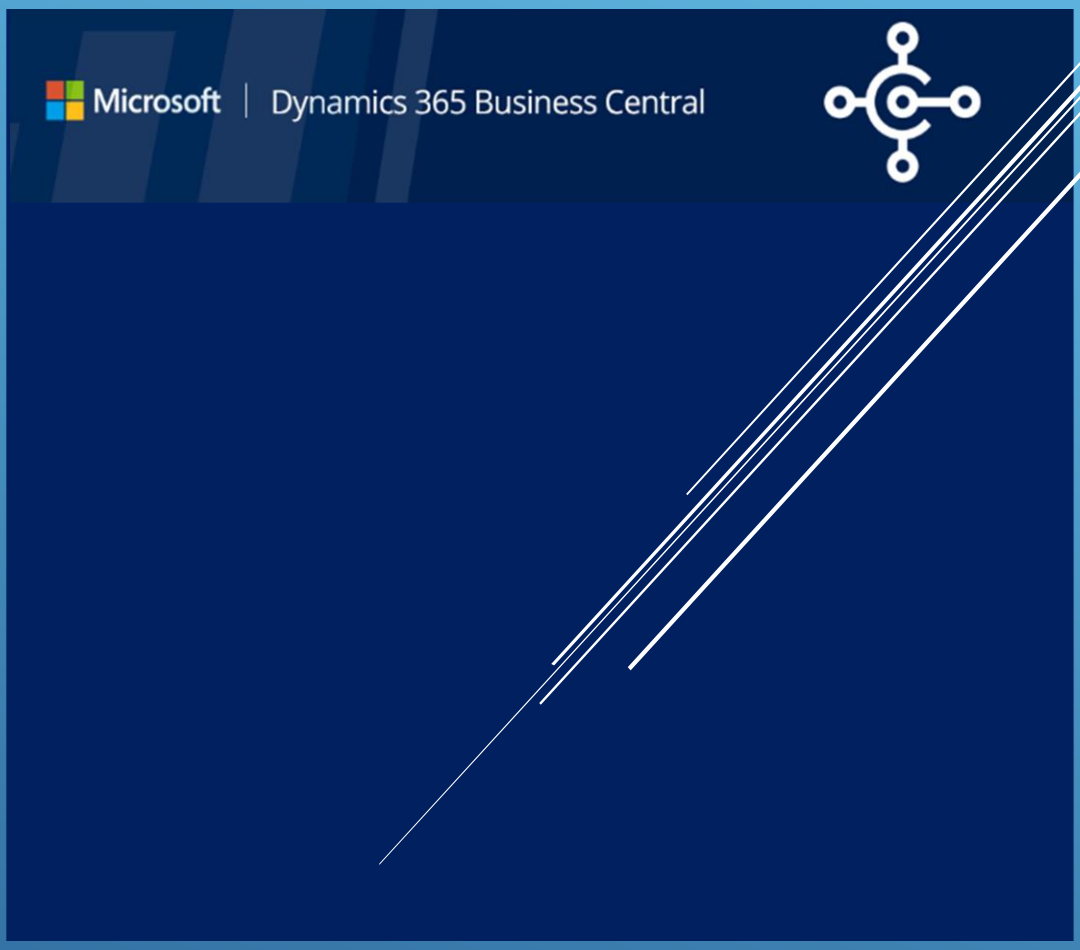

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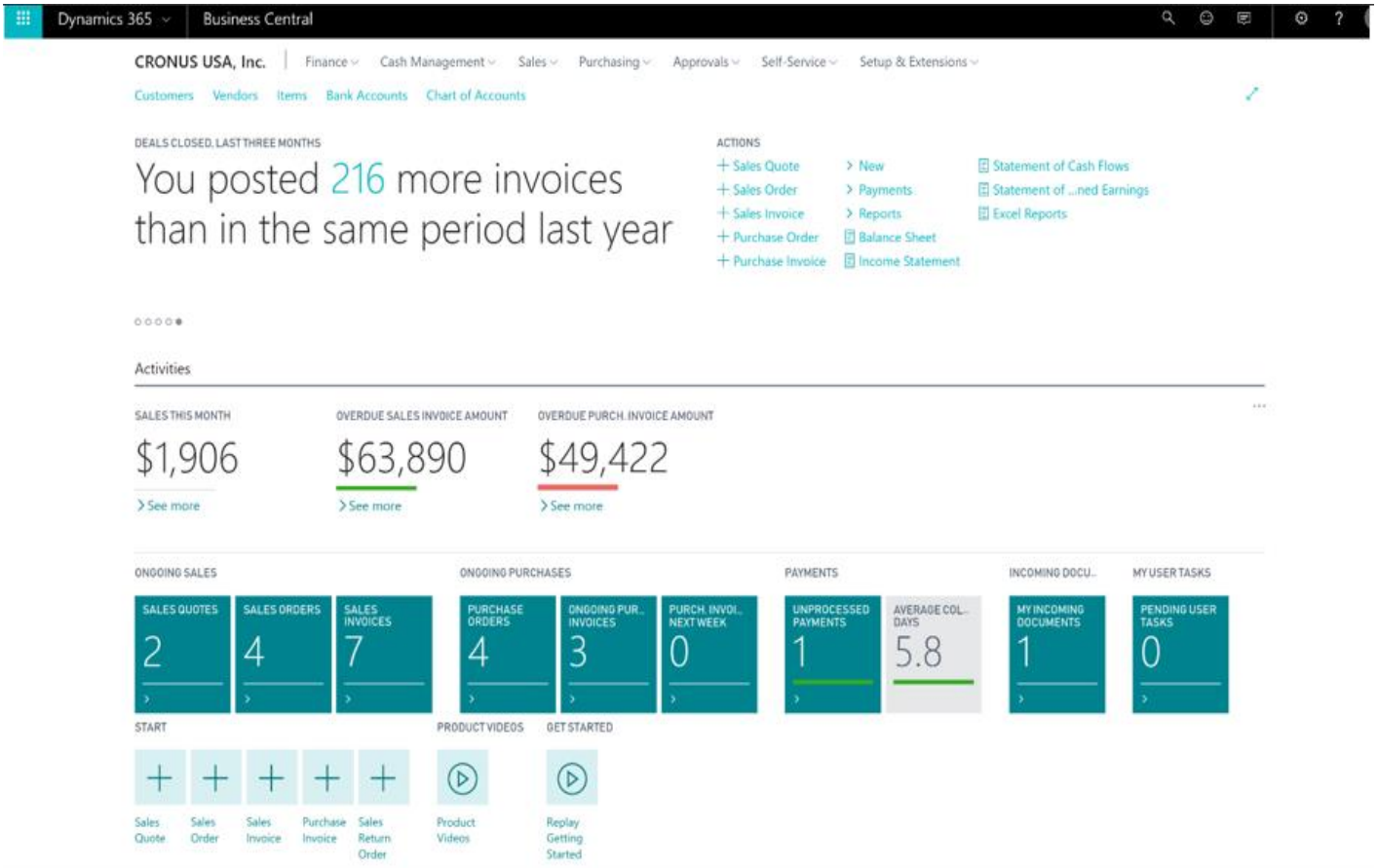
What is Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central?

