



Cloud-powered ERP: the SMB leader's guide to migrating Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central



AI brings rapid change to the SMB businesses

Today, migrating business solutions to the cloud is no longer optional. Across industries, organizations are rapidly modernizing their operations with AI to remain competitive, resilient, and data-driven. Cloud adoption continues to accelerate - reshaping how teams collaborate, scale, and serve customers with the help of AI.

For today's organizations, AI transformation goes beyond automating isolated processes. It means:

- ✓ Streamlining back-office functions
- ✓ Integrating supply chains
- ✓ Providing a single, joined-up view of complex operations

Cloud platforms create the foundation for embedded AI which no longer operates as a standalone innovation—it is built directly into business workflows, helping organizations move from automation to insight and action.

“Cloud-based ERP provides the scalable, secure infrastructure required to support AI workloads and real-time analytics.” - Deloitte, *Navigating cloud ERP transformation with strong internal controls*¹

1. <https://www.deloitte.com/us/en/services/audit-assurance/articles/ai-powered-erp-transformation.html>
2. [How AI boosts industry profits and innovation](#), Accenture

Cloud-powered AI technologies play a crucial role in setting SMB businesses up for success and address the challenges to make improvements in profitability and productivity.

- ✓ **US\$3.8 trillion GVA** potential add as a result of the AI transformation in 2035²
- ✓ **2X profit** for manufacturers who use AI versus those who continue doing business-as-usual²

When SMB companies leverage the transformative potential of cloud-based Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central across their business, they unlock significant productivity gains and create new ways to drive revenue.

Let's look at how migrating your Business Central to cloud can transform work for your business:

- ✓ **Unified operations**
- ✓ **Built-in security, compliance and automatic updates**
- ✓ **OPEX model instead of CAPEX**
- ✓ **Native Microsoft 365 & Power Platform integrations**
- ✓ **Easier scalability and predictable performance**
- ✓ **Reduced technical debt and infrastructure overhead**

Accelerate your AI transformation with cloud

Moving your Business Central to the cloud empowers you to operate on a secure, compliant platform with automatic updates and built-in security safeguards.

As a cloud adoption and transition partner, **NMI ERP** has a mission to help businesses reduce their operational efforts required to maintain the legacy systems and shift the focus back to the business, without worrying about security, updates and integrations.

With extensive experience helping SMB companies leverage cloud-powered business solutions, **NMI ERP** can offer Business Central migrations with no fuss.

We are ready set our customers up on cloud quickly, with minimal migration downtime or business disruption, and help them effectively upgrade their existing digital infrastructure and custom business solutions to fulfill their business needs. We ensure local legislation compliancy, data privacy and security.

50,000+

growing businesses are already benefitting from Dynamics 365 Business Central and Copilot.

172% ROI in three years²

Up to 18% increase in productivity²

USD30,000 savings in avoided third-party fees annually²

2. "The Total Economic Impact™ of Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central," A commissioned study conducted by Forrester Consulting. Results are from a composite organization base don interviewed customers. 2023.

We understand your migration challenges

Despite all the benefits, migrating business solutions to the cloud is not a small task and – just like any meaningful transformation – comes with challenges to overcome.

For some organization, the prospect of the initial disruption that migration can bring to the business can seem like a dealbreaker. However, weighing the initial change that comes with migration against the risks that await companies remaining on-prem, it becomes more and more clear that on-prem is simply no longer an option.

By staying on-prem, businesses are facing:

- Higher exposure to cybersecurity risks
- Rising long-term ownership and support costs
- Limited or no NAV/on-prem expertise and support
- Falling behind competitors in leveraging AI
- Slower response to market change

The fastest route to reducing or eliminating these risks altogether is a robust, smart migration to cloud strategy, supported by an experienced migration partner who can ensure a smooth transition and effective change management.



