

Oracle® Retail Advanced Inventory Planning
Release Notes
Release 12.1

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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 Advanced Inventory Planning 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 Advanced Inventory Planning Release 12.1 documentation set:

- *Advanced Inventory Planning Operations Guide*
- *Advanced Inventory Planning Data Management Online - Online Help*
- *Advanced Inventory Planning Data Management Online User Guide*
- *Advanced Inventory Planning Order Management - Online Help*
- *Advanced Inventory Planning Order Management User Guide*
- *Advanced Inventory Planning Data Model Volume 1 Oracle Data Model*
- *Advanced Inventory Planning Data Model Volume 2 Measure Reference Guide*
- *Advanced Inventory Planning Installation Guide*
- *Advanced Inventory Planning Implementation Guide*
- *Advanced Inventory Planning Administration Guide*
- *Advanced Inventory Planning Store Replenishment Planning User Guide*
- *Advanced Inventory Planning Warehouse Replenishment Planning 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

Oracle Retail Advanced Inventory Planning (AIP) is a suite of modules designed to manage the supply chains of large retailers at the supplier, warehouse, store, and e-commerce levels. The system couples time-phased replenishment and allocation algorithms to produce an actionable receipt plan over time. This plan is based on demand forecasts, replenishment parameters, and inventory availability at the numerous supply points within the supply chain.

The user interacts with the AIP system through a number of modules:

- Store Replenishment Planning (SRP) Workbooks are used to maintain the replenishment characteristics for stores. These workbooks allow the user to analyze system output and perform what-if style analysis when replenishment parameters are changed.
- Warehouse Replenishment Planning (WRP) Workbooks are used to maintain the replenishment characteristics for warehouses. These workbooks allow the user to analyze system output and perform what-if style analysis when replenishment parameters are changed.
- Data Management is used to maintain the supply chain and network flow information. Sourcing links, lead times, and other data are managed in this module.
- Using the receipt plan, Order Management formally prepares those orders that need to be fulfilled. This preparation includes the assignment of an order number.

AIP Within the Oracle Retail Suite

AIP takes its place as one of several integrated applications within the Oracle Retail Suite. The suite allows a retailer to manage its supply chain from demand forecasting to the generation of orders, which can then be shared with collaborative planning partners.

Viewed at a high level, the process across the Oracle Retail Suites takes the following form:

1. Oracle Retail Demand Forecasting (RDF) provides a forecast of consumer demand. This data is made available to AIP.
2. The AIP batch run produces an actionable receipt plan using replenishment parameters maintained inside AIP. Hierarchy and inventory data are provided by a merchandising system such as Oracle Retail Merchandising System (RMS).
3. The receipt plan is then sent to the Order Management module within AIP, where those orders that need to be fulfilled are formally prepared for execution. This preparation includes the assignment of an order number.
4. Order Management then submits the appropriate orders to the merchandising system, where purchase orders and transfers are communicated to other systems. These orders are returned to AIP in subsequent batch runs as in-transit orders.
5. Sales forecasts and order plans can then be shared at the appropriate level with suppliers by using a collaborative planning, forecasting, and replenishment (CPFR) product, so that trading partners can prepare for the forthcoming orders.

At the core of the AIP batch process are five replenishment sub-processes. These sub-processes perform calculations on a set of loaded static and dynamic data, using replenishment parameters, to produce a replenishment receipt plan for all locations in the supply chain. This gives retailers the ability to project their demand at all levels of the supply chain and to share these projections with their suppliers whenever applicable.

A key design in producing an actionable receipt plan is the inclusion of known inventory constraints. To implement this design, AIP performs the five replenishment sub-processes across all locations in the following order:

1. Replenishment (in the fixed period) generates an unconstrained receipt plan during the constrained period.
2. Shortfall Reconciliation (in the fixed period) modifies the receipt plan, applying inventory shortages.
3. Substitution (in the fixed period) applies product substitutions where possible to address inventory shortages.
4. Stockless (in the fixed period) pushes any remaining excess product from stockless sources.
5. Replenishment (after the fixed period) generates an unconstrained receipt plan after the constrained period.

The resulting receipt plan is exported to the Order Management module, where order numbers are produced and the orders are released to external systems. Following formal order generation, these quantities are fed back into the system, and the plan is updated to account for these orders as expected receipts. This type of planning allows the retailer to identify potential supply chain issues before they arise, so that stock-outs and excess inventory problems can be prevented or reduced.

Note: The volume of the receipt plan produced by AIP is quite large, so user involvement should be kept to a minimum. However, in order to avoid persistent costly supply chain problems, super users must be able to review plans and change parameters quickly to see the effects of their changes. Oracle Retail recommends that these parameters be managed primarily by exceptions in the receipt plan. *Manage by exception* means that not every SKU or warehouse is reviewed or updated on a regular basis. Items with exceptions (alerts) should be reviewed and updated if necessary.

AIP Versions and Corresponding RPAS Versions

The following table provides a complete history of AIP since its first GA version. The table lists each version of AIP together with the version of the RPAS foundation to which it is tied. For more information on compatibility and integration with RPAS, please see the Compatibility and Hardware Requirements section of the AIP Installation Guide.

