



EBOOK

The Ultimate Guide for Migrating from Dynamics GP to Dynamics 365 Business Central

Microsoft Dynamics GP has been a reliable ERP solution for small to mid-sized businesses for three decades. When something works that well for that long, it can be hard to imagine moving on. After all, who wants to learn a new interface and new workflows when the old ones are still getting the job done? But now, Microsoft has announced it will be ending mainstream support for Dynamics GP in September 2029 and extended support in April 2031. It's time to embrace the next evolution in ERP.

In this guide, we'll cover why making the leap from GP to Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central (BC) now is worth it.

BC was built for the Cloud, which means it offers accessibility and efficiency that can help your business thrive. BC also provides a secure, sturdy foundation moving forward. Agile, scalable, and integrated technology solutions should be at the core of your growth strategy—and BC checks all those boxes.

We'll also give you an overview of how to migrate to BC. And you don't have to do it alone: Enavate is prepared to be your expert implementation partner throughout the process.

Contents

Why Migrating to Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central Now is the Right Move	3
5 Key Benefits of Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central	5
How Business Central Impacts Business Value	6
How to Prepare to Migrate from GP to Business Central	7
Partner with Enavate to Migrate to Business Central	8
Quickly and Affordably Migrating to Business Central	9
What Do You Need to Know About Licensing for Business Central?	10
Enavate: Your Partner for Business Central	11

Navigate your next step with an ERP Roadmap Consultation.

*If you're a Microsoft Dynamics GP user
and are concerned about Microsoft
ending support of the product in five
years, you should take advantage of our
free ERP Roadmap consultation.*

*When you sign up, one of our senior GP
consultants will evaluate your system
and create a strategy that will serve your
needs today and tomorrow. Future-proof
your business with forward-thinking
solutions to transition to a modern ERP
platform—whenever you're ready.*

Request your ERP Roadmap Consultation



Why Migrating to Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central Now is the Right Move

GP may be familiar, but like other legacy systems, it no longer has the capabilities necessary to help companies reach their potential. Data is king, and if your organization doesn't have visibility into its most important data, you risk falling behind. BC not only increases data visibility with its centralized, Cloud-based structure, but it also equips you with powerful tools to put that data to good use.

GP vs. BC

Dynamics 365 Business Central is a direct descendent of Microsoft Dynamics NAV, and so it should feel a bit familiar. New features like workflow automation, Cloud backups, automatic updates, and user-friendly dashboards are what really set BC apart. And many of the third-party tools integrated into your GP system are now native in Dynamics 365 Business Central, which means that you'll get all of the functionality you're used to – streamlined.



▶▶▶ GP vs. BC

Many functions can be performed more efficiently in BC than in GP.

For example, if you want to enter cash receipts for multiple customers in GP, you'll need to go to the Cash Receipts Entry window and enter each one individually.

But in BC, you can use the Customer Register Payments window to filter invoices by customer and record payments by simply selecting the appropriate checkboxes.

Here are three differences between GP and Business Central:

- 1 Resource Requirements**—While some GP features can be moved to the Cloud, it's natively an on-premises solution that requires companies to maintain and protect their own on-site servers. Business Central was built for the Cloud and is protected by Microsoft, which means you can save money on hosting, maintenance, and security.
- 2 Security and Updates**—GP doesn't offer automatic updates. Instead, companies pay a fee to update the software. And to perform those updates, IT teams must kick users out of the system, affecting productivity. With Business Central, Microsoft's expert team of IT professionals performs bug fixes and updates remotely, without requiring downtime. Business Central's monthly subscription also includes security and data backups.
- 3 Automation and Efficiency**—Microsoft Dynamics GP has limited workflow automation functionality and cross-platform synchronicity. This means that users often have to manually enter and update data, which takes time and can lead to errors. Business Central automatically syncs information via the Cloud, streamlining processes and allowing teams to access important data and apps from anywhere.

“Everybody wants to move to the Cloud. You're getting updated more frequently than with on-premises systems, it's mobile-friendly and it's user-friendly. Once we learned how to marry our work and the system, it was very easy to jump into our processes.”

*— Ron Allen, CFO,
International Risk Management Institute (IRMI)*



5 Key Benefits of Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central

Upgrading to Business Central doesn't mean saying goodbye to the workflows, add-ons, and functionalities you're used to. Rather, BC takes what's great about GP and makes them better. Plus, once your teams get a handle on BC, they'll be able to use automation, connected tools and more streamlined accounting options to get the most out of the platform.

