Navigating the Dynamics GP End of Life – A Guide for Businesses

Microsoft **Dynamics GP**

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Understanding the Dynamics GP End of Life

Microsoft's recent announcement about the end of life for Dynamics GP has created a wave of uncertainty among businesses that rely on this long-standing ERP solution. With support for Dynamics GP set to phase out by September 2029 and security updates ending by April 2031, many organizations are now facing critical decisions about the future of their ERP systems.
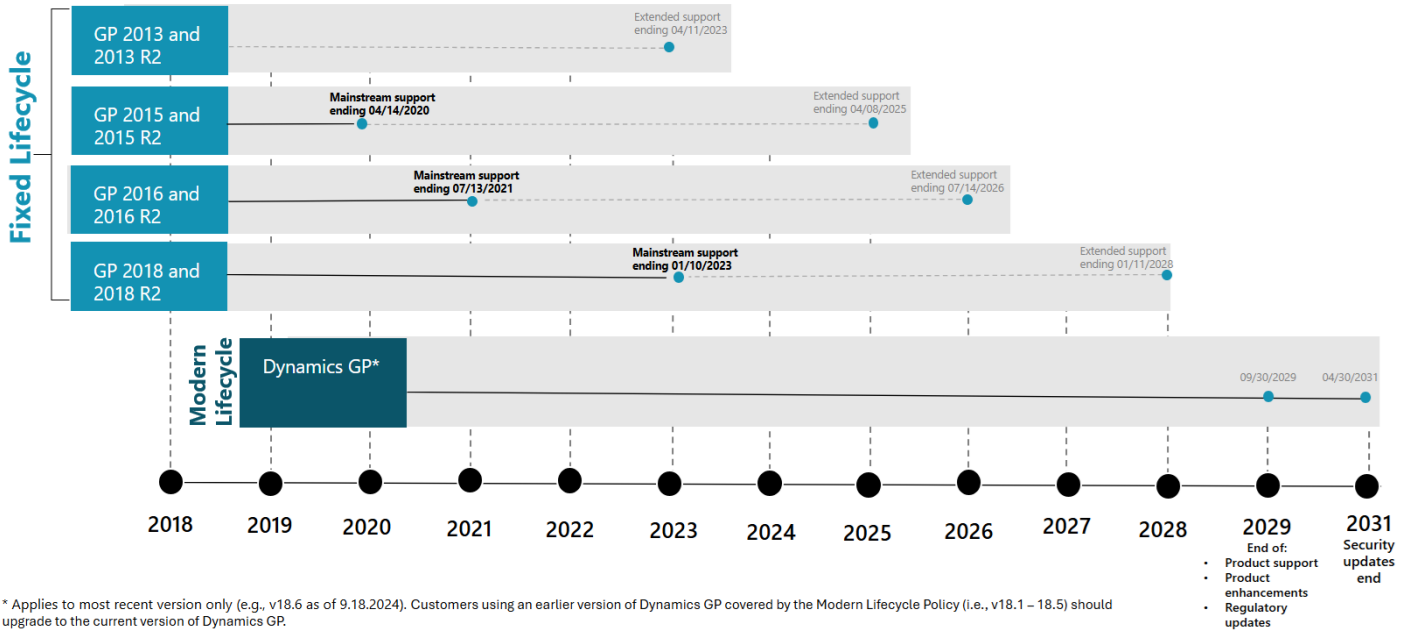
At Crestwood Associates, we understand the challenges this situation presents. Our goal is to be a trusted advisor, providing clarity, guidance, and solutions to help our clients navigate this transition effectively. Whether you're planning to continue using Dynamics GP for a few more years or considering a migration to a modern cloud-based ERP, our team is here to support your journey.

What Does the End of Life Mean for Dynamics GP Users?

The end of life for Dynamics GP signifies the cessation of Microsoft's product development, technical support, and security updates for the software. Here's a breakdown of the timeline and what it means for your business:

- **September 2024:** Microsoft will no longer provide new feature updates or enhancements.
- **April 2026:** No new customer licenses will be sold for Dynamics GP.
- **September 2029:** The official end of technical support, including service packs and regulatory updates.
- **April 2031:** End of security updates, which could expose your system to vulnerabilities.

Dynamics GP versions governed by Fixed and Modern Lifecycle

Fixed Lifecycle

- **GP 2013 and 2013 R2** — Extended support ending 04/11/2023
- **GP 2015 and 2015 R2** — Mainstream support ending 04/14/2020; Extended support ending 04/08/2025
- **GP 2016 and 2016 R2** — Mainstream support ending 07/13/2021; Extended support ending 07/14/2026
- **GP 2018 and 2018 R2** — Mainstream support ending 01/10/2023; Extended support ending 01/11/2028

Modern Lifecycle

- **Dynamics GP*** — 09/30/2029 04/30/2031

2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2031

2029 End of:
- Product support
- Product enhancements
- Regulatory updates

2031 Security updates end

* Applies to most recent version only (e.g., v18.6 as of 9.18.2024). Customers using an earlier version of Dynamics GP covered by the Modern Lifecycle Policy (i.e., v18.1 – 18.5) should upgrade to the current version of Dynamics GP.

