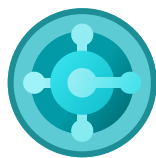


Microsoft Dynamics GP (Great Plains) to
Business Central Migration

Upgrade to a Future-ready Solution



Dynamics 365
Business Central



This E-Book Covers

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Why We Need Future-Ready Solutions?

The world is moving towards AI-powered cloud solutions to accept the sudden shift and behavior of the market. Businesses are trying to generate more output with limited resources while customers want optimum quality products while paying as little as possible.



83%

companies claim that
AI is a top priority in
their business plans.

The way of doing business with a traditional approach cannot fulfil today's fast-changing requirements and demands. The advanced and complex needs of businesses can be achieved with solutions that come embedded with AI (artificial intelligence), cloud computing, BI (business intelligence), IoT (internet of things), and other such technologies.

Between 2015 and 2019, the number of
businesses utilizing AI services grew by

▲ **270%**

We know that AI technologies are growing, and we can see a surge of tools that are helping us in our daily routine to simply complete a task and eliminate a lot of manual efforts. One of the trending examples is ChatGPT (developed by OpenAI), an AI-based bot that utilizes natural language to show results.



100 Million
User

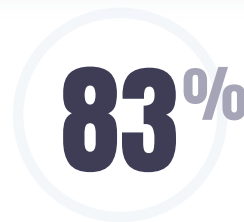
Most probably, you have used it to see the exceptional capabilities of AI and the qualitative results it can produce with a line of simple prompts.

That's how AI can transform your business to achieve greater heights and simplify entire business operations with minimal input.



Around 4 in 5 companies deem AI to be a top priority in their business strategy

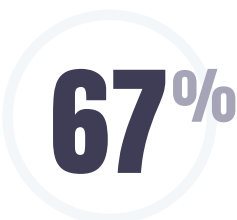
With outgrown systems, modern businesses cannot compete with fluctuating market needs. You will need a solution capable of understanding your business and its requirements to sustain changing market demands while offering superior results



companies claim that using AI in their business strategies is a top priority

Based on current market trends, businesses employ powerful ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) and CRM (Customer Relationship Management) solutions to meet all requirements. Businesses that cope with the changing customer demands and market fluctuations are the ones that boost business.

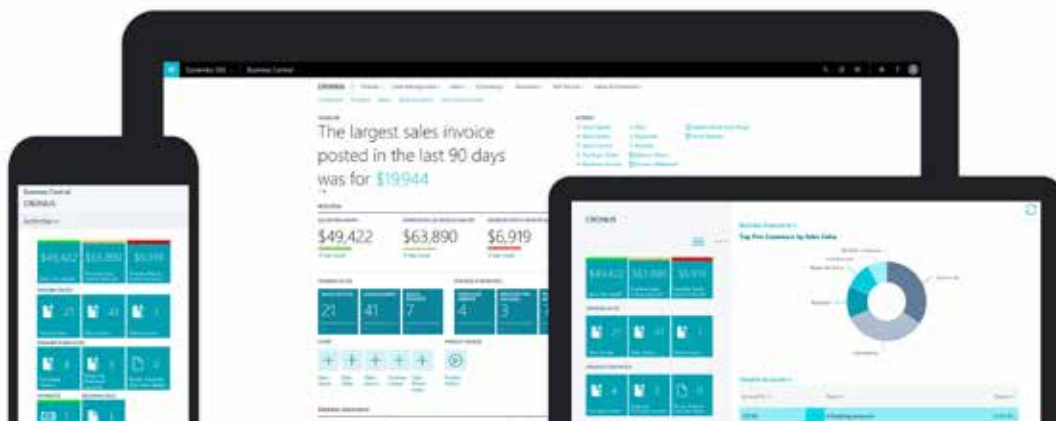
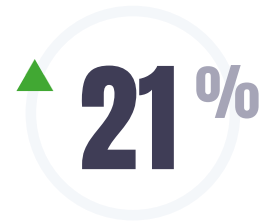
Microsoft Dynamics GP (Great Plain) is one such solution that has become outdated to match up with modern business demand and customer requirements. Upgrading or migrating to a high-tech solution seems to be a promising option for existing users of Dynamics GP.



reported that they need a solution with more industry-specific functionality than their current ERP system

As a replacement, you will need AI-driven software that can offer you automation, simplified business processes, stores data in the cloud, has cost-effective pricing, and comes with a simple user interface.