Dynamics 365 Business Central brings the full power of Dynamics NAV to the cloud.
With 160,000+ customers, more than 2.7 million users, and 3500 partners worldwide, Dynamics NAV has sold in 195 countries – that's pretty much every country in the world

Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central is a cloud-based, all-in-one business management solution which enables customers to upgrade from their entry-level accounting software or legacy ERP system to one single, comprehensive solution to manage finances, operations, sales and customer service.

Business Central has been called "NAV in the cloud", but there are differences from Dynamics NAV. Therefore, there may also be a good reason for choosing one solution rather than another.



The key investments Microsoft are making in this release include:

- A full suite of application functionality in the cloud.
- A refreshed and modern user experience, optimised for insights and productivity.
- An extensible platform by using apps from AppSource.

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Business Central is built around the following three business benefits:

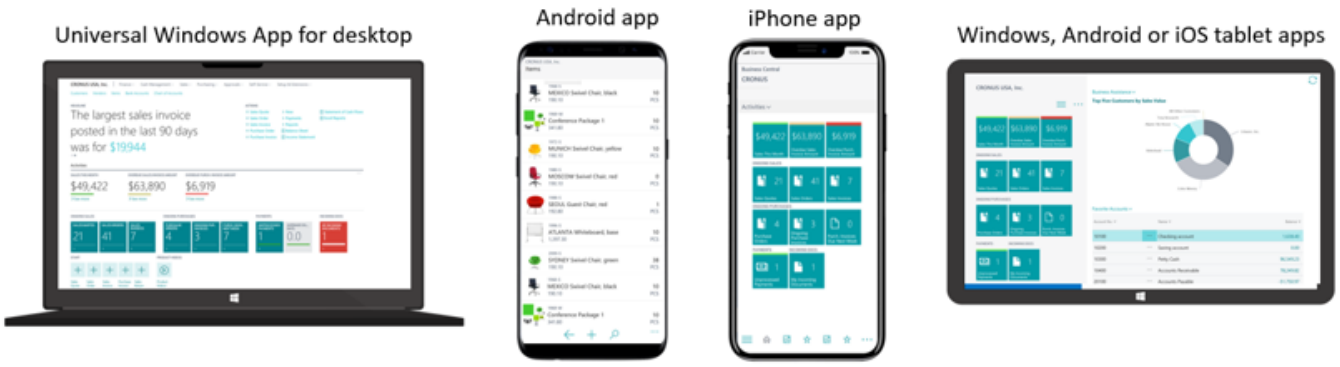
- No silos (allows to share info's between departments) - The close integration between business applications in Dynamics 365 ensures a business without data silos where you can share updated data and not least work smarter and more efficiently.
- Built for development - Dynamics 365 is a flexible business platform that can be scaled to suit and meet your business needs in terms of size and complexity.
- Business insight - The integration to Power BI and the ability to utilize the Azure Intelligence tools (for example Cortana for forecasts), provide increased insight into your company and business.

The differences between D365 Business Central and Dynamics NAV Functionality

Differences

Description	Dynamics 365 Business Central	Dynamics NAV
Licensing	SAAS (Software-as-a-Service)	Subscription, Perpetual
Installation	Cloud Application	On-Prem , Hosted, IAAS
Development	Apps or Pivate Extensions	Apps, Private Extensions, Class
Clients	Web Client, Universal App	RTC, Web Client, Universal App
Backend Administration	None	NST, Windows Servers, SQL
Updates	Automatic	Manual

As with Dynamics NAV, the functionality of the D365 Business Central is divided into two so-called 'packages', Essentials and Premium. The functionality of 'Essentials' corresponds to NAV's 'Starter Pack' and the functionality of 'Premium' corresponds to NAV's 'Extended Pack'.



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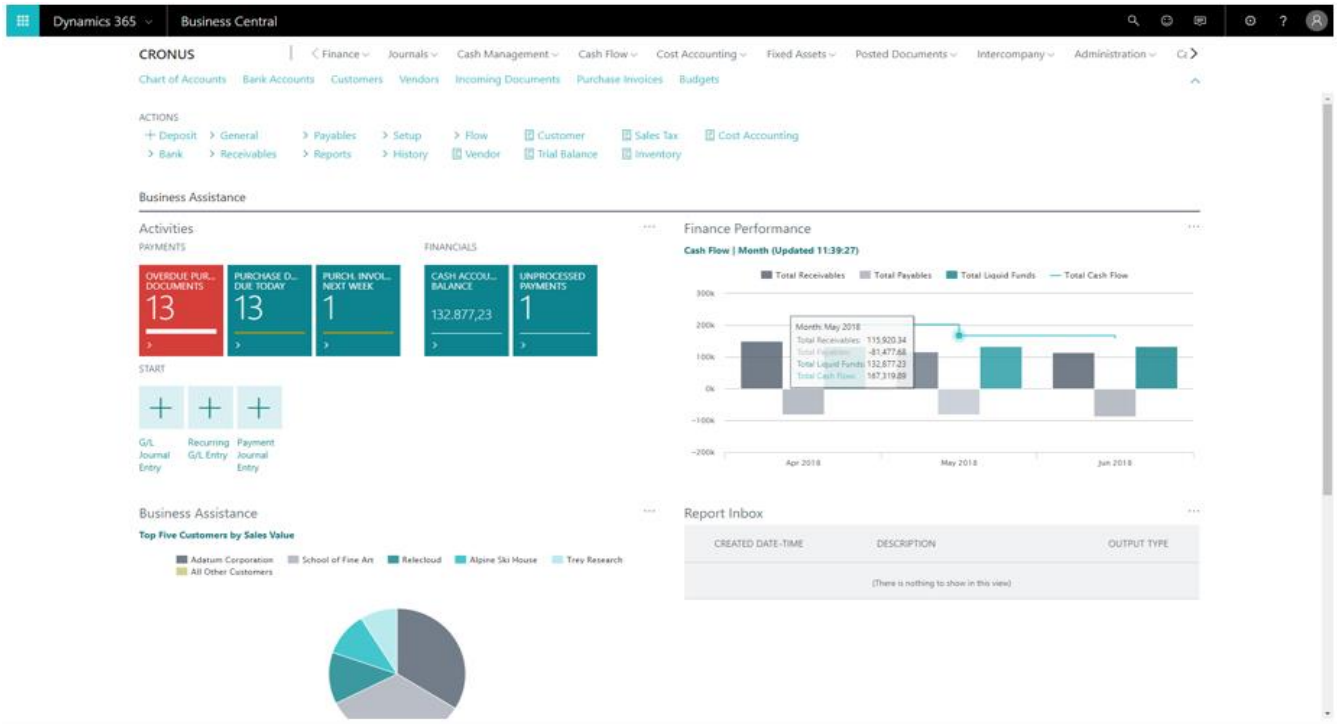
What Included Under Essential Licensing?

Financial management

- **Basic General Ledger**
  Set up a company, and start posting to the general ledger, chart of accounts, general journals, VAT facilities, recurring journals, and source codes.
- **Budgets**
  Work with budgets in general ledger accounts.
- **Deferrals**
  Set up deferral templates that automate the process of deferring revenues and expenses over a predefined schedule.
- **Basic fixed assets**
  Keep track of fixed assets and related transactions, such as acquisitions, depreciations, write-downs, appreciations, and disposals.
- **Audit trails**
  The system automatically assigns audit trails and posting descriptions to every transaction. In addition, users can define reason codes to create complementary audit trails.
- **Bank account management**
  Create, operate, and manage multiple bank accounts to cater to your diverse business needs and across different currencies.
- **Reconciliation**
  Reconcile your bank statement data automatically to open bank account ledger entries end keep track of all your bank statements.
- **Dimensions**
  Add unlimited dimensions to any ledger for advanced transaction analyses.
- **Currencies**
  Manage multiple currencies throughout the system, including payables and receivables, general ledger reports, resource and inventory items, and bank accounts.



