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End of life for GP =
Beginning of bigger
things for your
business

A complete guide on
migrating from Dynamics GP
to Dynamics 365 Business
Central

Microsoft
Partner
 Microsoft

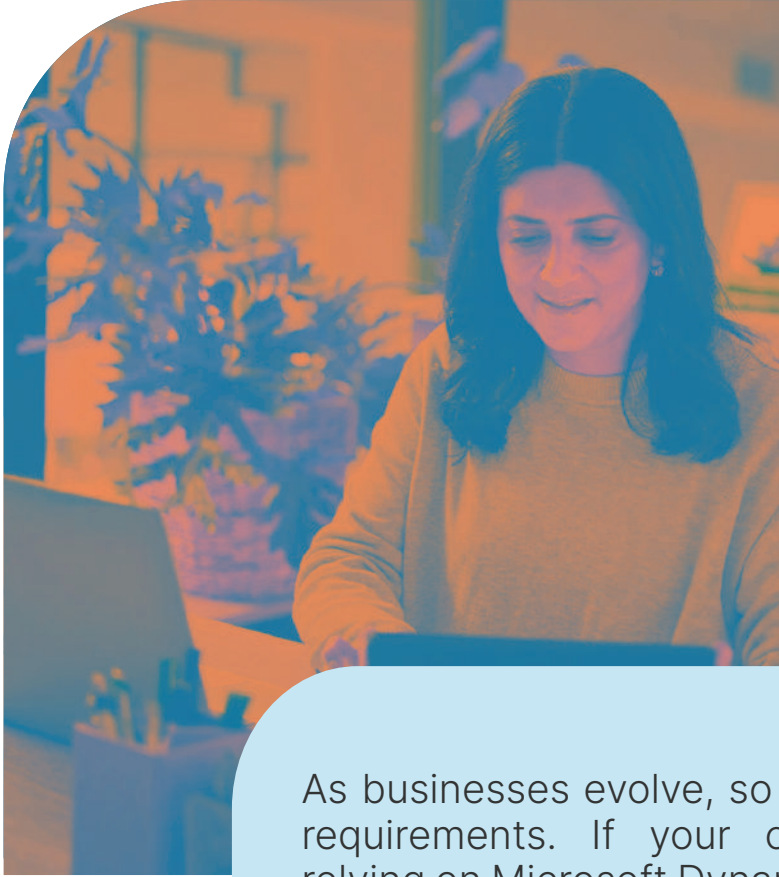
Azure
Expert
MSP

 Microsoft
Solutions Partner

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Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Overview of Dynamics GP and Dynamics 365 Business Central	5
What is Microsoft Dynamics GP?	5
Why are businesses outgrowing Dynamics GP?	6
How does Dynamics 365 Business Central address these challenges?	7
What is Dynamics 365 Business Central?	8
Why are businesses moving to the cloud?	9
Key functionalities in Dynamics GP vs Dynamics 365 Business Central	10
Key financial advantages of Business Central	10
Supply chain and inventory management	11
Sales and purchasing	11
Project management and job costing: Greater control with Business Central	12
Understanding the need for migration	13
The advantages of moving to Dynamics 365 Business Central	14
Key factors to consider when migrating from Dynamics GP to Business Central	14
Customizations and workflows when migrating from GP to Business Central	15
Key considerations for customization migration	15
Key benefits of migrating to Dynamics 365 Business Central	16
Preparation for migration	17
Assessing your current Dynamics GP system	17
Evaluate your current workflows and integrations	17
Defining data structure for migration	18
Define your migration goals	18
Identify key stakeholders and form a migration team	19
User training and adoption	20
Choosing a migration strategy	20
The big bang approach	21
The phased approach	22
Minimizing downtime during migration	23
Partnering with a Microsoft expert for a seamless migration	24
Benefits of working with an experienced Microsoft partner	25
Post-migration support & continuous improvement	25
Why choose Business Central over Dynamics GP?	26
Cloud-native advantage	26
Automation and AI-powered insights	27
Seamless integration with the Microsoft ecosystem	27
The Dynamics GP to Business Central migration process	29
Step-by-step migration plan	29
Assess your current system	29
Plan your migration	29
Execute data migration	30
Optimize business processes	31
Train employees for smooth adoption	31
Go live & provide ongoing support	32
Pitfalls in migration and how to avoid them	33
Why migrate to Dynamics 365 Business Central?	34
Contact information	35



As businesses evolve, so do their technology requirements. If your organization is still relying on Microsoft Dynamics GP, you may be considering whether it is time to transition to a more modern, cloud-based solution like Dynamics 365 Business Central.

Put one way, this decision is becoming increasingly relevant for business leaders striving to enhance efficiency, leverage advanced automation, and stay ahead in an ever-changing digital landscape.

Put another way, it's 100% time to migrate from GP as it is on the chopping block: no new perpetual licenses as of 4/26 April 2025, no new subscription licenses as of April 2026, and support set to end ENTIRELY in less than five years by the end of 2029.

Fortunately, Microsoft has an ideal system solution for GP customers to move to: Dynamics 365 Business Central. Migrating to Dynamics 365 Business Central offers numerous advantages, including seamless cloud integration, enhanced automation, and a comprehensive suite of modern features that surpass the capabilities of Dynamics GP.

However, before embarking on this transition, it is essential to understand the key differences between these platforms and how they align with your business objectives. In this guide, we will explore the critical factors to consider when migrating and how your organization can maximize the benefits of this upgrade.

For decades, Microsoft Dynamics GP has been a reliable on-premises ERP solution, empowering businesses with essential financial management and enterprise resource planning capabilities. However, as the digital landscape continues to evolve, organizations require solutions that are not only robust but also scalable, flexible, and seamlessly integrated with the cloud.

While Dynamics GP remains in use across many industries, it lacks the agility and advanced capabilities that modern cloud-based platforms, such as Dynamics 365 Business Central, provide. As a result, an increasing number of businesses are making the transition to Business Central to leverage its enhanced automation, real-time data access, and superior integration with Microsoft's ecosystem. In addition, we will explore the key drivers behind this shift and provide a structured approach to ensure a smooth and efficient migration to Dynamics 365 Business Central.



