

**Oracle Retail[®] Demand
Forecasting, Curve, Promote[™]
11.1.9.2
Release Notes**

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Release Notes

Release details

Solutions:	Retek Demand Forecasting (RDF), Curve, Promote  Note: The package may not include all solutions depending upon the licensing agreement.
Version Number:	11.1.9.2
Code Cut Off Date:	October 10, 2005
Release Date:	April 11, 2005
Type of Release:	Hot Fix for HP/UX only
Base:	Yes
Patch:	Yes
RPAS Client Version:	RPAS 11.1.X
RPAS Server Version:	RPAS 11.1
Acumate Version:	Acumate 25
Supported OS:	Windows NT, Sun Solaris 5.8, AIX 5.2, HP 11.11
Additional Documentation:	Retek Demand Forecasting, Curve, Promote 11.1.8 Installation Guide Retek Demand Forecasting, Curve, Promote 11.1.8 User Guide RDF 11.1.8 Administrator's Guide RPAS 11.1 Administrator's Guide RPAS 11.1 Installation Guide RPAS 11.1 User Guide RPAS 11.1 Configuration Guide RPAS 11.1 Rule Functions Reference Guide RPAS 11.1.8 Solution Extension Configuration Guide

Compatible 11.1.x versions of RDF/Promote/Curve and RPAS

The following is a summary of the ARPO Platform version that may be used with each release of RDF, Promote, or Curve:

Release Date	RDF, Promote, Curve	ARPO Platform
April 15, 2005	11.1.6	11.1.6
May 18, 2005	11.1.7	11.1.7
August 8, 2005	11.1.8	11.1.8
September 13, 2005	11.1.9	11.1.9
September 19, 2005	11.1.9.1	11.1.9
October 11, 2005	11.1.9.2	11.1.9

Patching history

10/11/2005

- Select RDF libraries have been released as 11.1.9.2 due to a couple of bug fixes. You must have 11.1.9.1 installed prior to installing this patch.
- Adjusted Forecast values in the Forecast Approval workbook were not committing properly, thus, users could not make updates to the forecast. (**DEFECT000397437**).
- Global Forecast Approval workbook was failing in the wizard process with a TMPFLVLDATE1 error message. (**DEFECT000397582**).

09/13/2005

- RDF, Promote, Curve v11.1.9 on RPAS 11.1.9 released to ROCS
- Corrected an issue in the Forecast Approval workbook when viewed in the master domain. The Forecast Horizon selected by the user would include 7 additional calendar positions in the workbook (**DEFECT000396712**).

08/8/2005

- RDF, Promote, Curve v11.1.8 on RPAS 11.1.8 released to ROCS
- The following documentation has been updated:
 - rdf-1118-ug: RDF 11.1.8 Users Guide
 - rdf-1118-ag: RDF 11.1.8 Administrator Guide
 - rdf-1118-ig: RDF 11.1.8 Installation Guide
 - rpas-1118-secg: RPAS 11.1.8 Solution Extension Configuration Guide

- Several changes were made to the Forecast Administration Workbook requiring one of the two processes defined below to be followed. “Option A” allows for the workbook to be updated with the latest changes within the RPAS Configuration Tools.



Note This process deletes any custom rules added to the RDF solution and removes custom measures added to the workbook templates. If you want to preserve custom rule and workbook changes already implemented in the RDF solution configuration, follow “Option B”.

Option A:

1. Open the configuration in the 11.1.8 Configuration Tools.
2. Autogenerate the Curve solution.
3. Right-click on the RDF solution and select ‘Delete’.
4. Click on the Project Name so it is highlighted.
5. From the ‘Automation’ menu, select ‘RDF’ and then select ‘Specify Parameters’.
6. Your last RDF level configuration is visible in the ‘Forecast Manager’ utility. Select ‘OK’ to autogenerate the configuration.
7. Autogenerate the Promote solution.
8. Continue with the standard domain patching process.