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Customer Relationship management (CRM Functionality)

Contacts

Maintain an overview of your contacts, and record your contact information for all business relationships.

Campaigns

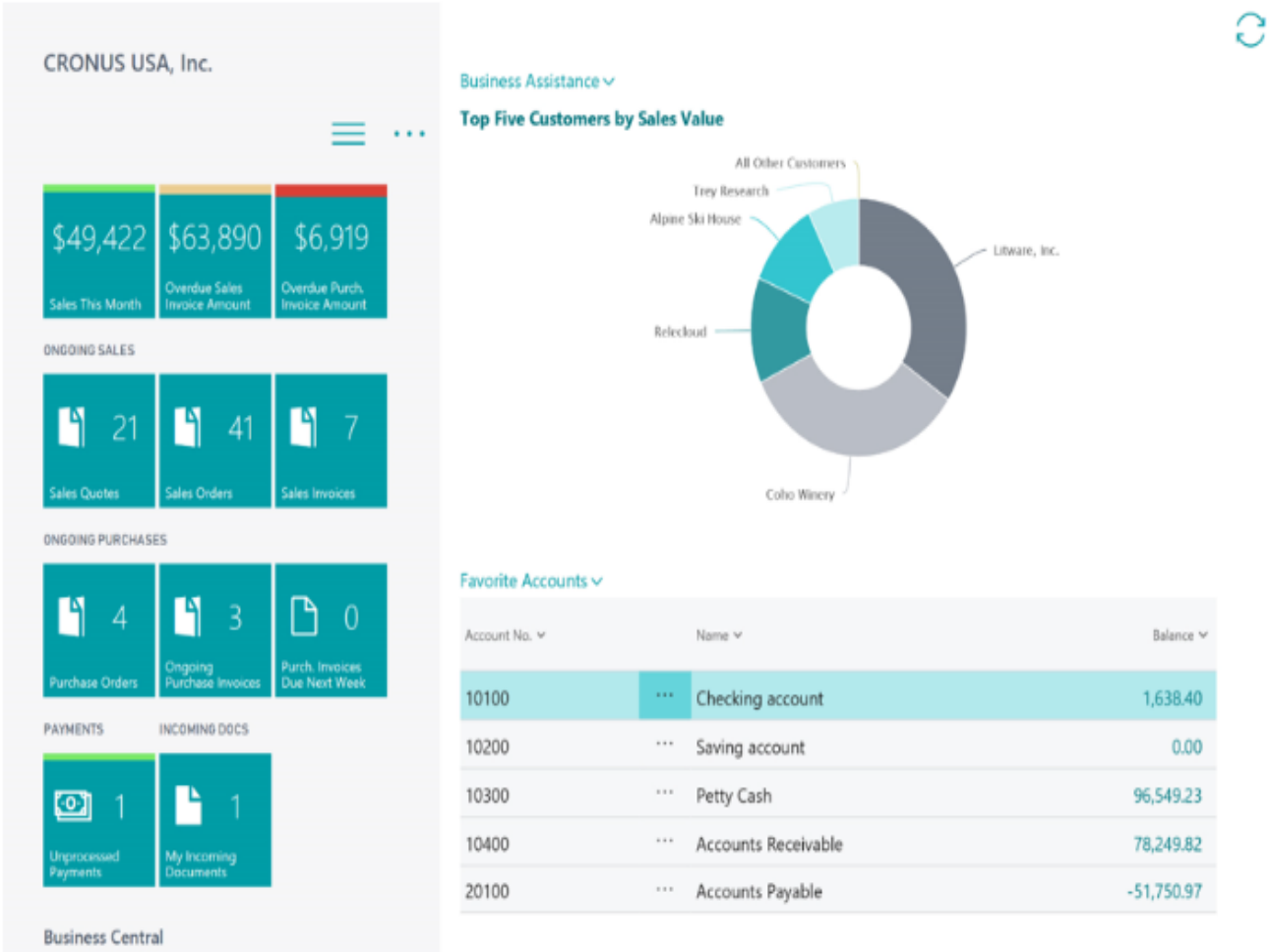
Organise campaigns based on segments of your contacts that you define.

Opportunity management

Keep track of sales opportunities, section your sales processes into different stages, and use this information to manage your sales opportunities.

Dynamics 365 for Sales integration

Integrate with Dynamics 365 for Sales in a few easy steps to synchronise your data, including sales orders, item availability, units of measure, and currencies. Find Out More



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Supply Chain management

Sales order management

Manage sales orders, blanket sales orders, and sales order processes.

Basic receivables

Post sales transactions in journals and manage receivables. Register customers and manage receivables by using general journals.

Item transfers

Track inventory as it's moved from one location to another, and account for the value of inventory in transit at various locations.

Purchase order management

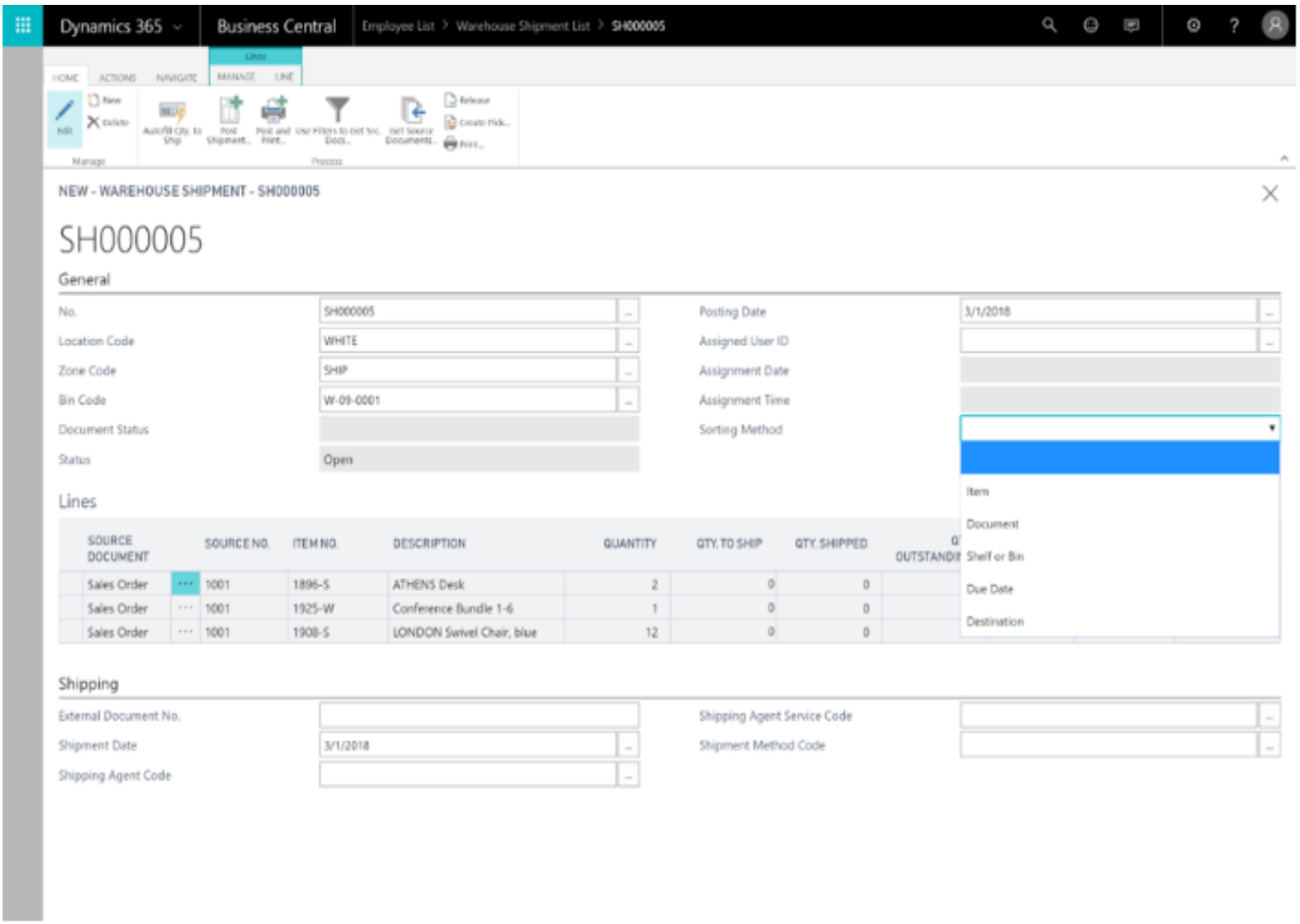
Manage purchases, blanket orders, and purchase order processes.

