

BEYOND DYNAMICS GP: 6 REAL-WORLD SUCCESS STORIES OF BUSINESS CENTRAL MIGRATIONS

*Panel Reports:
Brought to you by Six Microsoft Dynamics Community Experts*





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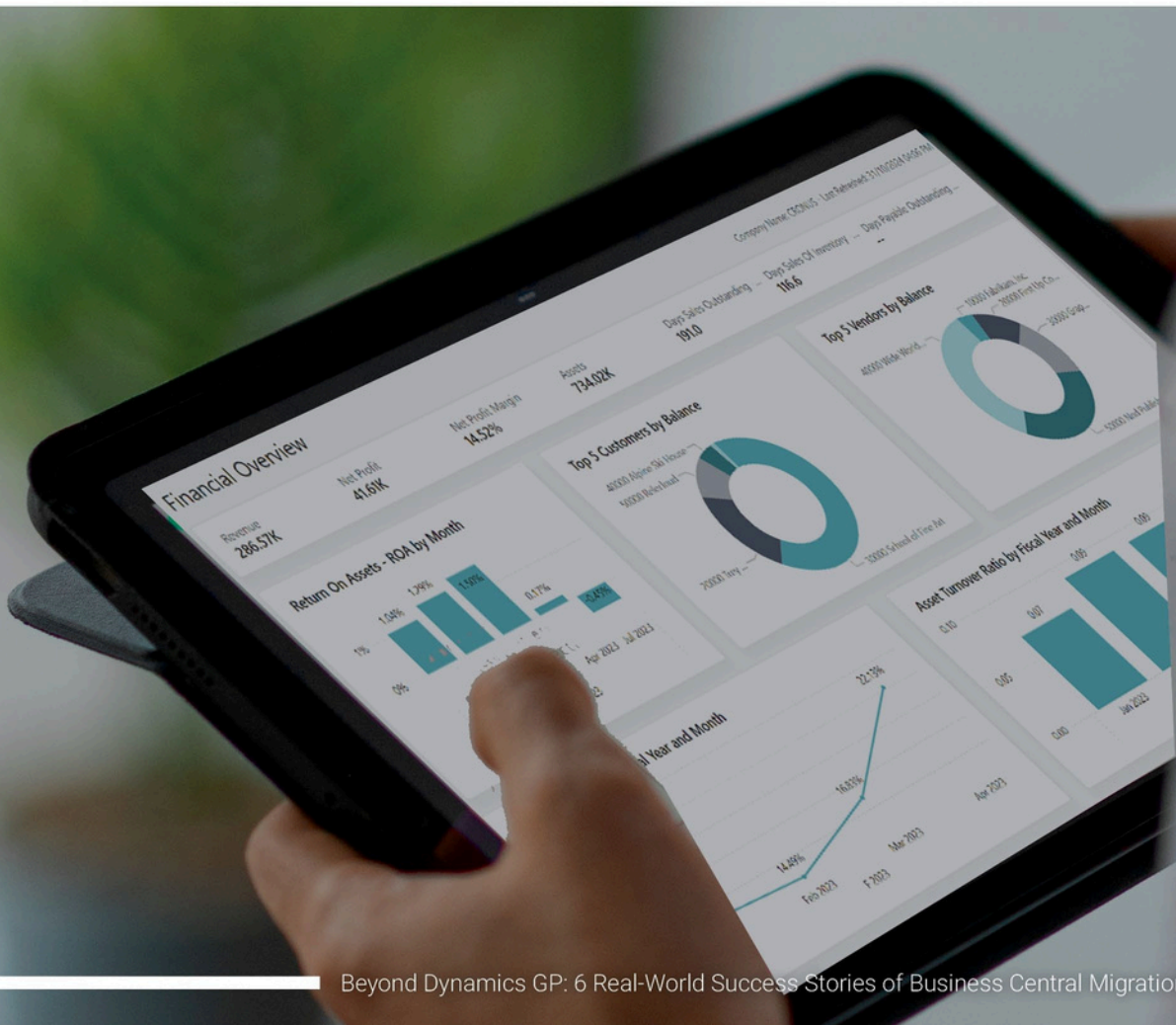
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INTRODUCTION

Organizations that have relied on Microsoft Dynamics GP for years are discovering that their legacy systems are increasingly limiting growth, efficiency, and visibility. As business processes evolve and workforces become more distributed, companies need an ERP solution that can keep pace with modern operational demands. Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central is a cloud-based platform that unifies finance, operations, supply chain, and reporting, providing the agility and insight organizations need to compete and scale.