Option B:

1. Follow the standard domain patching process.
2. For each domain (Master and Local domains), take the following actions:
 - a. Open the Forecast Administration Workbook.
 - b. On the Basic Settings tab / Final Level Parameters worksheet, hide the ‘Store Interim Forecast’ parameter.
 - c. On the Basic Settings tab / Final and Source Level Parameters worksheet, hide the ‘Forecast Length’ parameter.
 - d. On the Advanced Settings tab / Final and Source Level Parameters worksheet, hide the following parameters:
 - Causal Aggregation Profile
 - Causal Calculation Intersection
 - Causal Calculation Intersection Periodicity
 - Causal Data Source
 - Causal Higher Intersection
 - Causal Spread Profile
 - Disable Causal
 - e. Save the format of the template.
- The following summarizes the changes made to the Forecast Administration Workbook:
 - Changes made to the Basic Settings tab / Final Level Parameters worksheet:

- Moved 'Store Interim Forecast' to the Advanced Settings tab / Final Level Parameters worksheet
- Moved 'Default Keep Last Changes' to the Advanced Settings tab / Final Level Parameters worksheet.
- Added 'Forecast Length' from the Basic Settings tab / Final and Source Level Parameters worksheet.
- Changes to the Advanced Settings tab / Final and Source Level Parameters worksheet:
 - Added a new parameter, Fall Back Method
- Created a new worksheet on the Advanced Settings tab labeled 'Causal Parameters'. The following parameters were moved to this worksheet from the Advanced Settings tab / Final and Source Level Parameters worksheet:
 - Causal Aggregation Profile
 - Causal Calculation Intersection
 - Causal Calculation Intersection Periodicity
 - Causal Data Source
 - Causal Higher Intersection
 - Causal Spread Profile
 - Promo Levels Disable
- The following are new parameters added to the Advanced Settings tab / Causal Parameters worksheet:
 - Causal Beta Scale
 - Causal Capping Number
 - Causal Capping Ratio
 - Minimum Causal History
 - Use Causal Capping



Note: See the RDF 11.1.8 User Guide for more information on the new parameters added to the Forecast Administration workbook.

- A new executable was added to the system, 'UpdateFnhbiRdf'. This executable replaces 'ManageFnhbi' during the batch process. However, 'ManageFnhbi' is still used to validate clean partitioning of sub-domains in a Global Domain environment. 'UpdateFnhbiRdf' is a performance enhancement that only update the measures for a specific birth date, rather than all measures in the Global Domain environment.
- The template configuration for the 'Forecast Like-Item, Sister-Store' workbook has been updated. This change allows for positions in the Like-Item and Sister-Store pick-lists to be sorted alphabetically based on the position label (**DEFECT000394672**).
- An issue in the wizard for 'Forecast Scorecard' workbook was corrected. The wizard that allows the user to select the forecast birth date was not filtering correctly based on the final level (**DEFECT000395765**).

- Contention issues in the Master domain during runs of ‘Generate’ were corrected (**DEFECT000396080**).
- A new parameter was added to the Profile Administration workbook. ‘Use Advanced Profile Features’ is set to true (checked) by default; however if dynamic profiles are being generated during the RDF batch process, setting this parameter to false (unchecked) improves batch performance by skipping unnecessary processes in the creation of the dynamic profiles.
- Several performance improvements to the RDF batch were completed with this patch.

05/18/2005

- RDF, Promote, Curve 11.1.7 on RPAS 11.1.7 released to ROCS



Special Note: Because the LostSale function has been re-written as a special expression, RPAS date/time functions may not be used with the expression. In the example provided, the preprocess parameter LSTODAY requires a measure that holds the date. Note that this measure should be data type of ‘int’. In addition, the expression now is used with an ‘<-’ rather than ‘=’.

Example:

An expression that currently is written as: LSOVER:LSOVERMEAS, LS:LS1MEAS, TSALERT:TSALERTMEAS = **preprocess**(SRC:DATASRCMEAS, METHODID:MTHIDMEAS, **LSTODAY:TODAY**, NPTS:NPTSMEAS, WINDOW:WINMEAS)

Will now be written as: LSOVER:LSOVERMEAS1, LS:LS1MEAS, TSALERT:TSALERTMEAS <- **preprocess**(SRC:DATASRCMEAS, METHODID:MTHIDMEAS, **LSTODAY:DATEMEAS**, NPTS:NPTSMEAS, WINDOW:WINMEAS)



Note: In the first example the = is now <- in the second example. In addition, ‘TODAY’ in the first example is now ‘DATEMEAS’ (a measure that holds the date value).

