Move from isolation to intelligence

How to migrate your ERP to a future-ready place

Executive overview

Forward-thinking organizations don't want to get stuck on an island with out-of-date finance and operations (or ERP) systems. Finance and operations systems need to be agile, capable of delivering non-obvious insights to the business; continually updated to take advantage of new technology; and integrated with a host of other business processes to develop operational agility.

The challenge for most organizations is that migrating from either their existing system to a new platform or upgrading from an older version of their system to the new may seem complex, costly and daunting.

Make the transition easier, faster and cost effective while keeping pace with your market and your business ambitions. On the following pages, we share considerations for your migration path to a future-ready ERP.

Agility:

An intelligent enterprise is equipped to generate non-obvious insights that empower employees, improve customer experiences and compete more effectively. Agility is the answer to today's frantic pace of change.

Intelligence:

Technology migrations have become increasingly common as organizations embrace the digital economy. AI with associated intelligent technologies and the right migration partner can help mitigate risks and ensure a smoother migration.
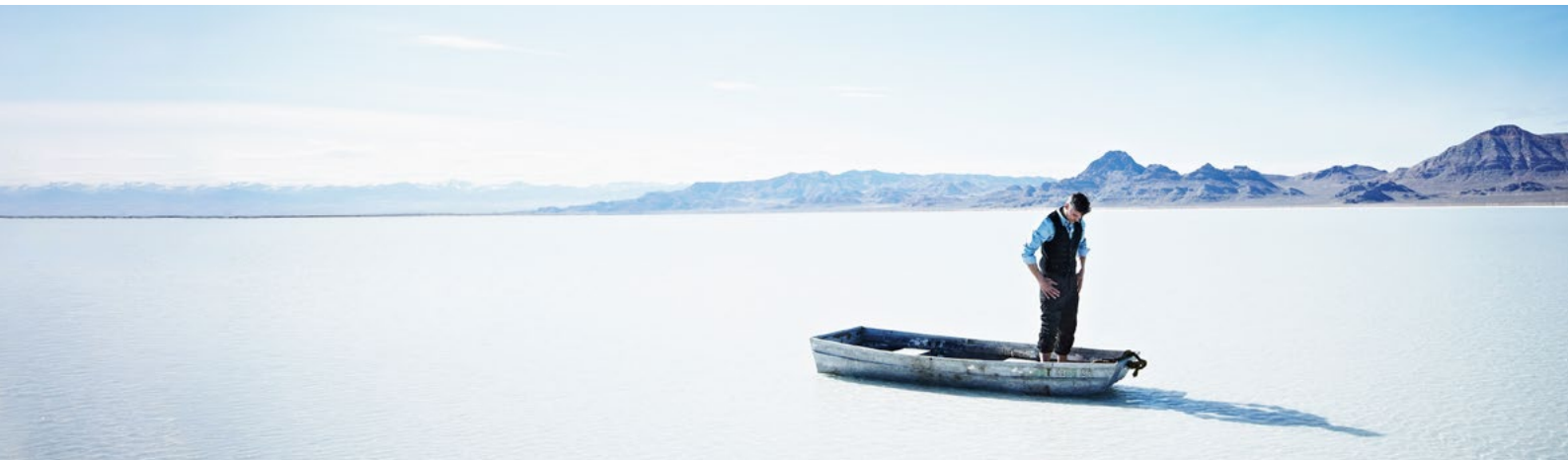
Simplicity:

Avanade's Intelligent Upgrade Engine for Microsoft Dynamics 365 for Finance and Operations helps client migrations succeed through simplicity, taking advantage of the flexibility of Microsoft Azure's exciting AI suite to encourage intelligent automation.

Experience:

Explore how to migrate your ERP system with confidence and respond to an ever-changing and ever- more-demanding digital marketplace.

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Are you stranded or moving forward?

Finance and operations systems are the nerve center of any intelligent enterprise. According to MIT Center for Information Systems Research (CISR), a robust, agile "operational backbone is 'table stakes' for the digital economy… Established firms have struggled to overcome the complexity of legacy systems and processes. Companies without an operational backbone may be fighting for survival in the coming years."[1]

At the rapid pace of today's business, not keeping up with enterprise technology is like letting your business get stranded on a desert island.

Letting your finance and operations systems fall too many releases behind could leave you trapped trying to squeeze more life from an out-of-date ERP system. How do you free your technology from that island and set your company up for success? Due to complexity and cost, the average company only upgrades its traditional ERP system every eight years.

