Space Automation Professional

Produce customized space plans at scale — quickly and efficiently

Business Context

Retail category managers face tough challenges in today's hyper-competitive omni-channel landscape. Every day, they race to produce customized, updated space plans for hundreds or thousands of individual retail stores. In doing so, they need to accommodate different physical space constraints, product sizes and assortments, and local consumer preferences.

Given today's demand volatility and fast-changing shopper behaviors, it's critical to update planograms and floor plans more frequently than ever. But staffing shortages and overworked planners' busy agendas make this extremely difficult, especially when planners are relying on manual analysis and consumer-grade spreadsheets to achieve localization at scale. What retail space planners need is a purpose-built solution that automates many of the repetitive tasks involved in planogram and floor plan creation, while still allowing them to make manual adjustments and customizations on an as-needed basis.

The Blue Yonder Solution

Blue Yonder Space Automation Professional automates the processes of creating planograms and floor plans at scale, a process that's otherwise manual, time-consuming and repetitive. This powerful solution provides a flexible, scalable code base that makes it easy to write, configure, review and execute scripts for Blue Yonder Category Management solutions, including Space Planning and Floor Planning. Space Automation Professional extends and amplifies the capabilities of these category management solutions by programming them for high-volume task automation.

As a result, retail space planners can use these industry-leading Blue Yonder Category Management solutions to automatically generate personalized plans based on pre-defined rules, such as store clusters, physical layouts and regional preferences. Planners can quickly and easily produce hundreds or thousands of custom-tailored local assortments that address real-world shopper needs.

The result? Increased sales and margins, driven by fewer stockouts, overstocks and markdowns.

Key Benefits

Increased sales and profits, driven by customized space plans

Faster responsiveness to changing local shopper needs

Improved productivity for space planning staff

Increased shopper satisfaction and loyalty

An advantage over competitors with less targeted space plans

Stronger retailer partnerships, based on shared success

Capability Details

Powerful custom scripting, in an easy-to-use format

Guided by industry-standard tools and scripting, Space Automation Professional is easy to learn and easy to use, even for non-technical staff members. It's built as a list of commands inside the Microsoft Visual Studio development tool, which is a prerequisite for using Space Automation Professional. The scripting environment, and the command libraries on which it's based, extend the automation capabilities of Blue Yonder Space Planning and Floor Planning.

Improved productivity for scarce human resources

Labor shortages in the retail sector are all too real, including in the category management function. With Blue Yonder Space Automation Professional, executing top-level category plans becomes faster and easier than ever. By automating almost any task that's performed within Blue Yonder Space Planning and Floor Planning, Space Automation Professional frees up valuable time and human resources. As planner productivity increases via automation, staff members have more time to focus on strategic issues, rather than manual work and tactical requirements.

More localized, targeted plans and assortments

Every manufacturer and retailer knows that localization is the key to succeeding in the modern omni-channel world. But many category planners are overwhelmed by the sheer scale of localized planning — as well as the large data volumes required for assortment customization. Blue Yonder Space Automation Professional is designed to address this challenge via rules definition and process automation.

Improved performance, and returns, for Blue Yonder solutions

Blue Yonder Space Automation Professional allows customers to improve the performance of their existing Space Planning and Floor Planning solutions. As these solutions are programmed to enable the automation of repetitive tasks, their outputs become faster, more frequent and more customized, reflecting predefined merchandising constraints and rules. Not only can these solutions produce hundreds or thousands of space plans, but their outputs can be automatically downloaded to Blue Yonder Category Knowledge Base and other external, non Blue Yonder sources.

Key Features

- Features a powerful scripting environment integrated into Microsoft Visual Studio
- Built on industry-standard tools and scripting languages, with sizeable libraries of methods and functions
- Delivers a flexible, scalable code base that enables faster performance for all automated tasks
- Expands the capabilities and return on investment for Blue Yonder Category Management solutions
- Provides intuitive command helpers and script builders throughout the script building process, for ease of use
- Automates the loading of space plans into Blue Yonder Category Knowledge Base and other sources, for improved communication and collaboration

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