

# Choosing Your Path Forward



What you need to know about migrating  
from Microsoft Dynamics on-premise  
to Business Central in the cloud



**boyer.**  
Empower your data



# Specific to Dynamics SL

## **What's the current SL lifecycle, and what does it really mean?**

Microsoft Dynamics SL 2018 was the last version of SL to be released. Its mainstream support ended on Jan. 9, 2024. It is now on extended support, which will end July 11, 2028. Extended support includes only security updates. At the end of the lifecycle, no updates or break/fix of any kind are supported.

## **What if I want to stay on SL?**

Staying on Dynamics SL after its lifecycle has ended, specifically after extended support, means you will no longer receive updates, including critical security patches. This puts you at a higher risk of vulnerabilities. While the system might still function and you can receive support from Boyer for existing functionality, you won't have the necessary support to address potential issues or keep your data secure.

## **What about SL in the cloud?**

Dynamics SL can be migrated to an Azure environment. In this case you will use a remote desktop to access Dynamics SL.

## **Isn't Business Central just SL in the cloud?**

No. Business Central is a cloud-based ERP. It is built on a different architecture and offers more modern features and capabilities compared to Dynamics SL. Business Central is more similar to Dynamics NAV in its architecture and capabilities.

## **What about my SL customizations?**

Depending on the customization, Business Central might already have a built-in feature that doesn't require the previous customization. If you do still need it, keep in mind that Dynamics SL uses a different development language than Business Central so that will need to be translated.

## **Will Boyer support end for SL?**

No, you do not need to worry about losing Boyer support! Boyer can continue to provide support for your existing system as long as you are using it, regardless of Microsoft's end-of-support dates.

## **How can I get AI features with SL?**

AI features are unfortunately not available for Dynamics SL.





# Specific to Dynamics GP

## **What's the current GP lifecycle, and what does it really mean?**

The current version of Dynamics GP, version 18.x, (Currently version 18.7) is governed by the Modern Lifecycle Policy. It offers support and servicing, including bug fixes, and the latest tax updates. Dynamics GP updates are typically released in June, October, and December each year. Our clients typically schedule their annual update to coincide with the year-end update. Support for Dynamics GP will end on Dec. 31, 2029 (pushed back from a previous date of September 2029). As of that date you will no longer see product enhancements, regulatory (tax) updates, and technical support. Security updates/patches, if needed, will be made available until April 30, 2031.

## **What if I want to stay on GP?**

While staying on GP is feasible, it's important to weigh the benefits of transitioning to a more modern ERP solution. Dynamics 365 Business Central offers advanced features, better security, and seamless integration with other Microsoft services, making it a compelling option for future-proofing your business.

## **What about GP in the cloud?**

Hosting Dynamics GP on Azure can provide significant advantages in terms of scalability, accessibility, and security. However, it's important to consider the potential drawbacks, such as internet dependency and the complexity of migration. You must also take into consideration that GP will no longer be updated with any security updates or patches after April 30, 2031, regardless of where it's hosted.

## **Isn't Business Central just GP in the cloud?**

No. Business Central is a cloud-based ERP solution. It's built on a different architecture and offers more modern features and capabilities compared to Dynamics GP. Business Central is more similar to Dynamics NAV in its architecture and capabilities.

## **What about my GP customizations?**

Depending on the customization, Business Central might already have a built-in feature that doesn't require the previous customization. If you do still need it, keep in mind that Dynamics GP uses a different development language than Business Central so that will need to be translated.

## **Will Boyer support end for GP?**

No, you do not need to worry about losing Boyer support! Boyer can continue to provide support for your existing system as long as you are using it, regardless of Microsoft's end-of-support dates.

## **How can I get AI features with GP?**

Dynamics GP already includes some AI functionality through PO Generator, Cash Flow Forecasting, Material Requirements Planning (MRP), Average Days to Pay and more.



# Specific to Dynamics NAV

## **What's the current NAV lifecycle, and what does it really mean?**

Microsoft Dynamics NAV 2018 was the last version of NAV to be released. Its lifecycle is 10 years, which includes mainstream support (five years) and extended support (five years). Mainstream support for NAV 2018 ended in January 2023. NAV 2018 has now transitioned to extended support, which will end in January 2028. This includes only security updates. At the end of the lifecycle, no updates of any kind are supported.

## **What if I want to stay on NAV?**

Staying on Dynamics NAV after its lifecycle has ended, specifically after extended support, means you will no longer receive updates, including critical security patches. This puts you at a higher risk of vulnerabilities. While the system might still function and you can receive support from Boyer for existing functionality, you won't have the necessary support to address potential issues or keep your data secure.

## **How does Business Central compare to NAV?**

Dynamics 365 Business Central is essentially a rebrand and modernization of Dynamics NAV, with a primary focus on cloud deployment and improved integration with other Microsoft products. While Business Central retains the core functionality of NAV, it offers a more user-friendly interface, streamlined upgrades, and better connectivity within the Microsoft ecosystem.