Locations

Manage inventory in multiple locations that might represent a production plant, distribution centre, warehouse, showroom, retail outlet, or service car.

Basic warehousing

Manage items on a bin level. Pick and put away items in a bin, and move items between bins by using a report that optimises space usage and picking processes.



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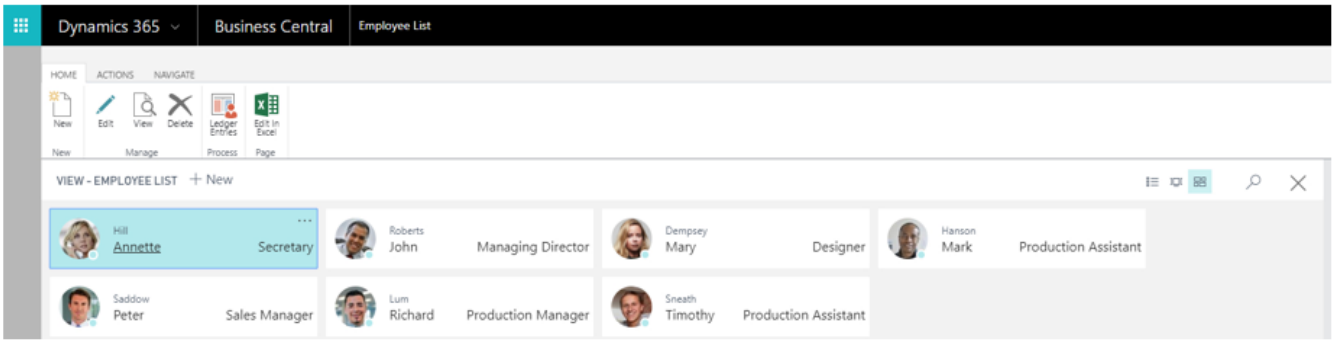
Human Resource

Employees

Group and track employee information, and organise employee data according to different types of information, such as experience, skills, education, training, and union membership.

Expense management

Post expenses against employee cards to track and reimburse their expenses.



Project management

Resources

Register and sell resources, combine related resources into one resource group, or track individual resources.

Jobs

Keep track of usage on jobs and data for invoicing the customer. Manage both fixed-price jobs and time-and-materials jobs.

Estimates

Monitor resource usage, and get a complete overview of your capacity for each resource, with information about availability and planned costs on orders and quotations.

Time sheets

Time sheets are a simple and flexible solution for time registration with manager approval, and they integrate with Service, Jobs, and Basic Resources.

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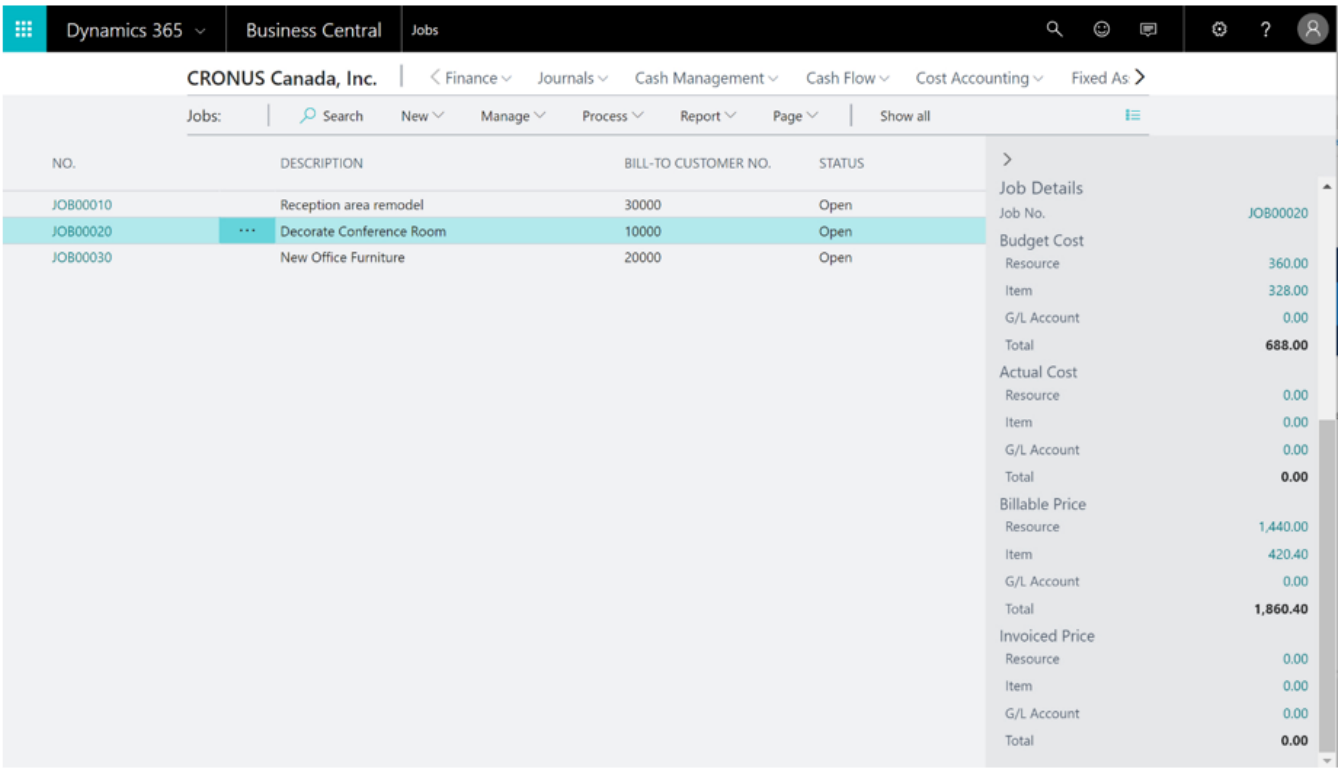

Other Features included in Essential Licensing

Multiple languages

Switch languages on the client in real time, provided that the desired language is available.

