

Elevate Your Enterprise ERP

Ten Reasons to Upgrade from Dynamics AX or Dynamics GP to Dynamics 365 Finance

An eBook written by



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Foreword

A quick introduction to *Elevate Your Enterprise ERP: Ten Reasons to Upgrade from Dynamics AX or Dynamics GP to Dynamics 365 Finance*

Modern operations can be complex. Because of this, growing companies need a future-proof financial system that optimizes efficiency through AI-driven automation and agents. For those currently on Dynamics AX or GP, the decision to upgrade to Dynamics 365 Finance is a transformative one that provides you with a next generation ERP. Backed by Microsoft's \$50+ billion investment, Dynamics 365 has become the industry leader in technology automation.

Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance is, at its core, Dynamics AX reimaged as a cloud-native application that is also a natural fit for complex organizations currently on Dynamics GP. Dynamics 365 Finance is hosted in the secure Azure cloud and licensed on a full SaaS model (Software-as-a-Service) – billed as a monthly subscription. This powerful ERP software has been recognized by Gartner as a leader in the 2024 Gartner® Magic Quadrant™ for Cloud ERP.

Let's dive into the ways Dynamics 365 Finance can help you elevate your enterprise beyond Dynamics AX and GP.



MEET THE AUTHOR

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Figure 1: Magic Quadrant for Cloud ERP for Service-Centric Enterprises



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Image Source:
Gartner, "Magic Quadrant for Cloud ERP for Product-Centric Enterprises," Greg Leiter, Robert Anderson, Dixie John, Tomas Kienast, David Penny, November 11, 2024.

10 Reasons

to Upgrade from Dynamics AX or Dynamics GP to Dynamics 365 Finance

Making the move to Dynamics 365 Finance can provide numerous benefits to your organization, but I've compiled the top ten.

Reason #1

Vulnerability: Dynamics AX and GP Support Has Ended

Having an upgrade to Dynamics 365 on your roadmap is imperative. Extended support for the latest **Dynamics AX 2023 R3** ended on January 10, 2023. This means you no longer receive regulatory updates or security hotfixes for any version of AX software, leaving you more vulnerable to security threats and reducing your options for support if critical issues arise.

Dynamics AX Version	Mainstream Support End	Extended Support End
AX 2009	October 9, 2018	April 12, 2022
AX 2012	October 9, 2018	April 12, 2022
AX 2012 R2	October 9, 2018	April 12, 2022
AX 2012 R3	October 12, 2021	January 10, 2023

Security support for the latest **Dynamics GP 2018 R2** will end April 30, 2031 with product support and updates ending December 31, 2029. To avoid making your organization vulnerable due to missing vital regulatory updates and security hotfixes, migration is needed as soon as possible.