Midsized companies that implement modern ERP systems can support change and grow operating margins by 21%



Introducing **Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central**, an all-in-one advanced ERP solution that offers sufficient tools and features you need to grow your business at a rapid rate with minimum effort.



Modern ERP systems can increase on-time deliveries by 24% due to improved productivity, order tracking, and decision making

Dynamics GP is an on-premises solution released in 1993 to manage the standard finance and accounting requirements of a business. However, Microsoft has upgraded it for modern demands, but businesses are still migrating or upgrading to Business Central.

What made businesses migrate from GP to BC?

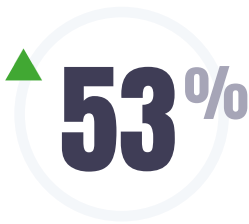
Before getting into the different reasons for this question, we must understand a bit about these two solutions.



Microsoft Dynamics GP

Dynamics GP, also known as Dynamics Great Plains, is an ERP solution specifically designed to deal with simple finance and accounting needs. Based on the core requirements of small and medium businesses, Dynamics GP can extend its capabilities to any organization, regardless of the industry.

Initially, it was developed by Great Plains Software, a North Dakota-based organisation, and later it was purchased by Microsoft. Being a financial management ERP, GP can still manage and streamline different departments of a business including finance, manufacturing, supply chain, field service, marketing, and inventory.

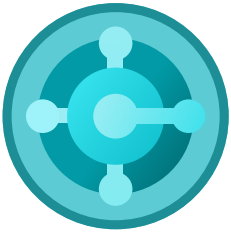


organizations have seen a positive ROI (return on investment) from their ERP implementation.

Dynamics GP is good, flexible, and open for integration with native and third-party applications. Such integrations and customizations make the solution more competent for performing complex business operations.

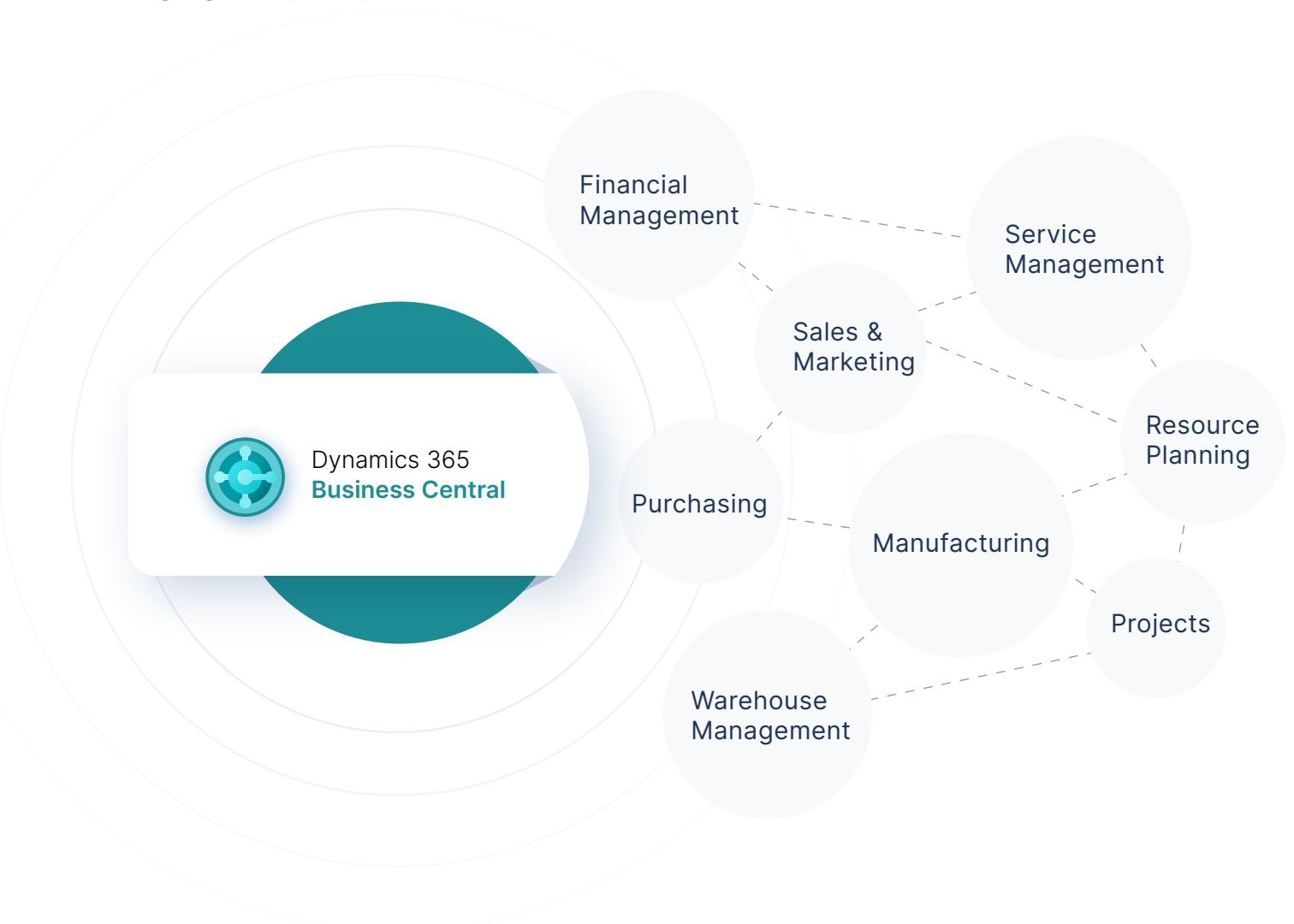
With built-in automation features, GP offers workflows, general ledgers, invoice consolidation, vendor approval, receivables, and other important features too.