Some [key benefits of Business Central](#) include:



Automatic Updates

Microsoft releases minor updates monthly and major updates twice per year. All updates are included in the monthly subscription. Because changes are automated, you can schedule your updates during off-hours to reduce disruption.



Streamlined Workflows and Automation

Business Central connects Microsoft tools and third-party add-ons to synchronize data automatically and streamline workflows. For instance, teams can automate invoice approval, edit Excel spreadsheets in Business Central or process transactions and quotes directly from Outlook. And there are greater efficiencies for accounting teams for core processes.



Better Reporting and Analytics

Because platforms and channels are always connected, your team will have greater insight into company-wide financial, sales, marketing, and customer analytics.



Connectivity

Business Central works effortlessly with other Dynamics 365 apps, Office 365, PowerApps, Power Automate, and Power BI. It can also integrate with various third-party add-ons, so you can continue to use the custom software solutions you used in GP.



Integrated Training

Your team members can learn how to use each new BC tool with built-in training videos and walkthroughs. And if they're ever not sure what a button does, they can simply hover over a function to trigger an explanatory popup.



How Business Central Impacts Business Value

Sticking with GP may help you avoid rocking the boat. But it won't help that boat move any faster. BC, meanwhile, can be [rocket fuel for businesses](#).

Business Central consolidates your core business capabilities. By upgrading to Dynamics 365 Business Central, you're not only migrating finance and accounting functions to the Cloud, but you're also centralizing other ERP functions (such as operations, service, and sales). That means vastly more efficient workflows, greater efficiency, and increased productivity, which all translates to a healthier bottom line.

Business Central gives your company a single source of truth. You'll no longer have to wonder which file to work from, because all of your data will be centralized and automatically updated. As a result, you'll be able to generate reports more efficiently and make more accurate business forecasts and decisions.

Business Central is easy to scale so you can welcome growth as it happens. If an increase in business requires more storage, users or functionality, you can easily add it to your Cloud-based BC solution without needing to invest in and install new hardware. And you can also scale back as necessary without worrying about sunk costs. In other words, BC makes your company with much more agility.

Business Central makes remote collaboration much easier. Whether your team members are working from home, on the go, or at one of your company's multiple locations, BC's Cloud-based tools make it possible for everyone to work together just as easily as if they were all in the same office. Businesses need to be agile and resilient, and BC can help.



“Moving to the Cloud is undoubtedly one of the best things you can do, just for ease of access. You can log in anywhere and work anywhere. It gives you the flexibility to run quite a large company on Business Central.”

*– Tammy Koehler, CFO,
Andretti Karting and Games*

How to Prepare to Migrate from GP to Business Central

The finer details of your migration to BC will depend on your organization's specific tech infrastructure and goals. Broadly speaking, however, the process involves these steps:

Audit Your Current System

Take stock of what systems you use, your processes, the data each system uses, and the overlap of departments that use the same data. Mapping all this out will identify how your systems and business processes are intertwined.

Analyze the Audit

It's not enough to just gather data. You must also figure out what the data is telling you. Where are the redundancies? What can be more efficient and what problems can be fixed with technology? And which problems need improvements to streamline processes?

Talk to Your Teams

Talk to each team that will be affected by migrating to Dynamics 365 Business Central. Find out what their pain points are, their concerns about migrating to a new system, and what's on their wish list to make their jobs more efficient with fewer headaches.

Find an ERP Partner You Can Trust

It takes some searching to [find an experienced partner](#) that's the right fit for your business. Make sure you're asking the right questions of potential partners who really know your industry. You want someone who's going to answer the hard questions and tell you, realistically, what you're up against and how they can help you overcome unavoidable obstacles in the migration process.



Partner with Enavate to Migrate to Business Central

The first step to beginning a Business Central migration is to request an assessment from our technology experts. Our [Enavate GP Assessment Tool](#) reviews your current infrastructure, technology requirements and business conditions in minutes. The goal is to lay out requirements, processes, and goals that can be incorporated into a Business Central migration roadmap to best fit your business needs.

Enavate's team uses the information to determine a step-by-step plan to move your company to Business Central. Enavate offers complete migration services, including technical and [change management](#) support, so you can move to Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central with minimal disruption to your operations.

Enavate teamed up with Microsoft to develop the Microsoft GP Data Migration Tool, a built-in migration tool to simplify the process of moving your data from GP to the Cloud. This tool only works with GP 2015 and later versions. It also requires your on-premises system to be running SQL Server 2016 or a later version and your database needs a compatibility level of 130 or more. If you're on older versions of GP or SQL Server, you'll either have an additional step of upgrading before migrating to the Cloud, or you can choose to complete a full migration from square one.