Across industries—from manufacturing to retail to charitable organizations—businesses are finding that migrating to Business Central not only addresses long-standing operational pain points but also unlocks new opportunities for efficiency, automation, and analytics. The case studies in this eBook showcase real-world examples of organizations that successfully transitioned from Dynamics GP to Business Central, highlighting measurable benefits and key lessons learned along the way.



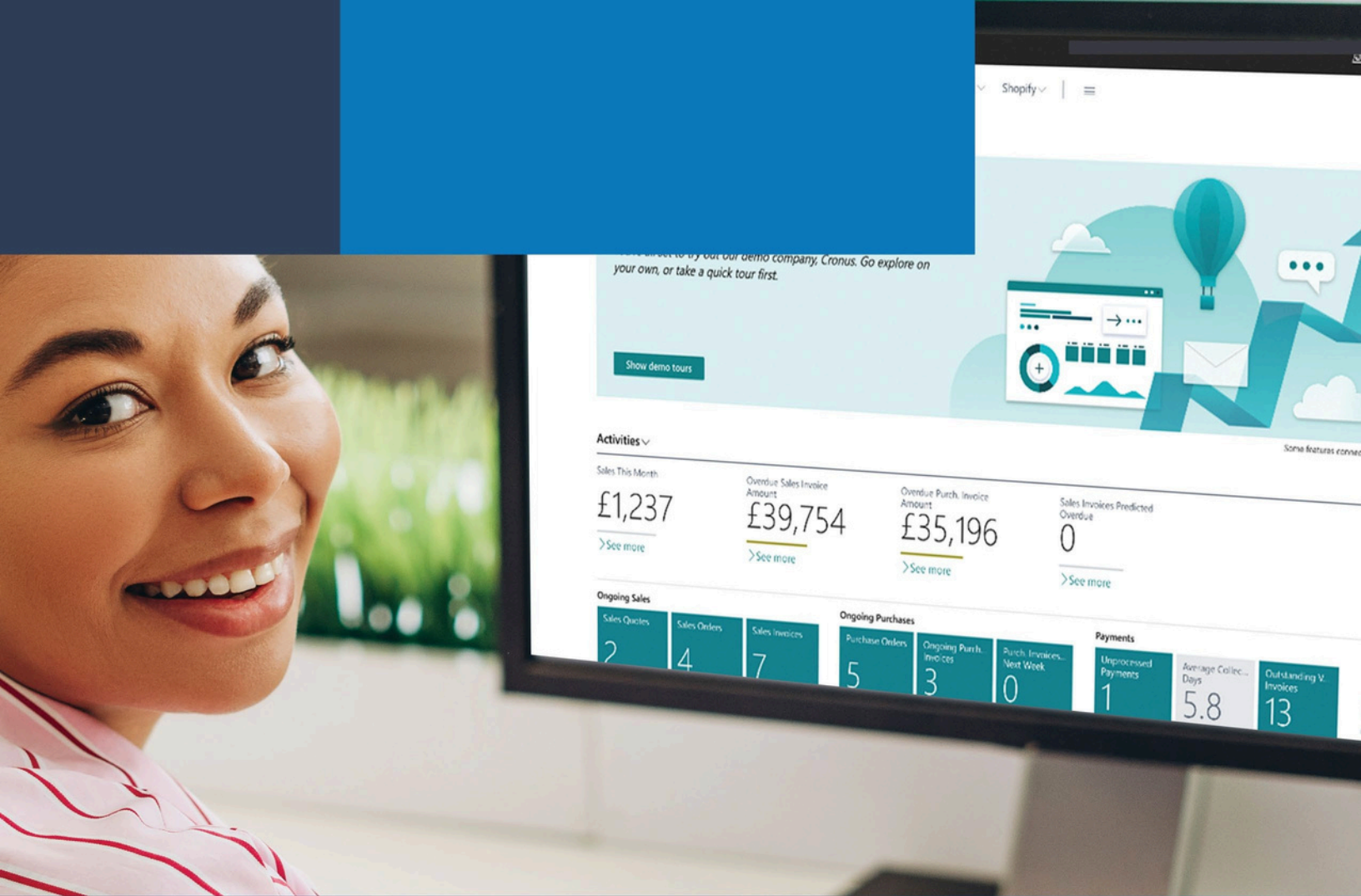
Why Businesses are Moving from Dynamics GP to Business Central

Companies are choosing Business Central to modernize their operations, streamline workflows, and gain real-time visibility into financial and operational performance. Unlike GP, Business Central is a cloud-native ERP that supports scalable growth and integrates seamlessly with other essential solutions like Microsoft 365 and Power BI, helping teams work more efficiently. By automating routine processes and improving reporting, businesses can better manage hybrid and distributed work environments and make faster, data-driven decisions.