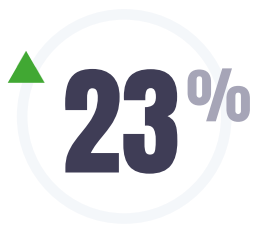
Dynamics 365 Business Central



Dynamics 365 Business Central is the perfect AI-Powered ERP (enterprise resource planning) solution to manage and streamline different operations with ease. Specifically built for SMBs, it offers powerful capabilities for entire business management along with automation to eliminate redundancies from the system.

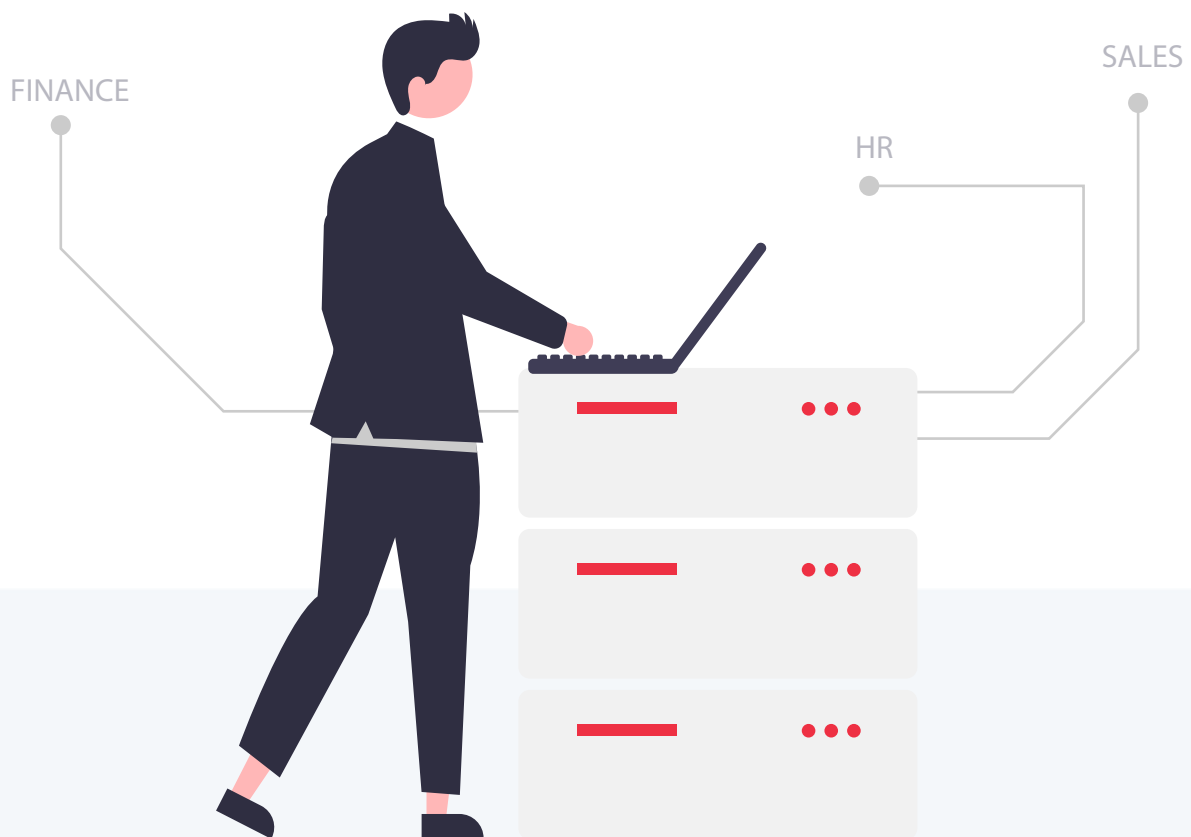
D365 BC is a flexible, transparent, and interactive **Microsoft ERP solution** that offers best-in-class business management capabilities for all entry-level businesses. You can monitor and offer collaboration with different departments as well as the operations of a business to make the organisation capable of managing complex processes with ease.





