

Dynamics AX

VS

Dynamics 365

Dynamics AX and Dynamics 365 have a lot in common so you might be wondering if you should upgrade to the latter. Isn't AX good enough? Is the switch really worth the effort? Our comparison matrix presents the features, in all their similarities and differences, side by side so you can see whether or not it's time to upgrade.

Infrastructure



Features	Dynamics AX	Dynamics 365
On-premise server 	✓ Installation required and you're responsible for setup, maintenance and security	✓ Also available for on-premise installation
Private cloud 	✓ Installation required and you're responsible for setup, maintenance and security	✗
Azure 	✗	✓ D365 will still need to be deployed but it's mostly an automated process and there's no need to install servers. Microsoft will handle it, making environment management very simple and convenient

Updates



Features	Dynamics AX	Dynamics 365
Manual 	✓ New software implementation is often required if there isn't a direct upgrade path or large amounts of custom code involved	✗
Automatic 	✗	✓ Monthly updates are pushed out across your entire system so your business will always be on the most up-to-date version (you have the option to pause up to three continuous updates)

User interface



Features	Dynamics AX	Dynamics 365
Software-based	✓ Launch the application from a desktop and work within the program	✗
Browser-based	✗	✓ Access is all browser-based so you can work anytime, anywhere and from any device

Compatibility



Features	Dynamics AX	Dynamics 365
Desktop	✓	✓
Mobile	✓ Some functionality	✓
Tablets	✗	✓

Mobility



Features	Dynamics AX	Dynamics 365
Can you use on-the-go?	✗ Application must be launched from a desktop	✓ Launch from any device with an internet connection and a browser installed

Support



Features	Dynamics AX	Dynamics 365
Mainstream support still available?	✗ Mainstream Support for Dynamics AX 2009, 2012, 2012 R2 ended in October 2018. Mainstream support for AX 2012 R3 lasts until 12 October 2021. After this, security updates will be offered under Extended support until 10th Jan 2023	✓ Yes, automatic updates are released periodically and large changes are delivered as parameters/ configuration keys. You have the choice of whether you want to turn on the new functionalities or not

Navigation



Features	Dynamics AX	Dynamics 365
Specific menu path	✓ To get to a particular page, you need to follow a specific menu path. Can be tricky and time-consuming to memorise paths	✓ To get to a particular page, you need to follow a specific menu path. But, you can add 'favourites' for an easier navigation
Search capability	✓	✗ Use the search function to type in the page you want and click from the results to launch. Much quicker and simpler

Integrations



Features	Dynamics AX	Dynamics 365
CRM (Customer Engagement)	✓	✓
Office 365	✓	✓
PowerBI	✗	✓
Cortana	✗	✓
Third-party software	✓	✓

Custom development

Features	Dynamics AX	Dynamics 365
Over-laying method 	✓ Can cause compatibility issues	✗
Extensibility model 	✗	✓ Less chance of compatibility issues. But only objects with extension points can be customised, though you can request new extensions from Microsoft if required



The same ERP solution, just two different versions

Dynamics AX and Dynamics 365 are basically two different versions of the same ERP. With Dynamics 365 essentially being the 'newest version' of AX, there are many features which have been revamped and are continuing to be optimised with every new technical/functionality release.

To discover more about the features of Dynamics 365, check out our factsheet below.

[Discover the features of Dynamics 365](#)