- Changes to Curve in this patch require a rebuild of any domain implemented with a Curve solution:
 - Removed the Profile Maintenance Intersection.
 - Split out several Curve databases to reduce the risk of profile databases exceeding the 2 gig limit.
- The Promotion Effectiveness workbook has had significant design changes to support what-if capabilities for both final and source levels (**DEFECT000378175**). The changes include:
 - The automatic loading of all promotions into the workbook.
 - Allowing the user to select any single causal level, not just causal levels at final.
 - Using the System Forecast rather than Approved Forecast in workbook calculations.
 - Using the System Peaks rather than the Approve Peak (which is only at Final).
 - Bringing in the latest birth date for the forecast.
 - Changing the future baseline calculation in the Forecast Approval workbook to use the System Promo Peak rather than the Approved Promo Peak.

- Corrected an issue that prevented FORECAST_APPROVAL alerts from appearing in the Approval Method pick list in Forecast Administration and Forecast Maintenance workbooks (**DEFECT000394608**).
- Corrected an issue that caused the fmaenddt measure's NA value to be overwritten with incorrect values (**DEFECT000393820**).
- Enhancements have been made to the Forecasting Engine to improve performance of the Adjust function (**DEFECT000394514**).
- Implemented Bayesian capping from v9.4.
- Retek has added a new parameter to Forecast Administration that allows users the option for items with end dates within the horizon to have zero demand applied to time series before or after the interim forecast is calculated. The parameter is called 'Item End Date Action'. The two options are:
 - 'Apply 0 After Spreading': This is the default value and how the system currently works. Spreading ratios are calculated for time series with no consideration made to the end date of an item. It is after the source is spread to the final level when zero is applied to the System Forecast.
 - 'Apply 0 to Interim': For items that have an end date within the forecast horizon, zero is applied to the Interim Forecast before the spreading ratios are calculated. This ensures that no units are allocated to the final level for time series that have ended.

04/15/2005

- Initial release of RDF 11.1.6 on RPAS 11.1.6 released from the Fulfillment Center

Release overview

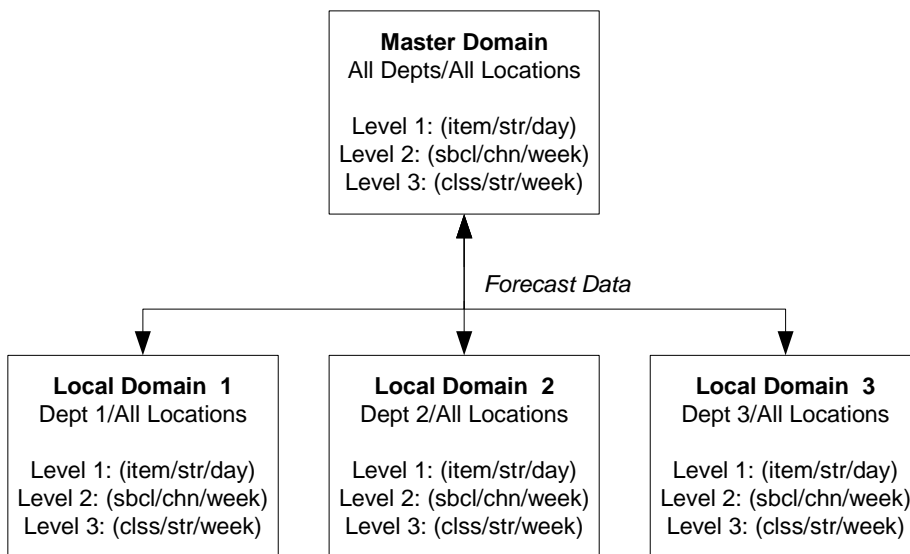
The primary scope defined for the release of RDF 11.1 includes the following:

- Support a Global Domain Environment.
- Support the RDF wizard and workbook template configuration through the RPAS Configuration Tools.
- Supports configuration changes to the RDF and Curve workbook templates.
- Provides enhanced validation on data entered by the user during configuration and the batch processes.