Date	Version Category	AIP Version	RPAS Version
May 14, 2007	Full release	12.0	12.0.4
June 6, 2007	Patch Update	12.0.1	12.0.4
August 29, 2007	Patch Update	12.0.2	12.0.5.3
January 28, 2008	Full Release	12.1	12.1.1.7

Functional Enhancements

The table below identifies the key functional enhancements for AIP 12.1. For more information on compatibility and integration with RPAS, please see the Compatibility and Hardware Requirements section of the AIP Installation Guide.

Business Objective and Feature Description
<p>Inventory Capping</p> <p>The Inventory Cap represents a physical space constraint in units for a SKU/Store/Day. The purpose of the Inventory Capping functionality is to generate a store replenishment plan such that inventory (including receipts, expected receipts, and current inventory) at the store will not violate the space constraints at the store for any day. This functionality is beneficial for businesses with limited store space for large cube items.</p>
<p>Order History</p> <p>Order History functionality allows AIP to capture and store the actual order quantity allotted to each vendor per item over time. This information is used when the same item can be ordered from multiple vendors, as in source splits.</p>
<p>Optional Flat-File PO/TSF Extract</p> <p>New AIP Oracle configuration parameters control the method of extracting batch-generated AIP purchase orders and transfer data.</p> <p>Purchase orders and/or transfer data can either be interfaced to RMS using the RIB, or extracted into flat files suitable for loading into an external merchandising system. Note that AIP to RMS integration is enabled by the RIB interface only.</p>

Technical and Performance Enhancements

The table below identifies the key technical and performance enhancements for AIP 12.1. For more information on compatibility and integration with RPAS, please see the Compatibility and Hardware Requirements section of the AIP Installation Guide.

Enhancement Description
Upgraded to RPAS 12.1; for specific details on RPAS 12.1 capabilities, please refer to the RPAS 12.1 documentation set.
Upgraded to Oracle 10g.
Enhanced Oracle Application Server support.
Installers have been added for the WebSphere Application Server the Oracle Application Server which automate and ease the installation process. Additionally, AIP now contains an installer for the database schema used by AIP.

Fixed Issues/Defects

The table below represents known issues that have been fixed during the development of this release of AIP. Oracle Retail recommends that AIP retailers familiarize themselves before they begin implementation.

Known Issue	Functional Impact
AIP was not capturing and storing past Order History.	AIP was not capturing nor storing past Order History, nor was it able to capture Order History from an external source via an interface. This issue impacted Supplier Split functionality, as indicated below.
Supplier Splits were not meeting targets over a period of time.	The absence of Order History was not allowing for meeting specific targets over a period of time using supplier splits. Each individual day was treated as a new day when calculating supplier splits.
The Supplier Splits were being specified at a Demand Group level as opposed to a SKUPacks level in DM.	The Supplier Splits were being specified at a Demand Group level in Data Management (DM). The screen implied that the splits would be applied and achieved for a Demand Group; while in actuality the splits are applied and achieved for all SKUPacks within a Demand Group.

Known Issues/Defects

The table below represents known issues as of this release of AIP. Oracle Retail recommends that AIP retailers familiarize themselves before they begin implementation.

Known Issue	Functional Impact	Status
Separate purchase orders can be assigned the same order number.	If separate users are logged into the Order Management Online module and simultaneously create purchase orders, an order number can be assigned to more than one purchase order at a time. However, the probability of experiencing this error is low, as both users would need to assign order numbers at the same instant for the problem to occur.	A fix is known and is in active Oracle Retail development.
The Fixed Purchase Quantity (FPQ) Analysis Worksheet contains measure definition inconsistencies.	There are several inconsistencies with measure definitions for the FPQ Analysis worksheet. These inconsistencies primarily impact the reporting that is based on the FPQ functionality. Note that these inconsistencies do not affect the FPQ batch calculations.	Under analysis by Oracle Retail.
FPQ functionality at the SKUPack level is problematic.	FPQs are specified at a SKUGroup-Week level. Because there is no supplier dimension to this specification, in situations where there are multiple suppliers for the same SKUGroup the FPQ functionality is applied to all the suppliers. This design is not ideal and requires careful management by the user.	Under analysis by Oracle Retail.
FPQ supply constraint functionality from vendors to stores is problematic.	The intent of FPQ is to apply the supply constraint to warehouse destinations only, and not to direct store deliveries. However, the system does not prevent the setting up of an FPQ for a supplier that directly supplies a store. In these situations, stores directly supplied by the FPQ supplier always take precedence over the warehouse destinations and are considered accordingly when applying the FPQ constraints.	Under analysis by Oracle Retail.

Additional Information

Installation Note

During the installation of the AIP RPAS batch code (as detailed in the AIP Installation Guide, Chapter 8), a sample AIP RPAS domain using the sample hierarchy data provided with the AIP package will be created. An AIP 12.1 Metalink Note is available detailing the process for creating an AIP RPAS domain with actual client/production-quality data. Please contact Customer Support to receive the link to this documentation.

Previous Releases

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