Overview of Dynamics GP and Dynamics 365 Business Central

What is Microsoft Dynamics GP?

Microsoft Dynamics GP, originally known as Great Plains, has been a trusted on-premises enterprise resource planning (ERP) solution for small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs) for over two decades. It is widely recognized for its robust financial management and accounting capabilities, making it a preferred choice for businesses seeking a structured and reliable system to manage general ledger, payables, receivables, payroll, and financial reporting.

Beyond accounting, Dynamics GP also provides basic functionalities for inventory management, supply chain operations, project accounting, and human resources. Many businesses have relied on its stable and secure architecture to support daily operations. However, as technology evolves and businesses need to shift toward cloud-based agility and automation, Dynamics GP's limitations have become more apparent.



Why are businesses outgrowing Dynamics GP?

While it is possible to host Dynamics GP in the cloud using an Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS) model, it does not offer the full benefits of a cloud-native solution. Businesses using GP often face:



Limited scalability

Expanding operations often requires complex infrastructure upgrades.



Lack of real-time access

Remote access is possible but not as seamless as a cloud-first solution.



Costly and complex updates

Regular updates and customizations require significant IT resources.



Integration challenges

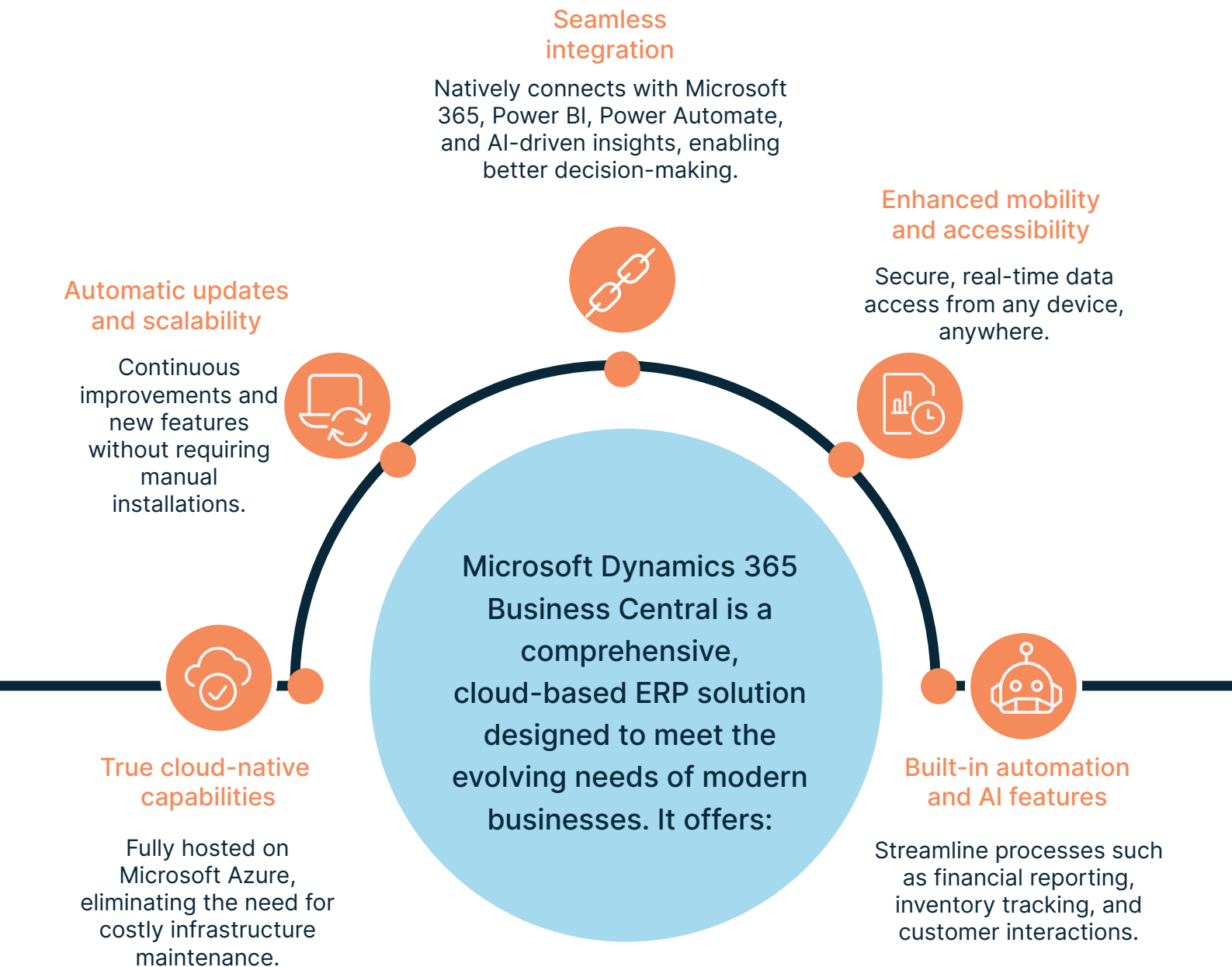
GP does not natively integrate with modern cloud applications and Microsoft services like Power BI, AI-driven automation, or Microsoft 365.

And if these challenges alone weren't enough, there is the new, far-more pressing challenge of the fact that GP is nearing end of life.

This is where Dynamics 365 Business Central offers a compelling alternative.



How does Dynamics 365 Business Central address these challenges?



By migrating to Dynamics 365 Business Central, businesses can reduce IT overhead, enhance efficiency, and future-proof their operations with a scalable, integrated, and continuously evolving ERP system. And unlike GP, which was traditionally an on-premises install, the fact that Business Central is cloud-based ensures a far more flexible and enduring future.

In the following sections, we will explore the key differences, migration process, and best practices to ensure a seamless transition from Dynamics GP to Business Central.

What is Dynamics 365 Business Central?

Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central is a comprehensive, cloud-based ERP solution designed to help businesses automate, optimize, and streamline their operations. As an all-in-one platform, Business Central integrates core business functions, including financial management, supply chain operations, sales, customer service, and human resources, providing organizations with a unified, data-driven approach to enterprise management.

