A woman with dark hair and glasses, wearing a blue sweater, is smiling while working on a laptop. The background is a blurred office setting with digital overlays of binary code (0s and 1s) and a network diagram. A white cloud icon with circuit-like patterns inside is positioned in the center-right. A large yellow arrow points to the right on the right side of the image.

Microsoft Dynamics GP Migration Guide

A Complete Guide to Your Options
as a Dynamics GP Customer

Brought to you by:

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Microsoft Says Goodbye to Dynamics GP

In September 2024, Microsoft delivered an end-of-life announcement regarding its Dynamics GP software. As of September 2029, Microsoft Dynamics GP will officially reach the end of its support lifecycle. Microsoft will continue providing critical security patches only until April 2031, but feature updates and regular support will stop.

Why is Microsoft saying goodbye to Dynamics GP? Simply put, Microsoft has been pushing its cloud-first strategy for several years, prioritizing new software and phasing out old, on-premises solutions. Although current GP customers can still enjoy the software, now that an official sunset date has been announced, it's time to team up with a Dynamics GP partner to plan for the future.



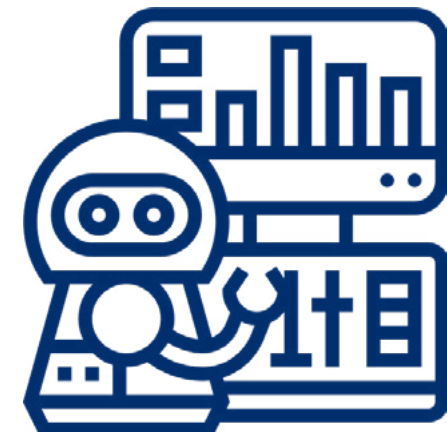
Why Does Microsoft Prefer the Cloud?

Dynamics GP is on-premises software, which means it is installed on computers housed in the workplace where it is used. This type of software was common before and around the turn of the century, but in recent years has been left in the dust as companies harness the power of the cloud. Why is the cloud so popular? It comes down to five key aspects that help it stand out compared to on-premises software:



01.

Anytime, anywhere access for internet-connected devices



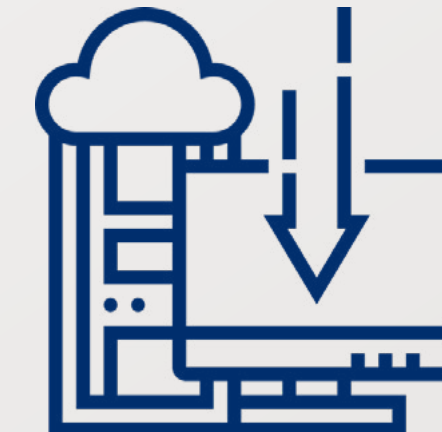
02.

Reduced manual workloads thanks to automation features



03.

Up-to-the-minute data that improves accessibility



04.

Automatic updates with no hardware requirements



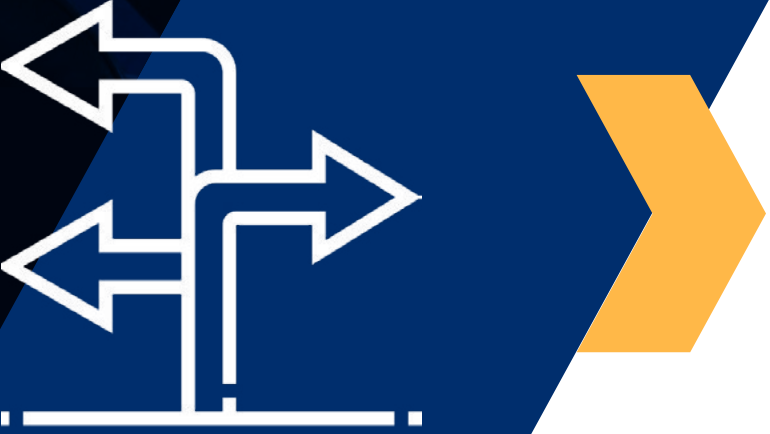
05.

Security and stability from your cloud host



Your Options as a Dynamics GP Customer

All roads lead to the cloud, but these roads diverge, twist, and turn—let's figure out which path is right for you as a current Dynamics GP user.



