

Oracle® Retail Category Management

Release Notes

Release 12.1.2.3

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Primary Author: Melody Crowley

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- (i) the software component known as **ACUMATE** developed and licensed by Lucent Technologies Inc. of Murray Hill, New Jersey, to Oracle and imbedded in the Oracle Retail Predictive Application Server – Enterprise Engine, Oracle Retail Category Management, Oracle Retail Item Planning, Oracle Retail Merchandise Financial Planning, Oracle Retail Advanced Inventory Planning and Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting applications.
- (ii) the **MicroStrategy** Components developed and licensed by MicroStrategy Services Corporation (MicroStrategy) of McLean, Virginia to Oracle and imbedded in the MicroStrategy for Oracle Retail Data Warehouse and MicroStrategy for Oracle Retail Planning & Optimization applications.
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Preface

A Release Notes document can include some or all of the following sections, depending upon the release:

- Overview of the release
- Functional, technical, integration, and/or performance enhancements
- Assumptions
- Fixed and/or known issues/defects

Because of their brevity, Release Notes do not include chapters, appendices, or a table of contents.

Audience

Release Notes are a critical communication link between Oracle Retail and its retailer clients. There are four audiences in general for whom a Release Notes document is written:

- Retail clients who wish to understand the contents of this release.
- Integrators and implementation staff who have the overall responsibility for implementing Oracle Retail Category Management into their enterprise.
- Business analysts who are looking for high-level functional information about this release.
- System analysts and system operation personnel who are looking for high-level functional and technical content related to this release.

Related Documents

For more information, see the following documents in the Oracle Retail Documentation Set:

- *Oracle Retail Category Management 12.1.2.3 Installation Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Category Management 12.1.2.3 Configuration Guide*
- *Oracle Retail Category Management 12.1.2.3 User Guide*

Customer Support

<https://metalink.oracle.com>

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

Review Patch Documentation

For a base release ("0" release, such as 12.0), Oracle Retail strongly recommends that you read all patch documentation before you begin installation procedures. Patch documentation can contain critical information related to the base release, based on new information and code changes that have been made since the base release.

Oracle Retail Documentation on the Oracle Technology Network

In addition to being packaged with each product release (on the base or patch level), all Oracle Retail documentation is available on the following Web site:

http://www.oracle.com/technology/documentation/oracle_retail.html

Documentation should be available on this Web site within a month after a product release. Note that documentation is always available with the packaged code on the release date.

Conventions

Navigate: This is a navigate statement. It tells you how to get to the start of the procedure and ends with a screen shot of the starting point and the statement "the Window Name window opens."

Note: This is a note. It is used to call out information that is important, but not necessarily part of the procedure.

This is a code sample
It is used to display examples of code

A hyperlink appears like this.

Release Notes

Overview

This document contains information on enhancements that have been made to Oracle Retail Category Management since the previous release.

Key functionalities added in this release include the following.

- The ability to run Micro (or Assortment) optimization on the user's choice of metric. These options include:
 - Profit
 - Revenue return on space
 - Unit return on space
 - Gross margin return on space

Note: The optimization metric was earlier hard coded to be Profit.

- The ability to choose either the Optimal or Heuristic optimization method. The Heuristic method provides significant reduction to execution times and is recommended for use when speed the priority. The Optimal method is a dynamic programming-based optimization algorithm geared to find the global optimum.
- General enhancements to the ASO Space and ASO Assort special expressions to increase the robustness and stability of the code.
- The ability to assign an item to multiple Plano grams.
- Workflow enhancements to the Micro Optimization Workbook that make use of the abovementioned new functionalities.

Required RPAS Patch

The RPAS 12.1.2.3 patch accompanying this release of Category Management is required for Category Management to run properly.

Functional Enhancements

The following sections describe enhancements that have been made to the current release of Category Management.

Administration Workbook

Users can now assign an item to be associated with one or more planogram in the administration workbook.

Assortment Optimization Workbook

New functionality has been added to the Assortment Optimization Workbook to allow users to perform optimization by Planogram, potentially optimizing more than one planogram in the same view, where an item can belong to more than one planogram.

In the GA template, optimization is now occurring at the Prod/Loc/Phase/planogram intersection. Because it is likely that many inputs/outputs to the ASOAssort special expression will be based on this intersection, extensive changes to the micro-optimization workbook template configuration can be expected.

Assortment Optimization Workbook Wizard

In the assortment optimization workbook wizard, a pre-range process has been added to filter the available selections displayed in the hierarchy wizard based on the Prod/Loc/week/planogram assignment mask measure. Only the Prods, Locs, weeks, and planograms which have true values in the mask will be displayed for user selection. Based on the user's selections of SKU, STR and WEEK, only valid planograms will be displayed for user selection.

Data Extraction from Optimization Workbooks to External Systems

Extraction of data from any optimization outputs can occur by committing results from optimization to the domain, and standard RPAS utilities to extract data into flat files.

Technical Enhancements

ASOSpace Special Expression

The ASOSpace special expression has been rewritten, and a labeled input/output interface is now available along with several new input/output parameters. Any rule using the ASOSpace will need to be modified in order to work with the new interface.

As a result, the user now has the ability to choose the mode of optimization, i.e., to choose between the "Optimal" method, which is the dynamic programming based optimization algorithm, or the "Heuristic" method.

For details on the ASOSpace special expression, please see the Category Management Configuration Guide.

ASOAssort Special Expression

The ASOAssort special expression has been rewritten, and a labeled input/output interface is now available along with several new input/output parameters, including:

- Optimization result string
- Optimization method
- Optimization metric weights

All unused inputs have been removed from the new interface, and the calculation of maximum space, maximum supply, and space unit conversions will no longer be available through the special expression. The user should now implement these conversions using the RPAS rules in the configuration. Additionally, the outputted optimized profit can now be used to display error messages. For details on the ASOAssort special expression, please see the Category Management Configuration Guide.

The functional impacts of this enhancement include:

- The ability to specify the Item/Loc level weight metric that is considered in the optimization routine.
- The ability to optimize based on the choice of the optimization metric.

Documentation Enhancements

Category Management Configuration Guide

This new document provides information on the ASO Solution Extension available for Category Management, which contains the following functions:

- ASOSpace
- ASOAssort

Known Issues

Users will see extraneous warning messages in the Install Log files when building Category Management using the current version (12.1.2.2) of RPAS. These messages should be similar to the following example:

```
Multiple lines in basic input file. Skipping this one.  
Menu           History Mapping  
Multiple lines in basic input file. Skipping this one.  
Menu           History Mapping  
Multiple lines in basic input file. Skipping this one.  
Menu           Macro Optimization  
Multiple lines in basic input file. Skipping this one.
```

Messages of this nature can be ignored, as they are inherent to the current version of RPAS and the display of these messages will be suppressed in a subsequent release of RPAS.

Previous Enhancements and Additional Information

For information on previous Category Management release enhancements and additional information, refer to the release notes and documentation that accompany the previous release.