On average, ERP systems speed up order to shipment times for distributors by 23%

Business Central eliminates different data silos with centralised data servers to boost overall business efficiency. The interactive user interface empowers the team to properly utilise the solution, employing all tools and features.



With real-time data insights, Business Central enables you to make actionable data-driven decisions with full transparency of different processes. Also, you can analyze and visualise the data by integrating **Power BI** with Business Central to make more realistic decisions instantly for business growth.

Why migrate from GP to Business Central?



Modern Business Demands

Business requirements and customer expectations towards a product or service tend to change based on the fluctuations in the market due to various factors. Based on today's market, Dynamics GP has become obsolete to match the pace of modern AI-enabled solutions. You will need to implement a solution that understands modern business demands, like Business Central Cloud or on-premises deployment.

Over **85%** of companies are making investment in digital transformation initiatives



Centralised Solutions

Business Central is a cloud-based solution that offers global connectivity and centralised data servers to make processes work 24x7. It lets you access the data from anywhere and anytime to build a consistent flow of data using an internet connection. Also, centralised data empowers users to collaborate and communicate with other team members in real-time, resulting in enhanced user efficiency.

Cloud-based ERP interest went from **4%** in 2013 to **42%** in 2022



Customisation and Integration

Microsoft GP is an outdated solution that makes customizations and integrations a bit difficult and complex. You will need the help of your **Microsoft implementation partner** to implement the desired configuration, whether

it is customising a specific process or integrating a third-party solution. With Business Central, you can easily integrate any solution within seconds using APIs and customise the solution with minimal effort to align it with your business needs.

33%-48% of businesses request moderate customization and 10%-19% only request "personalized" ERP solutions



Updates and Upgrades

In 2021, Microsoft announced that it would stop offering updates and upgrades to GP. Even the support for some of the GP versions has already ended in 2023. Along with this announcement, Microsoft has also stopped offering perpetual licenses for GP. So, there will not be any more updates or upgrades for Dynamics GP. However, based on market demands and needs, Microsoft will keep offering updates for Business Central to make it perfect for all business complexities. Also, it is a new solution, and Microsoft is pushing its capabilities to make it perfect for all businesses, regardless of the industry.

40% of organizations in developing regions are currently evaluating and planning cloud strategies



Microsoft Support

Your **Business Central implementation partner** will support your business as well as the solution to make it strong as per changing expectations. Once you decide to go with Business Central, Microsoft gets you covered.

For all GP users, Microsoft has announced that it will stop offering support based on lifecycle. Microsoft Dynamics GP versions come with Fixed Lifecycle Policy and Modern Lifecycle Policy and on this basis, the Dynamics GP licences are allotted.

More than 95% of Fortune 100 companies trust Microsoft Azure.

When will Microsoft end supporting Dynamics GP?

This is totally based on the policy your GP is running with. As per the latest updates, Microsoft has stopped offering support for a few versions of the GP.



To better know the Microsoft GP licensing, let's understand the two policies.

