



# The Savvy SMB Leader's Guide: Move to the cloud with confidence

How to tackle cloud migration projects and unlock the business insights needed to adapt faster, work smarter, and perform better.





# This information is for you if you are...

A small-to-medium sized business (SMB) leader who wants to learn more about the benefits of cloud migration.

An SMB leader seeking a practical approach to cloud migration.

Ready to embrace digitization but need a customized framework to manage the journey.

Looking for next steps to drive digital transformation.



Estimated reading time: <15 minutes

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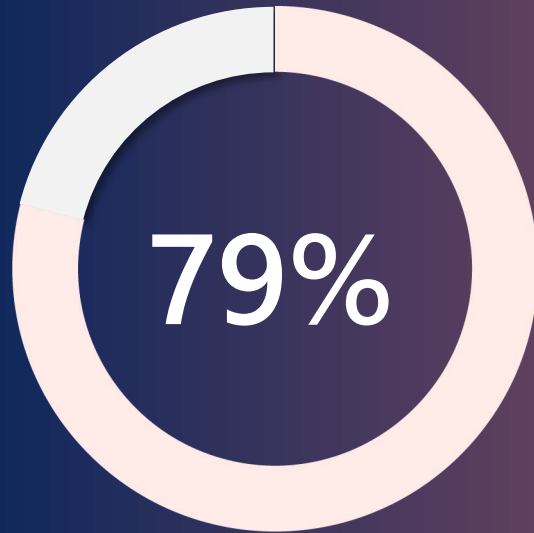
# Introduction

Keeping pace in the ever-accelerating business landscape means the speed of digital transformation is the new competitive differentiator.

Small-to-medium sized business (SMB) leaders must juggle multiple priorities, from attracting and retaining top talent, to ensuring business performance, to driving innovation and growth. Given the fast pace of business, it's hard to stay ahead especially if your organization is stuck with data and process silos that don't provide the visibility to predict what's ahead or the flexibility to adapt to disruptions.

The pace of digital transformation has increased as organizations adapt to rapidly evolving cloud environments. This evolution has been marked by a shift toward hybrid work, supply chain disruptions, and accelerated growth of digital consumerism and service delivery.

As organizations prepare for the future, they'll need a cloud-based business management solution that supports digital transformation. This will enable their business leaders to elevate employee, customer, and vendor experiences. With the ability to do it all on a single platform, they can keep pace with the competition.



79% of SMBs agree that the right technology solutions can help their businesses improve financial performance in uncertain times.<sup>1</sup>

1.SMB Group. 2023 Top 10 SMB Technology Trends, 2022.





## Let us show you why Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central is the preferred cloud- based business management solution for thousands of SMBs ...

Now more than ever, SMBs need to ensure their people are enabled to deliver on customer expectations, no matter where they are or what comes next.

Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central connects your employees to the tools they need, offering actionable insights from real-time visibility across teams and departments.

Your teams will interact seamlessly with familiar Microsoft 365 productivity apps—Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Teams, and Outlook—plus, Business Central can be easily adapted and extended with apps available on the Microsoft AppSource or by using the Microsoft Power Platform.

As Microsoft experts, we will help unlock comprehensive business management solutions that align your finance, sales, service, and operations teams within this single, easy-to-use application so you can focus on the work that matters.



**I really liked Business Central as a pure cloud solution. I don't have to worry about the technology, I can work from anywhere, and I'm well set up for the future.<sup>3</sup>**

- Florian Fickenscher  
CEO, Fickenschers Backhaus GmbH

<sup>3</sup> [The ingredients: Recipes from the past, IT for tomorrow](#)



## The cloud advantage

To meet the demands of the future business landscape, SMBs are adopting cloud solutions that enable them to centralize data, digitize processes, enable greater collaboration and productivity, and access new technologies like AI.

For years, the cloud has provided a critical advantage for addressing top business priorities. Now, cloud capabilities are becoming even more important for expanding beyond core business needs and helping organizations:

- **move faster,**
- **be more resilient and adaptable to change, and**
- **strengthen security.**

For future-focused businesses starting a cloud strategy journey, understanding the key benefits of cloud migration is the next step in their digital transformation.