Reason codes

Define a set of reason codes that can be assigned to individual transactions throughout the system, providing user-defined audit trails.

Extended text

Set up an unlimited number of lines to describe inventory items, resources, and general ledger accounts.

Intrastat reporting

Automatically retrieve the necessary data to report Intrastat information to statistics authorities. Local customs authorities can tell you whether your company is obligated to file such a report.

Outlook integration

Synchronise your to-do items and your contacts with your meetings, tasks, and contacts in Outlook.

Service Management & Manufacturing Capabilities under Premiums Licensing

Service Order management

- **Service orders**
  Register your after-sales issues, including service requests, services due, service orders, and repair requests.

- **Service price management**
  Set up, maintain, and monitor your service prices.

- **Service item management**
  Record and keep track of all your service items, including contract information, component management, and BOM reference and warranty information.

- **Service contract management**
  Record details on service levels, response times, and discount levels, and also on the service history of each contract, including used service items and parts and labour hours.

- **Planning**
  Assign personnel to work orders, and log details such as work order handling and work order status.

- **Dispatching**
  Manage service personnel and field technician information, and filter according to availability, skills, and stock items.

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Manufacturing management

- **Production orders**
  Create and manage production orders, and post consumption and output to the production orders.

- **Version management**
  Create and manage different version of the manufacturing bill of materials and routings.

- **Agile manufacturing**
  Plan rush hours, make exceptions, and handle last-minute changes to your processes with multiple planning options.

- **Basic supply planning**
  Plan for material requirements based on demand, with support for master production scheduling and materials requirements planning.

- **Demand forecasting**
  Plan and create production and purchase orders, taking into consideration the demand forecast together with the level of available inventory and parameters of requirement planning.

- **Capacity planning**
  Add capacities to the manufacturing process. Set up routings, and use these routings on production orders and in material requirements planning.

- **Machine centres**
  Manage capacity on several levels: on a more detailed level for machine centres and on a consolidated level for work centres.

Finite loading

Take capacity constraints into account, so that no more work is assigned to a work centre than the capacities can be expected to execute during a given time period.

Extensibility

Power BI, PowerApps, and Flow

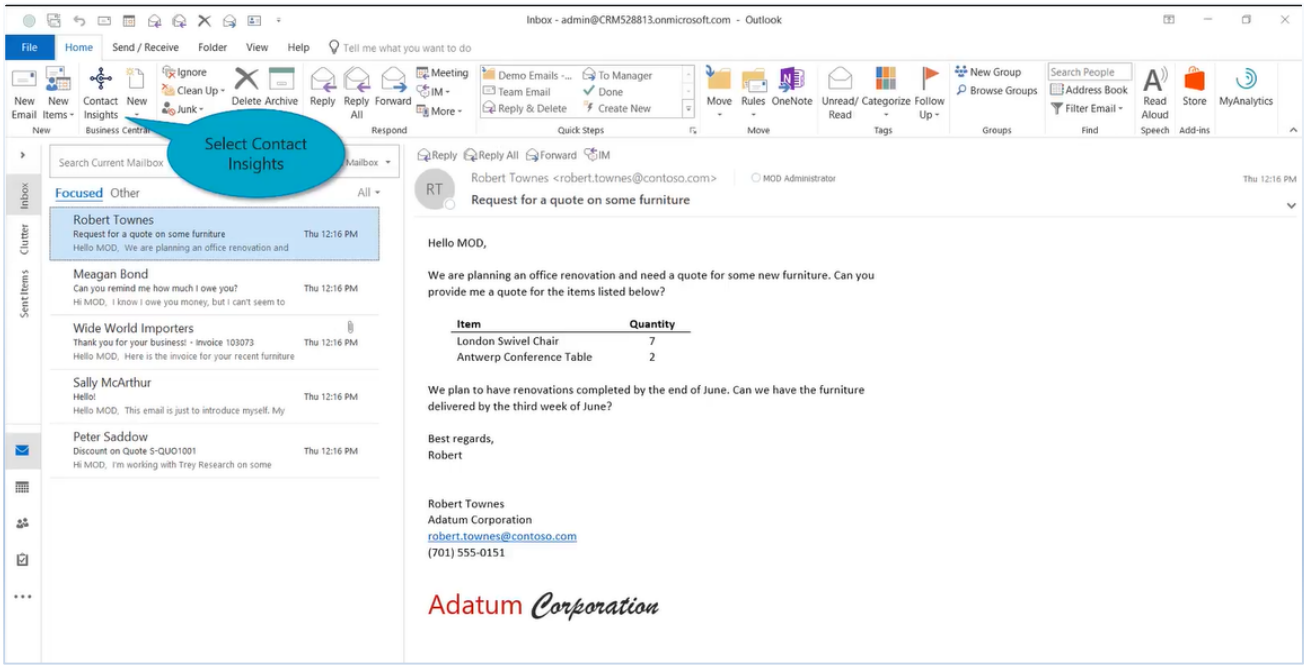
Dynamics 365 Business Central comes with easy integration with Power BI, PowerApps, and Flow, so that you can configure capabilities and implement business flows without writing a single line of code.

Individual customisation

You can personalise Dynamics 365 Business Central by, for example, adding or removing fields. Use the embedded designer to customise the user interface by moving fields or de-cluttering the experience.

Microsoft Outlook Integration in Dynamics 365 Business Central

Business Central introduces the ability to manage business interactions with your customers and vendors, directly in Microsoft Outlook. With the Business Central Outlook add-ins, you can see financial data related to customers and vendors, as well as create and send financial documents, such as quotes and invoices.