Key Drivers for Migration:

- Unified, cloud-based platform for finance, operations, and supply chain
- Improved scalability and flexibility to support growth and new technologies
- Automation of routine processes such as approvals, payables, and inventory management
- Enhanced security and user management through Microsoft 365 integration
- Real-time reporting and analytics for faster, more informed decision-making
- Reduced IT overhead and reliance on custom add-ons or legacy systems





Real-World SUCCESS STORIES

SUCCESS STORY

How One of Canada's Largest Charities Modernized Its Financial Operations

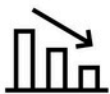
With nearly 1,000 employees and a 60-year legacy, one of Canada's largest charities needed technology to support remote and on-site teams while streamlining financial operations.

The Challenge

The organization's outdated version of Dynamics GP created obstacles for collaboration, visibility, and reporting. Remote and in-office employees faced inefficiencies in accessing financial data, approving transactions, and producing meaningful reports.

The Solution

The move to Business Central brought financial processes into a single, centralized platform while improving accessibility across the organization. A redesigned Chart of Accounts with dimensions enabled more detailed and flexible reporting, giving teams better insight into financial data. Automating essential workflows like purchasing, payables, and approvals increased both accuracy and efficiency, while integration with Microsoft 365 strengthened security, simplified user management, and laid the groundwork for future growth and innovation.



95%

Reduction in
operational costs



STRONGER
security and remote
accessibility



DEEPER
financial insight
through advanced
reporting



SUCCESS STORY

How a Caribbean-Based Food Manufacturer Optimized Production and Inventory

Founded in the 1940s, this Caribbean-based company produces a range of food products, including cooking oils, margarine, shortening, and pet foods. Committed to quality, sustainability, and customer satisfaction, the organization also operates its own retail store to serve customers directly.

The Challenge

Dynamics GP lacked real-time inventory visibility, lot tracking, and integrated retail operations. This led to inaccurate costing, unreliable margin analysis, inefficient production scheduling, and challenges during recalls.

The Solution

Business Central brought manufacturing, inventory, costing, and retail operations together on a single platform. Improved lot tracking and process manufacturing increased precision, while enhanced warehouse tools streamlined inventory handling and made production scheduling more reliable. At the same time, financial reporting became simpler and more timely, giving management clearer insights to guide decision-making.



ACCURATE
real-time inventory
visibility



FASTER
production and
shipping cycles



IMPROVED
costing, reporting,
and forecasting



SUCCESS STORY

How a Mid-Sized Manufacturer Simplified Payroll

This mid-sized manufacturer employs approximately 75 people and operates in a unionized environment, which adds complexity to payroll management. Weekly payroll was critical to operations, and the organization relied on Microsoft Dynamics GP to manage employee payments and generate reports.

The Challenge

Timesheets and union pay rates required manual entry, sometimes duplicating work. Reporting in Dynamics GP was difficult to generate and lacked clarity, and compliance reporting required additional time and effort.

The Solution

By moving to Business Central, the company gained a centralized payroll system that reduced manual work and improved accuracy. Union pay rates are now managed through a single pay matrix, eliminating repetitive updates. Reporting became straightforward, allowing staff to generate custom reports, export data in multiple formats, and access insights quickly. Built-in compliance reporting, such as quarterly 941 filings, further reduced administrative burden and saved time.



STREAMLINED

payroll with less
manual data entry



CENTRALIZED

management of
union pay rates



FASTER

and more accurate
reporting and compliance



SUCCESS STORY

How a Clothing Buying Group Streamlined Operations

This clothing buying group supports over 300 small retail stores, connecting members with 200 affiliated partners to reduce costs and improve efficiency in areas like credit card processing, freight, insurance, and inventory management.

The Challenge

Multiple systems, including Dynamics GP, a custom SQL/VBA database, and Excel, created operational complexity and required high hosting fees. Reporting and transaction processing were time-consuming and fragmented across platforms.

The Solution

Business Central consolidated all functionality into a single, cloud-based platform, replacing multiple disparate systems. Customizations in Business Central replicated the features previously spread across three applications, enabling seamless transaction processing, streamlined reporting, and more efficient day-to-day operations.



