

7 things YOU NEED TO KNOW NOW



Microsoft Dynamics 365
Business Central

* Information correct as of February '21

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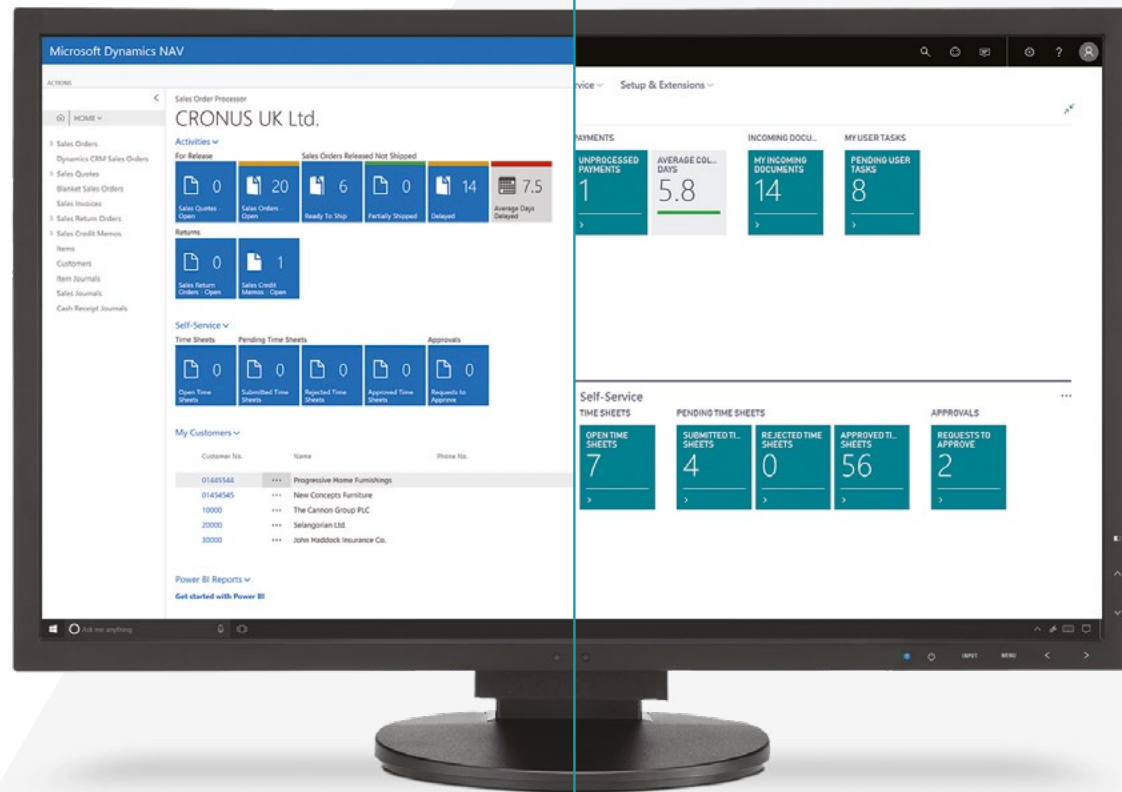
7 things you need to know about upgrading from Dynamics NAV to Dynamics 365 Business Central



7 things you need to know now about upgrading from Dynamics NAV to Dynamics 365 Business Central

With the launch of Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central, the latest release of Dynamics NAV, we've seen the biggest change to the Dynamics 365 product line for many years.

Many of our customers are already made the move to Dynamics 365 Business Central and we've learnt a few lessons along the way. So, here's our top 7 tips on what to look out for when planning your move to Dynamics 365 Business Central from Dynamics NAV.



1

Can I still continue use, and purchase, new users of Dynamics NAV?

Yes, provided that you have a current enhancement plan, you can continue to purchase extra Dynamics NAV users.

2

Do I have to move to the Cloud?

No, Dynamics 365 Business Central will continue to be available as an on-premises deployment.

Unlike many other ERP providers, Microsoft give customers the freedom to choose the deployment model (and licensing options, see below) that best suits their requirements.