1 FIXED
Lifecycle Policy

2 MODERN
Lifecycle Policy

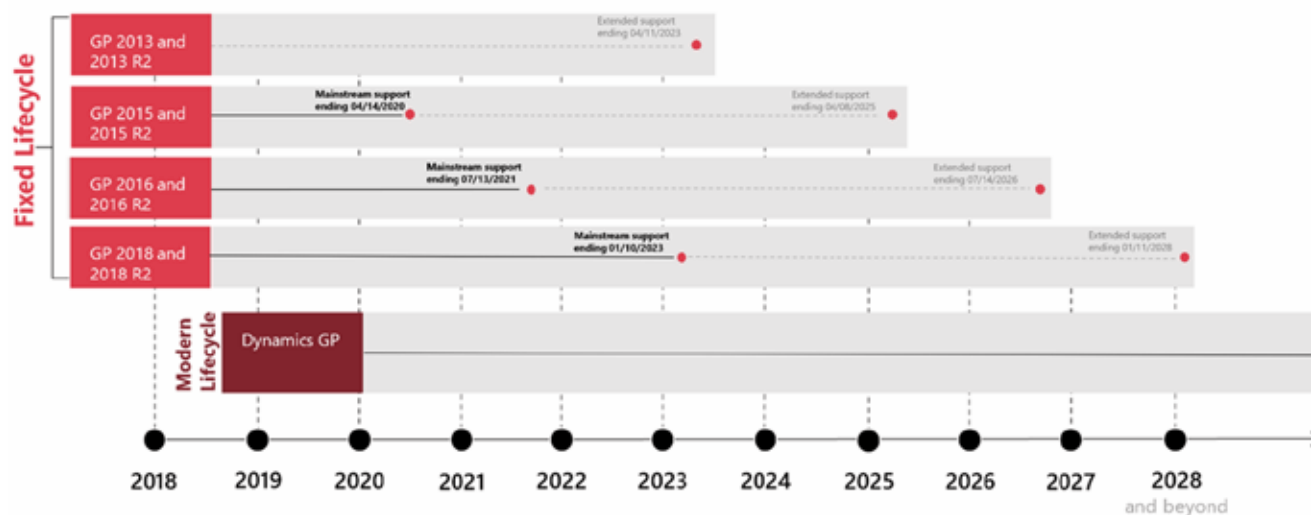
Fixed Lifecycle Policy

When businesses purchase licences in bulk or for retail, the solution will be considered in the Fixed Lifecycle Policy. Microsoft offers this solution with a fixed tenure to provide Mainstream and Extended support.

Modern Lifecycle Policy

This policy was introduced in October 2019 and offers continuous updates and support for Microsoft business solutions. Based on the available data, Microsoft will release new updates and upgrades in June, October, and December of each year.

Dynamics GP versions governed by Fixed and Modern Lifecycle



As per the above image, if your Microsoft GP is running on Modern Lifecycle Policy, you can continue using it without any issue until a new update or information is released by Microsoft.

But if your Microsoft GP is running on Fixed Lifecycle Policy, you need to migrate to Business Central or any desired ERP solution. The Mainstream support of all versions has ended, and you need to migrate before the end of Extended support.

The Extended and Mainstream support of Microsoft Dynamics GP 2013 has already been ended by Microsoft in 2023. Also, the Mainstream support of other versions, which includes GP 2015, 2016, and 2018, also ended in 2023. Now, you need to migrate or upgrade from Dynamics GP before the end of extended support.

What will happen if you didn't migrate or upgrade from Dynamics GP?

In simple terms, your business may suffer from redundancies, low business growth, high operational costs, maximised business complexities, and a lot more. Modern businesses need an active AI-driven solution that offers automation and cloud services to compete in a tough market and offer the best services to their customers. If you are still running on an outgrown solution, you will directly hamper your business revenue as well as growth.



More than 70% of large enterprises use ERP software. It is the topmost ERP software statistics.

70%

Also, business solutions without any cloud server deployments are prone to data breaches and security threats. Your system will build an invisible wall between growth and your business. But a modern solution like Business Central will make a strong bridge to connect your business and potential growth opportunities while availing more chances of scalability.

GP to BC Migration: The Hidden Benefits You Should Uncover

There are numerous benefits to this migration. Once you move ahead with Business Central, you will be able to digitally transform your business and make it efficient, effective, and powerful.

After the **Business Central implementation**, you will be able to scale the processes without hampering the performance of your existing operations. Some of the other major benefits are discussed next:

Avail Automation

Business Central comes with automation that eliminates manual and recurring processes from the system to make the team more responsive. Automation directly enhances the productivity and efficiency of the team and enables a system to perform better with its existing resources. Also, data sharing across different departments will become smooth, which instantly leads to better team collaboration.