For businesses still relying on Dynamics GP, this means increased risks of data security breaches, non-compliance with regulatory standards, and limited support for system issues. Without proper planning and proactive measures, organizations may face operational disruptions and increased costs.

The Solution: Crestwood's Comprehensive GP Migration Assessment

At Crestwood Associates, we are committed to helping businesses make informed decisions about their ERP future. Our **GP Migration Assessment** is designed to provide you with a clear understanding of your current system and the options available to you. Here's what our assessment includes:

Current System Analysis

- **Modules and Features Review:** We conduct a thorough review of the modules and features your business currently uses, including any third-party ISV solutions integrated with your GP system. This helps identify critical functionalities that need to be replicated or improved in a new ERP solution.

- **Customization and Integration Analysis:** Many businesses have tailored their GP systems with customizations and integrations that support unique processes. We evaluate these elements to ensure that any migration plan addresses your specific business needs without losing essential functionality.

- **Data Consumption and Storage Needs:** Understanding your data usage is key to planning a successful migration. We analyze your data consumption patterns and storage requirements to recommend the most efficient and cost-effective solutions.

Risk Assessment

- **Potential Security Vulnerabilities:** With the end of security updates in sight, your system may become increasingly vulnerable to cyber threats. We identify potential security risks and recommend measures to protect your business data.

- **Compliance and Regulatory Risks:** For businesses in highly regulated industries, non-compliance can result in severe penalties. Our assessment includes an evaluation of your system's compliance capabilities and identifies any gaps that need to be addressed.

- **Operational Risks:** Transitioning to a new ERP can disrupt business operations. We identify potential roadblocks and develop strategies to minimize downtime and maintain business continuity.

Migration Readiness and Roadmap

- **Migration Feasibility:** We evaluate your system's readiness for migration to a modern ERP solution like Microsoft Business Central or Acumatica. This includes an analysis of your current infrastructure, user readiness, and data quality.

- **Customized Migration Roadmap:** Based on our findings, we create a tailored migration roadmap that outlines the steps, timelines, and resources required for a smooth transition. This roadmap helps you plan your migration strategically, ensuring minimal disruption to your business operations.

Leveraging the Crestwood Migration Tool

To simplify the migration planning process, we use a proprietary tool that provides a quick assessment of your Dynamics GP environment. In just **5 minutes**, this tool estimates the effort required to migrate your system to Microsoft Business Central, giving you immediate insights into the feasibility of your migration plans. This quick

assessment is an invaluable starting point for understanding what a migration will entail and helps you make informed decisions without delay.

Delaying your decision on how to address the Dynamics GP end of life can lead to costly and disruptive situations. Here's why proactive planning is essential:

- **Avoid Last-Minute Rush:** As the end-of-life date approaches, more businesses will be seeking migration services. Planning now ensures you have the time and resources needed for a smooth transition.
- **Secure Your Data:** Waiting too long can leave your system vulnerable to security breaches. Proactively addressing migration or system upgrades helps protect your business from potential threats.
- **Optimize Costs:** Migrating under pressure can lead to rushed decisions and higher costs. Early planning allows for a more strategic approach, optimizing your investment and reducing overall costs.

How Crestwood Can Help

Crestwood Associates has been a trusted advisor to Dynamics GP users for over two decades. We bring deep expertise and a commitment to client success in every engagement. Our approach is collaborative and tailored to meet the unique needs of each business. Here's what you can expect when partnering with us:

- **Personalized Support:** We take the time to understand your business and provide solutions that align with your goals and budget.
- **Proven Migration Experience:** With a track record of successful migrations, we know how to navigate the complexities of transitioning from Dynamics GP to modern ERP solutions.
- **Ongoing Partnership:** Our commitment doesn't end with migration. We provide continuous support and guidance to ensure your new ERP system delivers long-term value.

Next Steps: Schedule Your Free GP Migration Assessment

If you're currently using Dynamics GP, now is the time to start planning for the future. Our **GP Migration Assessment** offers a no-cost, no-obligation evaluation of your system's readiness for migration. To get started, click here to schedule your Free GP Migration Data Assessment today.

By taking this proactive step, you can secure your business's future and ensure a smooth transition to a modern, scalable ERP solution.

Conclusion

The Dynamics GP end of life is a pivotal moment for businesses that have relied on this solution for years. While it may seem daunting, this transition also presents an opportunity to modernize your ERP environment and position your business for future growth. At Crestwood Associates, we are here to guide you through this process, providing the expertise and support needed to make informed decisions. Contact us today to learn more about how we can support your migration journey and help you achieve continued success.