Support a Global Domain environment

New to this release is RDF's ability to support either a Global or Simple Domain environment. A Simple Domain environment supports isolated partitions of data. This type of environment does not allow for data to be aggregated across partitions into a single view. In contrast, a Global Domain environment allows for data partitions to exist; certain data may be edited and viewed across partitions. Within this structure, Retek refers to data within a partition as the Local domain (or sub-domain) and the view to data across multiple local domains as the Master domain.

The following diagram represents a Global Domain environment:



Global Domain environment

Within this structure, batch forecast results across all domains may be viewed within the Master Domain. This functionality is achieved by passing the same forecast birth date (date/time stamp) to each Local Domain when the batch forecast is generated. Please note that this cannot be achieved through the use of the 'Run Batch Forecast' wizard. See the RDF 11.1 Administration Guide for more information on the execution of batch forecast processes to support a Global Domain environment.

The RDF solution in a Global Domain environment also supports centralized administration and maintenance of forecast parameters in the Master domain. Additional details on the availability and limitations of all of the RDF, Promote and Curve workbook templates in the Master domain environment is provided in the following sections.

Support RDF wizard and workbook template configuration through the RPAS Configuration Tools

The RDF, Promote and Curve solution extensions require a special interface within the RPAS Configuration Tools to provide the necessary components to the configuration. This approach lessens the tedious tasks of configuring hierarchies, measures, rules and workbooks that are required to support the solution extension. This special interface that supports the solution extensions is referred to as **Plug-Ins**.

The new Plug-In architecture in 11.1 allows for the Solution Extension development teams to utilize base RPAS Configuration Tools functionality and create configuration utilities that meet the specific needs of each solution. In particular, this new architecture now allows for RDF wizard and workbook templates to be configured in the Configuration Tools (as opposed to being expanded just before the domain install using the ‘installtemplates’ script).

Support configuration changes to RDF and Curve workbook templates

An important goal for RDF 11.1 is to provide our customers more flexible configuration options to modify the GA workbook template configurations. Similar to the 10.5 release, the autogeneration process creates hierarchies, measures and rules needed to support the GA solution. However, new to 11.1 is this functionality’s being extended to create the required wizard and workbook templates. Certain changes to the GA Configuration are allowed. Once edits to the GA Configuration are made and the autogeneration process occurs again, valid changes to the configuration are preserved. There is nothing in the RPAS Configuration Tools to prevent invalid changes from being made. The following outlines acceptable changes and restrictions:

Solution Extension Name – The name assigned to the resulting solution after autogeneration occurs **cannot** be edited.

Major and Minor Classes – Additional Major and Minor classes may be added to the GA Configuration. The Major and Minor classes that are part of the GA Configuration may not be edited. This restriction also applies to Measure Names and Measure Labels.

Rules – Additional Rule Sets, Rule Groups and Rules may be added to the GA Configuration. Such changes include support for adding new Rules to existing GA Configuration Rule Groups. Retek recommends that new Rules added to the GA Configuration Rule Groups include ‘cust’ (represents ‘Custom’) in the Rule Name. This terminology allows for easy identification of Rules that are not part of the GA Configuration. Rule Sets, Rule Groups and Rules that are part of the GA Configuration may not be renamed. Existing Rules that are part of the GA Configuration may not be modified in any way.

Workbook Templates – Additional Workbook Templates may be added to the RDF and Curve GA Configurations. In addition, new Measures and Rules may be added to the GA Configuration Workbook Templates. These changes are made by adding new Major and Minor classes and then adding new Rules to existing Rule Groups in the GA Configuration.

Provide enhanced validation on data entered by the user during configuration and the batch processes

New to the 11.1 release is the enhancement of validation criteria of data entered in the solution Plug-Ins as well as the parameter information set by the user for the RDF and Curve batch processes. Within the solution Plug-Ins, users are notified at the time of autogeneration when invalid data has been entered in the configuration. This validation also extends to the installation of the domain. This approach should significantly lessen the introduction of incorrect configuration information into the domain install.

Within the batch processes, additional validation occurs when 'generate' and 'curvebatch' are executed. The validation criterion checks certain parameter information and returns more meaningful exceptions when invalid information has been entered into the system.

