

CASE STUDY



Sukrut Parab is a Senior Architect with over a decade of experience implementing Dynamics AX and D365FO. In 2016, he was part of one of the *first* upgrades from AX 2012 to Dynamics 365.

Parab is an expert who has been working in this changing landscape for years and has vast experience. We are excited to share some of his top recommendations to consider at the start of your migration.



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MVP Tips for Kicking Off a Successful AX Migration

Closing Functional Gaps

To help get business buy-in, begin with identifying the Dynamics AX functional gaps that Dynamics 365 can help close. At a high-level, migration will allow you to innovate and be more efficient. On-premises environments have limited features available. Microsoft is continually investing in new Cloud services and Power BI.

PARAB'S TIP: Create an internal team of cross-functional experts to help identify gaps in the existing system.

"Dynamics 365 will allow you to more easily access new technology and services! Utilizing most of Microsoft's infrastructure and self-service options will be more user-friendly and cost-effective," said Parab.

Data Considerations

Parab recognizes that cleaning up data is the biggest task when starting a migration. Thankfully there are tools to help. These tools differ depending on what version you're starting from.

PARAB'S TIP: Utilize Microsoft's Out-of-the-Box Data Management Framework or other tools in the market.

"If you are on AX 2012, a migration is possible. If you have a highly customized system, you may need additional support from Partners or Microsoft. If you are on AX 2009, I would recommend a reimplementation," said Parab.

This is due to fewer similarities between the systems. An assessment of your application will help you determine what is the right approach for your company, based on factors like system complexity and number of customizations.

On AX 2009? [Check out this helpful tool](#) to extract data during a migration or implementation.



Business Process Reengineering

It is important to identify your core business processes and how you would like them to evolve. In the discovery phase, design your ideal process, looking at everything from specific functional processes to integrations and options in the Cloud.

PARAB'S TIP: "Ask yourself: What is current state? What state do you want to get to? What's working and what's not? It is important to identify these areas so your Partner can help take it to the next level. Are the changes possible out-of-the-box or are customizations needed?"

Licensing and Costing

It is difficult to understand what the costs will be for licensing and service. Do your own pre-work by visiting the Microsoft website for information such as high-level estimates (number of users versus a team) and enrollment costing.

PARAB'S TIP: Start with the free licensing guides available online:

FO/Finance

FO/Operations

Then follow up with your Partner or Microsoft to discuss your company's specific situation. There is no one-size-fits-all pricing model as every scenario is complex and different, depending on factors like which external tools you are using.

Prepare Your Team

A migration is a large learning process for everyone in your company, but there are a few key roles impacted more than others.

PARAB'S TIP: Get everyone familiar with D365FO because it is a big architectural change, especially if you are coming from a highly customized system.

Your **developers** are likely used to doing over layering in older versions. In D365FO, this will be accomplished using the extensions framework. To prepare your developers for this big technological shift, invest time to learn the extensions framework, research deployment processes, how packages work and other new features.

Some companies have their own internal **IT and Project Managers**. Getting them up-to-speed with the new features along with the DevOps is very important for managing your business and projects.

PARAB'S TIP: Allow your team 2-3 weeks to understand the new high-level concepts and familiarize themselves with the new environment. Encourage everyone to dedicate time along the way to experiment, try new things and learn.

Microsoft Dynamics 365 Migration Program

Get a high-level estimate to see if migration is right for your company.

Sign up for a no-charge assessment