

Planning Your Move from Dynamics NAV to Business Central Cloud

A Guide for Canadian Business Leaders Exploring their Dynamics Evolution Options



Microsoft
Partner

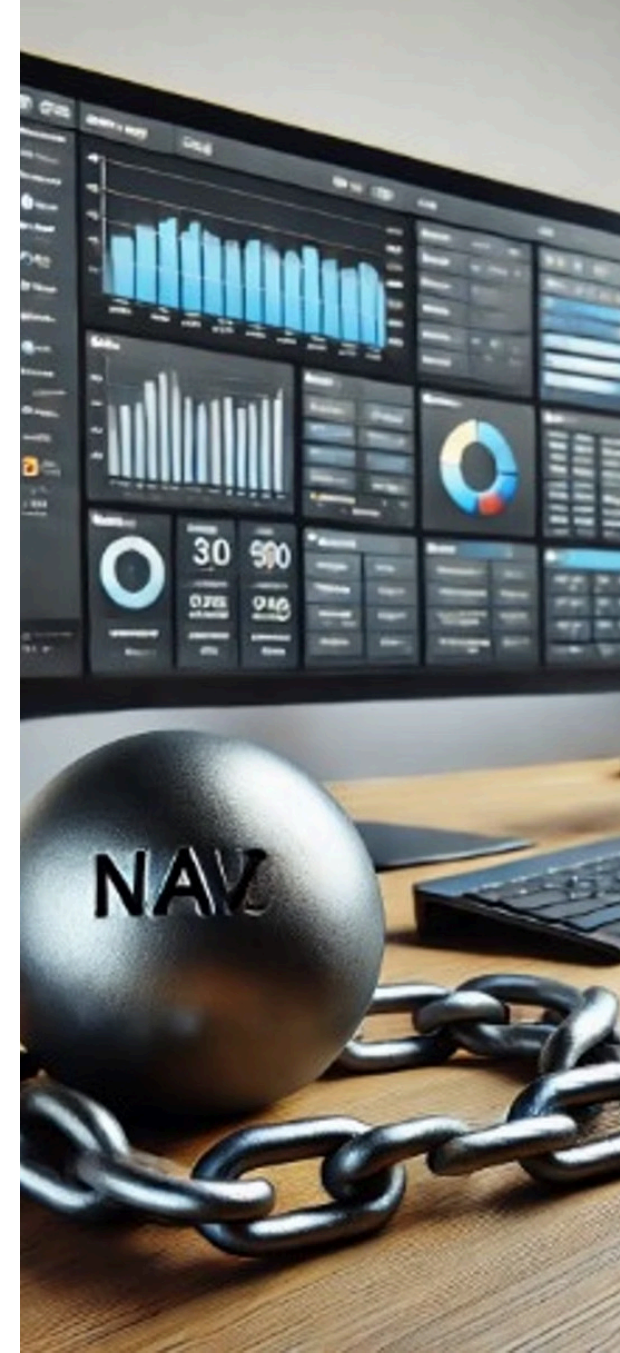


Is your NAV system holding you back or ready to evolve?

Your Microsoft Dynamics NAV system is running your day-to-day operations. However, with aging infrastructure, increasing support gaps, and limited compatibility with newer technologies, the question is not if you will need to move to a new system — it's when and how.

Whether you are using an older NAV version or a more recent Business Central on-premises deployment, Microsoft has made it clear: the future is cloud-based. Dynamics 365 Business Central Cloud is a secure, modern ERP platform built for growth, flexibility, and continuous improvement.

At Joesoftware, we help organizations like yours make smart, supported transitions. We offer no-obligation guidance backed by local expertise you can trust.



What's Holding You Back?



If you've been putting off the move away from Dynamics NAV, you're not alone.

Many business leaders we talk with are hesitant; not because they don't want to modernize, but because the process feels uncertain. When a system has been part of your business for years, change can feel overwhelming.

That's exactly why we created this guide and why we offer a **no-cost, no-obligation upgrade assessment**.

This isn't about making a rushed decision. It's about helping you get answers, in plain language, with no risk attached.

We will help you get clear on what's possible so you can move forward with confidence, not guesswork.

You might be asking yourself:

- "Will we lose the customizations we depend on?"
- "What happens to our data and reporting?"
- "Is this going to be more expensive or disruptive than we can handle?"
- "Do we have anyone who really understands the system anymore?"

On top of that, your original NAV partner might be long gone. Or maybe key team members who used to manage the system have moved on. That internal knowledge gap can make it even harder to feel confident about taking the next step.

It's a familiar story and a completely valid one.

Choosing Your Upgrade Path

Depending on your current NAV environment—its version, customizations, and data complexity—there are three main paths you can take to move to Business Central Cloud. Each offers a different balance of effort, flexibility, and future readiness.