A key advantage of Business Central is its seamless integration with the Microsoft ecosystem, allowing businesses to leverage tools such as Microsoft 365 (Office 365), Power BI, Teams, and Power Automate. This connectivity enhances collaboration, real-time reporting, and automation, empowering organizations to make faster, more informed decisions and improve overall efficiency.



Why are businesses moving to the cloud?

The transition from on-premises ERP solutions like Dynamics GP to cloud-based platforms like Business Central is no longer a luxury – it is a strategic imperative for growth and competitiveness. Moving to the cloud provides:



Agility – Scale operations up or down effortlessly to meet evolving business needs.



Cost-efficiency – Reduce IT infrastructure costs while benefiting from automatic updates and maintenance.



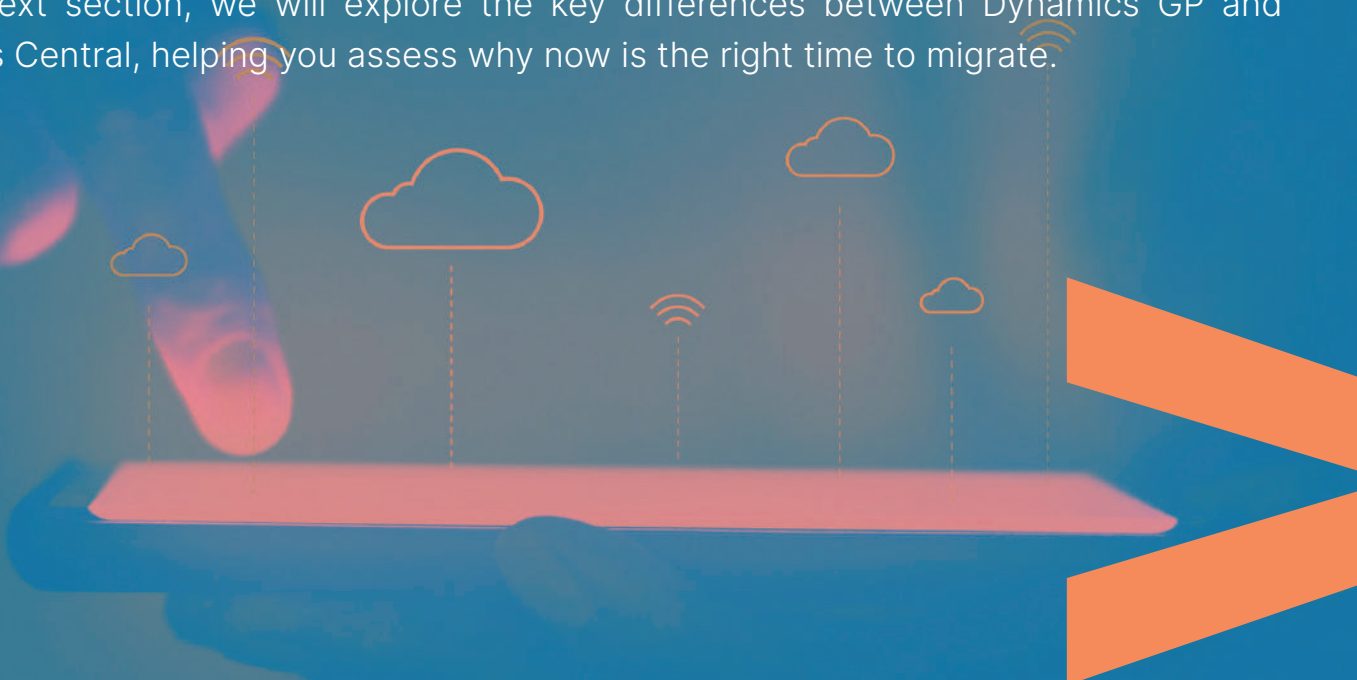
Scalability – Expand functionality and integrate with modern applications without extensive customization.



Business continuity – Benefit from enhanced security, disaster recovery, and remote accessibility.

By adopting a cloud-first approach, organizations remain competitive, improve efficiency, and lay a foundation for more advanced capabilities, such as AI-driven process optimization.

In the next section, we will explore the key differences between Dynamics GP and Business Central, helping you assess why now is the right time to migrate.



Key functionalities in Dynamics GP vs Dynamics 365 Business Central

One of the primary reasons businesses have relied on Dynamics GP for years is its robust financial management capabilities. With features covering general ledger, accounts payable, accounts receivable, and core accounting functions, GP has been a dependable solution for managing financial operations. However, when compared to Dynamics 365 Business Central, the differences become increasingly evident.

While Dynamics GP offers essential financial management tools, Business Central provides a more advanced, intelligent, and cloud-powered approach. Equipped with artificial intelligence (AI), automation, and real-time financial reporting, Business Central enables businesses to move beyond manual processes and embrace data-driven decision-making.

Key financial advantages of Business Central

- 
AI-enhanced financial insights – Leverage machine learning and predictive analytics to improve forecasting, budgeting, and cash flow management.
- 
Real-time reporting & dashboards – Seamlessly integrates with Power BI, allowing for dynamic, real-time financial insights that enhance decision-making.
- 
Automated workflows – Reduce manual data entry and errors with automated approvals, invoice processing, and financial reconciliations.
- 
Scalability & flexibility – Expand financial capabilities effortlessly as your business grows, with built-in multi-currency, multi-company, and global compliance features.

By transitioning to Dynamics 365 Business Central, organizations gain greater financial visibility, accuracy, and efficiency, empowering leadership teams to make more informed and strategic financial decisions.

Supply chain and inventory management

Supply chain management is a critical function where Dynamics 365 Business Central significantly outperforms Dynamics GP. While Dynamics GP provides solid inventory management capabilities, it lacks the real-time data access, automation, and predictive intelligence that modern businesses require to stay competitive.

With Business Central, organizations can leverage a fully integrated, cloud-based supply chain management system that enables:



Real-time inventory tracking – Gain instant visibility into stock levels across multiple locations.



