality with merchandise planning, customer segmentation, and consumer insights.
- Predictive functionality with demand forecasting, along with customer, and location clustering.
- Prescriptive functionality with assortment planning, price optimization, and inventory optimization.

These solutions support business responsiveness through a highly interactive user experience and drive the best outcomes with the application of advanced analytics and artificial intelligence (AI).

With the release of 21.0 and the unification of our planning, supply chain and analytics capabilities, we provide a centralized data repository, lean integration APIs, and an efficient portfolio of delivery technologies. The data repository reflects a comprehensive data model of retail planning, operations, and execution processes. The integration APIs support right-time interactions: a lean set of bulk, on-demand, and near real-time mechanisms. The delivery technologies represent a portfolio of connected tools to build and extend composite solutions using fit-for-purpose analytical, application, and integration tools.

The Oracle Retail Analytics Capabilities are currently comprised of the following Oracle Retail Cloud Services:

- Oracle Retail Science Cloud Service
- Retail Insights Cloud Service
- Retail Predictive Application Server Cloud Edition
- Merchandise Financial Planning Cloud Service
- Retail Home
- Retail Process Orchestration and Monitoring

Technical Architecture Enhancements

In release 21.0.001, Merchandise Financial Planning Cloud Service will be moving to Oracle Retail's Next Generation SaaS Architecture.

As a cloud-native service, built on Oracle Cloud Infrastructure, this provides higher availability, redundancy, and scalability. The services are underpinned by Oracle Autonomous Data Warehouse (ADW) to deliver improved database processing capabilities and superior performance.

This new architecture will yield the following benefits:

- Solution entirely persisted within ADW-hosted Planning Data Store.
- Significantly reduced downtime due to fully automated deployment of all updates and patches.
- Full adoption of OAuth 2.0 for all REST services.
- Significant architectural improvements in middle-tier and application-tier scalability.
- Operational improvements for application support and diagnosis.
- Centralized Oracle Retail BI instance for easier reporting and administration.
- Enhanced integration capabilities with other Oracle Retail products.
- Retirement of SFTP in favor of a service-based approach.

Updated Solution URLs

If you are provisioned with a release 21.0.001 environment in the new architecture, the URLs used to access the services and some of the associated tools will change. The basic structure of the URLs is as follows:

```
https://<service>.retail.<region>.ocs.oraclecloud.com/<customer_instance>/  
<application_context_root>
```

The components that vary by customer are the region and customer instance portions. Region will be based on the data center where your environment is located and the instance portion will contain an acronym for your company name along with type of environment (for example, prd, stg, and so on). The application context roots will remain the same, for example you will use "analytics" to access Retail Insights.

Nested Dynamic Location Hierarchies

The Nested Dynamic Hierarchy feature has been introduced for location attributes in location planning. This feature enables the planner to review metrics for three levels of attributes by grouping metrics for each attribute inside another attribute. For example, if the first level is climate, the second level is store type, and the third is space, users will be able to group metrics for a given climate, and then for each store type within that climate, followed by each space type for the given store type.

Real-Time Integration of MFP Plans and A&IP

Real-time data integration between MFP and A&IP has been improved where data is sent to A&IP at the location level from MFP. This removes the dependency on a batch process for A&IP to split the data into lower location levels from the channel level.

Enhanced Refresh Batch Job

The refresh batch job is enhanced to refresh only elapsed periods for MFP. This functionality helps planners keep their future planning data in the respective workspace and at the same time actualize the data after the batch is run for the elapsed period.

Standardize MFP Retail and MFP Cost Export

With this release, both the MFP retail and MFP cost environments will be patchable from a GA implementation point of view, with all measures being available in both the retail and cost method workspaces. With this enhancement, the export has been made common for both the retail and cost method, which facilitates using the same interface files irrespective of the type of implementation.

MFP Forecasting Enhancements

The MFP baseline forecast is now driven by the Retail Science Platform, so that customers can leverage a common forecast across their Planning and Supply Chain cloud services. It also now includes a Returns Forecast to better inform planning decisions.

2

Browser Requirements and Compatibility



Note:

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

The following browsers are supported:

- Mozilla Firefox
- Microsoft Edge
- Google Chrome (Desktop)

Microsoft has deprecated Internet Explorer 11 in Windows 10 and recommends using Edge as the default browser. Refer to the [Oracle Software Web Browser Support Policy](#) for additional information.

Supported Oracle Products

Application	Latest Supported Version
Retail Insights Cloud Service Suite	21.0.001
Retail Science Platform Cloud Services	21.0.001
Retail Predictive Application Server Cloud Edition	21.0.001
Retail Home	21.0.001
Retail Process Orchestration and Monitoring	21.0.003

3

Deprecated Features

As part of the continuous delivery model for cloud services, features and technical components of a solution may be removed or replaced to enhance the security, performance, and overall quality of the cloud service. When this occurs, the deprecation of a feature or component will be announced in advance, allowing customers sufficient time to anticipate the change and transition to any enhanced replacement feature/component. After the deprecation is announced, the deprecated feature or component will remain in the solution until the planned removal date and will not be enhanced or made compatible with other new features.

The use of SFTP has been declared deprecated and is removed in this release.

For the full schedule of planned deprecations for this product, see the Deprecation Advisory accessed from the following Documentation Library: Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server (RPAS) Cloud for Planning and Optimization / Supply Chain Cloud Services Documentation Library MOS Doc ID [2492295.1](#).