65%

Artificial intelligence (AI) is advancing ERP capabilities with greater automation and faster results by 65%.

Data Reporting

Data reporting is an essential part of the business that empowers the team to get real-time information about the business—what's going on and what's not working. Business Central comes with seamless data reporting capabilities using cloud deployment, which enables the team to get data instantly. Also, with the Power BI integration with Business Central, you can supercharge the data analytics and reporting capabilities to overpower competitions and utilise data as best.

54%

organizations are using ERP to improve reporting and analytics

Seamless Integration

The basic concept of integration is to enhance the capability of a particular process or a specific factor. Business Central comes with easy integration capabilities that lets it establish a connection with native and third-party business solutions. If your business runs on building low-code applications, you can implement **Power Platform** with Business Central. And, if your business has some complex financial operations, you can go with **Microsoft Dynamics Finance** to manage any kind of complex finance and accounting issues.

29%

Out of these service providers,
Microsoft Dynamics forms
29% of the ERP market

41%

organizations have integrated
ERP software with their CRM
systems.

CRM Capabilities

Business Central not only offers ERP capabilities but also offers basic sufficient for small and medium-sized businesses. Generally, Microsoft brands Business Central as an ERP solution, but it comes with some of the most powerful CRM features, including contacts, Salespeople, Tasks, Opportunities, Campaigns, Sales Quota, and more. In case the business requires strong CRM capabilities for complicated marketing operations, you can easily integrate **Microsoft Dynamics 365 Marketing**, also known as Microsoft **Dynamics 365 Customer Engagement**.

Easy to Scale

Over time, businesses grow, and so do their operations, basic requirements, and the need for resources. With Business Central, you can easily control the growth requirements of the system and processes. Due to cloud-based data servers, you can easily scale the performance, system needs, and data servers with the help of you **Microsoft Dynamics Partner**. Unlike on-premises deployment, you will need a lot of resources—money, effort, an IT team, and more—to scale an existing system.

\$101[▲]

It is expected to reach up to \$101.1 billion by 2025 due to the rapid shift of companies to cloud technologies.

▼22%

ERP Streamlines workflow automation allowing companies to reduce operating costs by 22%

Low Operational & Maintenance Cost

The best part of the Business Central cloud is that all updates and upgrades are controlled by Microsoft itself without any charges. Generally, Microsoft releases updates twice a year, and they contain patches, security features, and general upgrades. Also, the entire system, which includes server deployment on **Microsoft Azure**, is supported by Microsoft. It pushes a business to focus more on growth rather than being stuck with managing periodic maintenance of the system and lowering operational costs.

Process of Dynamics GP to BC Migration

The smart move for all business owners is to plan for future growth. It means you need to choose your next move with Dynamics GP. Based on our market analysis, you can go with two major options listed below:

1. Upgrade to the Business Central Cloud
2. Stay with Microsoft GP till the end of Extended Support

These are the two potential choices you have right now. You can go with the second option, but migrating or upgrading to a new ERP solution isn't easy at all and cannot be planned in a day. You need to start the planning process a few months before the end of Microsoft support.

If you have to plan the migration or upgrade to Business Central in the near future, why not start it today? This will be a cost-effective, smart, and powerful decision for your business.

Starting the planning process today will offer you enough time to make the right decision while understanding your business and its requirements. Based on your analyses, you can easily customise Business Central and integrate the necessary solutions to make it a perfect ERP solution for your business.





Once you decide to migrate from Dynamics GP to Business Central, you can move ahead with the procedure below