You need to break that pattern if you want to "get off the island" and disrupt the market. Businesses that are flexible and free to innovate have already upgraded to intelligent enterprise technology and are ready to outdistance competitors. MIT CISR calls these fully transformed organizations "future ready."[2]

Migrate your legacy and out-of-date ERP systems to make things simple again.

Finance and operations systems need to contribute to organizational agility, be capable of delivering non-obvious insights to the business; and be continually updated to take advantage of new technology. Future-ready organizations are migrating to modern ERP platforms to gain business agility.

- Get and stay current with cloud-based platforms.
- Integrate intelligence for accelerated results.
- Drive to simplicity with business process and automation.

Avanade can help - let's see how...

[1] J. W. Ross, I. M. Sebastian, C. M. Beath, and L. Jha, "Designing Digital Organizations – Summary of Findings," MIT Sloan CISR Working Paper No. 415, February 2017

[2] "Future Ready? Pick your pathway for digital business transformation," Peter Weill and Stephanie L., MIT Sloan Center of Information Systems Research (CISR), Research Briefing, Volume XVII, Number 9, September 2017

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Gain agility, and always stay current

Dynamics 365 for Finance and Operations was designed for business process agility.

Running on the Azure cloud platform, Dynamics 365 integrates CRM, ERP and business intelligence capabilities. Couple it with existing industry-specific applications and you have the new infrastructure of the intelligent enterprise-enabling agility and competitive advantage for operations and finance. Migrate to Finance and Operations for:

IT agility

Instant resource availability and scalability from the Azure cloud platform

SaaS (Software as a Service) flexibility with pay-as-you-go monthly pricing

Reduced customization with new standard functionality

Leadership agility

Supporting quick adoption of new strategic initiatives with greater technology ease

Enabling better decision-making with Power BI and Cortana Analytics

Eliminating data silos and connecting data from any source

Never be behind again

"Evergreen IT refers to running services comprised of components that are always up to date. Evergreen IT encompasses not only the services at the user level but all of the underlying infrastructures, whether on-site or outsourced. Many organizations believe that Evergreen IT holds promise for reducing the resources and energy they need to expend on providing the up-to-date and flexible services that their users are demanding."

- Microsoft Corporation, 2018

Your path. Your decision.

With the power of the cloud and cloud push capabilities of updates increasing to two releases per year, we get you on a path to optimize your deployment to industry best practices to avoid being locked into a specific version.
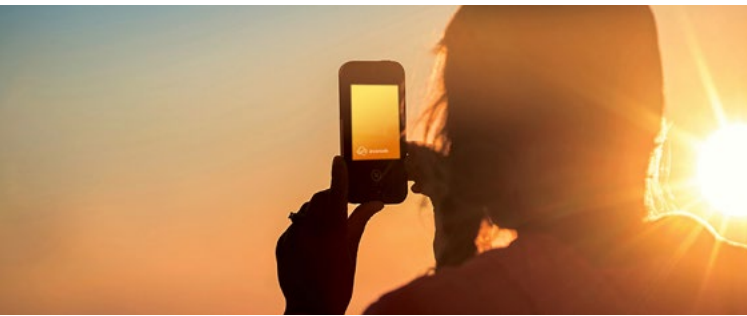
You decide what capabilities to turn on and use for your business. You choose based on business priorities, not project budgets. While we cannot predict the next big wave of innovation, your likelihood of getting access to it is a lot greater with Dynamics 365 on Azure, Avanade's Intelligent Upgrade Engine and our supporting evergreen services.

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Integrate intelligence to accelerate business results

A Future-ready enterprise is equipped to generate non-obvious insights that empower employees, improve customer experiences and accelerate business results.

Microsoft has integrated powerful desktop and Azure-based intelligence tools into Dynamics 365 for Finance and Operations. This enables deep analysis and insights that support planning, scheduling, operations, cost management and business reporting with Power BI and Cortana Analytics.

However, having the capabilities, and knowing how to turn them into operational norms and competitive advantage is a different matter.

Once you've decided to migrate to a new ERP platform like Dynamics 365 for Finance and Operations, you want to shift as quickly as possible to a new way of working.

Combining the insights from your finance and operational systems translates into business impact allowing you to:

- Predict operational capacity issues

- Optimize operational planning

- Improve cost management

Reduce upgrade time and effort by

40%

Here's how:

Estimate effort to complete code upgrade.

Identify the code conflicts between older code versions and Dynamics 365 code during upgrade.

Resolve the code conflicts/errors and deploy upgraded code.