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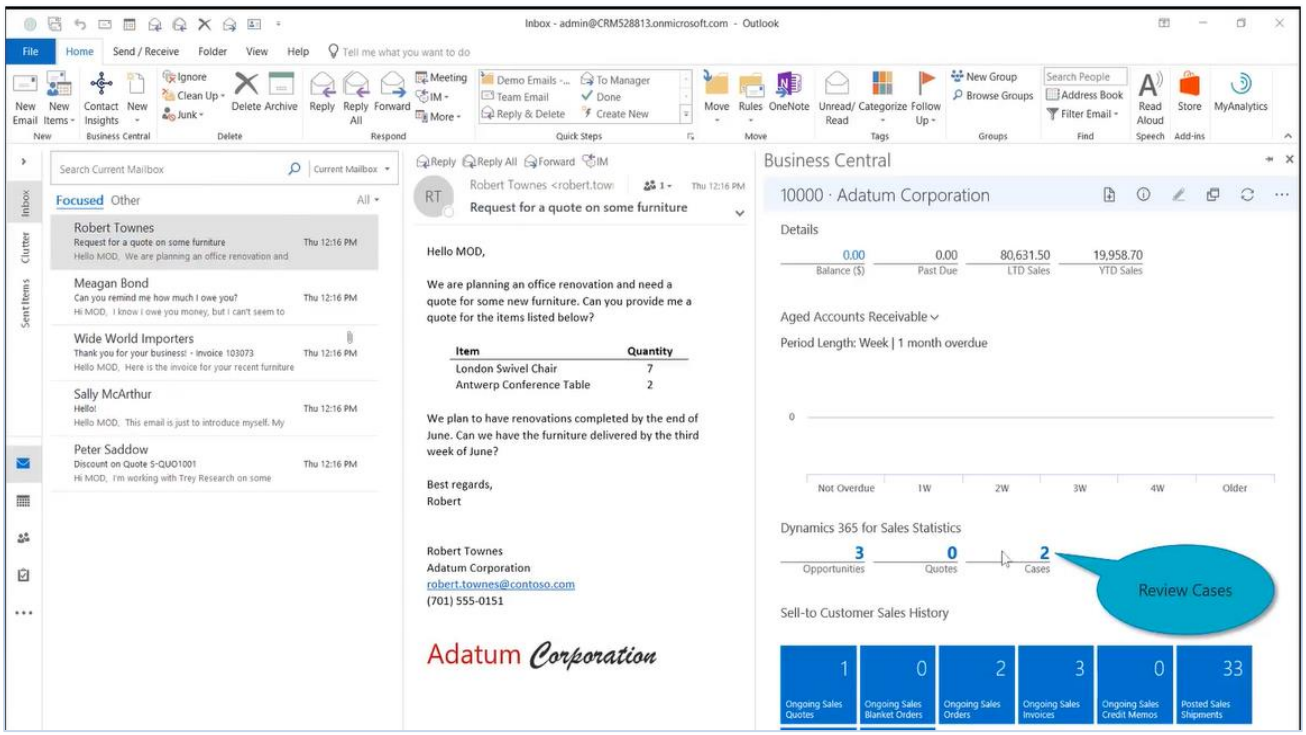

