

DYNAMICS GP TO BUSINESS CENTRAL UPGRADE FAQs

DO WE HAVE TO UPGRADE TO BUSINESS CENTRAL NOW?

No. Microsoft has listed no sunset date on Dynamics GP, and we will continue to support GP, on-premises and on the cloud. If your GP is working just like you need it to, that's great and we wouldn't recommend an upgrade. But if you're looking to add functionality or customize GP at all, or your on-premises infrastructure needs replacing, your most cost-effective long-term choice is likely to upgrade.

CAN WE HAVE BUSINESS CENTRAL ON PREMISES? WHICH OPTION IS BETTER?

You can deploy Business Central on the cloud, Microsoft's Azure Cloud, or on-premises. Which option is best depends on many factors: how many customizations do you have and how big are they, what is the budget, does your area have strong internet?

THE CLOUD

- less expensive
- no server costs
- subscription licensing
- scalable
- available anywhere, anytime
- automatic upgrades

MICROSOFT AZURE CLOUD

- higher price
- no server costs
- cloud benefits
- upfront or subscription licensing
- controlled upgrades
- access anywhere, anytime
- dedicated environment (feels like on-prem)

ON-PREMISES

- highest price tag
- must buy licensing upfront
- controlled upgrades
- no cloud benefits
- pay renewal fees to Microsoft

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO MIGRATE?

To migrate to Business Central from GP, you must be on **GP 2015 or later**, and you must move to the Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) deployment of Business Central.

To reimplement has no requirements because you are essentially setting up a whole new ERP for your business, separate from the one you are currently using, so one does not depend on the other in any way.

WHAT HAPPENS TO MY DATA?

You can use Microsoft's migration tool if you have at least GP 2018R2 with SQL 2016, which places the data into historical mode (not usable within the new ERP system). If you are doing a complete reimplementation (about 80% of our clients choose this), there's no way to move data over into the new ERP system, and you need to start from scratch, as is the case with any ERP reimplementation.

IS BUSINESS CENTRAL MISSING ANYTHING THAT GP HAD?

There are some functionalities present in Dynamics GP that are not in Business Central, but you can lean on your partner to help you get similar functionality. We help with extensions and can customize your system to give you what you need.

Payroll: Dynamics GP includes a payroll module, which is absent in Business Central. However, there is a strong add-on that many GP-Business Central converts find even better than GP payroll.

Smartlists: As GP users know, Smartlists is a versatile and simple filter system that is used often. Business Central doesn't include a feature comparable to Smartlists, and the click process to get a similar functionality is longer and more complex.

Management Reporter: Business Central does not include Management Reporter. There is a feature called Account Schedules that has some of the same functionality.

WHY MIGRATE, ANYWAY?

Both ERPs are reliable and have the essential functionalities a business needs in their ERP (we have a whole [video series](#) on the differences between each system). But Dynamics GP is moving into legacy status, and most of Microsoft's energy is going to Business Central. Here are some specific benefits of upgrading that we want to highlight:

HOW LONG WILL A MIGRATION TAKE?

At Syvantis, these are the average implementation timeframes from start to go-live:

- Major updates several times a year, monthly updates
- Cloud-based (for security and accessibility)
- No hung-up batches or Financial Series Post
- Competitive cost
- Modern, intuitive interface
- Highly customizable
- Pre-built security roles and user-specific personalizations
- Dimensions for organization and reporting
- Edit in Excel functionality
- Integrate with other Microsoft products

Basic Implementation

few/small/no customizations

6 WEEKS

Average Implementation

some small/large customizations

3-4 MONTHS

Complex Implementation

lots of customizations

6 MONTHS

WHAT ABOUT PRICE?

Subscription Licensing is per user, per month, named-user licensing (only one user can use each license). Available for SaaS and Azure deployments.

Essential: \$70 | Premium: \$100 | Team Member: \$8

Hosted On-Premises

Business Central is deployable on in-house servers. Owned licensing is required, and annual renewal fees must be paid to Microsoft, and our cost does not include support or IT infrastructure. [See More.](#)

Hosted on Azure:

On Azure, you can opt for subscription licensing to pay per user, per month and add or remove licenses as your business fluxes, or you can opt for owned licenses. [See More.](#)

CAN I TRY OUT BUSINESS CENTRAL?

Yes! Microsoft has a 30-day **trial**. You can use data available within the trial or you can even import your own.

WHAT IF WE AREN'T READY FOR AN UPGRADE TO BUSINESS CENTRAL YET?

Though we suggest moving to Business Central, we understand if, due to budget or other business reasons, you can't upgrade now. However, we urge you to seriously consider migrating in the future. Read about our [recommendations](#) to prepare.



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