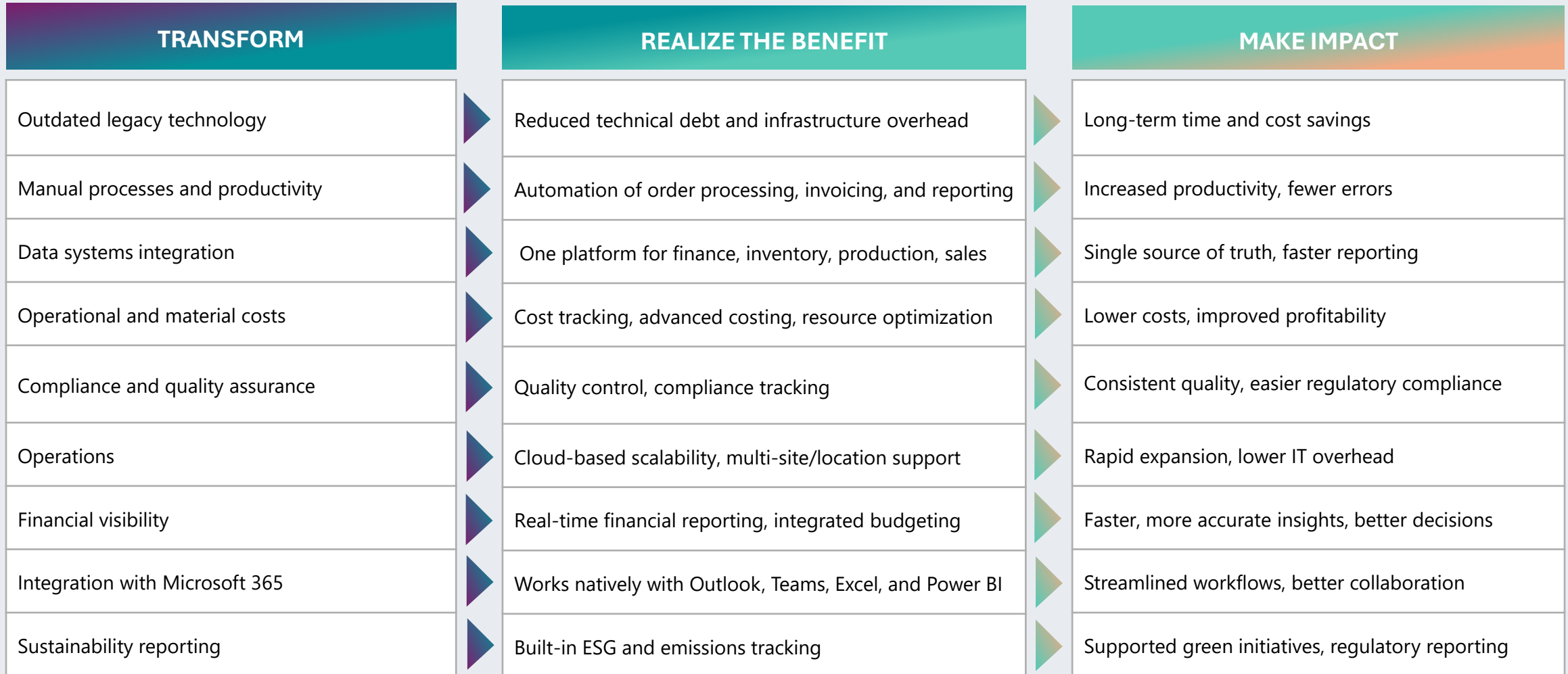
Example scenario

- A mid-size manufacturing company migrates from on-premises ERP to Business Central cloud, unifying finance and operations. Manual invoicing is replaced with AI-assisted document matching, reporting becomes real-time, and teams collaborate directly in Microsoft 365.

Key business outcomes:

improved customer service, improved supplier relationships, and faster time-to-market for new products.

How to leverage cloud-powered ERP to transform your business



Once on cloud, unlock even more possibilities with Copilot in Business Central

The Copilot and agentic ecosystem is designed to get you started with AI and scale to meet your business needs.



Use Copilot in Business Central to:

Guide and explain concepts to help you learn new skills.

