Transitioning from Microsoft Dynamics GP to Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central

Why It Matters Now More Than Ever

Key information, timelines, and actions for moving to Dynamics 365 Business Central

Microsoft Solutions Partner
Business Applications

encore

Navigating Your Technology Growth

Encore is dedicated to supporting Dynamics GP customers through every phase of their transition.

Dynamics GP customers are transitioning to Dynamics 365 Business Central, gaining the advantages of a cloud ERP with modern functionality in a familiar Microsoft interface.

With Dynamics GP's retirement quickly approaching, now is the time for every Dynamics GP customer to evaluate their technology and decide on a path forward for their business to ensure that they can run and grow their business. Evaluating a new system brings many questions, and this guide will help answer the most common ones.

Change can feel overwhelming, especially when it comes to your business system, but you don't have to manage it alone. Encore will help you design the future of your business technology and processes, and perform the technical transition to Dynamics 365 Business Central. Beyond the transition, we will guide you through change management, user training, and adoption.

80+ Dynamics GP customers have moved to Dynamics 365 Business Central with Encore

★★★★★

Why Are Dynamics GP Users Rapidly Moving to Dynamics 365 Business Central?

The Dynamics GP end of life announcement from Microsoft has triggered a larger number of GP users to move and schedule their transition to Dynamics 365 Business Central.

Over the last few years, but especially recently, Dynamics GP users are transitioning to Dynamics 365 Business Central for one or more of the following reasons:

- To not get caught unsupported. Dynamics GP reaches end of life on December 31, 2029, which means product support and updates for all versions of GP will no longer be available.
- Enable their remote and mobile workers to be more productive and collaborative.
- Save on expenses for server maintenance and replacement.
- Have ERP costs be more predictable and flexible (licenses based on users per month).
- Leverage more seamless integrations with other products in the Microsoft business stack, like invoicing from Outlook, streamlining business processes with Power Automate, and more.
- Always be on the latest version of the solution, eliminating the need for future upgrades.
- Modern security and disaster recovery are built into the ERP, and data is stored in highly secure state-of-the-art data centers owned and managed by Microsoft.

Users are also moving to take advantage of the **Microsoft Copilot AI capabilities** built into Dynamics 365 Business Central. Copilot works alongside users to explain concepts, organizes data to help get insights faster, and generates contextual insights. There are productivity gains through streamlined data entry and automation of routine tasks or processes like account reconciliation, reducing manual effort. Learn more in our Copilot Features in Dynamics 365 Business Central blog.

79% of leaders agree their company needs to adopt AI to stay competitive

2024 Work Trend Index Annual Report, Microsoft, 2024

When Is the Right Time to Transition?

Dynamics GP customers should transition to Dynamics 365 Business Central before product support ends at the end of 2029. The timing of 'when' between now and 2029 will differ for each business. The most important thing is to begin the conversation internally as well as with your Microsoft Dynamics Partner to determine the right time to transition.

Transitions take time to plan, so you need to start now.

Consider these factors:

- Timing with your business's seasonality.
- How soon you want to gain the benefits of a cloud ERP and AI capabilities for your workforce.
- Budget, including both financial and resourcing.
- Availability of internal resources to assist with planning and testing.
- If you rely on the regulatory tax updates released in Dynamics GP, you need to transition before the end of 2029. Product updates, regulatory updates, and hotfixes will not be released beyond December 31, 2029.

Build your personalized transition timeline with Encore

Benefits of moving to Dynamics 365 Business Central include:

- Stronger Connections with the Full Ecosystem of Microsoft Applications
- Increase Security and Compliance
- No Need to Manage Infrastructure
- No More Costly Version Upgrades
- Remote Work Capabilities
- Predictable and Flexible Cost
- Analytics and Reporting
- Built-in Generative AI

Explore the benefits in more detail.

3 Options for Your Transition

You can choose from three different Encore plans for your transition from Dynamics GP to Dynamics 365 Business Central.

You can have Business Central mirror the configurations of your GP system with **Reflector**, move to Business Central more quickly with **Accelerator**, or re-evaluate and modernize your processes as you move to Business Central with **Fresh Start**.

Encore Plan	Description	Best For	Key Features
Reflector	Mirror your current business processes from Dynamics GP into Dynamics 365 Business Central.	Teams wanting familiar processes and lower transition effort, timeline, and cost.	Configures Business Central using important elements from GP as reference; not exactly the same but reflects familiar processes.
Accelerator	Fast, fixed-price, and fixed-scope implementation for companies with simpler requirements.	Companies with less complex requirements; those wanting the fastest way to move to Business Central.	Build your own fixed-price package; add integrations and ISV add-ons; can follow up with more functionality later.
Fresh Start	Update and improve your business processes as well as your ERP.	Companies wanting to re-imagine business processes, configuration, and reporting; those whose processes, size, tech stack, or market has changed significantly or will change in 1-3 years.	Best for significant changes; fits companies planning for change.

“The transition to a cloud-based ERP saved us in a recent cyberattack. The only way we were able to continue to bill customers and pay vendors during the three-week outage was entirely thanks to D365 Business Central!”

Maria Leonard, Corporate Controller, Omega Industries
Dynamics GP customer that moved to Dynamics 365 Business Central

Steps of a Dynamics GP to Dynamics 365 Business Central Transition

A Dynamics GP to Dynamics 365 Business Central transition proceeds in four steps.

