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Oracle Endeca Commerce 3.1.1

What's New Document

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Oracle Endeca Commerce 3.1.1

The Oracle Endeca Commerce 3.1.1 release includes a set of enhancements and bug fixes as well as new features for data integration and language support in the MDEX Engine. This release includes the following updated packages:

- Tools and Frameworks 3.1.1

- MDEX Engine 6.4.0

- Content Acquisition System 3.1.1

Highlights

Specific changes in this release include:

- Improved MDEX Engine search behavior for 22 languages

- Migration guide and tools for migrating an application using Workbench 2.1 to a 3.1 environment

- Keyword Redirects tool enhancements

- Enhanced record browsing within Experience Manager editors

- New Content Acquisition System data sources and manipulators

- New programmatic interfaces for managing Endeca Commerce configuration and settings

- Enhanced user access control within Endeca Workbench and Experience Manager

- Ability to switch to a different application from the same Endeca Workbench login session

- Endeca Assembler support for Endeca Query Language (EQL) filters

MDEX Engine Language Search Support

The MDEX Engine 6.4, included in Endeca Commerce 3.1.1, introduces enhanced language support. The MDEX Engine now provides language-specific, dictionary based, linguistic analysis features for 22 languages and includes the following:

- Segmentation. The process of breaking up the non-whitespace language's text into meaningful units.

- Tokenization. The process of breaking a stream of text up into words, phrases, symbols, or other meaningful elements.

- Orthographic normalization. The creation of a standard indexed form for diacritic marks.
- Decompounding. The decomposition of compound word forms into their base terms.
- Dynamic stemming. The process of determining the base form of a word; a process based on dictionary entries and language specific rules.
- Stop words. A list of words to be ignored by the Endeca MDEX Engine. Sample stop word lists are now provided for each supported language.

These capabilities replace the previous behavior (found in MDEX 6.3 and earlier) for searches in Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), Japanese, and Korean, as well as 8 other languages and introduce new support for 10 new languages.

Languages Supported by Endeca Commerce 3.1.1	
Catalan	Italian
Chinese (Simplified)	Japanese
Chinese (Traditional)	Korean
Czech	Polish
Dutch	Portuguese (PT, BR)
English (US, UK)	Romanian
French	Russian
Greek	Spanish
German	Swedish
Hebrew	Thai
Hungarian	Turkish

Migration Support from 2.1 to 3.1.1

For customers with existing deployments using the 2.1 version of the product, 3.1.1 includes a variety of artifacts to help migrate your Endeca application to 3.1.1 including:

- Updated Migration Guides in the product documentation
- Scripts to migrate your Deployment Template application
- Scripts to migrate your existing thesaurus, keyword redirects, stop-words, and user segments configuration

- Scripts to migrate your Rule Manager configuration

- Documented approach to migrate existing Workbench Extensions

- A publically supported content migration utility to migrate your Experience Manager content and rule configuration

- Documentation describing migration steps to the Assembler 3.1 based query API stack

- A feature rich Discover Electronics Reference Application for web and mobile to demonstrate application tier best practices

Please refer to the Migration Guide available in Endeca Commerce 3.1.1 for additional detail when planning your migration.

Keyword Redirects Enhancements

Support for Keyword Redirects is now available within the Tools and Frameworks Package and includes a variety of product enhancements to the Keyword Redirects tool:

- Improved search type-ahead to find keywords and URLs

- Ability to manage all keywords linked to a URL in a single view

- Support for bulk-add to map multiple keywords to a URL

- Improved user input validation

The Keyword Redirects support within Endeca Commerce can also be used to link to Experience Manager Pages as well. Pages were introduced in 3.1.0 in order to manage and trigger content by URL.

