

Next-Generation of ERP:

# Future of possibilities with AI

Get started



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# Introduction

The next generation of enterprise resource planning (ERP) refers to the modernization of traditional ERP systems to take advantage of the latest technological advancements and features.

This includes the integration of cloud computing, artificial intelligence (AI), and other innovations facilitated by digital transformation.

The next generation of ERP is designed to be more flexible, scalable, and adaptable to the changing needs of businesses.

## Importance of cloud transformation of ERP in the future of possible:

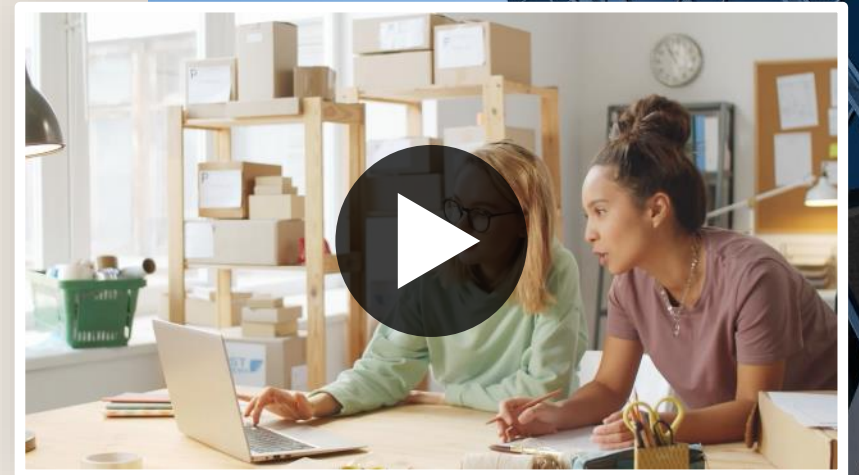
**Cloud transformation** is the natural foundation for **digital transformation** and **new technologies such as AI**.

Cloud-based ERP systems have **revolutionized how companies think, operate, and innovate**.

It enables businesses to leverage new technologies, **create new growth opportunities**, and gain a **competitive edge**.

It offers **near real-time visibility** of an entire business, as well as insights into the industry landscape, allowing companies to make **data-driven decisions**.

It allows for easier access, management, and aggregation of data, which can **accelerate manual operations' automation, freeing up time and money** to be spent on other key projects.





## Chapter 1:

# The future of ERP in the cloud: “The art of possible”<sup>1</sup>

In an increasingly competitive business landscape, executives must navigate complex financial and supply chain decisions daily. Making sense of financial data, ensuring compliance, and driving profitability are now tasks that can be seamlessly managed with AI in ERP systems.



### Harnessing data for informed decision-making

Sifting through heaps of financial data to glean actionable insights is a daunting task. The game-changing ability of AI can influence future ERP by offering:

- **Real-time financial insights:** AI-powered ERP systems aggregate data from different channels, providing real-time financial insights and enabling executives to make informed decisions without relying on periodic reports, thus enhancing decision-making and boosting efficiency.
- **Predictive analytics:** AI-driven predictive analytics accurately forecasts revenues, expenses, and cash flows, optimizes inventory, streamlines supply chains, and predicts market demand. This helps reduce risks and enhance efficiency for manufacturing and distribution companies.



### Improving efficiency and compliance

As industries evolve, the need for efficiency in financial and supply chain operations, and compliance with regulatory standards becomes increasingly critical.

- **Automating routine tasks:** AI automates repetitive tasks such as reconciliations and invoicing, reducing manual workloads for finance teams. This enables them to focus on strategic initiatives like improving profitability and expanding services.
- **Ensuring regulatory compliance:** Companies often face the challenge of complying with diverse regulations in different regions. AI can be used to keep track of regulatory changes so that financial statements and reports are compliant with the latest standards.



## Strengthening security and fraud detection

In today's digital age, ensuring the security of financial and corporate data and detecting fraudulent activities are paramount concerns for any organization.

- **Enhanced security measures:** Data security is paramount for decision-makers. An intelligent system detects and alerts unusual patterns, mitigating the risk of data breaches.
- **Fraud detection:** AI algorithms can analyze transactions in real-time to detect patterns that may indicate fraud. This is invaluable for executives as it saves money and protects the company's reputation.