Option 01. Microsoft ERP

Compare Dynamics 365 Business Central & Dynamics GP

(Click Here)

If you use other products in the Microsoft ecosystem and are looking for a natural successor to Dynamics GP, [Business Central](#) is a great start. It has the same functionality as GP while adding the benefits of the cloud. It will look and feel familiar and fit right into your Microsoft environment.

Option 1 is best for companies that want to continue using a Microsoft ERP alongside other Microsoft products like Outlook, Excel, Teams, and Dynamics 365 CRM.

➤ Pros

- Sticking with a Microsoft ERP allows you to take advantage of the full Microsoft ecosystem, including Microsoft 365 and Dynamics 365
- You get all the features you already know and love plus the benefits of the cloud

➤ Cons

- The Microsoft ecosystem is vast with many solutions designed and acquired over time, while other providers offer cloud-first solutions built on one platform
- [Business Central](#) is a broad solution that may require add-ons to deepen functionality in specific areas, like warehouse management



Option 02. Bridge to the Cloud

If you're not ready to jump straight into a Business Central implementation, Microsoft's Bridge to the Cloud program grants organizations Business Central user licenses based on the company's annual GP cost. Users still work out of GP, but they can explore Business Central's screens and workflows, walk through the built-in training module, and decide whether switching to Business Central is the best option for their company.

Option 2 is perfect for companies interested in a cost-effective, steady transition to Business Central over 1–3 years.

➤ Pros

- Companies can use existing GP renewal fees to purchase Business Central subscriptions, double-dipping to maximize benefits
- Microsoft continues to keep the existing GP instance up-to-date

➤ Cons

- Users are required to make a decision within 3 years of starting the Bridge to Cloud program—otherwise, their GP instance will lapse
- If Business Central isn't the right choice for your business, it might be more difficult to make another switch



Option 03. Other ERP

Compare Acumatica & Dynamics GP

(Click Here)

Businesses that use technology outside the Microsoft ecosystem may want to explore other ERP solutions. For example, if your business uses GP for warehousing, inventory, or supply chain, you may consider [Acumatica](#). Its all-in-one solution offers industry-specific editions for manufacturers, distributors, and more.

Option 3 is best for companies with industry-specific needs or that leverage multiple software vendors—not just Microsoft—in their tech stack.

➤ Pros

- Some ERP solutions offer deeper functionality in areas that might align with your business, especially manufacturing and distribution
- While Microsoft ERPs are on-premises solutions rewritten for the cloud, other ERPs like [Acumatica](#) are cloud-first solutions

➤ Cons

- Depending on the solution you choose, implementations, integrations, and customizations can be costly up-front (but affordable in the long-term)
- Businesses switching away from Microsoft will experience a steeper learning curve

Perhaps Dynamics GP doesn't offer the deep accounting functionality your company needs. Or maybe the accounting features are perfect, but you don't need all the extra fluff. If you primarily use GP for finance and accounting, consider switching to accounting-specific software like [Sage Intacct](#) instead of a full-fledged ERP solution.

Option 4 works well for companies that want to dive deep into the general ledger and accounts payable and receivable.

➤ Pros

- Best-in-class accounting solutions are narrow in scope, supplying deeper financial management functionality than broad ERP solutions
- Modern accounting software like [Sage Intacct](#) offers all the benefits of the cloud

➤ Cons

- Switching to new software from a different developer can be costly up-front, though it comes with long-term savings
- Companies that require more customizations will see a longer implementation to get the features they need

Option 04. Financial Solution

Compare Sage
Intacct &
Dynamics GP

[\(Click Here\)](#)

Option 05. Upgrade GP

If you really want to, you can keep using your existing GP software for now, but you should at least upgrade to the latest version. This is the first step in preparing for a migration to any other solution. Your company has to make a decision eventually, but you've still got some time to do your due diligence.

Option 5 is best for companies that want more time to evaluate their migration options thoroughly, but it's a temporary solution only.

➤ Pros

- In the short term, keeping GP can be cost-effective as businesses explore other options
- Staying on GP keeps the status quo within organizations

➤ Cons

- Support for GP will end going forward, so any issues you encounter may go unresolved
- Integrations and customizations have a greater chance of breaking, and will be more costly and time-consuming to patch up



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Recommendations:

Lift & Shift

Cargas has worked with Microsoft and GP since 1993. Not only have we helped customers implement GP, but we've also helped them migrate to new software. We've perfected a five-step Lift & Shift model, which helps customers transfer data to software like Business Central, Acumatica, or Sage Intacct.

› Step 01. Define

We review your Dynamics GP configuration and brainstorm the design for your ideal solution.