3

How is Dynamics 365 Business Central licensed?

- > **Perpetual license** plus annual enhancement plan. A perpetual license is only available for on-premises deployments. You can now pay for your annual enhancement plan on a monthly direct debit to help with cash flow.
- > **Monthly subscription** on a per-user, per-month basis with your annual enhancement included in the monthly subscription. A monthly subscription license can be used for both on-premises and cloud deployments and has the added benefit of a dual-use license to use, for example as a test environment, in the cloud.

For more information on how these might better suit your organisation, please contact your Account Manager or have a listen to our [recent podcast](#) on all the key considerations and idiosyncrasies of licensing Dynamics 365!

And if you want to better understand the pros and cons of a deploying Dynamics 365 Business Central in a public cloud (SaaS) vs a private cloud (PaaS, Platform as a Service), have a read of [our recent](#) blog.

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4

We have a lot of customisations to our Dynamics NAV On-Premises implementation, can we take those customisations with us?

Yes, if you stay on-premises and initially upgrade to Dynamics 365 Business Central 14. Although you do need to be aware that new Dynamics 365 Business Central licenses must be purchased by October 2021.

Microsoft has changed the way customisations are delivered (to make it a whole load easier to upgrade going forward) so Dynamics 365 Business Central 14 is the platform that allows you to keep the customisations you have now and take the time to review what customisations you still need and need to re-develop.

It's not unusual to see Dynamics NAV implementations that have 30+ modifications, some as small as a couple of page and table modifications. Others though can be tens, if not hundreds, of objects which make extensive changes to the way the system works.

Dynamics 365 Business Central 14 is the perfect middle ground between the historic C/AL modifications and the new Dynamics 365 Business Central extension-based platform. It will be supported by Microsoft until October 2023 – but this is the last version on Microsoft's fixed lifecycle policy. All newer versions are on Modern lifecycle policy for support. So Version 14 does give you some time to review what's required to plan and deliver a migration path that suits your business,

If you have customisations you still need and want to go SaaS (and versions 15 onwards), they can be redeveloped as AL extensions (the new way of adding extra developments) complete with the automated tests recommended for the regularly updated SaaS platform.

However, when most customers upgrade, they often find many of their original customisations are no longer needed by the business, are now in the standard product or are available as an app from Microsoft AppSource.

But if you're still a bit unsure how you're going to manage migrating your customisations listen to [Episode 5](#) of our Tecman Talks Dynamics podcast.

5

Are Microsoft offering existing customers an incentive to move to Dynamics 365 Business Central?

Yes, there are a couple of different promotions. Dynamics 365 Business Central is licensed on a named user basis. So if you are an existing Dynamics NAV user (with a current Enhancement Plan) and you upgrade to Dynamics 365 Business Central on-premises, for every 1 concurrent user you will receive 3 named users. The cost of your Enhancement Plan stays the same.

Or, if you are an existing customer upgrading to Dynamics 365 Business Central SaaS, there is a 40% discount off the list price.

To qualify for these discounts, you must have had a licence with an active enhancement plan prior to 1 Oct '18.