## **What about my NAV customizations?**

Depending on the customization, Business Central may already have a built-in feature that doesn't require the previous customization. If you do still need it, the transition is simple since Business Central and NAV share the same development language.

## **Will Boyer support end for NAV?**

No, you do not need to worry about losing Boyer support! Boyer can continue to provide limited support for your existing system as long as you are using it, regardless of Microsoft's end-of-support dates.

## **How can I get AI features with NAV?**

AI features are unfortunately not available for Dynamics NAV.





# About Business Central

## **What is the cloud anyway?**

The “cloud” refers to a network of remote servers that store and manage data, applications, and content over the internet. Instead of storing files on your computer’s hard drive, you store them in the cloud, accessible from any device with an internet connection. Think of it as an online storage and computing resource that you can access remotely.

## **What are the benefits/drawbacks of the cloud?**

Cloud computing offers benefits like cost savings, flexibility, accessibility and scalability. Drawbacks include limited control due to offsite data storage, potential difficulties in migrating from cloud storage providers, data security concerns, and reliance on internet access.

## **What is Business Central?**

Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central is a cloud-based ERP solution designed for small and mid-sized businesses. It integrates various business functions like finance, sales, service, inventory, and operations into a single platform.

## **I saw a demo of Business Central in 2022 – What’s changed since then?**

Business Central adds new features with every wave release, and there are two major releases each year. Since 2022, Business Central has had several key updates including enhanced bank reconciliation, Copilot and AI capabilities, expanded access to Power Automate, new Power BI report templates, Excel and Outlook integration improvements, user security improvements, 1099 process improvements and integration with online filing systems and Tax Calculation updates.

## **What ISVs does Business Central have now?**

Business Central’s ISV (Independent Software Vendor) ecosystem offers a wide range of solutions to enhance its capabilities, including add-ons for specific industries or business needs. ISVs can be found on [Microsoft AppSource](#).

## **How does Business Central integrate with my other solutions?**

Depending on the solution, Microsoft might already have an app that can be installed directly into Business Central. This makes the integration process much simpler since the connection to Business Central and its tables is built into the app. In the case where an app is not available, developers can create connections through code.



# About Migrations

## **What does a migration process look like?**

Migrating to Business Central is similar to any implementation. It involves several key steps including assessment, data preparation, configuration, customization, and data migration. A successful migration also requires thorough testing, training, and user acceptance testing before going live with the new system. The length of this process varies depending on the size of your business and your integration/customization needs. We usually anticipate a minimum of six months.

## **What commitment/cost is involved in an assessment?**

Depending on the complexity of your system, a Boyer consultant may be able to give you a recommendation after a simple 2-hour assessment. More complex systems will of course take longer to assess. Boyer clients incur no fee for this assessment.

## **How much does a migration to Business Central cost?**

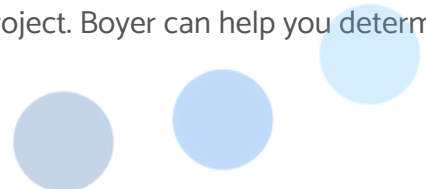
Costs range greatly depending on your needs and the complexity of your operations. Boyer's migration services start at \$27,000 for a simple six-month migration. More complex implementations (with manufacturing capabilities or customizations, for example) may cost \$50,000 or more. This does not include licensing costs.

## **When is the right time to move?**

This is a great question to ask the assessment team when determining your path forward. Our consultants can help you determine the best timeline for your specific organization.

## **Will Microsoft help me pay to move to the cloud?**

Microsoft has multiple programs to help companies fund a Business Central migration. Here are a few: a) The AIM assessment is a one-time payment of \$1,500 to help offset the cost of assessing Business Central's fit for your organization. b) Bridge to Cloud is a 40% discount on new BC licenses for Dynamics on-premise customers who are current on their annual maintenance. c) Additional migration and deployment funds are available to assist with costs associated with designing your implementation plan and deploying it. Some funds are fixed fees while others are tiered based on the size of your project. Boyer can help you determine your eligibility for any of these funding programs.



# What are my options?



## You have 3 main options:

1. Stay on your current ERP as long as possible, relying on Boyer to support as able.
2. Move your current system to the cloud with Azure.
3. Migrate to a cloud solution such as Dynamics 365 Business Central.

## So ... What's my next step?

If you're not already on a Boyer support plan, we suggest you get on one to ensure you can make the most of your on-premise system while you have it.

If you're ready to explore the possibility of moving to the cloud, let us know and we can set up an intro call followed by an assessment.

Boyer is in the top 5% of Microsoft partners taking clients to the cloud. We are well-equipped to help you know the best timeline and strategy for starting your digital transformation. Let us help you choose the best path forward for your organization!



Contact us to request an assessment

763-412-4300

[info@boyerassoc.com](mailto:info@boyerassoc.com)

**boyer..**