› Step 02. Build

We configure your new software and use our internally developed tools to migrate Dynamics GP data and master records.

› Step 03. Model

We use a testing environment to teach your team the ropes, then make final revisions based on your feedback.

› Step 04. Deploy

We spend the first month closing out your old software and assisting with activities like bank reconciliation and financial reporting.

› Step 05. Evolve

We pair you with a dedicated account manager who will help develop your software as your needs change.

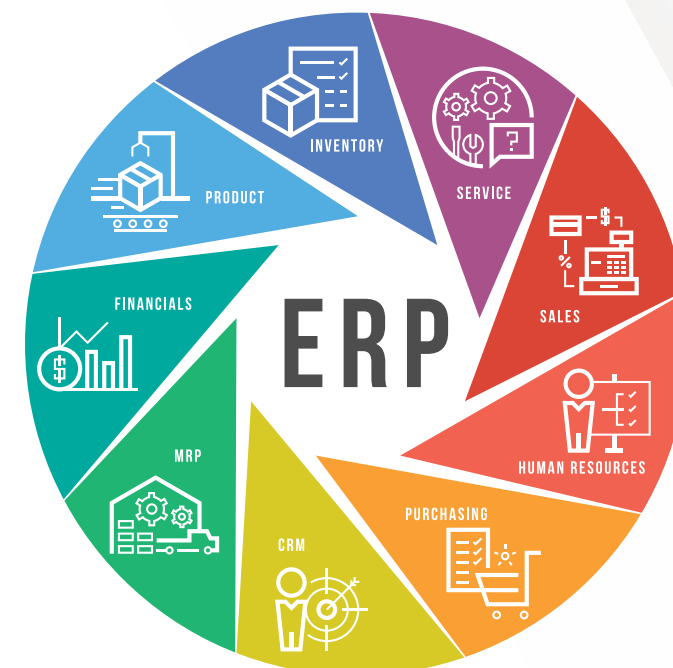
The Cost of Switching to the Cloud

Changing software comes with a cost, but the specifics of the cost will vary from business to business. However, three key categories will determine whether you need to budget more for a software switch.



Your Current GP Version

If you haven't updated your instance of GP to the latest version, now is the time to do it. Moving from an older version of GP to modern cloud software can be costlier than moving from the latest GP version.



The Software You're Moving To

With all the accounting and ERP solutions on the market, you'll encounter a variety of feature sets at different price points. Business Central, Acumatica, and Sage Intacct are affordable for mid-market organizations and offer pricing tiers based on the specific needs of your organization.



Customizations, Integrations, and Partner Products

Adopting new software requires rebuilding integrations with other tools in your tech stack, which can be time-consuming and costly. It's essential to consider the ease of software integration and customization before diving into implementation.



Cargas Is Your Cloud Expert

Cargas has been a Microsoft and GP partner for decades, so we understand what's happening here—Microsoft is sunsetting Dynamics GP and customers need a plan. While we're sad to see GP going by the wayside, we're excited to help businesses discover the power of cloud software like Business Central, Acumatica, and Sage Intacct.

Our migration strategy has helped countless companies embrace the cloud and experience tangible benefits, such as:



More Support for a Growing Remote Workforce

You'll gain secure access from any browser or device, multi-factor authentication and single sign-ons, named users and audit logs for team oversight, and incredible cloud security protocols with hosting from Microsoft Azure and Amazon Web Services.



Improved User Experience

If your team has fallen in love with features like smart lists, don't fret—cloud software comes with plenty of alternatives. Cloud software also promotes growth by enabling faster onboarding and offering an intuitive user experience.



Less Stress for IT Teams

Cloud software updates are hands-off and don't require any hardware, which saves plenty of time for your IT team. Plus, integrations with other systems are much easier thanks to Microsoft's AppSource, Acumatica's open platform, and Sage Intacct's Marketplace and open APIs.

And in case you've never heard of us: **Hi, we're Cargas!**

Cargas is an employee-owned software and consulting company with nearly 200 employees offering ERP and CRM software from Microsoft, Acumatica, Sage, Salesforce, and HubSpot, as well as our own software built for fuel delivery and HVAC companies. Our products streamline processes in accounting, supply chain management, and sales and marketing so customers can focus on what's most important—growing and running their businesses.

Curious what your business can do to keep pace with Microsoft? Reach out today for a no-obligation chat. We'll evaluate your GP software and business processes to determine the best path forward.

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