The Executives' Club of Chicago Migrages to the Cloud for Peace of Mind with Microsoft Business Central & Crestwood

Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central

Crestwood Associates

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- **Noreen Howlett**
Accounting Manager

EXEC CLUB CHICAGO

COMPANY
Executives' Club of Chicago

LOCATION
Chicago, IL

APPLICATION REPLACED
Microsoft Dynamics Great Plains

SOLUTIONS
Microsoft Dynamics Business Central

The Challenge

The Executives' Club of Chicago, a large membership organization supporting the Chicagoland business community, faced significant ERP needs. They had been relying on Great Plains for over a decade, but the realization that the ERP system was being phased out prompted them to seek a change.

The existing system was deemed cumbersome and overly complex for their operations. The emergence of remote work and a challenging cybersecurity landscape further emphasized the need for a robust, cloud-based solution. Connectivity issues had caused slowdowns and led to frequent IT consultant calls, making a move to the cloud all the more appealing. Looking back, Accounting Manager Noreen Howlett remarked, "I've forgotten how slow it was at the end there. It was miserable."

A major concern around migrating to the new system however, was data loss and security. The Executives' Club of Chicago leadership had to be assured of a smooth, secure transition.

The Solution

Microsoft Business Central emerged as the solution, offering more sophisticated reporting options and a cloud-based infrastructure. Crestwood Associates played a pivotal role, providing a clear bridge from Great Plains to the new ERP system, ensuring data accessibility throughout the process.

The Executives' Club of Chicago team had a precise list of functionality requirements for Microsoft Business Central, and Crestwood Associates' deep knowledge of both systems enabled them to grasp and fulfill these needs. This expertise facilitated a seamless transition from Great Plains to Business Central, with the team's high comfort level with Crestwood alleviating data loss concerns.

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Key Results

- Reduced frequency of IT intervention by moving to a simpler cloud solution.
- Delivered the project on time and on budget.
- Empowered the accounting team to develop more effective reporting.

The Outcome

From a financial perspective, The Executives' Club found that they did not require many user licenses for Business Central, making it a highly affordable, choice. Crestwood Associates' role and support proved to be exceptionally cost-effective. Their guidance in managing expectations and project timelines led to minimal hitches in the implementation schedule, ensuring adherence to the budget.

Business Central's capabilities, as a made to manage ERP system, allowed the organization to perform a wide variety of reporting and information tasks tailored to their specific needs. The ability to run budgets against actual reports, including the required dimensions, was a key feature.

The accounting team could rapidly generate departmental reports and distribute them to the business to assess departmental performance against the budget. Furthermore, the integration of Business Central with the CRM database, NetForum, facilitated smooth invoice generation.

In this ERP success story and ERP case study, the expertise and responsiveness of Crestwood Associates, particularly their Implementation Manager played a pivotal role in guaranteeing a successful transition. Their profound knowledge of both Great Plains and Business Central addressed the organization's concerns, fostering confidence in the decision to partner with Crestwood for this critical transition.

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