Other enhancements

- The ability to define both Boolean and continuous (real) promotion variables.
- The Spreading of the Causal Peak generated at Source to the Final level.
- RDF and Curve batch results are split into separate .gem files.
- Forecast Level Label configuration restrictions have been removed.
- 'Item' and 'store' dimension requirements in the product and location hierarchies have been removed.
- Curve Profile Approval wizards have been enhanced to allow hierarchy selections only on the profile intersection.
- The Default Source Level measure is displayed as a pick-list.
- There have been preprocessing performance enhancements.

Known issues

RDF

Issue	Issue Owner	Status / Workaround
The fmain_B database is not deleting after the birth is deleted.	Retek Labs	Medium Priority: To be fixed in a patch.
All Rule Group names must be unique in the entire configuration before autogeneration of the solution can occur by the Plug-In.	RPAS	Low Priority: This is a limitation of the Tools API.
Autogeneration must occur in the Curve Plug-In before autogeneration can occur in the RDF or Promote Plug-Ins. The order is 1) Curve, 2) RDF, 3) Promote.	Retek Labs	Low Priority: This is a limitation of the Plug-In infrastructure needed to support data validation.
Only one position from the Partition Dimension per local domain is allowed.	Retek Labs	RDF Architectural Limitation
Any dimension along the partition hierarchy used as an intersection to forecast must be unique across all domains.	Retek Labs	RDF Architectural Limitation, especially applies to Alternate Hierarchies. For example, if my level is supplier\str\week, my Supplier dimension cannot have a supplier position that exists in multiple domains.

Curve

Issue	Issue Owner	Status / Workaround
All Rule Group names must be unique in the entire configuration before autogeneration of the solution can occur by the Plug-In.	RPAS	Low Priority: This is a limitation of the Tools API.
Autogeneration must occur first in the Curve Plug-In before autogeneration can occur in the RDF or Promote Plug-Ins. The order is 1) Curve, 2) RDF, 3) Promote.	Retek Labs	Low Priority: This is a limitation of the Plug-In infrastructure needed to support data validation.

Promote

Issue	Issue Owner	Status / Workaround
All Rule Group names must be unique in the entire configuration before autogeneration of the solution can occur by the Plug-In.	RPAS	Low Priority: This is a limitation of the Tools API.
Autogeneration must occur first in the Curve and RDF Plug-Ins before autogeneration can occur in the Promote Plug-Ins. The order is 1) Curve, 2) RDF, 3) Promote.	Retek Labs	Low Priority: This is a limitation of the Plug-In infrastructure needed to support data validation.

Functional differences

The following sections summarize new features and differences in functionality between the initial release (11.1.6) and the 10.5 release:

RDF

Executables and scripts

See the RDF 11.1 Administration Guide for changes in this release in support of the following:

- sciInstall
- sciPostInstall
- sciPatch
- sciPostPatch
- autosource
- PreGenerateForecast
- generate
- rdfvalidate
- curvevalidate
- managefnhbi
- curvebatch

Database changes

The following summarizes changes made to the databases specified for some measures. The ‘_F’ indicates that the measure name or database includes the final level number:

- appcumint_FXB: data/appcumint_F
- appf_FXB: data/appf_F
- appint_FXB: data/appint_F
- appk_FXB, appktmp_FXB, pp_FXB, wm_FXB: data/frcst_F
- appsysf_FXB and appsysftmp_FXB: data/appsys_F
- cchdaf_FXB: data/adjf_F
- lappf_FXB: data/lappf_F
- ac_FXB: data/adjcumint_F
- af_FXB: data/adjf_F
- ai_FXB: data/adjint_F
- it_FXB: data/frcst_F
- actsf_FXB: data/actstat_F
- assf_FXB: data/fasgls_F
- citmp_FXB and sftmp_FXB: data/frcstsrc_F
- ci_FXB: data/cumint_F
- in_FXB: data/int_F
- sf_FXB: data/sysf_F

Plug-In

- If a Global Domain environment is to be implemented, the partition dimension must be defined in the Forecast Common Plug-In.
- New to this release is the creation of the RDF solution configuration via the RDF Plug-In.
- New measures and rules can be added to RDF workbooks.

