



# **ProfitLogic Price 4.5 Release Notes**



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# **Price 4.5 Release Notes**

These release notes contain the following information:

- “What’s New in Price 4.5” on page 2
- “Known Issues in Price 4.5” on page 4

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## What's New in Price 4.5

Price 4.5 introduces significant changes in the Optimization Engine, as well as enhancements to the What-If functionality, Flexible Clustering, Pricing Groups, and batch performance improvements.

Following is a high-level list of the changes in v4.5. Refer to the Price documentation set and online help for detailed information on each new feature and enhancement in this release:

- Price 4.5 introduces a new Optimization Engine architecture, designed to improve scalability and configurability of the non-database components and to increase optimization run throughput.
- The What-If feature has been significantly enhanced in Price v4.5. Prior to this release, you could vary only prices in your What-If evaluation. In v4.5, you can now alter variables such as current inventory and exit targets. Since v4.5 What-If will automatically include the effects of promotions in your recalculation, the prices you can vary are specifically to evaluate markdowns; they do not have to simulate promotions.

Additionally, prior to this release, recalculation was done in the front-end application, and did not match the quality or detail of the model run's Optimization Engine. With Price v4.5, the Optimization Engine is now invoked for altered scenarios, and recalculation will re-optimize with dynamic information.

Following is a summary of What-If enhancements in v4.5. For information on how to use What-If functionality, refer to the *Price User Guide*.

- The Price user interface supports the Scenario Markdowns you can specify and the new Scenario Variables you can vary.
- The re-forecaster has been replaced with a call to the interactive Optimization Engine, providing the scenario changes specified via the user interface.
- The results of a recalculation will now be akin to displaying the results of a model run, since the information will now be available in the same form.
- The forecast display and calculation of metrics has been enhanced to meet Price's standards.
- The Take Changes action now supports the new scenario variables that may be made permanent, as entered on the Item Maintenance page. You can now

take markdowns on the effective date from within What-If, as pioneered by the Take Markdown and Take Markdown Advanced worksheet actions.

— What-If now makes future recommendations, in addition to markdowns you enter. Prior versions required you to enter all price changes.

- Price v4.5 includes Flexible Clustering functionality, which is set up during Price implementation. The Flexible (Store) Clustering feature provides the ability to group stores by an arbitrary method linked to specific areas of the merchandise hierarchy. This analytical grouping of stores allows more accurate optimization results than chain level and pricing, while not incurring the large numbers of optimizations necessary when going to store level. Since the selling patterns for a set of merchandise in a cluster of stores will be similar, forecast predictions are more accurate and appropriate.
- In v4.5, Price permits pricing groups to be managed at the chain level but optimized at a lower level. Chain level pricing groups can be useful, for example, when adding merchandise to a pricing group in all locations. Although the pricing group is managed at the chain level, the worksheet displays the pricing group at the optimization level to facilitate taking markdowns.
- The Price documentation set now includes the *Price Operations Guide*.

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## Known Issues in Price 4.5

Following is a list of known issues in Price 4.5.

### General Price Issues

#### **Forecast records sometimes report date past outdate (12140)**

Occasionally the forecast\_activities table will show records in the week following the outdate. For example, with an outdate of 02-29-05, the last forecast record would be 02-28-05. In some cases, though, the forecast file might show records dated 03-06-05.

Forecasts end when either of the following is met:

- Both inventory and base inventory are zero
- The day before the outdate is reached. If the outdate occurs on the first day of a new week, the outdate does not appear in the forecast file:
  - If out date = 2/22 (a Sunday) with Saturday rollups, the last forecast date is no later than 2/21.
  - If out date = 2/23 (a Monday) with Saturday rollups, the last forecast date is no later than 2/28.

#### **Error when Java is missing (12677)**

If Java is not installed on the database server, or if it is installed incorrectly, an error message may appear when you attempt to install or upgrade Price schemas. If you get such a message, check the system prerequisites in the *Price Installation Guide* for the correct Java vendor and version, and check the database server to make sure that Java has been installed correctly.

#### **Disabling logins while users are in Price (13176)**

At least once a week, ProfitLogic Professional Services must disable logins to Price (typically for about five minutes) so that they can synchronize markdown data. If you are using Price while the logins are disabled, the following error message appears:

A System error has occurred during this action. Please report this as a bug.

In addition, the following link appears in the upper-right corner of the screen:

```
Must define these in XActionServlet.java.
```

If this occurs, quit Price and check with an administrator or ProfitLogic Professional Services to determine when Price will be available again.