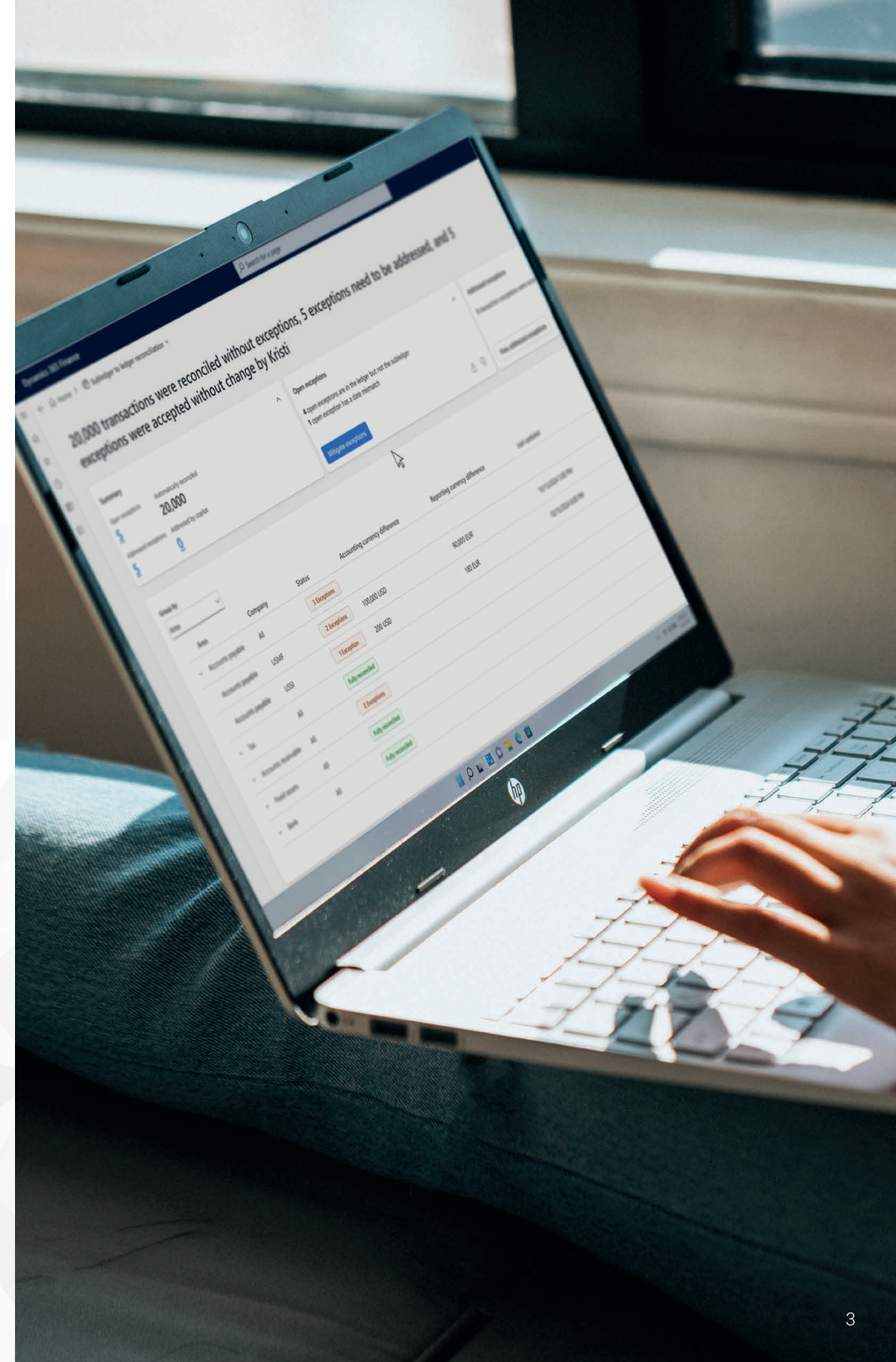
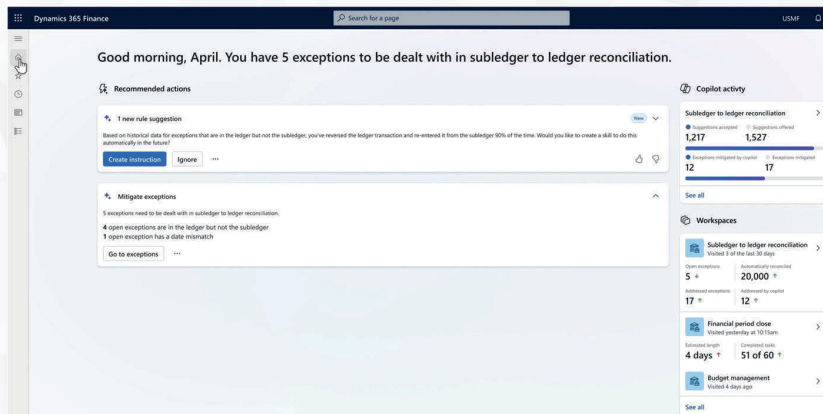
Dynamics GP Version	Mainstream Support End	Extended Support End
GP 2013 / 2013 R2	April 10, 2018	April 11, 2023
GP 2015 / 2015 R2	April 14, 2020	April 8, 2025
GP 2016 / 2016 R2	July 13, 2021	July 14, 2026
GP 2018 2018 R2	January 23, 2023	January 11, 2028

Reason #2

AI and Agent-Driven Automation: Tap into New Potential

Many organizations using Dynamics AX or GP struggle with outdated processes that fail to meet their evolving needs, leading to inefficiencies such as time-consuming manual processes, delayed month-end closings, and resource constraints. By deploying Dynamics 365 Finance, businesses can streamline operations, automate routine tasks, and empower employees with modern tools that enhance productivity and job satisfaction. AI-powered agents easily manage repetitive tasks, allowing finance leaders to focus on high-value strategic work while gaining real-time financial insights and automated reconciliations to close the books faster.

With Microsoft's \$50+ billion investment in AI and automation, Dynamics 365 Finance stands as the industry leader, helping organizations improve performance, boost agility, and drive smarter decision-making in an increasingly complex business landscape.