## Cloud-enabled businesses:



Unlock emerging technologies like AI



Free up IT resources to work on more strategic tasks



Improve security, privacy, and reliability



Accelerate business insights



Enable scalability, flexibility, and easier onboarding



Remain current and compliant



With our experts, you can optimize Dynamics 365 Business Central to transform and grow your business using productivity tools tailored to your needs :





# We'll help you unlock the full potential of Microsoft Cloud

## Collaborate with native Microsoft 365 interoperability

The entire infrastructure you need to run a digital business is within the Microsoft cloud. In fact, Dynamics 365 is the only business platform that natively integrates with Microsoft 365—including Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Teams—Microsoft Azure, Azure Cloud Services, and Microsoft Power Platform, giving you unparalleled integration across systems and processes.

**What does this mean for your business?** A new generation of ERP that transforms the way work gets done—productivity, collaboration, and process optimization all in one solution.



## World-class security

Security is a top priority. SMBs are looking to the cloud to help protect valuable data, apps, and infrastructure. Azure offers a secure cloud foundation with multilayered, built-in security controls as well as unique threat intelligence, so businesses are always up to date with the latest security and protected against evolving threats.



## Trusted solutions

Trusted by enterprises, governments, and startups, Microsoft Azure has been named a leader in five Gartner Magic Quadrants for security—delivering world-class identity protection, role-based access, encryption, and auditing and logging.



## Advanced technology

Additionally, Microsoft spends billions on cutting-edge technologies, such as AI, ML, and IoT. The benefits of that advanced research and development powers the technology inside Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central as well as familiar Microsoft 365 productivity apps.





## Copilot for Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central – your everyday AI companion

With capabilities that span and connect the entire Microsoft ecosystem, Copilot for Microsoft Dynamics 365 accelerates your business and enables a whole new way to work.

Because the AI tools are built directly into Business Central, you can improve the end-to-end customer experience, reduce costs, and boost financial success. Plus, the ability to automate repetitive tasks, analyze data, and offer personalized recommendations, means Business Central can help you operate more efficiently and grow your business.

### More is possible with AI



Hold more productive meetings



Maximize untapped insights



Unlock new writing potential



Draft presentations in seconds



Summarize conversations in a flash



Coordinate data, privacy, and security



## Evaluating new cloud technology may seem overwhelming ...

But it doesn't have to be.

The key is pinpointing your critical workforce needs and making sure that any solution you select contains 80% of the functionality you require, right out of the box.

It's also important to choose a system that is compatible with your existing technology and tools. We can offer expert guidance during the decision-making, planning, and execution stages of any cloud migration initiative to minimize potential downtime and help get your workers up to speed quickly and easily.

## Use this checklist to help plan for success:

- ✓ **Select a qualified partner**  
The right partner can help plan and implement your digital transformation to get maximum benefit with minimal downtime.
- ✓ **Analyze IT ecosystem**  
Document existing IT infrastructure and apps, including dependencies, security needs, usage, and the business context for each app.
- ✓ **Define and prioritize**  
Identify the business problems you want to address and the outcomes you aim to achieve. Consider the benefits across your organization.
- ✓ **Plan migration**  
Create a gameplan for which applications to migrate, how, and in what order. Calculate the total cost of ownership of the proposed plan and get buy-in from company leadership.

### We offer comprehensive services that modernize your apps ecosystem to optimize and manage your business

Get the full benefit of cloud-based business apps your organizations need to upgrade to cloud-native applications and architectures. This includes automatic updates for security and compliance. Plus, we help you monitor your plan to determine right size usage and manage costs and optimize services over time.





## Take the next steps

### Adapt faster

Innovate and adopt new business models faster with flexible deployment models, mobility, reliability, security, and an adaptable Microsoft cloud solution that grows with your business.

### Work smarter

Empower people to be more collaborative, more productive, and more impactful with actionable insights and interoperability to Microsoft 365, including Teams, Word, Excel, and Outlook.

### Perform better

Enable peak performance with guided workflows, integrated governance controls, and real-time metrics that drive continuous process optimization, accelerates financial closes, and improves cycle times.

## Let's get started

[www.dynamics365cloud.co.uk](http://www.dynamics365cloud.co.uk)

[info@dynamics365cloud.co.uk](mailto:info@dynamics365cloud.co.uk)

[0113 426 7558](tel:01134267558)