Automated stock management – Reduce manual processes with AI-driven demand forecasting and automated replenishment.



Seamless e-commerce integration – Connect effortlessly with online sales platforms for synchronized inventory and order fulfillment.



End-to-end visibility – Manage purchasing, warehousing, production, and distribution from a single unified platform.

By transitioning to Business Central, organizations gain a future-ready supply chain solution that enhances efficiency, reduces operational costs, and ensures better decision-making.

Sales and purchasing

In Dynamics GP, sales and purchasing functions are functional but limited. The system provides basic sales order management, purchasing, vendor management, and CRM integration, but lacks the advanced automation, analytics, and real-time connectivity that modern businesses require.

Dynamics 365 Business Central, on the other hand, delivers a comprehensive and intelligent sales and purchasing solution, offering:



Integrated CRM & sales pipeline management – Track customer interactions, manage leads, and nurture relationships directly within Business Central.



Automated workflows – Streamline quote-to-order and purchase-to-pay processes with approval automation and AI-driven recommendations.



Real-time supplier performance insights – Monitor vendor reliability, pricing trends, and delivery performance to make more informed purchasing decisions.



Seamless e-commerce & omnichannel integration – Connect with online sales platforms, ensuring smooth inventory synchronization and order fulfillment.



Full order-to-cash visibility – Gain end-to-end insights into sales, invoicing, and collections for improved cash flow management.

With Business Central, organizations can optimize customer interactions, improve purchasing efficiency, and enhance overall sales performance, all within a unified, cloud-based platform.

Project management and job costing: Greater control with Business Central

While Dynamics GP provides basic project tracking and job costing capabilities, its functionality is limited to cost tracking and billing. It lacks the depth, automation, and real-time insights required for effective project planning and financial management in today's fast-paced business environment.

Dynamics 365 Business Central offers a more advanced, AI-driven approach to project management, enabling businesses to:



Track project progress in real-time – Monitor milestones, budgets, and resource utilization with live updates.



Automate cost and billing management – Reduce manual errors with automated time tracking, invoicing, and expense allocations.



Improve profitability analysis – Gain deeper insights into project profitability with built-in forecasting and reporting tools.



Optimize resource allocation – Use AI-powered recommendations to assign the right resources to the right tasks for improved efficiency.



Ensure deadline compliance – Set alerts and automated workflows to proactively identify risks and prevent project delays

By leveraging Business Central, project managers gain complete visibility and control over project budgets, costs, timelines, and profitability.

Understanding the need for migration

The challenges of staying with Dynamics GP

While the #1 challenge is now the fact that Microsoft is sunsetting GP, organizations also face long-standing issues such as cumbersome on-premises infrastructure, difficulty scaling, and limited integration with modern tools. As the business world shifts toward cloud-native solutions, organizations using Dynamics GP see increasing challenges in scalability, efficiency, and integration.

Here are some additional challenges businesses face with Dynamics GP:



Limited scalability – Expanding operations with Dynamics GP is cumbersome. The on-premises infrastructure makes it difficult to add users, locations, or subsidiaries without significant IT investment.



Automate cost and billing management – Unlike cloud solutions that receive automatic updates, GP requires manual upgrades that are often costly, time-consuming, and resource-intensive.



Improve profitability analysis – Businesses need real-time collaboration and data accessibility. GP lacks native integration with Microsoft 365 (Office 365), Power BI, Teams, and other cloud-based tools, making it harder to streamline workflows and make data-driven decisions.



The advantages of moving to Dynamics 365 Business Central

While Dynamics GP has been a reliable ERP solution for many years, the new cloud-centric landscape, combined with GP's approaching end-of-life, creates a compelling business case for migrating to Business Central. Switching to Dynamics 365 Business Central offers numerous advantages:



Limited scalability – No more worrying about on-premises infrastructure, backups, or server maintenance.



Automate cost and billing management – Business Central's subscription model includes automatic updates, ensuring you always have access to the latest features and security patches.



Improve profitability analysis – With advanced tools like Power BI, businesses can unlock powerful data insights and make more informed decisions.



Integration with Microsoft ecosystem – Whether it's Word, Excel, Outlook, or Teams, Business Central integrates seamlessly with the entire Microsoft stack, improving productivity and collaboration.

Key factors to consider when migrating from Dynamics GP to Business Central

Ensuring a smooth and secure data migration

One of the most critical aspects of migrating from Dynamics GP to Dynamics 365 Business Central is ensuring that your data is transferred accurately, securely, and efficiently. This includes essential records such as customer information, inventory data, financial transactions, and historical business data. A well-planned data migration strategy minimizes disruptions and ensures continuity in business operations.

Here are the key factors to consider:



Data mapping - It is essential to map data fields in Dynamics GP to their corresponding fields in Business Central. This ensures that all relevant information - such as accounts, transactions, and inventory records - is transferred correctly and remains accessible in the new system.



Data cleansing - Before migration, businesses should review and clean up obsolete or redundant data. Removing outdated records helps improve system performance and ensures a more organized and efficient database in Business Central.



Data migration tools & expertise - Microsoft provides built-in migration tools to simplify the transition, but for complex data structures, large datasets, or customized Dynamics GP environments, businesses may need to utilize third-party migration tools or seek assistance from experienced ERP consultants to ensure a seamless and error-free migration.

Customizations and workflows when migrating from GP to Business Central

Many businesses have extensively customized their Dynamics GP systems to align with unique operational needs. One of the primary challenges of migration is determining which custom features should be replicated, reconfigured, or replaced within Dynamics 365 Business Central.

Key considerations for customization migration



Leverage business central extensions - Rather than rebuilding customizations from scratch, businesses can take advantage of Business Central's built-in extensions and add-ons. Additionally, we can streamline workflows, automate processes, and enable custom app development.



Adapt to cloud architecture - Rather than rebuilding customizations from scratch, businesses can take advantage of Business Central's built-in extensions and add-ons. Additionally, we can streamline workflows, automate processes, and enable custom app development.