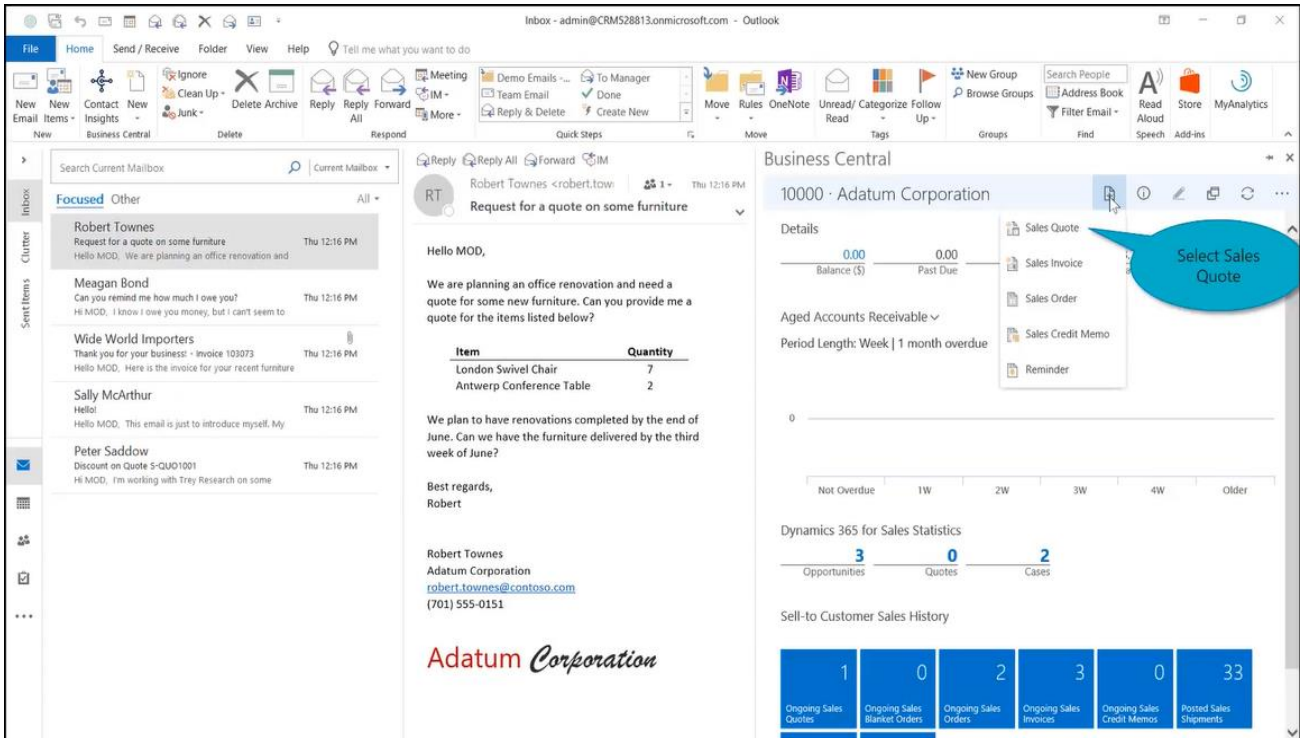

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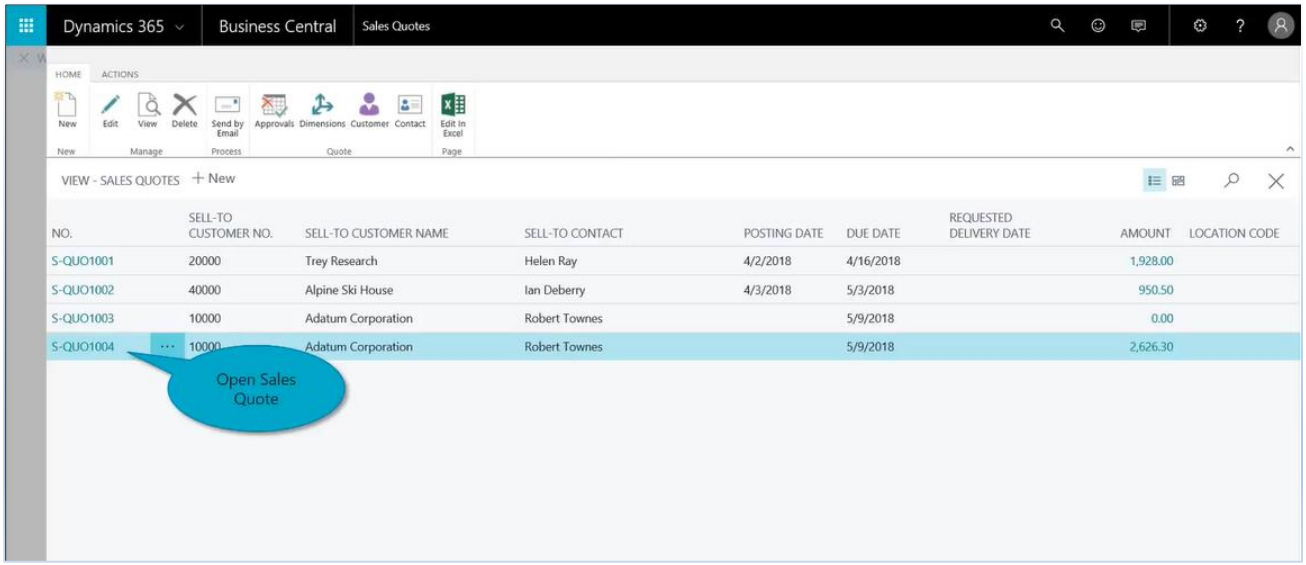
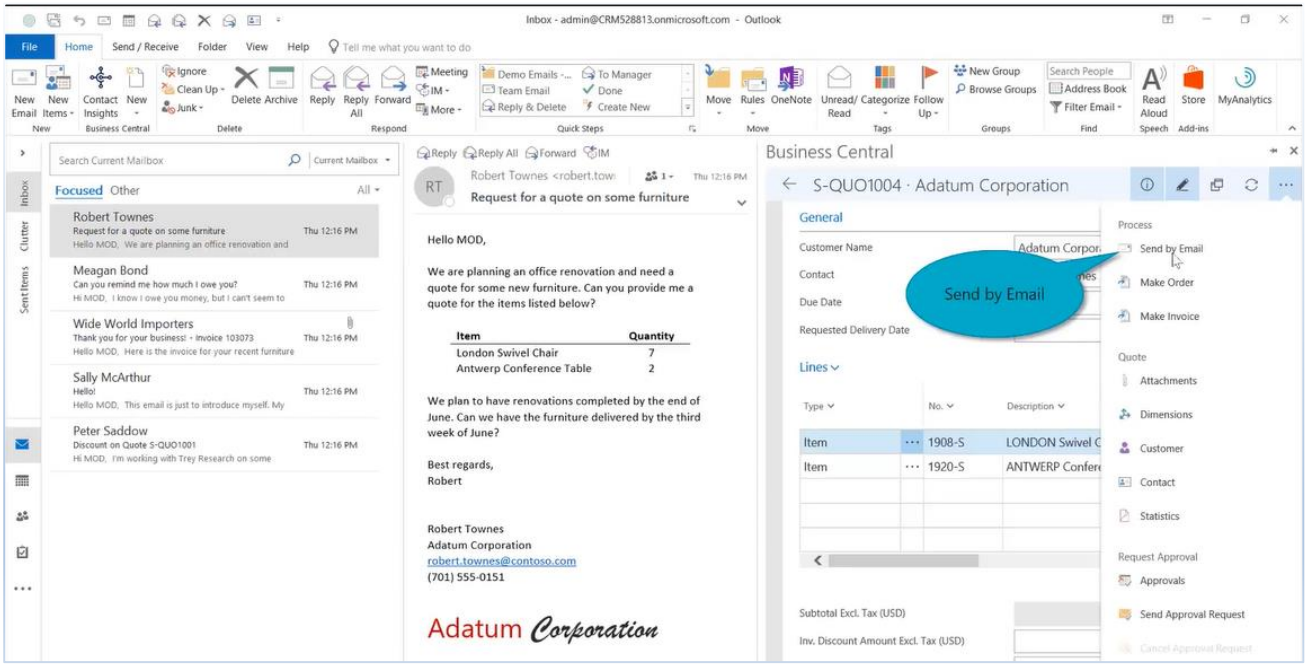


Send via email



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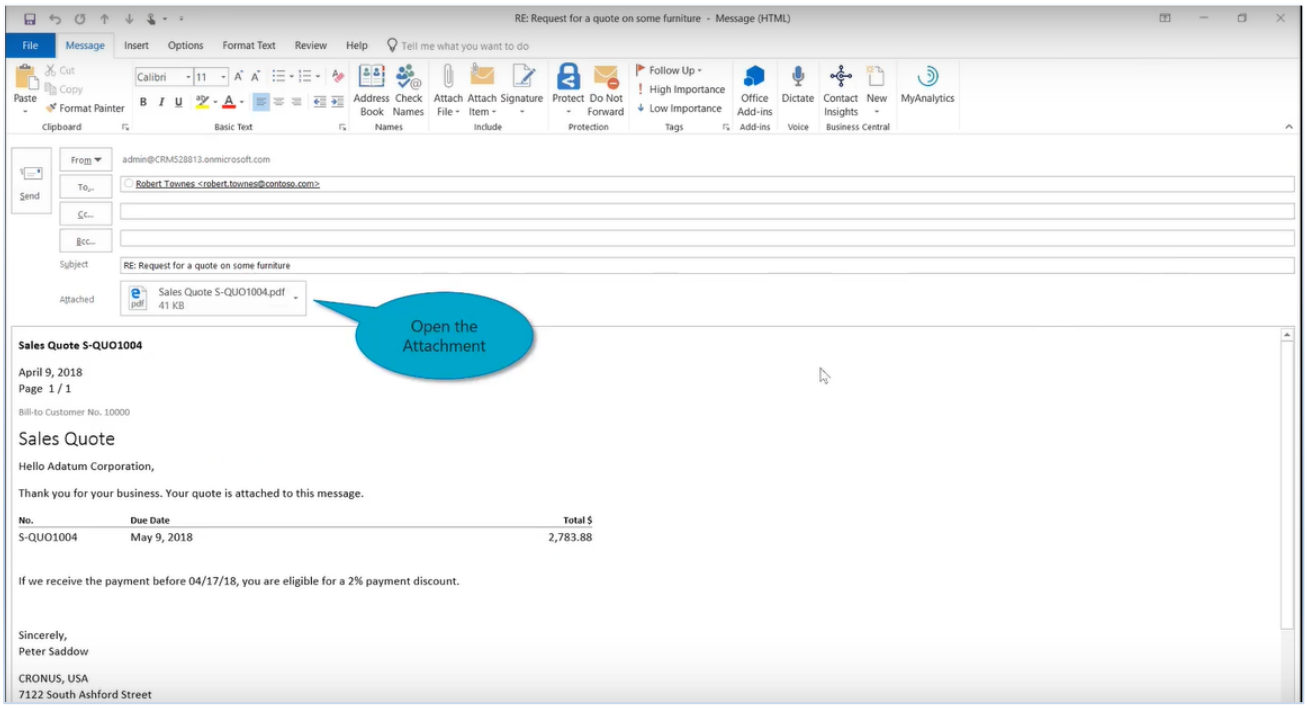
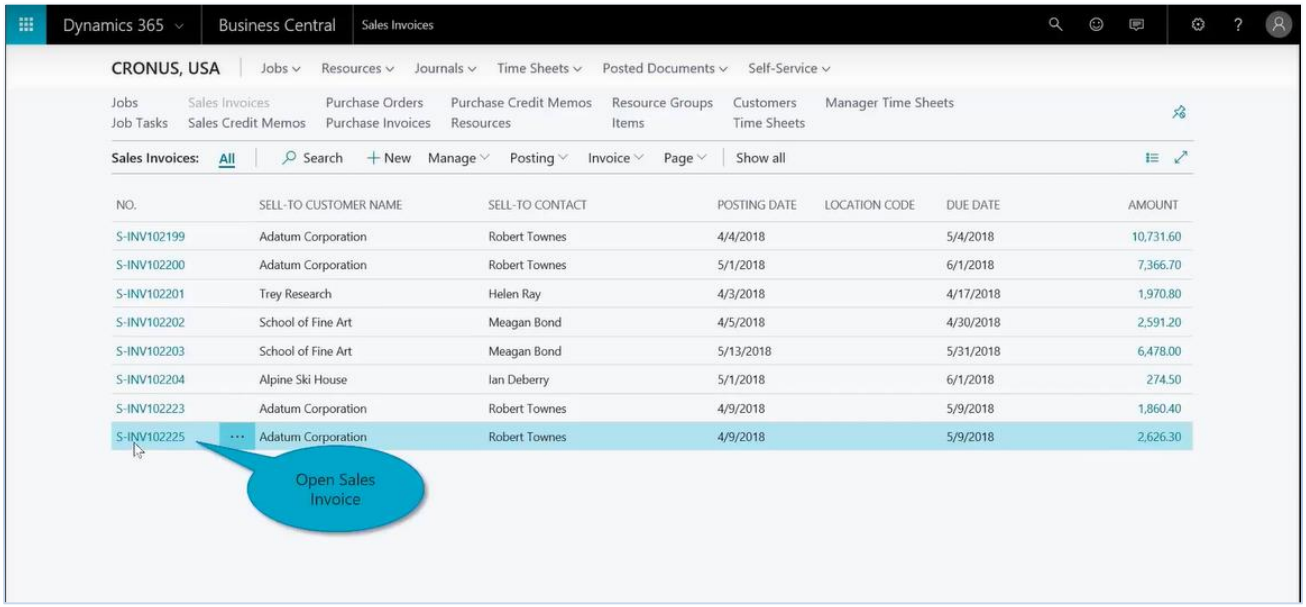
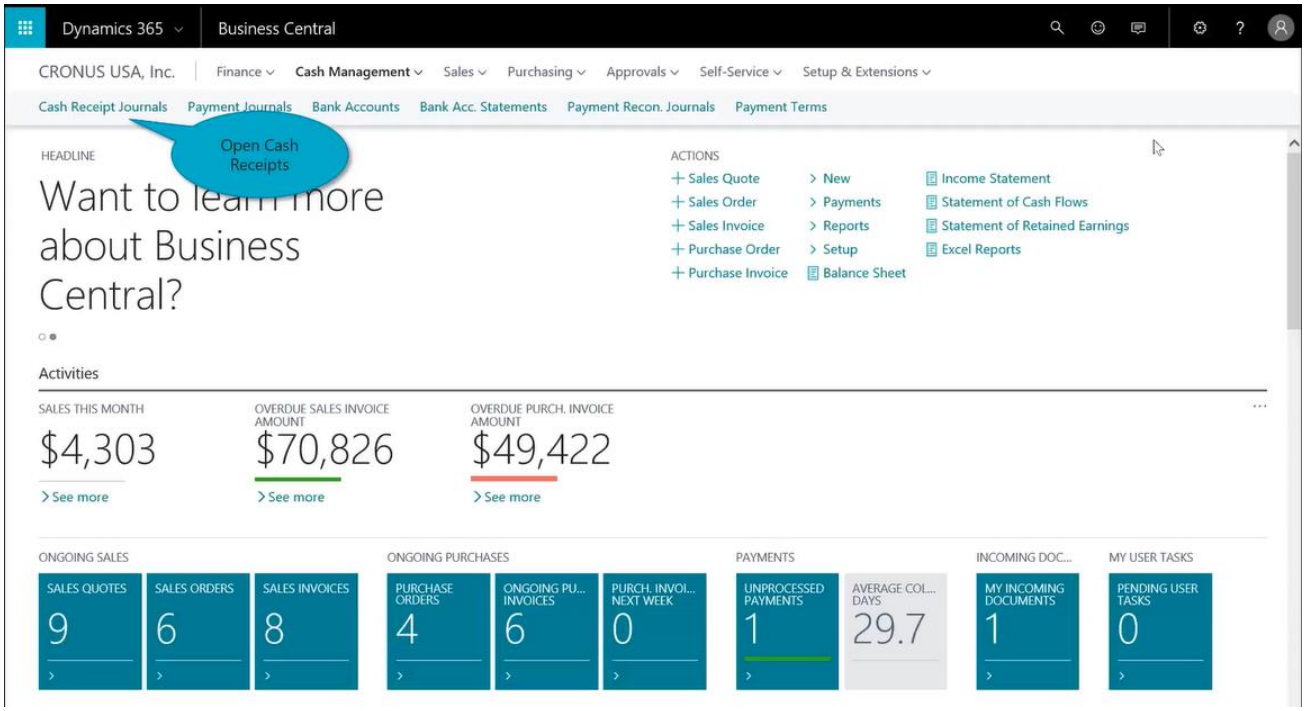