Support for migrating your existing 2.1 Keyword Redirects configuration is available in the Migration Guide available as part of this release.
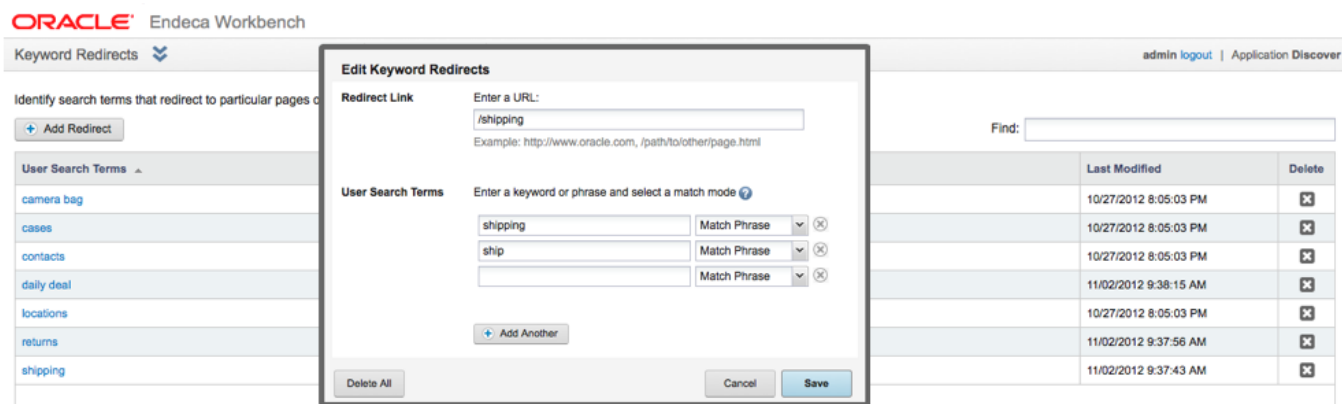

Figure 1 - Keyword Redirects tool

New and improved Record Browser in Experience Manager

The existing Record Selector (commonly known as the Microbrowser) tool in Experience Manager 2.1 that is used to create both static and dynamic record selections on a page has been replaced with the new Endeca Record Browser which includes a variety of enhancements including:

- Product images to help identity and select products

- Ability to switch between dynamic and specific record selections while staying in the Record Browser view

- Improved performance at scale for large data-sets with a significant number of product dimensions

- Improved search capability with type-ahead

- A more consistent tools experience overall across various editors within Experience Manager including the Link Builder, Media Browser, and Record Browser
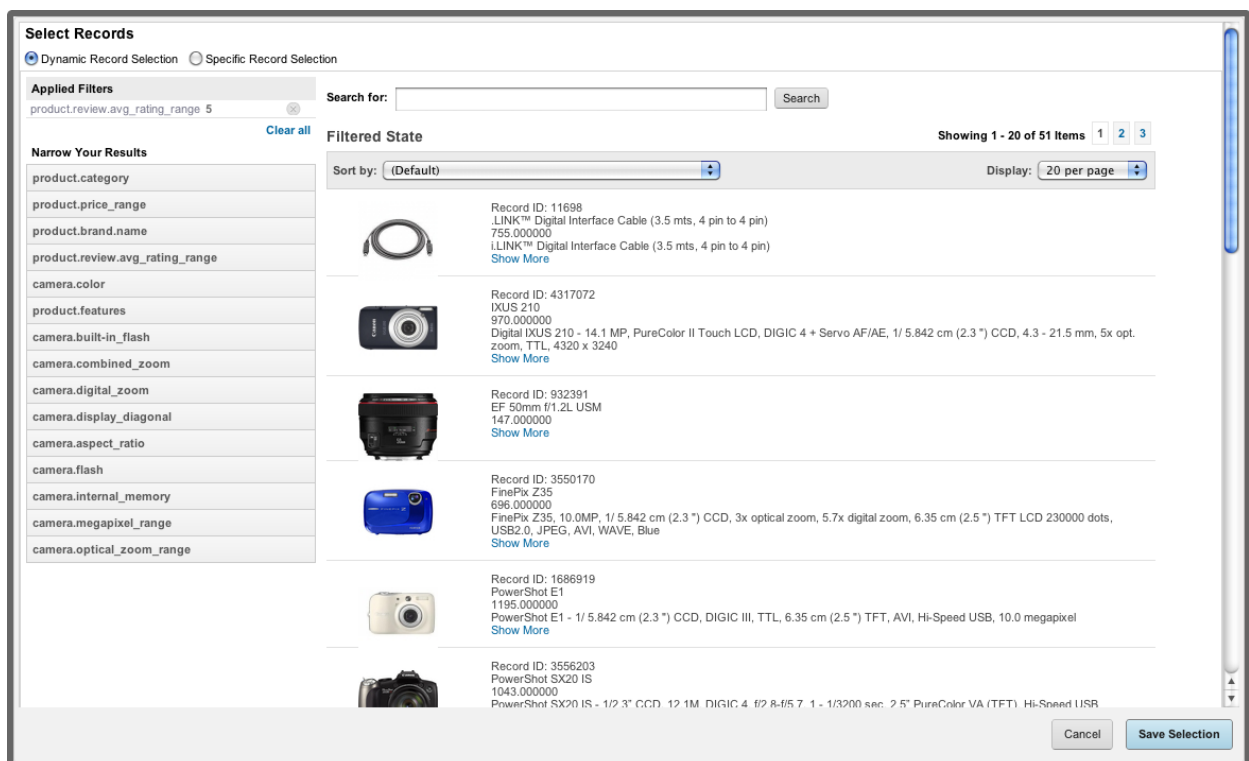