By strategically assessing existing customizations and leveraging Business Central's flexible, cloud-native capabilities, businesses can ensure a more efficient, scalable, and maintainable ERP system without unnecessary complexity.

Key benefits of migrating to Dynamics 365 Business Central

Migrating to Dynamics 365 Business Central offers businesses a modern, scalable, and cloud-native ERP solution that drives efficiency, agility, and data-driven decision-making. Here are the primary benefits:

Key considerations for customization migration



Improved user experience – Business Central features a modern, intuitive interface that simplifies navigation and usability for both technical and non-technical users.



Cloud accessibility – As a cloud-based solution, Business Central enables users to access data from anywhere, on any device, ensuring seamless remote work capabilities and mobile accessibility.



Scalability & flexibility – Business Central is designed to grow alongside your business, allowing you to add users, expand operations, and integrate additional functionalities without the limitations of on-premises systems.



Advanced reporting & analytics – With Power BI integration and built-in business intelligence tools, businesses gain real-time insights into key financials, inventory, and operational data, leading to more informed, data-driven decision-making.



Cost efficiency – By eliminating on-premises infrastructure and reducing IT maintenance costs, Business Central provides a lower total cost of ownership (TCO) while ensuring automatic updates, security patches, and ongoing enhancements.

Preparation for migration

Successfully migrating from Microsoft Dynamics GP to Dynamics 365 Business Central requires careful planning and strategic preparation. This critical stage involves evaluating your current system, defining clear migration goals, and ensuring your business is fully prepared for the transition. A well-structured migration plan helps minimize disruptions, optimize workflows, and maximize the benefits of Business Central. Below, we break down the key steps for a smooth and efficient migration.

Assessing your current Dynamics GP system

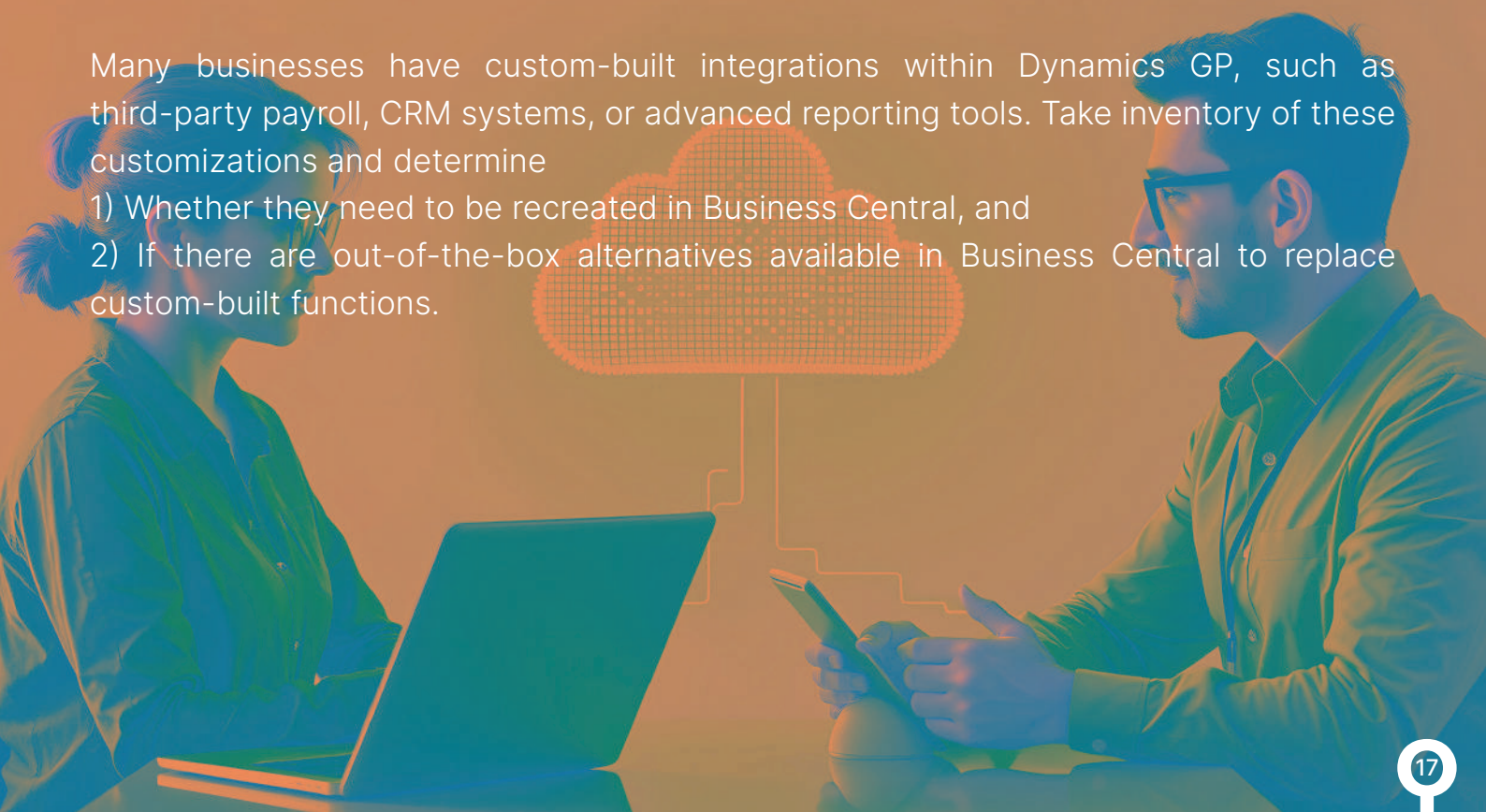
The first step in the migration process is to thoroughly evaluate your existing Dynamics GP system. This assessment provides critical insights to ensure a smooth and efficient transition to Dynamics 365 Business Central. Understanding your current workflows, user roles, and data structure will help identify areas for improvement and streamline the migration process.

Evaluate your current workflows and integrations

While Dynamics GP has been a solid ERP solution for years, businesses must assess how their current workflows are performing and determine which processes could benefit from automation and optimization in Business Central.

