

Microsoft Dynamics 365: Should you stay, or should you go?

A 5-step guide to migrate or upgrade to future-ready ERP



This five-step guide explains how migrating or upgrading to Microsoft Dynamics 365 can help you take advantage of new technology for future-ready ERP.

Key reasons to migrate or upgrade to Dynamics 365



Current upgrade cycles inhibit progress. The average company only upgrades its traditional ERP system every seven to 10 years. This means they don't have access to any of the latest technological innovations to address their key business objectives and growth strategies. Yet they're paying for the innovation through the maintenance fees to their ERP vendor.



An agile infrastructure will enhance success. Recent Avanade research confirms that over 75% of business leaders say that moving systems and business applications to the cloud can enable more effective integration. Dynamics 365 takes advantage of the cloud's push capabilities to deliver multiple releases per year. Updates can be activated when you're ready, so clients enjoy an "evergreen" cycle of ERP advancements while still staying in control.



Customizations no longer hinder progress. In the past, the act of customizing outdated ERP systems was costly, project decisions were painful and many businesses remained in limbo. Dynamics 365 comes with built-in functionality so your need for customizations decreases, and with the help of Avanade's Intelligent Enterprise Solutions (AIES), organizations can focus customizations on those business processes that provide true competitive advantage.



Customizations are safer. If customizing, Microsoft has created an architecture that makes customizations less intrusive and future-safe. Dynamics 365 uses Extensions which allow for enhancement of Dynamics 365 capabilities without making changes to the core system code. It also uses PowerApps allowing you to build additional functionality while taking advantage of the data, business rules and security within Dynamics 365. It enables easy extension of the platform for business users and developers, while protecting the integrity of the ERP package.



You gain access to intelligent tools. The latest version of Dynamics 365 for Finance and Operations on Microsoft Azure comes with machine learning capabilities, native business intelligence tools, superior usability, broader functional coverage and stellar integration with Office 365.

5 steps to realize the benefits of a future-ready environment

- 1. Develop a transformation plan.** Advisory and transformation support is a key factor to understand the potential impact and anticipated benefits of a migration or upgrade project. Avanade has a huge global community of technology and business specialists to help you plan, execute and “de-risk” the journey.
- 2. Have the right tools and experience.** Our evaluation tools automatically scan existing code to understand the complexity involved with migration and detects potential conflicts ahead of time. Our Intelligent Upgrade Engine uses artificial intelligence and machine learning to automate best practices, so you can raise quality and lower costs. Our hands-on experts drive the upgrade to completion and provide managed services if required.
- 3. Take advantage of intelligence to dramatically accelerate success.** Avanade makes migration to non-disruptive ERP easier with our intelligent upgrade engine. It bundles our process improvement expertise and implementation skillsets together with AI-enabled migration automation tools. It can help a company attain up-to-date enterprise intelligence with approximately 30% to 40% less effort from migration assessment to completion.
- 4. Evaluate the technical considerations.** There are multiple areas to include in your technical assessments. For example, do you need to refactor code due to new concepts and application sealing or can the relevant customization be refactored automatically or semi-automatically? Prepare your technical team for success - the key is to work smart and, where possible, leverage partner software assets, instead of customization, or leverage test automation, where test cases are already defined.
- 5. Don't ignore business considerations.** It's vitally important to recognize the impact from an upgrade or migration. The selection of a single cutover or multiple migrations can have significant implications. Appropriate planning provides an opportunity to evaluate new business areas, determine if business processes are up-to-date and documented, uncover critical integrations or applications, and determine if data is defined accurately. Understanding these considerations will improve your chances of success.

Contact us now for a finance and operations migration and transformation workshop, which will show you the way to migrate or upgrade to **future-ready ERP**.



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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