Figure 2 - Endeca Record Browser

Content Acquisition System

Endeca Commerce continues to improve data integration and import performance with the release of the Endeca Content Acquisition System (CAS) 3.1.1. This release expands the set of supported data sources and manipulators, improves incremental read/write speed, and extends programmatic configuration management capabilities.

New data sources are included for delimited files, Endeca Records (both XML and binary format), and JDBC data sources. In addition, CAS includes Beanshell Script manipulator which enables easy to code lightweight data transformations.

Performance has improved by streamlined Record Store communications. Read/write benchmarks saw improvements by up to 50% for Windows 2008 Server and up to 33% for Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5 platforms.
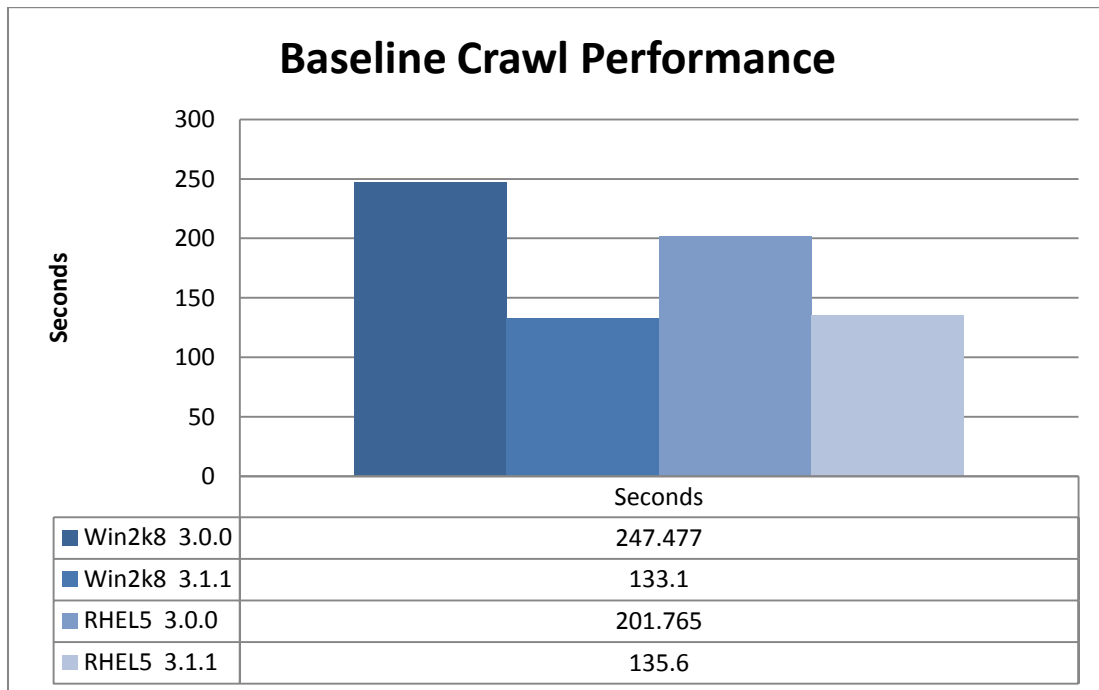
Baseline Crawl Performance

	Seconds
■ Win2k8 3.0.0	247.477
■ Win2k8 3.1.1	133.1
■ RHEL5 3.0.0	201.765
■ RHEL5 3.1.1	135.6

Figure 3: CAS 3.1.1 Baseline Crawl Performance

Configuration Import API

Endeca Commerce 3.1.1 introduces the Configuration Import API. Included in the Tools and Frameworks package, the Configuration Import API is an ergonomic collection of interfaces that enable programmatic management of Endeca dimensions, schema, and index settings.