Many businesses have custom-built integrations within Dynamics GP, such as third-party payroll, CRM systems, or advanced reporting tools. Take inventory of these customizations and determine

- 1) Whether they need to be recreated in Business Central, and
- 2) If there are out-of-the-box alternatives available in Business Central to replace custom-built functions.



Defining data structure for migration

Once you've identified the key data to be migrated, it's important to map out the data structure to ensure a seamless transition.

Key steps in structuring your data:

- *  **Identify data fields** – Determine which specific data fields need to be transferred.
- *  Assess whether the data format or structure requires transformation before migration.
-  **Understand relationships and dependencies** – Many data sets, such as invoices, sales orders, and purchase orders, have dependencies on other records. Ensuring proper mapping of linked data (e.g., connecting customer records to sales orders) will prevent data integrity issues post-migration..

Define your migration goals

-  **Enhancing efficiency** – Business Central offers automation, AI-driven workflows, and cloud-first deployment, significantly reducing manual tasks and increasing overall productivity.
-  **Enabling business growth** – As your business expands, Business Central's scalable architecture ensures it can adapt and grow with your organization, free from the constraints of on-premises infrastructure.
-  **Improving reporting & analytics** – Business Central provides integrated reporting and advanced analytics, leveraging tools like Power BI to enhance decision-making, financial forecasting, and operational insights.
-  **Strengthening security & compliance** – With Microsoft's enterprise-grade cloud security, Business Central offers regular updates, data protection, and compliance with industry standards, surpassing the security capabilities of Dynamics GP.

Once you have identified your primary migration goals, align them with your business strategy. For example, if improving customer service is a priority, the migration plan should emphasize enhanced CRM functionality and streamlined order management.

Identify key stakeholders and form a migration team

A successful migration requires collaboration across departments. Establishing a dedicated migration team ensures that business needs, IT requirements, and user experience considerations are all accounted for. Key stakeholders involved in the migration process typically include:



IT staff – Responsible for working with your Microsoft partner or migration consultant to ensure seamless data integration, system configuration, and security compliance.



Business leaders & department heads – Ensure that the new system meets operational needs, aligns with the company's long-term goals, and integrates smoothly with existing processes.



End-users & functional teams – Employees who will regularly use Business Central should be actively involved in the process. Their feedback will inform customization decisions, training strategies, and overall system usability.



User training and adoption

Migrating to Dynamics 365 Business Central is more than just a technology shift - it requires a cultural and operational change within your organization. Ensuring comprehensive employee training and proactive change management is essential for a smooth and successful adoption of the new system.



Choosing a migration strategy

When transitioning from Dynamics GP to Dynamics 365 Business Central, businesses must choose between two primary migration approaches: The Big Bang Approach and the Phased Approach. Each method has its own advantages and challenges, and the right choice depends on your business requirements, complexity of data, and operational flexibility.

The big bang approach

The big bang approach involves migrating all data, processes, and users to Business Central simultaneously. While this method offers a faster transition, it comes with potential risks that must be carefully managed.

Pros



Faster implementation –

The entire migration is completed in one go, reducing the overall transition time.

Business leaders & department heads –

Eliminates the need for maintaining two systems simultaneously, potentially reducing costs.

End-users & functional teams –

Users can immediately benefit from all of Business Central's features.

Cons



Higher risk of disruption –

Switching everything at once increases the likelihood of downtime and operational disruptions.

Challenging training & adoption – Employees may struggle to adapt if they are required to switch systems abruptly.

Limited room for adjustments – Any overlooked issues in data migration or configuration can have an immediate impact on operations.

Best For



Businesses with simpler processes or minimal historical data in their current system.

Organizations aiming for a faster transition with immediate access to all Business Central features.

Companies willing to manage potential downtime in exchange for lower long-term costs and quicker implementation.

The phased approach

The phased approach involves starting with financials or critical business operations before expanding to other departments. This approach allows for a gradual transition, reducing risks and giving employees time to adapt.

Pros



Lower risk – Dividing migration into manageable phases minimizes disruption and allows for troubleshooting along the way

Continuous business operations – Key processes continue running smoothly while other functions are transitioned gradually.

Better user adoption – Employees can adapt gradually, reducing resistance to change and improving training effectiveness

Cons



Longer implementation timeline – The transition takes more time, as businesses must operate on two systems until migration is complete.

Potential higher costs – Running both Dynamics GP and Business Central simultaneously may require additional IT resources.

Complex planning required – Any overlooked issues in data migration or configuration can have an immediate impact on operations.

Best For



Organizations with multiple departments or needing significant customizations in Dynamics GP.

Businesses that require minimal disruption to daily operations and need time to train employees gradually.

Minimizing downtime during migration

Regardless of the migration strategy chosen, ensuring business continuity is a top priority. Here are some key ways to minimize system downtime:



Schedule off-hours migrations – If feasible, conduct the migration during off-peak hours, weekends, or holiday periods to reduce the impact on daily operations.



Perform pre-migration testing – Conduct extensive pilot testing and dry runs to identify and resolve potential issues before going live.



Establish backup & contingency plans – Maintain a fully secured backup of all critical data and workflows to prevent data loss in case of migration failures.



Partnering with a Microsoft expert for a seamless migration

Migrating from Dynamics GP to Dynamics 365 Business Central is a complex process that requires strategic planning, technical expertise, and a deep understanding of ERP systems. Attempting this transition without the right expertise can lead to data loss, operational disruptions, and extended downtime.

To ensure a smooth, timely, and cost-effective migration, it is highly recommended to partner with a trusted Microsoft expert who specializes in ERP migrations.

Microsoft
Partner



Azure
Expert
MSP

Benefits of working with an experienced Microsoft partner

By engaging with a certified migration consultant, businesses gain access to specialized knowledge and proven methodologies that can significantly enhance the migration process.

Key steps in structuring your data:



Deep ERP expertise – An experienced consultant has an in-depth understanding of both Dynamics GP and Business Central, ensuring they can navigate complex data structures, workflows, and system configurations with precision.



Faster & more efficient implementation – Migration experts follow best practices, reducing implementation time and minimizing business disruptions. Their expertise helps streamline the data transfer, system setup, and testing phases, accelerating the transition.



