

MICROSOFT DYNAMICS GP TO BUSINESS CENTRAL

Plan your move before the deadline plans it for you

A practical guide for finance, operations, and IT leaders evaluating what comes after Dynamics GP.

Strategic Solutions NW | 2026

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Executive summary

Dynamics GP has supported businesses for decades, and for many organizations, it still works. That is exactly what makes replacing it easy to postpone.

But Microsoft has established a clear endpoint for GP support. Moving to a new ERP takes time: organizations need to evaluate requirements, build internal alignment, establish a budget, select a partner, prepare data, test processes, and train users. The deadline may not feel urgent today, but the window for a deliberate transition is already narrowing.

Starting now does not mean starting an implementation tomorrow. It means understanding your options while you still control the timing, scope, cost, and pace of the project.

The planning window is narrowing

GP replacement may not be an emergency today, but it is no longer something to put off. Waiting may allow the deadline to determine when and how your organization moves.

Moving forward does not mean rebuilding everything

A successful migration protects the processes that still work while leaving behind outdated customizations, workarounds, and technical complexity.

A clear roadmap makes the transition manageable

A focused GP-to-Business Central assessment can define what should migrate, what should change, and what the organization should expect before implementation begins.

The window for a planned transition is narrowing

Microsoft will end Dynamics GP product enhancements, regulatory updates, and technical support on December 31, 2029. Security updates and patches, if needed, will continue through April 30, 2031.

Those dates can create a false sense of distance. An ERP transition begins well before go-live. Assessing the current environment, defining requirements, setting a budget, preparing data, addressing integrations, testing the system, and training users all take time. Waiting compresses those decisions into a smaller and less forgiving window.

Organizations that begin planning now can choose a timeline that works for their business. They can account for seasonal demands, major initiatives, staffing, budgets, and the availability of internal and external resources resulting in a smooth implementation. Organizations that wait may eventually have those choices made for them.

Timeline	
Today	Assess the current GP environment and evaluate available paths.
Planning	Define requirements, budget, project scope, and timing.
Implementation	Configure Business Central, migrate data, connect systems, test, and train.
December 31, 2029	GP product enhancements, regulatory updates, and technical support end.
April 30, 2031	Security updates and patches, if needed, end.

Starting before the transition becomes urgent preserves more control over the project.

GP still runs but the road ahead has changed.

An older car can continue getting you where you need to go. But over time, parts become harder to find, fewer mechanics understand it, and the gap between what it can do and what newer vehicles provide becomes more and more noticeable.

Dynamics GP presents a similar decision. Its familiarity has real value, and replacing it can feel unnecessary while it continues supporting the business. But Microsoft's investment has moved toward cloud platforms built to support the connected, AI-enabled systems and workflows businesses will rely on next. GP customers will increasingly need to maintain an aging system while Microsoft's newest capabilities are developed for Business Central and other cloud offerings.

> A system does not have to stop working before it starts limiting what the business can do.

Business Central gives small and midsized organizations a modern platform for managing finance and operations. It connects with familiar Microsoft applications such as Outlook, Excel, and Teams while supporting financial reporting, inventory, purchasing, sales, projects, manufacturing, warehousing, service, and other essential processes.

The platform also creates room for continued improvement. Organizations can connect Power BI reporting, add established industry applications, automate repetitive workflows, and take advantage of Microsoft's investments in Copilot and AI agents.

AI should not be the sole reason to replace an ERP system. But it illustrates an important difference: Business Central is where Microsoft is building what comes next.

A GP-to-Business Central transition in practice

With more than 60 locations and a complex mix of hospitality, retail, entertainment, and production operations, McMenamins needed more than a basic replacement for GP. SSNW helped the organization move to Business Central while connecting finance, inventory, fixed assets, interlocation activity, AP automation, and point-of-sale data.

90%

Approximately 90% of McMenamins' requirements were supported through standard Business Central functionality, reducing the need to recreate unnecessary customizations.

60+

Business Central supports more than 60 McMenamins locations across multiple business models, sales channels, and operational requirements.

6 MONTHS

McMenamins became largely self-supporting within six months of go-live through structured training and post-launch support.

Source: Strategic Solutions NW customer project records.

A migration should not recreate your GP environment

Longtime GP environments often contain years of customizations, integrations, reports, workarounds, and historical data. Some remain essential. Others exist because of old requirements, earlier technology limitations, or processes the business has outgrown.
The goal is not to move everything. It is to make a deliberate decision about what belongs in the future system.

Evaluate	Preserve	Replace or improve	Why it matters
Business processes	Efficient processes that remain important to daily business operations.	Manual steps and workarounds created to overcome specific GP limitations.	Improve how work gets done without preserving unnecessary friction.
Customizations	Functionality that delivers genuine operational or competitive business value.	Custom code now supported by standard Business Central functionality or established applications.	Less customization lowers costs and makes the system easier to maintain.
Integrations	Connections essential to customers, vendors, and daily operations.	Fragile, redundant, outdated, or unsupported connections between business systems.	A simpler technology environment is easier to support and adapt.
Historical data	Data required for operations, reporting, audits, and compliance.	Older records that can remain securely accessible outside the new ERP.	Not every historical transaction should increase migration cost and complexity.
Reporting	Reports that support important financial and operational business decisions.	Duplicate spreadsheets and manual reports created around disconnected business data.	Business Central, Excel, and Power BI provide clearer performance visibility.

Know the path before committing to the project

1

Understand the current environment

Review the GP configuration, business processes, customizations, integrations, reporting, historical data, infrastructure, and known pain points. Identify what the business depends on today and where complexity has accumulated.

2

Define the future state

Clarify the organization's requirements and priorities. Determine which processes should be preserved, simplified, replaced, or redesigned using standard Business Central functionality and established applications.

3

Build the migration roadmap

Develop a recommended approach, preliminary scope, major risks, estimated investment, and realistic implementation path. Give leadership the information needed to make an informed decision about timing and next steps.

What the assessment provides

- A documented view of the current GP environment and its dependencies
- Prioritized future-state requirements and opportunities to simplify
- A preliminary migration approach, scope, timing, investment range, and next-step roadmap

The result is a practical roadmap the organization can use to plan its move from GP with greater confidence and fewer surprises.

Start while you still control the timeline

Your GP environment does not need to become an emergency before you begin planning what comes next.

Strategic Solutions NW can help you understand your current system, evaluate what should move forward, and develop a practical path to Business Central. The first step is not committing to an implementation. It is gaining the clarity to make the right decision for your business.

Talk with our team about a GP-to-Business Central assessment.

- Dynamics 365 implementation
- ERP migration
- Finance optimization
- Managed services and support

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