Once your system requirements are met, you'll be able to migrate data to the Cloud, so you can fully operate on Business Central. This includes data related to inventory, customers, vendors, finance, and more. Once you've migrated the following data into the Cloud, you'll

be ready for Dynamics 365 Business Central to become your primary ERP:

- Chart of Accounts master records
- Customer records and outstanding transactions from the Receivables module
- Vendor master records and outstanding transactions from the Payables module
- Inventory items
- Checkbook master data
- Historical data from Inventory, Payables, Receivables, PO processing, and Sales Order processing

You'll likely encounter additional information that must be migrated manually. Your partner can help you plan for migrating this data.



Quickly and Affordably Migrating to Business Central

If you're ready to make the move to Business Central and want to start leveraging its efficiency, anywhere access, and scalability sooner rather than later, Enavate Xcelerate is the fastest way to get you there with confidence. This service leverages our proven rapid deployment methodology to eliminate the high-cost, lengthy deployment times, and disruptions that plague traditional migrations. Budgeting is easy with our transparent and predictable fixed-price approach, and defined timeframes ensure you know what to expect.

Xcelerate: GP to BC Finance Essentials starts with the Core Finance functionality and gives you the option to add additional functionality as needed. Here's what to expect:

Package Details	Enavate Xcelerate: GP to BC Finance Essentials	Enavate Xcelerate: GP to BC Finance Enhanced
Designed for	Current users of Dynamics GP with the basic accounting requirements	Current users of Dynamics GP with more complex requirements
Go-live Time	10 weeks	12 weeks
Business Central Functionality	- Finance - Accounts Payable - Accounts Receivable - Cash & Banking - Basic Reporting	- Advanced Finance - Accounts Payable - Accounts Receivable - Advanced Cash & Banking - Basic Reporting - Fixed Assets - Multi-company Setup and Consolidations

Both Xcelerate GP to BC migration packages include:

- Migration assessment and recommendations
- Business Central provisioning in Microsoft SaaS
- Training and user acceptance testing support
- Project management
- Business Central Finance module, basic accounting configuration
- GP data migration using Microsoft's GP Data Migration Tool (for GP versions 2015 and up with SQL 2016 and up)
- First month-end close assistance

Enavate understands you have requirements that go beyond the basics, such as functionality that relies on third-party providers and in-depth reporting. Once we complete the basics, our Integrations and Reporting Workshops give us the opportunity to assess and make recommendations to address your additional needs, for example advising you on ISVs that are BC optimized.

[Learn more about how Enavate Xcelerate might be your best path to Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central.](#)

What Do You Need to Know About Licensing for Business Central?

Business Central is a hosted, subscription-based solution, and the monthly user fee includes both the software and management of the hosting environment. The two licensing options for BC are **Essentials** and **Premium**. Each provides access to a wide range of features and capabilities in BC. Once you determine the functionality that'll accommodate your business needs, your user licenses will be under that option.

Where GP user licenses are concurrent, limiting the number of users who can be logged into the system at any one time, BC licenses are named users and each person who logs into the system must have their own user license. You'll need to review your list of GP users to determine how many people will need a BC license.

Essentials License: Essentials licenses are the first level of BC user licenses. They are \$70 per user per month and include the following capabilities:

- Financial Management
- Supply Chain Management
- Human Resources Management
- Warehouse Management and Inventory
- Project Management
- Customer Relationship Management

Premium License: Premium licenses build upon the Essentials license and are \$100 per user per month. The capabilities include all the same features as the Essentials license, plus the following:

- Service Order Management
- Manufacturing



Team Member License: Users who require read-only access, or who approve or reject workflows assigned to them in BC can utilize a Team Member License. For users who don't need a full Essentials or Premium user license, the Team Member license is a good alternative. Team Member licenses are \$8 per user per month.



Enavate: Your Partner for Business Central

Migrating to BC is a significant change and requires careful planning and a clear vision of how you want your business to operate. Sometimes, getting guidance from an expert is exactly what you need to get on the right path.

That's why we recommend signing up for our free [ERP Roadmap Consultation](#). One of our senior GP consultants can identify key areas to optimize your current GP system, plan solutions for an eventual transition that accounts for existing integrations and create a migration strategy that works for your business and timeline.

Regardless of when you choose to migrate to BC, Enavate will be there for you every step of the way.

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