The Configuration Import API consists of Java interfaces which enable management of the following Endeca configurations:

- Dimensions

- Dimension Values

- Dimension Precedence Rules

- Index schema

- Search index settings

The Configuration Import API integrates with Endeca Commerce 3.1.1 Endeca Configuration Repository (ECR) and includes command line script wrappers for ease of use and simple Deployment Template integration. The Configuration Import API is also intended to replace features previously included with the Forge Configuration Manager (FCM).

Endeca Workbench User Access Control

Endeca Commerce 3.1.1 introduces enhanced user access controls within Workbench. Access permissions are assigned to users and groups per application within a single User Management tool in Workbench. Permissions can be granted for each tool, and within Experience Manager, permissions can be granted at the page-level, folder-level, and content collection-level.

Also, arbitrary groups (for example "Merchandisers") can now be created and assigned a list of members as well as permissions in addition to groups already defined in LDAP.
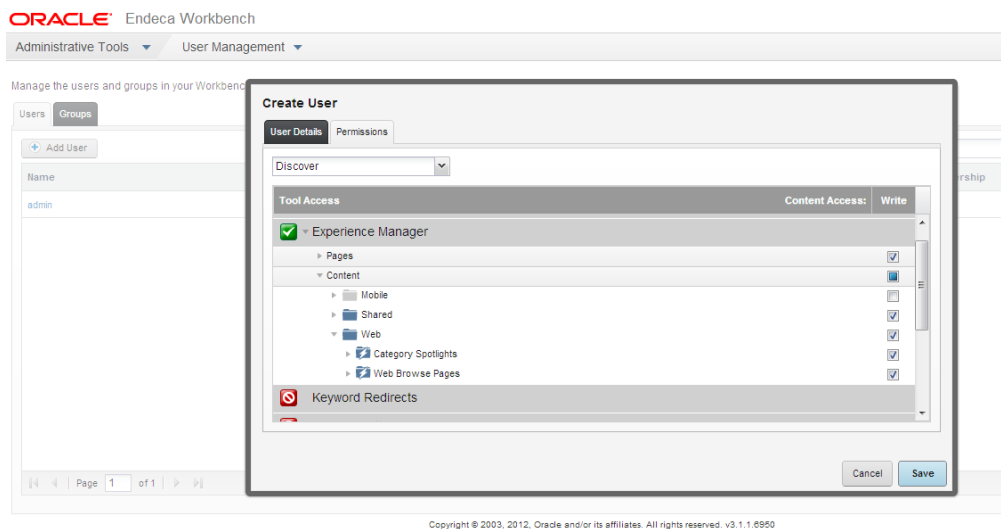
Figure 4 - User Management tool

Application Switching within Endeca Workbench

Beginning in 3.1.1, users no longer need to log out of Endeca Workbench in order to switch which application they would like to manage. Users can now switch applications from within the Workbench menu and will only see applications listed that they have permission to access.

Endeca Assembler Support for EQL Filters

EQL filters can now be set directly through the Endeca Assembler. Specific changes include:
- A new `EqlFilter` class that extends `Filter` (`com.endeca.infront.navigation.model`)
- `UrlNavigationStateBuilder` updates to support the `Nrs` parameter
- Example code available in the reference\cookbook folder included in the Tools and Frameworks installation package

Additional Changes

Additional changes included within the Oracle Endeca Commerce 3.1.1 release can be found in the migration guides included within each package's product documentation set. The product documentation can be found on http://docs.oracle.com.

This release also includes a series of bug fixes. For the full list of fixes, see the release notes available in the product documentation set and in the root directories of the installations.

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December 2012

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