

Microsoft **Dynamics NAV** Migration Guide

A Complete Guide to Your Options
as a Dynamics NAV Customer

Brought to you by:

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Microsoft Says Goodbye to Dynamics NAV

Microsoft moved Dynamics NAV into extended support in 2025, eliminating new features and non-security updates for users. Until January 11, 2028, businesses can continue to use Dynamics NAV. And while the software will continue to operate indefinitely after that date, it won't receive security updates—putting your data at risk.

Microsoft has been pushing its cloud-first strategy for several years, prioritizing new software and phasing out old, on-premises solutions. Although you can still use NAV, the software is no longer a viable long-term option for your company.





Why Does Microsoft Prefer the Cloud?

Dynamics NAV 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:**



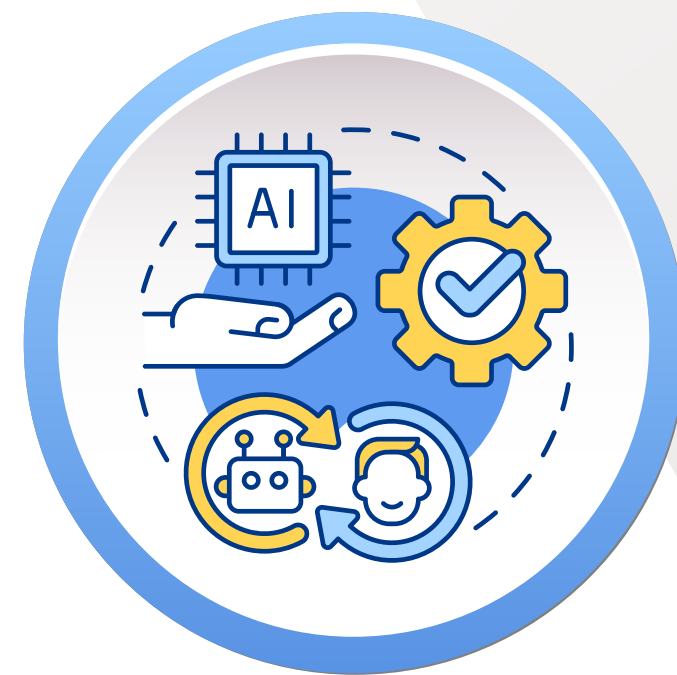
01.

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 NAV 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 NAV user.



Option 01. Microsoft ERP

If you use other products in the Microsoft ecosystem and are looking for a natural successor to Dynamics NAV, [Business Central](#) is a great start. In fact, Business Central is built on NAV's code base, delivering the same functionality 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

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 NAV cost. Users still work out of NAV, 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 NAV renewal fees to purchase Business Central subscriptions, double-dipping to maximize benefits
- Microsoft continues to keep the existing NAV instance up-to-date

➤ Cons

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



Option 02. Bridge to the Cloud



Option 03. Other ERP

Businesses that use technology outside the Microsoft ecosystem may want to explore other ERP solutions. For example, if your business uses NAV 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 Microsoft's solutions don'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 NAV 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

- Best-in-class accounting solutions are narrow in scope, supplying deeper financial management functionality than broad ERP solutions
- Companies that require more customizations will see a longer implementation to get the features they need



Option 04. Financial Solution



Lift & Shift

Cargas has worked with Microsoft products since 1993. Not only have we helped customers embrace the cloud but we've also helped them migrate to the cloud from on-premises software. We've perfected a Lift & Shift model, which helps customers transfer NAV data into software like Business Central, Acumatica, or Sage Intacct.

› Step 01. Define

We review your Dynamics NAV 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 NAV 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 NAV Version

Dynamics NAV 2018 is the final version published by Microsoft. If you're thinking about migrating but aren't fully upgraded to NAV 2018, that would be a good first step.



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 partner for decades, so we understand what’s happening here—**Microsoft has sunset Dynamics NAV and customers need a plan.** While we’re sad to see NAV go 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 NAV software and business processes to determine the best path forward.

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