Reason #3

Predictable and Flexible Cost Management: A Paradigm Shift in Financial Planning

Dynamics 365 Finance employs a major shift in the economics of Microsoft ERP solutions, offering both predictability and flexibility in cost management. The predictable monthly pricing model includes maintenance and infrastructure costs, eliminating the unpredictability of surprise upgrade expenses. This transparency in budgeting empowers organizations to plan and allocate resources strategically, fostering better financial stability and control. It also provides flexibility in license types and data storage, which ensures that your ERP solution aligns seamlessly with the evolving needs of your business.

As your organization grows, so can licensing and storage capabilities, providing you and your team the scale and agility to quickly adapt.



Reason #4

Always on the Cutting Edge: Embrace the Evergreen Advantage

Dynamics 365 Finance model is an evergreen solution, ensuring your organization is consistently on the latest version of the ERP system. This means no more waiting for budget approvals to access the most up-to-date version. With two major updates (Wave Releases) each year, your business can leverage the latest features and advancements as soon as they become available.

Eliminate the need for cumbersome and time-consuming upgrades; Dynamics 365 Finance gives you the control to schedule planned maintenance windows for your environments, ensuring updates are applied in a timeframe that works best for your organization. This includes overnight and weekend options, so you will rarely experience any downtime during the workday.

In addition, most maintenance operations don't require any action from you. It's not just an upgrade; it's a perpetual optimization of your ERP system, keeping you ahead of the technology curve.





Reason #5

Effortless Infrastructure Management: Transition to the Cloud

Reimagine infrastructure management with Dynamics 365 Finance in the cloud. No more worrying about purchasing new servers, managing hardware, or patching your ERP solution.

The cloud-based approach allows your organization to redirect its focus from infrastructure management to more strategic and value-added activities. This transition marks a new era in operational efficiency, reducing the burden on internal IT resources and allowing your business to scale without the constraints of traditional on-premises infrastructure.

Reason #6

Enhanced Security and Compliance Controls: Entrust Your Data to the Experts

Security is a paramount concern in today's digital landscape. Dynamics 365 Finance addresses this with built-in security features and compliance controls. Your sensitive business data is stored in state-of-the-art data centers owned and managed by Microsoft. Security monitoring and threat management are also handled by Microsoft, reducing the burden on your IT resources.

Azure High Availability disaster recovery and service level agreements further reinforce the security infrastructure, providing organizations with peace of mind regarding the integrity and availability of their data. By entrusting your data to Microsoft, you can focus on strategic initiatives, knowing that your ERP system is fortified by industry-leading security protocols.

For government organizations and contractors, Dynamics 365 Finance is also available in the Government Community Cloud (GCC) to meet heightened compliance requirements for applicable agencies.



Reason #7

Seamless Integration with the Microsoft Suite: Break Down Silos, Foster Collaboration

Dynamics 365 Finance takes integration to the next level by seamlessly interfacing with various Microsoft products. Harmonize effortlessly with Excel, Outlook, Word, and the Power Platform, including Power BI, Power Automate, Power Apps, Power Pages, and Power Virtual Agents. Integration with other Dynamics 365 solutions, such as Sales and Customer Service, eliminates departmental silos and fosters a collaborative environment. This connection not only streamlines business processes but also provides a holistic view of your data.

Whether it's financial data in Dynamics 365 Finance or customer data in Dynamics 365 Sales (CRM), the unified ecosystem facilitates a comprehensive understanding of business operations, enabling informed decision-making and strategic planning.

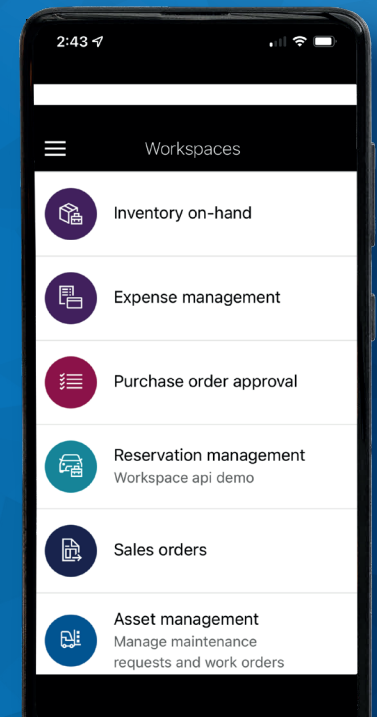


Reason #8

Anywhere, Anytime Accessibility: Empower Your Mobile Workforce

Dynamics 365 Finance breaks down the barriers of traditional desktop applications, empowering your mobile workforce. Work from anywhere, on any device, and enjoy the same tools and functionalities across different operating systems. This mobility not only enhances the user experience but also contributes to increased productivity and flexibility in how and where work gets done.