Forecast administration

- The Forecast Administration Workbook can be viewed in the Master Domain, Local Domain or Simple Domain environment.
- Removed 'Maximum Number of Forecasts'.
- 'Days to Keep Forecasts': This field is used to set the number of days that the system stores forecasts based on the date/time the forecast is generated. The date/time of forecast generation is also referred to as the 'birth date' of the forecast. A forecast is deleted from the system if the birth date plus the number of days since the birth date is greater than the Days to Keep Forecast. This process occurs when either the 'Run Batch Forecast' wizard is used to generate the forecast or when 'PreGenerateForecast' is executed. See the RDF 11.1.8 Administration Guide for more information on 'PreGenerateForecast'.
- The 'Default Source Level' is now a pick-list of source level names.

Forecast delete

- The Forecast Delete template can be run in the Master Domain, Local Domain or Simple Domain environment.
- Forecast Delete in the Master Domain: Forecasts with the selected birth date are deleted across all domains in the Global Domain environment.
- Forecast Delete in the Local or Simple Domain: Forecasts with the selected birth date are deleted only in the current domain.

Forecast maintenance

- The Forecast Maintenance Workbook can be viewed in the Master Domain, Local Domain or Simple Domain environment.
- 'Source Level Override' is now a pick-list of source level names.

Forecast like-item, sister store

No changes.

Forecast approval

- The Forecast Approval Workbook can be viewed in the Master Domain, Local Domain or Simple Domain environment.
- Additional logic was added to the wizards to account for varying forecast horizons across domain partitions when a Global Domain environment is implemented.
- Additional logic was added to the workbook to prevent the commit of adjustments to time series that are not forecasted in the horizon viewed in the workbook.

Forecast scorecard

- The Forecast Scorecard Workbook can be viewed in the Master Domain, Local Domain or Simple Domain environment.
- Changes were made to the calendar wizards to allow Forecast Scorecard to be built using AutoWorkbook functionality.

Interactive forecasting

No changes.

Run batch forecast

If a Global Domain environment is implemented, forecasts generated in the Local domain using the Run Batch Forecast wizard can be viewed in the Master domain. However, this forecast is isolated to the data in the Local domain. Executing 'PreGenerateForecast' at the Master domain and then passing the output of the process to 'Generate' from the backend of each Local domain allows for the Local domains to share a birth date, thus supporting a view to forecast data across Local domains in the Master domain. See the RDF 11.1 Administration Guide for more information on 'PreGenerateForecast' and 'Generate'.

Curve

Executables and scripts

See the RDF 11.1 Administration Guide for changes in this release in support of the following:

- sciInstall
- sciPostInstall
- sciPatch
- sciPostPatch
- curvevalidate
- managefnhbi
- curvebatch

Database changes

The changes below have made to the databases specified for some measures. The '_F' indicates that the measure name or database includes the final level number.

- pgappby_F and tmpdateagg_F: data/pgappdate_F
- pgappdate_F and tmpstragg_F: data/pgappby_F

Plug-In

- If a Global Domain environment is to be implemented, the partition dimension must be defined in the Forecast Common Plug-In.
- New to this release is creation of the Curve solution configuration via the Curve Plug-In.
- The intersection defined in the Profile Intersection populates the default value in the Profile and Stored Intersection for the Source Level.
- The intersection defined in the Aggregation Intersection populates the default value in the Approval and Stored Intersection for the Source Level.
- New measures and rules can be added to Curve workbooks.

Profile administration

- The Profile Administration Workbook can be viewed in the Master Domain, Local Domain or Simple Domain environment.
- Simplified default parameter settings are now only set on the final profile.
- The Profile Maintenance Intersection was removed because it is no longer required.
- The Profile Type Labels are displayed rather than the Profile Type names in the 'Profile Type' pick-list.
- The 'Default Source Profile' is now a pick-list of profile level names.

Profile maintenance

- The Profile Maintenance Workbook can be viewed in the Master Domain, Local Domain or Simple Domain environment.
- Training Window exceptions are now only set on the final profile level.

Profile approval

No changes

Run batch profile

No changes

Promote

Plug-In

- If a Global Domain environment is to be implemented, the partition dimension must be defined in the Forecast Common Plug-In.
- The user may now enter a Default Intersection that populates the base intersection of any promotion added to the configuration.
- The database may be defined for each promotion.
- Either 'Real' or 'Boolean' measure type can be selected for a promotion.
- New measures and rules can be added to the Promote solution, but not workbooks.

Promotion planner

No changes.

Promotion maintenance

No changes.

Promotion effectiveness

No changes.