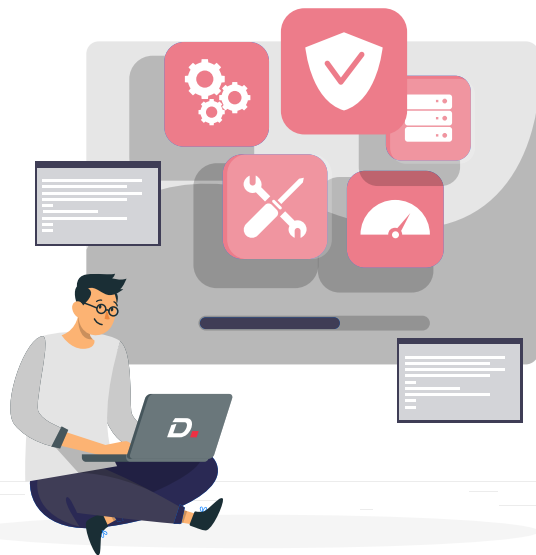
- First, find a Dynamics 365 implementation partner certified by Microsoft to carry out the entire Business Central implementation smoothly and effectively. Being a Microsoft Dynamics partner for the last 12 years, Dynamics Square can be your perfect choice to supercharge your growth journey.
- The next step would be to understand your existing business requirements and find areas for improvement
 - Analyse existing financial and reporting capabilities.
 - Find the existing customizations, integrations, add-ons, and unique business processes.
 - Search for the desired requirements of modules so that you can choose the best Business Central licencing.
 - Look for the possible complex integrations in the Dynamics 365 ecosystem.
 - Decide the best server deployment possibility: cloud, on-premises, or hybrid deployments.
- Once we have the necessary data, our team of Dynamics 365 consultants will plan out a migration strategy that holds the entire roadmap, Business Central implementation cost, time estimates, amount of data to be transferred, server deployment, list of integrations, possible customizations, and a lot more. Based on our communication, we will move ahead towards Business Central migration.
- Based on our communication, we will move ahead towards Business Central migration.
- During the implementation, we will configure the system based on your taste. We will even offer post-implementation training to help you understand the powerful tools and features for proper utilisation.

Cost to Migrate GP to Business Central

There are distinct factors that decide the total cost of migration. Some of the factors are discussed below:

- ✓ Amount of data to be transferred.
- ✓ Number of integrations with Business Central.
- ✓ Complexity of customizations.
- ✓ Business Central licences the plan you choose.
- ✓ The choice of server deployment.
- ✓ Type of support needed from a Dynamics 365 partner.
- ✓ Total amount and cost of resources required for implementation.
- ✓ And other expenses as well.

Based on the above factors, your Business Central partner will prepare a personalised quote and state the time that the entire process will take.



If you need exact **Business Central pricing**, you can contact our Business Central consultants to get an instant quote, or you can also take a Business Central demo to analyse its capabilities based on your unique business.

[Talk to Expert](#)



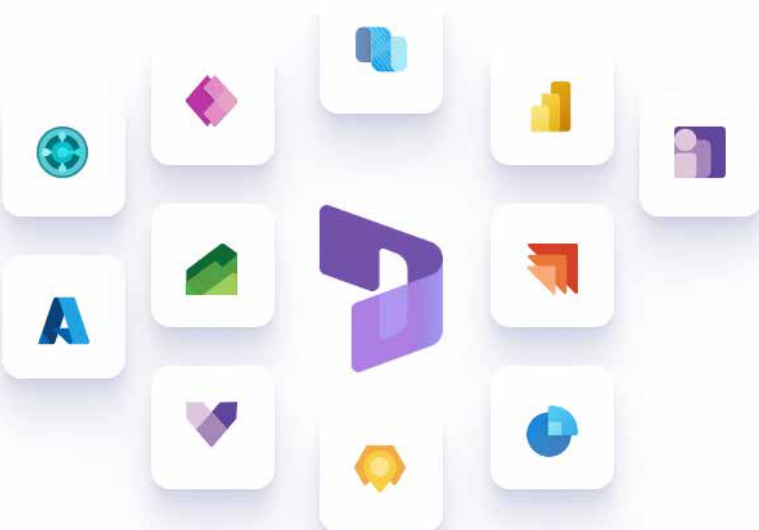
of companies use consultants for ERP implementation

How can Dynamics Square help you with GP to Business Central Migration?

Being a certified Microsoft Solutions partner for more than 12 years, we pretty much know customer demands and market fluctuations. We understand how small and medium businesses work and what they need to grow increasingly. Basically, it's the experience we have gained while working with 500+ clients across the globe.



Our 150+ technical consultants have gained expertise in Microsoft Dynamics 365 ERP solutions while offering superior support to clients. Irrespective of implementation complexity, we follow Microsoft-certified methodology that makes the entire process simple and effective, resulting in on-time implementation with minimal resources.



Currently, we are serving all industries to help them grow and scale in all directions. Being a Microsoft Solution Partner, all our services are built to supercharge your business growth while opening up new opportunities for revenue generation.

In case of any help or support, write us a mail at info@dynamicssquare.co.uk or call at:

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