Find and locate records, pages, and matching products based on natural language inquiries or similar products.

Compare bank statements and incoming e-documents for reconciliation.

Analyze and organize data to help you get to insights faster.

Suggest numbering pattern setup for records and draft product descriptions.

Take automation further with agents built for Business Central.

Sales Order Taker*

- Communicates with customers.
- Interprets customer requests.
- Send quotes.

Payables Agent*

- Receives vendor invoices.
- Captures invoice information.
- Registers invoices according to company policy, preference, and history.

Any individual, regardless of skill level, can build their own agent to create automated workflows that enable them to work smarter.

* in preview

Seamlessly connect Business Central and Microsoft 365 while harnessing the power of Copilot.

Collaborate in the apps you already use like Outlook, Excel, and Teams.

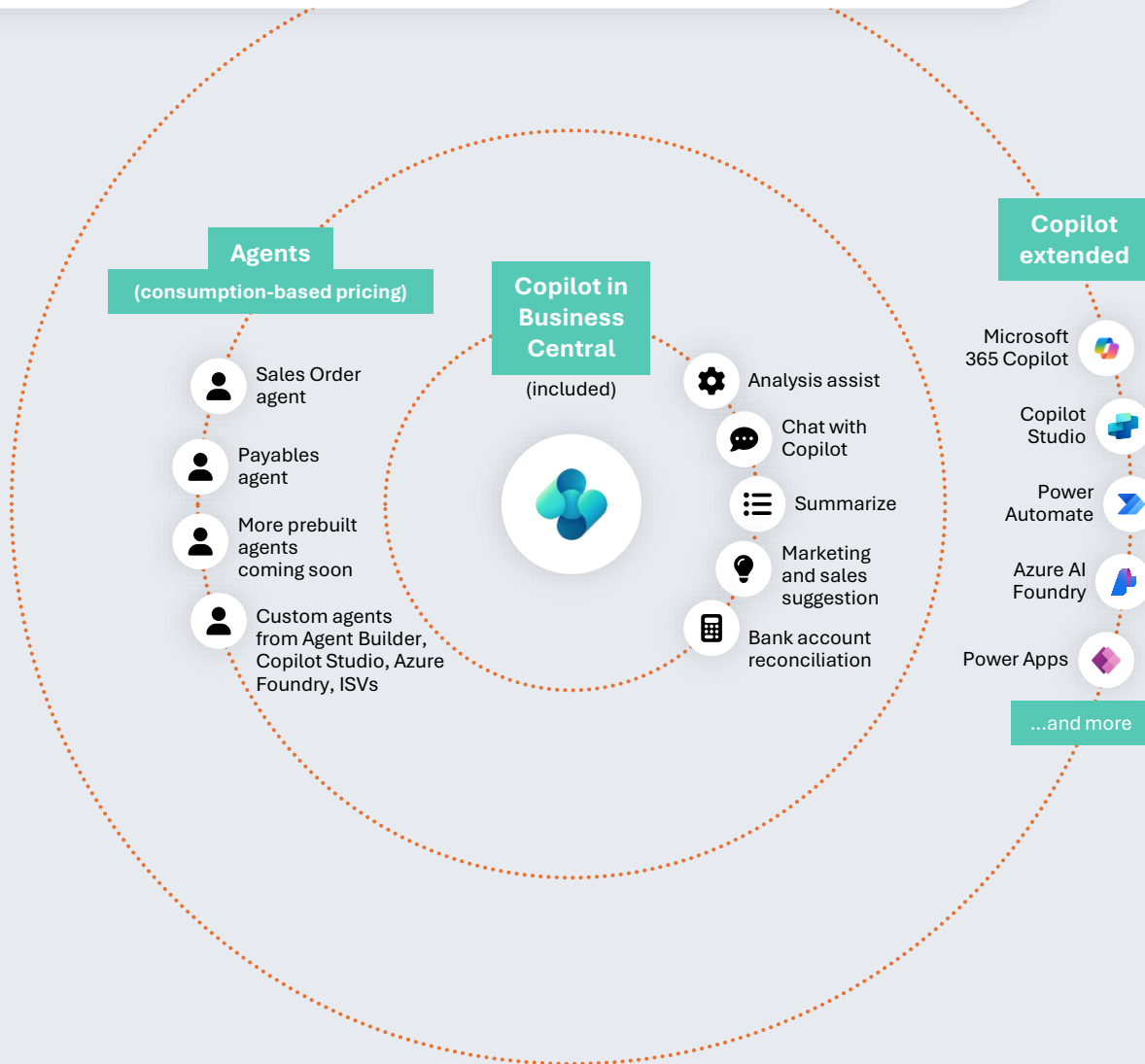
Stay in the flow of work by accessing the data in the tools you prefer without switching applications.