## Optimizing cash flow and financial performance

Cash flow and overall financial performance are the lifelines of any business. For CFOs and Treasurers, optimizing these aspects is often challenging yet critical.

- **Intelligent cash flow management:** With AI's predictive insights, businesses can optimize cash flow by accurately forecasting when money will be received and where expenses will be incurred. This is crucial for retail companies, where cash flow management can directly influence operations and customer satisfaction.



I rely on Dynamics 365 to help me make sense of complex financial histories to stay on top of complicated billing and payment processes at multiple sites.”<sup>2</sup>

– **Mark Hodkinson**  
Vice President of Finance  
*the Bel Power Solutions Group*

## Chapter 2:

# The value of working with a Microsoft partner

As with any ERP implementation and migration, working with a partner experienced with specific requirements of the “people” and “processes” for large organizations is critical.

While it is important to create a foundation for the future, current business operations must be maintained and any migration to a new ERP infrastructure cannot disrupt daily workflows. Experienced implementation partners bring meaningful value to the process through:



### Expertise in ERP migrations

Leverage in-depth knowledge in migrating ERP systems from various environments to a cloud-based solution, providing guidance and support for a smooth transition and quicker ROI, while alleviating the strain on existing teams during the migration process.



### Insight into the digital transformation process

Achieve digital transformation by leveraging the latest technologies and features of the next-generation ERP system. This includes automating routine tasks, improving decision-making, enhancing customer experiences, and helping businesses identify patterns and trends in data to make more informed decisions and drive innovation.



### Industry-specific knowledge

Industry-specific expertise can be invaluable during the migration process, tailoring the migration strategy to meet specific business needs and providing guidance and support to ensure a smooth transition. Microsoft partners, for example, have developed additional capabilities to extend the functionality of Dynamics 365 Finance and Supply Chain for specific business needs in certain industries.<sup>4</sup>



## Planning and execution

Migrating to a next-generation ERP in the cloud requires careful planning and execution. Partners help businesses develop a well-defined migration strategy, including factors such as data migration, system integration, and user training. They can also provide project management expertise to make sure that the project is completed on time and within budget.



## Seamless integration assistance

Partners can assist in integrating the new cloud ERP system with existing systems and applications, ensuring a seamless flow of data and processes across the organization. This integration is crucial for maximizing the benefits of the next-generation ERP system and achieving operational efficiency.



## Ongoing support and training

Access ongoing support and training to fully leverage the features and capabilities of the new cloud ERP system. They can offer training programs for employees for a smooth transition, and guidance to help them adapt to the new system.