SINGLE PLATFORM

for all business
operations



STREAMLINED

transaction processing
and reporting



COST SAVINGS

by eliminating expensive
GP hosting



SUCCESS STORY

How a Mid-Sized U.S. Manufacturer Improved Finance, Production, and Supply Chain

This mid-sized manufacturer of precision plastic components needed an ERP solution to unify production scheduling, financials, and supply chain management while reducing reliance on complex customizations.

The Challenge

Since adopting Dynamics GP in 2007, the company had layered proprietary add-ons for inventory and order management, creating silos between financials, inventory, and manufacturing.

The Solution

Business Central connected finance, production, and supply chain operations within a single, unified platform. Real-time dashboards replaced static reporting, while automated workflows minimized manual tasks and inventory valuations updated automatically. With the system supporting simultaneous collaboration, teams gained greater efficiency and improved visibility across the organization.



ACCELERATED

financial close
cycles and real-time
reporting



ENHANCED

collaboration across
facilities with
concurrent access



IMPROVED

inventory accuracy
with barcode-enabled
cycle counts



SUCCESS STORY

How a Higher Education Institution Transformed Financial Management

A mid-sized educational institution serving hundreds of students annually sought to modernize its legacy financial systems. Operating in the nonprofit higher education sector, it needed a cloud-based ERP to support efficiency, scalability, and continued growth.

The Challenge

Running on Dynamics GP created mounting obstacles for IT and finance teams. Limited accessibility, cumbersome bank reconciliations, and rigid account structures hindered reporting and alignment with their cloud-first strategy.

The Solution

The migration to Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central gave the institution a unified, cloud-based platform that streamlined financial operations and improved overall data visibility. Routine tasks, from reconciliations to approvals, became more efficient, reducing manual work and minimizing errors. Compatibility with Power BI allowed the organization to create more insightful reports, monitor key metrics in real time, and make data-driven decisions with confidence.



STREAMLINED

payables and
daily bank
reconciliations



ENHANCED

data structure for
detailed Power BI
reporting



REMOTE

access and scalability
aligned with a
cloud-first strategy



6 Lessons Learned About Migrating from Dynamics GP to Business Central



#1 Treat the Migration as a Full ERP Transformation

Business Central is not just an upgrade to GP. It's a cloud-native ERP with new workflows, automation, and reporting capabilities. Treat it as a fresh implementation: reevaluate processes, the Chart of Accounts, and workflows instead of trying to replicate GP exactly.



#2 Plan and Map Your Processes Carefully

Successful migrations start with a clear understanding of current operations and future goals. Conduct process mapping and fit-gap analysis to align Business Central's capabilities with business needs, ensuring the system supports manufacturing, payroll, retail, or financial requirements efficiently.



#3 Leverage Expert Partners and Migration Tools

Engaging a partner experienced in GP-to-BC migrations is critical. They can help map historical data, manage complex configurations, and avoid common pitfalls, particularly around customizations, multi-company setups, and industry-specific requirements.



#4 Clean, Test, and Validate Data

Migrating only active master data and key historical transactions reduces clutter and minimizes risk. Multiple rounds of testing ensure data integrity and help teams feel confident in the new system from day one.



#5 Invest in Training and Change Management

User adoption is key to realizing BC's benefits. Training, communication, and organizational change management ensure employees embrace new workflows, reporting tools, and automation features, turning the migration into a smooth transition rather than a disruption.



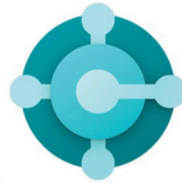
#6 Modernization Is About Process And Technology

ERP modernization offers a unique opportunity to redesign operations for efficiency. The most successful projects align finance, IT, and leadership around shared goals to simplify processes, strengthen reporting, and build a scalable foundation for the future.



CONCLUSION

Unlocking the Benefits of Business Central



The case studies in this eBook demonstrate that moving from Dynamics GP to Business Central can transform operations, increase efficiency, and provide actionable insights across industries. Organizations are modernizing workflows, consolidating systems, and building a scalable foundation for future growth. By adopting Business Central, companies can reduce manual processes, gain real-time visibility, and position themselves to leverage emerging technologies such as AI-driven analytics.



“For holdouts weighing Dynamics GP’s 2029 end-of-life, it’s time to embrace Business Central not as a flashy overhaul but as a natural successor that amplifies Dynamics GP’s ledger strengths with cloud-native intelligence.”