Open Sales Invoice





Benefits

1. **Reduces initial learning of a new system**
2. **Reduces time in data entry process**
3. **Respond quickly to customer requests**

Access the solution

On a computer, Business Central is accessed via a web client through a browser, on mobile devices, you access the Business Central via an application you download. Therefore, you can only access and use Business Central on your computer via the browser you prefer and not, as you are used to from Dynamics NAV, via a local desktop client.
On the other hand, you can use Dynamics NAV both with a local client installed on the computer, but also access the solution online via a browser. If you are using a mobile or tablet, there are also apps for Dynamics NAV.

Licensing

Business Central is licensed as a per month subscription, where you only pay per named user. This means, among other things, that there will be no opportunity for simultaneous users, prior purchases, annual maintenance agreements, etc.
This new licensing model will probably be problematic for some of the NAV users who are used to the payment model we know from there. On the other hand, Office 365 users who already know this licensing model, will probably find it easier to adapt.

Hosting options

Business Central is a SaaS solution and is therefore hosted exclusively in the cloud on Azure by Microsoft.

With Dynamics NAV, you have both the options to implement the solution on Azure, in a private data center or locally on your own server.

Changes

As mentioned above, the two solutions are very similar, but Business Central has minor functionality changes, which have been required to take, as certain security considerations must be taken when running an application as a SaaS solution. The changes in Business Central imply, among other things, that access to some files on the servers as well as access to some of the system tables has been blocked for developers.

Extended functionality

Business Central allows you to install extensions developed by ISV (Independent software vendor) partners directly from Microsoft AppSource. That way you can expand the application's functionality and quickly test and try out the new options and then quickly uninstall the add-on if it does not meet the needs you expected.

This option is not available with Dynamics NAV. On the other hand, with NAV you can customize the solution's functionality so it is tailored to the individual company and develop add-on modules that extend the functionality of the solution. However, everything indicates that these opportunities will at some point be transferred to Business Central.

Updates

Business Central is constantly updated, so rather than waiting for the annual version release, as we know it from Dynamics NAV, Business Central is updated on a monthly basis.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR DYNAMICS 365 FOR FINANCE AND OPERATIONS, BUSINESS EDITION CUSTOMERS?

Existing Dynamics 365 for Finance and Operations, Business edition customers will be automatically upgraded to Dynamics 365 Business Central with access to new functionality and an all-new user interface. There are also a number of discounted transition pricing options for existing Microsoft Dynamics customers, available through Microsoft's Cloud Solution Providers (CSP). Bhatara Progress Co., Ltd.

Our favourite capabilities in Dynamics 365 Business Central

Because Dynamics 365 Business Central and Dynamics NAV run the same application code base, this empowers us to smoothly transition all our Dynamics NAV partners and customers into Dynamics 365 Business Central. Dynamics 365 Business Central is a cloud first solution, designed for the age of digital transformation powered by the cloud.

But it will not be a cloud only solution. In the fall it will be available for self-deployment on premise and in the intelligent edge for customers that prefer that option.

For the existing partners and customers, this will be just another upgrade, like they would do for Dynamics NAV, with a name change.

For customers interested in the cloud, starting today, Dynamics 365 Business Central offers unprecedented opportunities to drive transformation of the customers' businesses, increasing their business performance through the power of Microsoft cloud technologies and services.

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