Work between apps with greater continuity guided by AI to get help drafting emails, summarizing information, and more.

Build your own agents in Microsoft Copilot Studio to optimize business processes and enhance productivity.

The AI ecosystem in Business Central

Copilot and the agents



AI capabilities that meet you at any maturity phase

Whether your business is in the early stages of AI adoption or ready to further integrate AI into your company's processes, Business Central offers the AI capabilities to meet you at every AI maturity phase.

Copilot capabilities in Business Central offer three levels of AI capabilities to meet you where you are:

- **Copilot in Business Central:** Enhance personal productivity.
- **Agents:** Improve business productivity with prebuilt and custom agents.
- **Copilot extended:** Connect to the workflows and AI tools in the applications you use every day, and build synergies to save time and uncover new insights


Overcoming migration barriers

While the benefits of moving to the cloud are significant, Cloud adoption and migration - just like any meaningful transformation - often come with real and perceived challenges. These challenges touch on organizational culture, skills readiness, and leadership alignment.

Organizations typically worry about change management issues, technical complexity, and uncertainty around return on investment. Commonly considered risks include potential upgrade disruptions, user resistance to change, compliance with GDPR and ISO standards, and integration complexity.

However, the adoption efforts become truly rewarded once the benefits transpire. Manual processes and workarounds are replaced with automated, integrated workflows in Microsoft 365, allowing teams to respond to change more quickly. As productivity increases and the user experience becomes more intuitive, cloud adoption starts to feel like a natural progression rather than a forced transformation.

As a result, companies start benefiting from lower and more predictable costs, improved agility, scalability, better visibility through centralized reporting and a single source of truth, such as Power BI. Cloud platforms also enable real-time insights, helping teams make faster, better-informed decisions while supporting seamless collaboration and remote work.



We had been running our Business Central solution on-premises for years. It worked - but it also held us back. After moving to the cloud, we reduced the operational effort required to keep the system running and shifted our focus back to the business. Security, updates, and integrations are no longer things we worry about - they're simply there. We now have real-time insights, smoother collaboration, and the confidence that our system will scale with us as the business grows.”

— Finance Director, mid-sized manufacturing company

Planning your transformation

A practical checklist

Successful cloud AI-powered ERP implementation requires careful planning:

- ✓ **Set up an initial consultation:** Define challenges, goals, and current solutions.
- ✓ **Analyze the IT ecosystem:** Document existing infrastructure, dependencies, and security needs.
- ✓ **Define and prioritize:** Identify platforms to address and desired outcomes.
- ✓ **Plan migration:** Create a comprehensive plan to avoid disruptions and outline total cost of ownership.
- ✓ **Stakeholder alignment:** Engage leadership and key users for buy-in.
- ✓ **Change management:** Provide training and support for smooth adoption.
- ✓ **Measure ROI:** Track KPIs and ongoing success.





Take the next step

The time to move to the cloud and embrace AI is now. To avoid falling behind in today's competitive business landscape, **NMI ERP** can guide you throughout the entire journey for a smooth transition and get the most out of the cloud-powered Dynamics 365 Business Central with Copilot.

Get in touch today to discuss your needs.



[Tap to schedule](#)