1. **Analysis:** Determining your business processes, pain points, and business needs. This step provides essential information that will be needed at all later steps.
2. **Solution modeling:** Configuration, design, and development.
3. **Deployment:** Training, user acceptance testing, and any needed reconfiguration.
4. **Operations:** Go live and load final balances.

For our existing customers, because Encore is already familiar with your business, the analysis step begins with collaboration between our GP and Business Central resources to review your environment, data, and history of projects and support cases.

Is there downtime in Dynamics GP when the transition is happening?

No, there is no downtime for Dynamics GP during the transition process to Dynamics 365 Business Central. Once the set cutoff date is determined, besides closing month entries, there should be no more entries entered or posted in GP. During the Operations phase, user access will be set to read-only in GP.

Start your transition planning now

How Long Does a Transition Take?

A transition from Dynamics GP to Dynamics 365 Business Central takes between three and twelve months, depending on the size of your project.

Project size is broadly defined by the number of modules used, as well as factors such as the complexity of your business processes, volume of data, and any third party/ISV add-on products.

- **A small project typically takes 3 to 5 months.**
- **A medium project typically takes 4 to 6 months.**
- **And a large project typically takes 6 to 9 months.**

These size classifications are general guides, and other factors can impact a project.

Additionally, of the three different plans you can choose from, Accelerator tends to be the fastest. Fresh Start tends to take the most time because it includes updating and improving your business processes.

Here's an overview of what a small, medium, or large project usually includes:

Small

General Ledger
Accounts Payable
Accounts Receivable
Cash Management

Medium

General Ledger
Accounts Payable
Accounts Receivable
Cash Management
Purchasing
Sales
Inventory
Jobs

Large

General Ledger
Accounts Payable
Accounts Receivable
Cash Management
Purchasing
Sales
Inventory
Jobs
Manufacturing
Warehousing

30% time saved. Encore customers are seeing reduced manual work with Dynamics 365 Business Central

Key Steps Before a Transition

There are four important steps you can take to prepare for transitioning from Dynamics GP to Dynamics 365 Business Central:

1. Document your processes

This may identify inefficiencies with your current procedures and processes, and that will help clarify the strategic intent of your project.

2. Review your data.

Close inactive records, merge duplicates, and verify subledgers are in balance to the GL.

3. Consider your pain points

What are the recurring problem areas in your business processes? Are there some manual processes that could be automated?

4. Make a wish list

Are there features in Business Central or the rest of the Microsoft stack you want to explore?

By taking these steps early, you'll set a strong foundation for a smooth transition to Dynamics 365 Business Central. If you're unsure where to begin, Encore is here to help you prepare for a transition.

Create a transition plan with our experts

Join the **45,000+** Dynamics 365 Business Central customers

Encore Can Help You Transition to Dynamics 365 Business Central

At Encore, we are experts in both Dynamics GP and Dynamics 365 Business Central, with teams experienced in both systems. Our experts are here to ensure a smooth transition, combining technical skills in Microsoft products with change management and training for success in testing, adoption, and implementation.

We take the time to understand your business needs, goals, and strategy to create a technology plan and will provide guidance tailored to your specific situation.

Encore can help you design the future of your business processes while guiding you through the functional and technical transition to Dynamics 365 Business Central. We help you develop a technology roadmap tailored to your business by leveraging the capabilities of the full Microsoft business stack: Dynamics 365, Microsoft 365 (Office 365), Power BI, and more.

Encore has been educating and partnering with the Dynamics GP customer base to provide go-forward business applications and transition to cloud technologies. We have helped over 80 clients move from Dynamics GP to Dynamics 365 Business Central.

Let’s take the next step together.

Contact us today to start the conversation about your cloud strategy and transition to Dynamics 365 Business Central.

Special Promotions for Dynamics GP Users

Ready to transition to Dynamics 365 Business Central?

Encore has created several unique promotions for Dynamics GP users transitioning to Dynamics 365 Business Central. With multiple offers available, you can stack eligible offers for maximum benefits and savings.

Don’t miss out on these limited-time promotions. To learn more and discuss your eligibility, email the Encore team encore@encorebusiness.com.

If you are an existing client, please contact your Account Manager.

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Microsoft Solutions Partner

“Being cloud-based with Dynamics 365 Business Central is super helpful as it eliminates the need for hosting and ensures our system is always updated. Delaying migrations only makes them harder, especially with legacy data and systems. By doing it earlier, we made life easier for ourselves.”

Eric Gier, Director of Finance, AltPep Corporation
Moved to Dynamics 365 Business Central with Encore

Next Steps

Start the conversation today.

Encore will help you plan the timeline for your cloud strategy and transition to Dynamics 365 Business Central.

If you would like to discuss your company's transition to Dynamics 365 Business Central, reach out to the Encore team and we'll be in touch.

encore@encorebusiness.com

Phone: 888.898.4330

Contact: www.encorebusiness.com/contact/

Additional Resources

For more information related to transitioning from Dynamics GP to Dynamics 365 Business Central, please see the following resources:

- Dynamics GP vs. Dynamics 365 Business Central
- The Benefits of Transitioning from Dynamics GP to Dynamics 365 Business Central
- Dynamics GP to Dynamics 365 Business Central Transition
- Functionality Similarities and Differences between Dynamics GP and Dynamics 365 Business Central
- What Happens to My Dynamics GP Add-On Solutions When I Move to Dynamics 365 Business Central?
- Dynamics GP to Dynamics 365 Business Central YouTube Playlist