Customization & integration support – A migration consultant can tailor Business Central to align with your specific business needs by

- Customizing workflows to match your operational requirements.
- Integrating Business Central with existing systems (e.g., CRM, payroll, e-commerce, or third-party applications).
- Optimizing system configurations for maximum efficiency and usability.

Post-migration support & continuous improvement

The transition doesn't end at go-live. A trusted Microsoft partner provides ongoing support and training to:



Resolve technical issues and troubleshoot post-migration challenges.



Offer user training and adoption programs to ensure employees are fully equipped to use the system effectively.



Implement continuous improvements and additional integrations as business needs evolve.

Why choose Business Central over Dynamics GP?

Migrating from Dynamics GP to Dynamics 365 Business Central is more than just an ERP upgrade - it is a strategic move toward a cloud-first, AI-driven future. Business Central offers greater flexibility, automation, and seamless integration with Microsoft's ecosystem, providing a modern and scalable ERP solution that outperforms Dynamics GP in key areas.

Cloud-native advantage

One of the biggest reasons to migrate to Business Central is its cloud-native design. Unlike Dynamics GP, which was originally built as an on-premises solution with only limited cloud-hosting options, Business Central was designed from the ground up for the cloud.

Key benefits of a cloud-based ERP:



Always up to date – Business Central receives automatic updates with the latest features, security patches, and performance improvements, eliminating the need for manual upgrades and IT maintenance.



Remote access & mobility – Unlike Dynamics GP, which requires a complex and costly infrastructure for remote access, Business Central enables businesses to securely access data from any device, anywhere, at any time.



Scalability & flexibility – As your business grows, Business Central scales effortlessly, allowing you to add users, expand operations, and integrate additional functionalities without IT limitations.

Automation and AI-powered insights

How business central uses AI & automation:

- **Automated financial reporting** – Business Central can automatically generate reports, reducing manual effort and human errors.
- **AI-driven anomaly detection** – The system flags irregularities in financial data, allowing businesses to identify and resolve issues proactively.
- **Predictive analytics for smarter decision-making** – Business Central analyzes historical data to provide accurate forecasts for inventory management, sales, and financial planning.

Seamless integration with the Microsoft ecosystem

A major advantage of Business Central is its deep integration with Microsoft's ecosystem, making it a natural choice for businesses already using Microsoft products such as Microsoft 365 (Office 365), Teams, SharePoint, and Azure. Here are some examples of how Business Central enhances productivity and collaboration within the Microsoft ecosystem.

Key benefits of a cloud-based ERP:



Excel integration – View and edit financial data directly within Excel, without exporting/importing files.



Teams & sharepoint connectivity – Collaborate on financial reports and share insights across teams in real time.



Power apps & power automate – Create custom applications and automate workflows without extensive coding, helping businesses increase efficiency and reduce manual tasks.

By migrating from Dynamics GP to Business Central, businesses gain access to:



A fully cloud-native, scalable ERP that supports modern business growth.



AI-powered automation and predictive analytics to improve efficiency.



Seamless integration with Microsoft 365, Power BI, Teams, and Power Automate for enhanced productivity.



A lower total cost of ownership by eliminating expensive on-premises IT infrastructure.



The Dynamics GP to Business Central migration process

Step-by-step migration plan

Now that we've established why Business Central is a superior choice over Dynamics GP, let's explore the migration process in detail. Transitioning to a new ERP system is not an overnight task, but with a GP to BC migration consultant, businesses can migrate smoothly and efficiently. Below is a step-by-step guide to ensure a seamless transition from Dynamics GP to Business Central.

1

Assess your current system

Before beginning migration, it's crucial to evaluate your existing Dynamics GP environment to identify business processes, customizations, and data quality issues that need attention.

Key actions



Review current workflows – Identify and document core processes such as invoicing, purchasing, inventory management, and reporting. Assess how they align with Business Central's built-in automation and AI-driven capabilities.



Evaluate customizations – Determine if existing custom features, third-party integrations, or reports are still essential, or if they can be replaced with standard Business Central functionality.



Assess data quality – Perform a thorough audit of financial records, customer information, and inventory data. Clean up obsolete, redundant, or inaccurate records to ensure only relevant data is migrated.

2

Plan your migration

Once your system assessment is complete, the next step is to create a detailed migration plan to minimize disruptions and ensure business continuity.

Key actions



Choose a migration partner – Work with an experienced Microsoft consultant or migration partner to guide you through the process and ensure proper system configuration.



Map data for migration – Define which data fields in Dynamics GP correspond to Business Central's structure, ensuring accurate data transfer.



Set timelines & milestones – Establish realistic deadlines and align migration activities with business priorities to avoid disruptions.



Conduct pre-migration testing – Run pilot tests to validate data accuracy, system performance, and workflow integration before the full migration.

3

Execute data migration

Data migration is the most critical stage of the transition. This involves moving essential business data from Dynamics GP to Business Central using a combination of automated tools and manual validation.

Key data to migrate



Customer & vendor information – Including contact details, billing addresses, and transaction histories.



Finance – Chart of accounts, general ledger entries, budgets, and past transactions.



Inventory details – Stock levels, product catalogs, supplier agreements, and warehouse data.



Sales & purchasing data – Open sales orders, purchase orders, and payment terms.

Quality Assurance (QA): Once migration is complete, conduct rigorous validation checks to ensure that no data is lost or corrupted.

4

Optimize business processes

Migrating to Business Central is more than just a software upgrade - it's an opportunity to optimize business processes. Use this transition to take advantage of cloud capabilities and automation to improve efficiency.

Key enhancements



Streamline workflows – Utilize Business Central's automation tools to reduce manual tasks, such as invoice approvals, inventory tracking, and reporting.



Embrace cloud benefits – Leverage real-time reporting, AI-driven insights, and mobile accessibility to enhance decision-making and operational flexibility.

5

Train employees for smooth adoption

User adoption is one of the most overlooked but crucial aspects of a successful ERP migration. Employees who were accustomed to Dynamics GP may require guidance to effectively use Business Central.