Perform unit testing of the upgraded functionality.

Identify processes for automation and machine learning enhancements.

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Focus on migrating to simplicity and success

Given the organic growth of finance and operations systems, often manual processes are left orphaned and out of scope of major finance and operations systems migrations.

However, automating manual financial and operational processes reduces errors, increases throughput and increases integration of data to other systems, improving costs and reducing time-to-business result.

Avanade's Intelligent Upgrade Engine accelerates your technology migration and helps you adopt more efficient processes. Our Intelligent Upgrade Engine for migrating to Dynamics 365 for Finance and Operations includes:

Advisory support: Avanade – along with its parent, Accenture - has a huge global community of technology and business specialists to help you plan, execute and "de-risk" the journey.

Fast analysis and estimate: Our code evaluation tools automatically scan existing code to understand the complexity involved with migration and to detect potential conflicts ahead of time.

Best practice process enhancement: We help move existing finance and operations processes closer to industry best practices and help you adopt new surrounding technologies like RPA, AI, ML and bots.

Automated upgrade tools: Our Intelligent Upgrade Engine uses artificial intelligence and machine learning to automate best practices so you can raise quality and lower costs.

Global delivery network: Hands-on, highly certified migration experts located onshore and overseas drive the upgrade to completion and provide managed services if required.
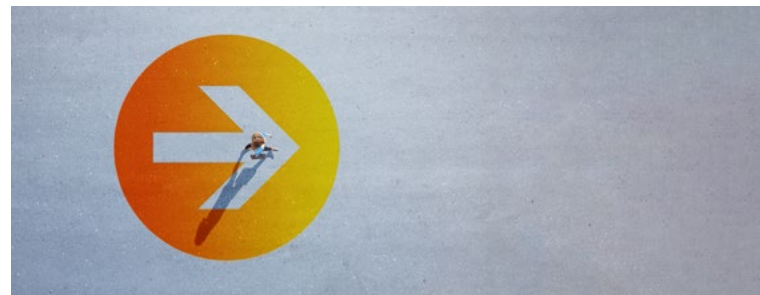
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The Avanade difference

Experience: Our experience and expertise can help you migrate your systems with confidence and respond to an ever-changing and ever-more-demanding digital marketplace. With more Azure-certified professionals, Azure-based deployments and more Dynamics 365 experts than any other partner, you're in safe hands.

Industry-specific IP: We have created unique technology solutions for most major industries, and we benefit from the intellectual capital repository of Accenture. With 35,000 professionals in 24 countries and two decades worth of successful ERP projects, there simply isn't another Microsoft partner that invests more to create industry best practices linked to finance and operations.

Proven transformation framework: Avanade Intelligent Enterprise Solutions (AIES) describes our ability to rapidly implement transformational finance and operations solutions and demonstrate how industry best-practices can be easily implemented within Dynamics 365. We migrate and upgrade systems faster because we understand the unique industry-by-industry intricacies of doing so.

Hybrid agile methodology: By focusing on adoption of existing functionality – rather than custom programming – a platform like Dynamics 365 leads to faster implementation cycles. Our hybrid agile methodology blends the agile concept with the new reality of ERP. We define a focused scope of minimal viable product functionality that can go live near term and quickly enhance this critical set of core processes to deploy as a full standard implementation.

Partnerships: Avanade is invested in strategic partnerships with Microsoft, Blue Prism, UI Path and others. With this team, we are well-equipped to develop automation solutions for intelligent migrations that lead to operational efficiency, agility and experience gains.

> Don't get stuck alone on the island – just you and your old ERP version. Instead, prepare your company for enterprise intelligence, agility and innovation. Become future ready, through an unmatched mix of vision, insight and experience. Avanade already has the migration skills you are looking for – and we're putting these skills to work every single day. When you work with us, we can help you achieve your business goals faster.

Contact us now for a finance and operations backbone migration and transformation roadmap that will show you the way to true enterprise intelligence and how to experience an approximately 30-40% effort reduction from assessment to delivery.

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Avanade's experience and expertise can help you migrate your systems with confidence and respond to an ever-changing and ever-more-demanding digital marketplace, enabling you to leave legacy behind.

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About Avanade

Avanade is the leading provider of innovative digital and cloud-enabling services, business solutions and design-led experiences, delivered through the power of people and the Microsoft ecosystem. Majority owned by Accenture, Avanade was founded in 2000 by Accenture LLP and Microsoft Corporation and has 35,000 professionals in 24 countries.

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