## Chapter 3:

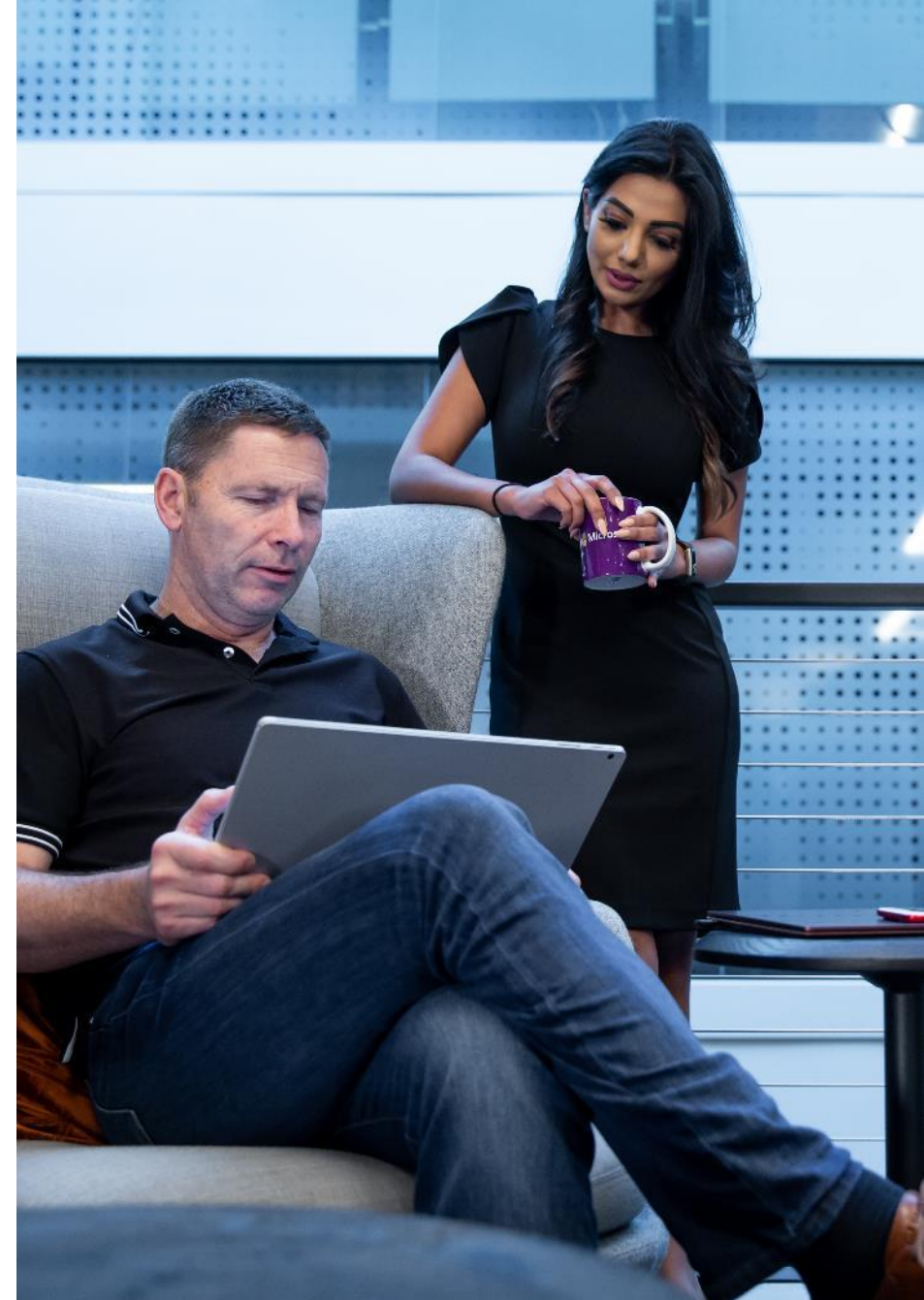
# The journey of moving into the future

As an experienced partner, we can take you from where you are today, to where you need to be in the future, starting with:



### Foundational features

- 1. ERP in the cloud:**  
Cloud ERP supports the analysis of a massive amount of data in real-time, using in-memory technologies and cloud-based techniques.
- 2. Integration with the cloud:**  
Facilitate seamless integration with cloud technology to create a single version of truth.
- 3. Near-real-time databases:**  
Process and analyze data with minimal delay for rapid decision making based on up-to-date insights.
- 4. Digital transformation:**  
Create the right foundation to support advanced and business transformation features.





## Advanced Features

- 1. AI with ERP:**  
Automate and enhance processes from planning to forecasting, so its easier to make data-driven decisions.
- 2. Cutting-edge technology:**  
Increase efficiency and solve complex business problems with AI, machine learning, and automation.
- 3. Enhanced workflows:**  
Streamline repetitive tasks and enhance workflows to optimize business processes.
- 4. Mobile access:**  
Allow users to access and interact with ERP data on their mobile devices.
- 5. Advanced planning:**  
Optimize resource allocation and decision making for improved efficiency and costs.
- 6. Real-time decision making:**  
Leverage real-time insights to make informed decisions quickly as new trends emerge.



## Business transformation features

- 1. Support for remote workforces:**  
Implement strong hybrid and remote work collaboration practices with data accessible from anywhere.
- 2. Supply chain visibility and resilience:**  
Enhance supply chain visibility, enabling businesses to track and manage their processes more effectively.
- 3. Better customer experience:**  
Provide tools and features that enhance customer interactions and satisfaction.
- 4. Flexible commerce:**  
Easily adapt to changing market demands and customer preferences.
- 5. Platform ecosystem and globalization:**  
Connect customer, suppliers, partners, and stakeholders worldwide to standardize systems and processes.
- 6. Cost-effective:**  
Allocate more funds to digital initiatives by reducing tech debt and optimizing tech spend.
- 7. Structured approach:**  
Focus on value drivers and quantifiable returns to ensure a successful transformation.