The consistent user experience across devices gives your team a seamless transition between desktop and mobile environments, aligning with the expectations of the modern workforce.





Reason #9

Predictive Insights and Analytics: Navigate the Data-Driven Landscape with Confidence

Dynamics 365 Finance extends beyond traditional reporting by embedding advanced analytics and artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities. Compared to AX or GP, Dynamics 365 allows you to better gain predictive insights, identify trends, and make data-driven decisions. It also provides you with an accurate end-to-end view of your business operations, empowering leaders to make informed decisions based on real-time data.

This shift towards predictive analytics positions your organization at the forefront of innovation, enabling a proactive approach to challenges and opportunities in the competitive landscape.

Reason #10

Improved User Experience: Modern Interface, Enhanced Productivity

The user interface of Dynamics 365 Finance represents a more modern design on the AX foundation that prioritizes ease of navigation and use. The intuitive interface enhances user experience, making it more accessible to a diverse user base. This modernization not only contributes to improved user adoption but also reduces the learning curve associated with transitioning to a new ERP solution.

The emphasis on user experience reflects a commitment to creating an environment that aligns with the expectations of a contemporary workforce. These modern design enhancements to the system drive overall productivity and user satisfaction, creating a positive impact on day-to-day operations.



Just in case you need more...

See the difference between Dynamics AX and Dynamics 365

Functionality, Services and Tools	AX 2009 & 4.0	AX 2012	AX 2012 R2	AX 2012 R3	Dynamics 365
Role based security and organization hierarchy					
Workflows for process management					
Task recorder integrated with Help on-demand					
Microsoft 365 Office apps integration					
Case management					
New end user experience with enhanced UI					
Reduce hardware upgrade costs and IT maintenance					
Predictable and repeatable implementations across your organization					
Platform flexibility and elasticity					
Intrusion security, high availability and disaster recovery					
Mobile-ready and accessible anywhere with cross-platform UI support					
Seamless integration with productivity tools					
Built-in BI tools with real-time data insights					

NOTE: This table provides only a graphical representation. For detailed functionality, please refer to the product guide.

MOST LEAST

For a complete feature comparison between Dynamics AX and Dynamics 365 Finance, visit learn.microsoft.com/en-us/dynamics365/get-started/migration/dynamics365-ax-feature-compare

Conclusion

Let's recap

In the dynamic realm of ERP solutions, the decision to upgrade from Dynamics AX or GP to Dynamics 365 Finance is not just an upgrade; it's a commitment to unlocking the full potential of your enterprise.

Each of the ten reasons outlined in this eBook underscores the transformative nature of this upgrade, promising enhanced predictability, flexibility, and overall operational excellence. From cutting-edge technology adoption and cloud-based infrastructure to seamless integration and improved user experience, Dynamics 365 Finance stands as a catalyst for organizational growth and resilience.



The Proof is in the ROI

Did you know?

A recent Total Economic Impact™ study by Forrester Consulting found that Dynamics 365 Finance delivered an ROI of 106% over three years with a 17-month payback.

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SAVE 40% ON LICENSING when you make the switch in 2025

From now until **December 31, 2025**, Dynamics AX customers can get a 40% discount on Dynamics 365 Finance licensing with a Cloud Solution Provider (CSP) partner-led migration. The discount is valid for commercial customers only (excludes government and education customers) with an existing on-premises system and active Enhancement Plan. Arctic IT is an experienced Microsoft CSP who can help you qualify with your migration project.



WHY CHOOSE ARCTIC IT for your Dynamics 365 Finance migration?

With over 20 years of implementing Microsoft business applications for businesses and government entities, Arctic IT has the experience to lead a successful Dynamics 365 migration for your organization. Our team includes Microsoft Fast Track Solution Architects, a designated Microsoft Most Valuable Professional (MVP), and a Microsoft Certified Trainer.

We bring our vast industry knowledge, management expertise, training and support solutions, and implementation methodology best practices to the table. After go-live, our **U.S.-based support team is available 24/7** to keep your operations running smoothly. Our managed application services also include ongoing training, software maintenance, and annual strategy sessions.

Contact Arctic IT today to discuss your Dynamics 365 Finance migration at connect@arcticit.com.

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