

Business Central vs. Dynamics GP Side-by-Side Comparison

Microsoft Dynamics GP has served companies well for decades, but Microsoft will end new license sales in 2026 and full support by 2031. Customers should begin planning a move, with **Dynamics 365 Business Central** as Microsoft's recommended path.

Business Central	VS	Dynamics GP
Architecture		
Cloud-first SaaS with optional on-premises deployment. Automatic updates, no upfront hardware investment, highly scalable.		On-premises by design. High upfront costs for hardware and ongoing maintenance, and manual updates even if hosted.
Core Functionality		
End-to-end ERP covering finance, sales, inventory, projects, CRM, and more. Premium subscription adds manufacturing, supply chain, and field service.		Strong accounting core with AP/AR, GL, inventory, BOM, payroll, and manufacturing (via add-ons).
Reporting		
Built-in reporting (Account Schedules, Analysis Views). Dimensions enable flexible tagging. Embedded Power BI for dashboards.		Multiple disconnected tools (Management Reporter, SmartLists, SSRS, Excel). Reports require manual rebuild when migrating.
Add-ons and Extensions		
7,500+ extensions on Microsoft AppSource. Deep integration with Microsoft 365, Power Platform, Copilot, and Azure. Built-in functionality replaces the need for many of GP's add-ons.		Relies on ISV add-ons for industry-specific ERP functionality with fragmented integration and no centralized platform like AppSource to acquire these extensions.
AI Capabilities		
Native AI with Copilot and automation for tasks like forecasting and reminders.		Limited AI capabilities, mostly relying on algorithms for operations like forecasting.
Support Lifecycle		
Offers ongoing support with automated cloud updates. Microsoft is focusing its future SMB ERP development on Business Central, not GP.		New license sales end 2026. Mainstream support ends in 2029, and security updates stop in 2031.
Licensing		
Subscription-based pricing: Essentials ~\$70/user/month (\$840/year), Premium ~\$100/user/month. Predictable, scalable, and lower initial outlay.		Perpetual licensing model with a large upfront cost.
Scalability		
Scales seamlessly with increased users, transactions, and processes.		Growth requires heavy investment in infrastructure and add-ons.
Integrations		
Native integration with Microsoft 365, Power Platform, Azure, and many third-party apps.		Limited Microsoft and third-party integration.
Security		
In addition to role-based access controls, Business Central SaaS on Azure offers enterprise-level security, including multifactor authentication, intrusion detection, backup and restore functions, and more.		While GP offers role-based access controls, on-premises installations rarely offer the level of security available from enterprise hosting providers, such as AWS and Microsoft Azure.
Compliance		
Ongoing development activity with two major releases per year plus monthly updates.		Moves to maintenance mode in 2029; tax updates end.

Additional Considerations

Business Central delivers a modern, intuitive experience that feels familiar to Microsoft 365 users and works anywhere—on any device or browser. Built on Microsoft Azure, it offers enterprise-level security and 99.9% uptime for unmatched reliability.

Microsoft's innovation is centered on Business Central, with continuous investment in AI, automation, and analytics through Copilot and the Power Platform. Migration from GP is simpler than many expect, thanks to Microsoft and ArcherPoint tools that streamline data transfer and reduce disruption. **Business Central isn't just an upgrade—it's a future-ready platform designed to grow with your business.**

ArcherPoint by Cherry Bekaert can help you evaluate migration paths from GP to Business Central. Contact us at archerpoint.com/contact-us or email us at emartin@archerpoint.com to discuss how a move to Business Central can help you.