Clean Start (to BC Online)

A brand-new implementation of Business Central Cloud that brings over your data (such as master records and open balances) but does not carry forward existing customizations or legacy configurations.

Best for:

Organizations with outdated or heavily customized NAV systems that want to streamline operations and start fresh.

Benefits:

- Simplifies future upgrades
- Opportunity to modernize and clean up processes
- Leaves behind unnecessary complexity

Considerations:

- Custom functionality must be rebuilt or replaced
- May require more user training and internal change management



Upgrade (to BC Online)

A direct upgrade path where both your data and selected customizations are brought into Business Central Cloud in a single step—retaining much of your existing environment.

Best for:

Organizations with relatively current NAV versions and essential customizations they want to preserve.

Benefits:

- Retains key business processes and functionality
- Reduces time to value
- Minimal user disruption

Considerations:

- Some older custom code may not be cloud-compatible
- Can carry forward complexity if not reviewed carefully



Lift & Shift (to BC On-Prem or Online)

A two-phase approach: first, upgrade to the latest Business Central On-Premises version, then migrate to Business Central Cloud. This helps navigate technical constraints and preserve complex customizations.

Best for:

Larger or more complex NAV environments with significant customizations or integration requirements.

Benefits:

- Reduces technical risk
- Preserves full data and functionality
- Allows for phased adoption

Considerations:

- Longer project timeline
- Delays full cloud benefits until second phase
- Requires close coordination across both stages

Key Considerations Before You Upgrade

1

Your Current Version

Is your NAV version still supported, or has it reached end-of-life?

2

Customizations and Add-ons

Are your customizations still relevant, or have better options emerged?

Are your add-ons available as extensions in Business Central Cloud?

3

Data Size and Complexity

What is the size of your NAV database?

How many legal entities or companies are included?

4

User Expectations and Adoption

Are your users ready for a modern web-based system?

Do you want better reporting, mobility, or workflow automation?

5

Cloud Readiness

Is your organization ready to move key systems to the cloud?

Do you have support for SaaS adoption from leadership?

Why Business Central Cloud Makes Sense



Evergreen Updates; No More Major Upgrades

Business Central Cloud receives automatic updates twice per year, keeping your system secure and fully supported without major version jumps.



Access from Anywhere, Anytime

Work from any device with a browser—no VPNs or on-premise servers required.



Built-in Integration with Microsoft 365 and Power Platform

Leverage tools like Outlook, Teams, Excel, Power BI, and Power Automate.



Scales with Your Business

Support for growing teams, locations, currencies, and business models.



Enterprise-Grade Security and Compliance

Built on Azure with world-class protection, redundancy, and data compliance.



Smarter Decisions with Real-Time Insights

Gain AI-powered forecasting and real-time reporting for better decision-making.

How Joesoftware Can Help?



At Joesoftware, we've supported Canadian businesses through 25 years of ERP evolution and we understand that upgrading from NAV is more than just a technical project. It's a strategic decision that affects every part of your organization.

That's why we focus on making your transition smooth, structured, and aligned with your business goals.

What You Can Expect from Us:

- A Guided, Step-by-Step Process
- Clarity Before Commitment
- Seamless Handoff into Business Central
- A Partner for the Long Term

Not sure where to begin?

That's exactly why we offer a **no-cost NAV upgrade assessment**. We'll review your existing setup, explain your options, and provide a clear path forward—at no obligation and with complete transparency.

Book Your No-Cost NAV Upgrade Assessment

Let's take the guesswork out of upgrading. We offer a free, no-obligation NAV upgrade assessment that gives you the clarity to move forward confidently on your terms and timeline.

What's included in your free assessment:

- A technical review of your NAV or BC On-Premises environment
- An evaluation of your upgrade path options (Clean Start, Upgrade, Lift & Shift)
- Timeline estimates, effort, and cost range guidance
- Recommendations on data, customizations, and AppSource alternatives

What we'll need to get started:

- NAV or BC version
- Database size (in GB)
- Number of companies
- A FOB file with all objects (we'll guide you through how to retrieve this, if needed)

You remain in full control. We never access your system remotely, and all shared data is handled securely and confidentially.

Let's Talk

Reach out today to schedule your free assessment or ask any questions.

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About Joesoftware

Joesoftware is a Microsoft Partner based in Edmonton, Alberta, proudly serving businesses across Western Canada and beyond.

For over two decades, we've helped Canadian organizations streamline their operations, modernize their systems, and unlock more value from their technology. Our clients span industries like distribution, manufacturing, professional services, field operations, and government. We also support [Dynamics GP upgrades to Business Central](#).



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What makes us different?



We take the time to understand your business.



We offer practical, step-by-step guidance.



We support you long after go-live.



We're proudly in Edmonton and just a phone call or visit away.

Whether you're ready to move from NAV to Business Central Cloud today or just starting to explore what's possible, we're here to help you move forward with clarity, confidence, and responsive support you can count on.