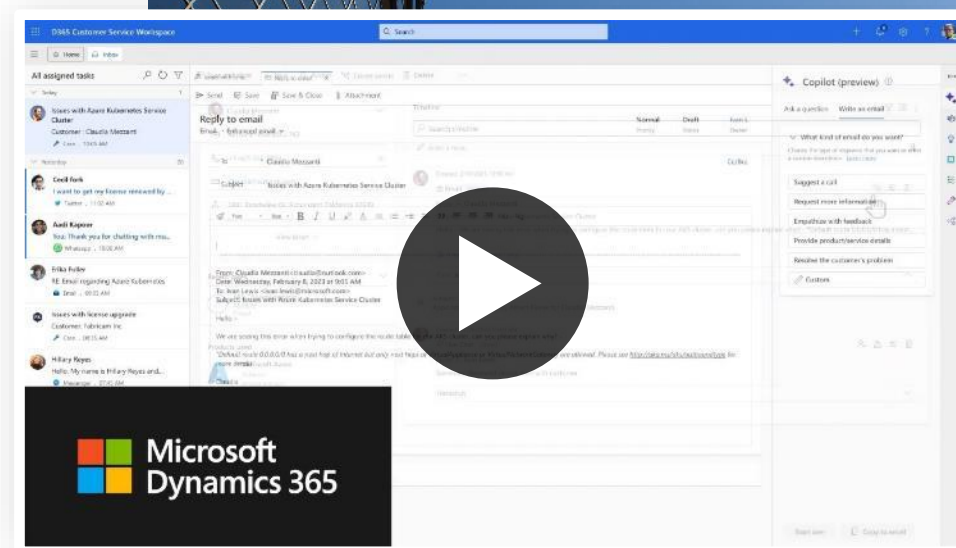
## Chapter 4:

# Introducing Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance and Supply Chain with Copilot and AI capabilities

Dynamics 365 Finance and Supply Chain is the next-generation cloud-based ERP and supply chain operations solution from Microsoft. With natively built-in AI assistant, Dynamics 365 Finance and Supply Chain ERP delivers interactive, AI-powered assistance across business functions.

Dynamics 365 Copilot automates tasks using AI, freeing up creativity and leveraging business data while maintaining security and compliance. It offers features like bookkeeping, invoice handling, and supply chain management. This cloud-based solution helps businesses automate tasks, improve decision-making, and enhance customer experiences. Copilot assists professionals in generating ideas, completing tasks, and providing insights based on simple descriptions. It maximizes the value of ERP data and helps finance managers, collections agents, project managers, and procurement professionals save time and gain insights faster while being in control of security and privacy.

**With Copilot, businesses can speed up time to insight and maximize the value of their ERP data!**





# The return on investment (ROI) is there

Based on the [Forrester's Total Economic Impact study](#),<sup>7</sup> a composite organization based on interviewed customers with on premises ERP realized the following by moving to the cloud:



**122%**  
three-year ROI



**\$3.41M**  
in three-year net present value (NPV)



**Up to 55%**  
productivity improvements in the finance and accounting organizations



**\$400,000**  
in IT staff productivity improvement



**\$3.5M**  
in cost savings for technical infrastructure refreshes, redundant ERP solutions, and external support costs



# Start your future of possibilities today!

The future of ERP is all about modernizing traditional systems with cloud computing and AI.

Dynamics 365 Finance and Supply Chain is a next-gen cloud ERP solution with AI capabilities that enables real-time visibility, data-driven decision-making, and easier data management, automates tasks, provides insights, and improves efficiency, making it crucial for businesses to embrace the future of ERP by moving to a cloud-based platform for immediate benefits and significant ROI.

And, partnering with us enables a seamless, successful path to the next generation of ERP!



Contact us to begin your “future of possibilities” today.

[www.nolanbusinesssolutions.co.uk](http://www.nolanbusinesssolutions.co.uk)

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7. ["The Total Economic Impact™ of Microsoft Dynamics 365 Finance," A Forrester Consulting Total Economic Impact study commissioned by Microsoft, July, 2022.](#)