<b>Read-only worksheet (13194)</b>	If a user with read-only (view) permission is viewing a worksheet and a user with edit permission (e.g., submit or approve) accesses that same worksheet, the worksheet opens as read-only, even though the second user is allowed to edit the worksheet.
<b>Committed markdown \$ field (14092)</b>	The committed markdown \$ field that is used by OTB is not included in the standard interface/standard load.
<b>RDM schema deleted during upgrade (15682)</b>	If you upgrade the Price database, you delete the RDM views, so re-installing is recommended.
<b>Business Rules and temp or POS markdowns (16049)</b>	<p>There is a known issue concerning how business rules are applied when an accepted temporary (temp) or point-of-sale (POS) markdown occurs in history.</p> <p>The business rules allow temp or POS markdowns to have the same standing as permanent markdowns for the purpose of business rule enforcement. That is, the client may declare that temp or POS markdowns should (or should not) activate business rules such as minimum markdown interval, min/max first markdown depth, min/max subsequent markdown depth, and so on. This is accomplished by setting the "tempMarkdownsBlock" or "posMarkdownsBlock" flag to True (if such business rules should be enforced) or False (if such business rules should not be enforced). For temp and POS markdowns in history, the flags are erroneously always treated as being true.</p>
<b>Error when saving BRM changes (16114)</b>	If you are saving BRM changes from the Item Info dialog box, and you receive an error when you click <b>Edit Business Rules</b> , upgrade to a more recent version of IE than 6.0.2800.1106.xpsp2.040919-1003.
<b>Error when editing worksheet rules (16156)</b>	<p>You might get a permissions error if you try to access <b>Edit Worksheet Rules</b> from the Item Worksheet. The workaround for this is the following:</p> <p>Turn off the object caching by setting the ...FEATURE_OBJECT_CACHING value to <b>0</b> for IExplorer.exe. You do need to restart the browser each time you change this setting.</p>
<b>Limitation on number of roles loaded by the Bulkloader (16438)</b>	When the Bulkloader was used to load a large number of roles (roughly 9000), an error message was produced. Splitting the assignment file into several smaller files will eliminate the problem.

**Single quotes  
invalid (16445)**

Single quotes are not handled in Hierarchy ID fields.

**OTB and  
ir\_p4p\_item\_  
config (16462)**

If a customer has a specific configuration of ir\_p4p\_item\_config, there can be issues with OTB. Since OTB uses the item\_data table to calculate INT\_TAKEN\_MD\_COST to compare against the budget given, if ir\_p4p\_item\_config is configured differently, it gets ignored. Ideally, OTB would go through p4p\_display\_items to calculate this value, so that it can optimize using the customer's specific rules.

**Bad data will stop  
the rest of the  
chunk from  
processing  
(16575)**

If a particular item or collection causes any worker process to fail in a reproducible way, then subsequent worker processes will also fail, and the chunk will never complete. This means that numerous items and collections that are fine otherwise, will not get processed.

**Problem with  
refreshForecast-  
Cache.sh (16591)**

On Solaris, the application crashed when running refreshForecastCache.sh a second time. The workaround is to upgrade to Java HotSpot Server VM Version 1.4.2\_08-b03.

**/config/install.logs  
not automatically  
created (16594)**

You must manually create the ../config/install.logs directory in order to avoid receiving an error message when running plalerts.sh. To create the directory, execute **mkdir install.logs** under directory ../config.

**Manually creating  
PL\_LOAD\_  
STATUS\_VW,  
AUTH\_LOOK-UP\_  
V, and  
RDM\_ACTIVITIES  
(16602)**

Due to a known Installer issue on Solaris, the following three views need to be created through executing a separate sql script after completing Price and/or RDM installation:

- PL\_LOAD\_STATUS\_VW - Price view used for generating Standard Load status report
- AUTH\_LOOKUP\_V - Price view used by Alerts functionality
- RDM\_ACTIVITIES - RDM view used by one of the RDM data load procedures

For a Price-only installation (no RDM), execute the following scripts after connecting to a database schema via sqlplus or any other applicable tool:

- <PriceCD>/Database/ASHSchema/install/oracle/ASHSchema/dictionary/views/pl\_load\_status.sql
- <PriceCD>/Database/CCSchema/install/oracle/CCSchema/dictionary/views\_on\_procs/auth\_lookup.sql

If used with RDM, execute the following additional script:

- <DesktopCD>/Database/POPLARSchema/install/oracle/POPLARSchema/dictionary/views/rdm\_activities.sql

## Merchant Desktop

**Screen layout and drop areas (12978)** Occasionally, the drop areas on the layouts are out of alignment in the layout cells. This does not affect the drag-and-drop functionality, and it does not affect the actual placements of the components on the screen.

**Screen Administration (14052)** When you access the Screen Administration screen and there are several components (as is the case with the Merchant Desktop seed data), the actual layout is centered with the list and thus it often appears to be off of the screen. To view the layout, just scroll down.

You can still add components to the screen - just click and drag to the layout.

**MD installer limitation (14626)** Currently the Merchant Desktop installer does not handle pointing the Dashboard and Alerts datasources, or the CommonDB connection pool, to a clustered environment. You must do that manually after you run the Merchant Desktop installer.

## MicroStrategy

**Job expired message (13244)** Some charts won't display (i.e., a red X appears) and a Job Expired message appears when there are more than three charts or graphs per screen. Currently there seems to be a functional limit of only three charts or graphs per screen.

## User Management

**Editing inactive users (13022)** When you attempt to edit a user account that has been inactivated (status of 2 in the Active column), the following occurs:

- A new User Management window appears
- The following incorrect error message appears

The username: *username* is a duplicate of an existing active user and is not allowed. You must inactivate the existing user to make use of this username.

Close the extra User Management window and enter a different, unique username.

**User Management  
session timeout  
(16271)**

If the user is in a worksheet and their session times out, they might be forwarded to a login page that appears within a frame. When this happens, the user cannot re-login.