Key training strategies



Role-based training – Tailor training programs for different user groups, such as finance managers, warehouse staff, and sales teams.



Leverage microsoft resources – Utilize Microsoft Learn, webinars, and online training modules to upskill employees.



Provide hands-on experience – Encourage practical Business Central sessions to help employees gain confidence with new features.

6

Go live & provide ongoing support

Once all planning, testing, and training are complete, it's time to officially go live with Business Central. However, post-migration monitoring and support are essential to ensure a smooth transition.

Key actions during go-live



Monitor system performance – Track real-time data flows and resolve potential performance issues.



Offer immediate post-migration support – Ensure that helpdesk support is available to assist employees with any challenges or questions.

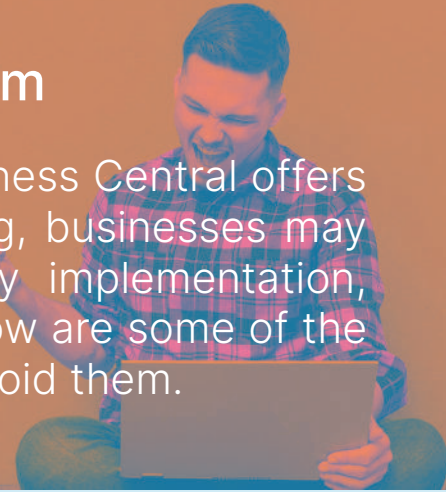


Gather feedback & optimize – Conduct user feedback sessions to identify further process improvements and fine-tune system configurations.



Pitfalls in migration and how to avoid them

Migrating from Dynamics GP to Dynamics 365 Business Central offers significant advantages, but without proper planning, businesses may encounter unexpected challenges that can delay implementation, increase costs, or lead to data inconsistencies. Below are some of the most common migration pitfalls and strategies to avoid them.



Inadequate planning

One of the biggest reasons that migrations fail is a lack of structured planning. Without a clear strategy, businesses may experience confusion, delays, and errors in data transfer.

How to avoid it:

Develop a detailed migration roadmap –

Define milestones, timelines, and responsibilities for every stage of the migration process.

Engage the right experts

– Work with a certified Microsoft partner who has proven experience migrating businesses from Dynamics GP to Business Central.

Underestimating the complexity of data migration

Data migration is one of the most critical and complex aspects of transitioning to Business Central. Years of historical financial records, customer data, and inventory details must be carefully mapped, cleaned, and validated to avoid errors.

How to avoid it:

Develop a detailed migration roadmap – Conduct pre- and post-migration audits to ensure data is accurate, complete, and properly formatted.

Work with experienced professionals

– Leverage Microsoft's data migration tools or collaborate with a specialist to ensure seamless data transfer.

Lack of employee readiness & resistance to change

Migration isn't just a technical shift—it's also a cultural shift. Employees may resist change if they don't fully understand the new system's benefits or feel they haven't received adequate training.

How to avoid it:

Offer continuous training & support – Provide hands-on training, role-based workshops, and access to Microsoft's learning resources.

Communicate the benefits clearly

– Show employees how Business Central will simplify their daily tasks, enhance automation, and improve efficiency.

Why migrate to Dynamics 365 Business Central?

Migrating from Microsoft Dynamics GP to Dynamics 365 Business Central is more than just an ERP upgrade—it is a strategic transformation that prepares your business for long-term success in 2025 and beyond.

With its cloud-native architecture, scalability, and AI-powered automation, Business Central offers unmatched flexibility, efficiency, and data-driven decision-making compared to Dynamics GP. While the migration process requires careful planning and execution, the benefits far outweigh the challenges.

By embracing modern tools like AI-driven insights, workflow automation, and seamless Microsoft integrations, businesses can:



Streamline operations and reduce manual processes



Improve financial forecasting and data analytics



Enhance scalability and support business growth



Reduce IT maintenance costs with a cloud-based solution

For businesses still relying on Dynamics GP, the time to migrate is now. Don't wait until legacy systems hold you back - stay ahead of the competition with a future-ready ERP.

Embrace the future of business management.
Migrate to Dynamics 365 Business Central today!

Contact us

AMSTERDAM

Polarisavenue 51
C4 - 3rd floor 2132 JH Hoofddorp,
Netherlands

Main phone number:
+31 20 547 8060

CANADA

800 Steeles Ave.
W. #B10182 Thornhill,
ON L4J 7L2,
Canada

Main phone number:
+1 416 988 0366

KSA

5th Floor, Al Shablan Tower Al Khobar
31952- Dammam Highway
P.O. Box 3140,
Saudi Arabia

Main phone number:
+966 50 919 9872

SAN DIEGO

5963 La Place Court,
Suite 302 Carlsbad, CA 92008,
United States

Main phone number:
+1 858 385 8900

AUSTRALIA

Unit 104, 109 Oxford
Street Bondi Junction NSW 2022,
Australia

Main phone number:
+61 2 8310 5568

CARIBBEAN & LATIN AMERICA

Parq Ind Quebrada
Arenas 2010 Carr 1 San Juan,
PR 00926-9206,
Puerto Rico

Main phone number:
+1 787 273 0000

SEATTLE

8531 154th Avenue NE,
Suite 110 Redmond, WA 98052,
United States

Main phone number:
+1 425 820 6120

SINGAPORE

70 Shenton Way #21-12
Eon Shenton Singapore 079118,
Singapore

Main phone number:
+65 6222 6591

BANGALORE

Office 621, 2nd Floor,
NMH Complex 80ft Road, 4th Block,
Koramangala Bangalore – 560 034,
India

Main phone number:
+91 80 4122 9072/73

DUBAI

Office 1005, BB1 Mazaya Business
Avenue, Jumeirah Lakes Towers
P.O. Box 122492,
Dubai, UAE

Main phone number:
+971 4 583 6802

QATAR

P.O. Box 55991 ,
Office 102 1st Floor
Sheikh Jabor Bin Yousef Bin Jassem
Al Thani Building Old Airport Road,
Doha, Qatar

Main phone number:
+974 4 444 2150