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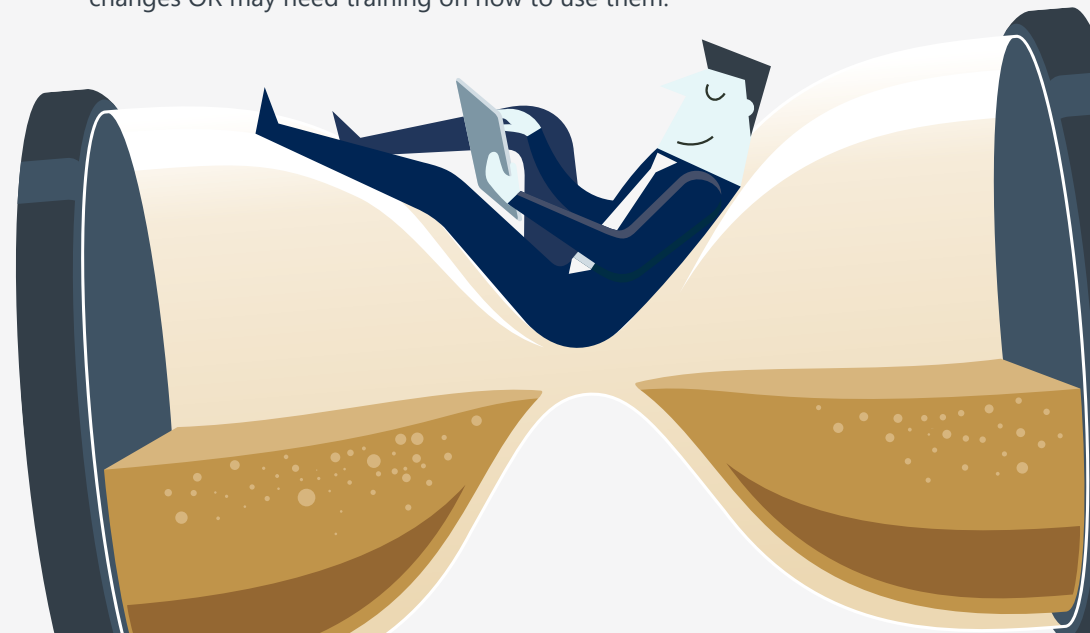
What does Dynamics 365 Business Central look like and offer in additional functionality?

Dynamics 365 Business Central brings a fresh and modern user interface (UI) and new modes of working across role centres, lists, worksheets, transaction documents, or details pages (such as the customer card). Users will need training on the new UI experience, navigation and productivity features such as filtering of lists and totals, customising pages, etc.

The traditional "Windows client", is a thing of the past, and is no longer available for Dynamics 365 Business Central. The Windows client was inherently bound to the Windows operating system, so the modern clients reflect the need to reach more users within an organisation, no matter their platform or device of choice. For those used to the Windows client don't worry!

The web client now looks and works almost exactly the same as the Windows client, and arguably, now has better features too. But there is also 'an app' for Business Central for those that don't want to use a 'URL' in a web browser.

Depending on how old your current version of Dynamics NAV is, there will be new features introduced in later versions of Dynamics NAV & Dynamics 365 Business Central. Depending on the scope of the project, users may only need to be made aware of these changes OR may need training on how to use them.



7

What extra functionality is included with Dynamics 365 Business Central

With each release¹ of Dynamics 365 Business Central, Microsoft now publish a full list of new/updated features and capabilities:

- dynamics.microsoft.com/business-applications/product-updates

But if you are an existing user of Dynamics NAV Version 4, 5, 2009, 2013, 2013R2, 2015, 2016, 2017 or 2018, how does the new functionality in Dynamics 365 Business Central compare?

Here at Technology Management, our consulting team rely on a rather weighty Excel spreadsheet of over 130 key areas of functionality and how they have changed over the last 9 versions of Dynamics NAV.

Some of the changes are optional and some are mandatory – so again you need to make sure you have the expertise on hand to plan for the mandatory and decide on the optional.

¹ Dynamics 365 Business Central has two major releases a year, typically Spring and Autumn. There are also monthly releases that deliver both fixes and new functionality.

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Whilst almost every Dynamics NAV implementation has its own customisations and/or third-party integrations that need to be considered when upgrading to Dynamics 365 Business Central, at least you've now got the core considerations covered!

If you think your business is ready to upgrade - get in touch!

Get started >

Having delivered over 8,000 successful projects, we've plenty of experience implementing business systems, Microsoft Dynamics 365 solutions and the technical infrastructure to support them.

We are a Microsoft Gold Certified Partner. We can deliver Microsoft Dynamics 365 solutions on your own IT infrastructure or in the Microsoft Cloud. Based in the Midlands and North East, we support clients across the UK and further afield.

If you would like to learn more about how we can support your company, please do not hesitate to get in contact with us today and take your first steps towards enhancing your business processes:

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