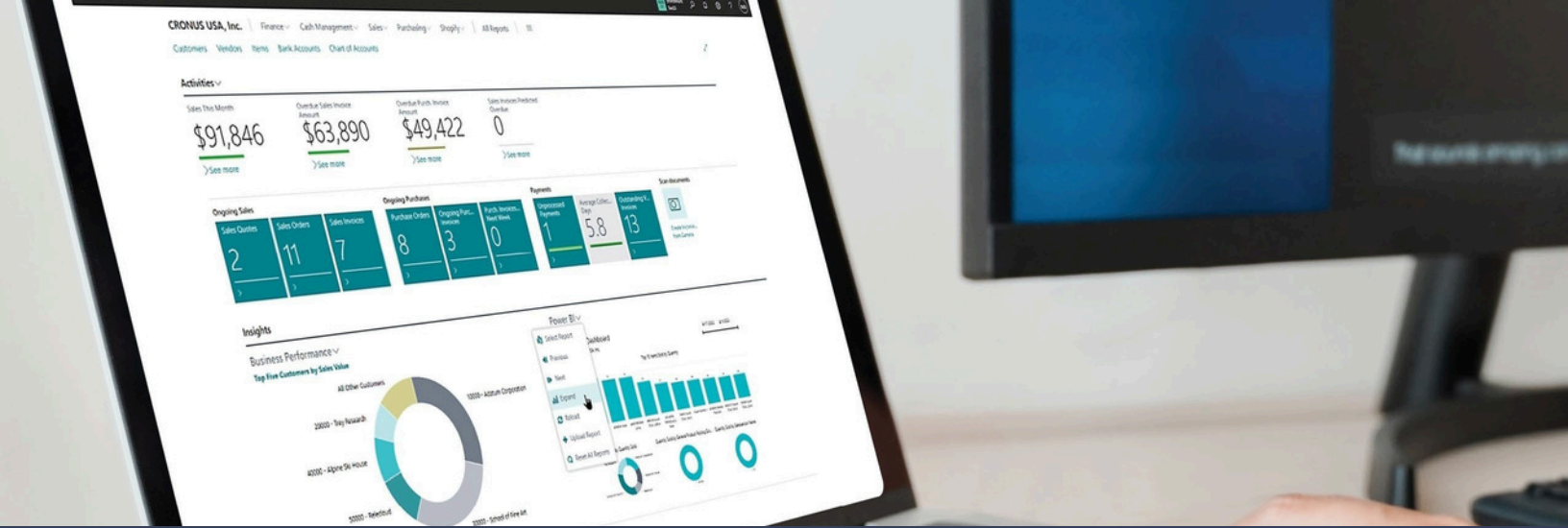
– Jason Sheaffer, CEO, *Crestwood Associates*

IS YOUR BUSINESS READY TO MOVE?

Consider these key indicators to determine if your organization might be ready for a migration to Business Central:

- Manual processes, spreadsheets, or disconnected systems are slowing operations
- Reporting and analytics are delayed, inaccurate, or difficult to produce
- Your workforce is increasingly remote or distributed
- You are looking to reduce IT overhead and dependence on custom add-ons

If any of these resonate, it may be time to explore a cloud-based ERP solution that can support your organization’s evolving needs.



Start Your Business Central Migration with Clarity

Moving from Dynamics GP to Business Central requires more than a technical upgrade. It starts with a clear understanding of your current processes, where inefficiencies exist, and what your business actually needs moving forward.

BUSINESS OPTIMIZATION ASSESSMENT

Schedule a **Business Optimization Assessment** to evaluate your environment, uncover opportunities for improvement, and define a practical path to modernization based on your priorities.



WHERE THE FRICTION LIVES

[Book Assessment](#)

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Moving off GP is the right call. Get clear on what comes next before you commit.

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About



Crestwood Associates

Crestwood Associates is a trusted Microsoft Dynamics partner helping organizations modernize their ERP environments with confidence and clarity. With decades of experience supporting Dynamics GP users, we specialize in guiding businesses through the transition to modern, cloud-based ERP solutions such as Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central.

Our approach is practical and client-focused. We help teams understand what to migrate, what to retire, and how to move forward without disrupting day-to-day operations. From pre-migration assessments to data strategy, implementation, and ongoing optimization, Crestwood supports the full modernization journey.

Organizations choose Crestwood for our deep technical expertise, transparent guidance, and commitment to long-term success. We work closely with finance, operations, and IT leaders to ensure ERP modernization delivers real operational value, not just a system upgrade.



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