**Kick ICT Group**

Upgrading to Business
Central and Constructa 5.0

A GUIDE

# We are experts and partners.

We've been delivering business solutions, network infrastructure and support to help our customers succeed for almost 40 years.

## Upgrading from Dynamics NAV to Business Central and Constructa 5.0

If you've set time aside to read this guide this would suggest that you're considering how your organisation begins the process of upgrading from Dynamics NAV to Business Central and realising the huge range of benefits this upgrade can deliver (our six key reasons why an upgrade project makes sense are listed below).

What's more, as a user of Kick's Constructa product an upgrade to Business Central will come with access to Constructa 5.0, launched in August 2020, and the most comprehensive release since Constructa's inception in 2011 (note, upgrade requires current enhancement plan to be in place). Built in consultation with several of our Constructa customers, 5.0 benefits from a series of product enhancements and a range of new functionality – with full details in our Dynamics NAV v Business Central functional specifications table and explained in depth within this guide.

# Upgrade: Six key reasons

## Cloud ready

Benefit from the security and connectivity of the cloud. At Kick we can deploy on cloud, on premise or as a hybrid solution within our data centre

## Drive profitability

Better financial management from forecasting to budgeting, compliance and overall performance

## Improve your customer service

Better service for customers with sales and service connected and seamlessly integrating to Outlook

## Better managed projects

Deliver projects on time and in budgets with improved management from planning to delivery

## Greater supply chain control

Optimised supply chain management with an end to end view across your full operation

## Clear software costs

Ensuring you're on the most recent BC version with consistent licensing fees without ongoing infrastructure and server costs

The benefits listed above can be achieved by any business and we can help with a quick needs analysis to help make these benefits tangible to your individual circumstances.

Our experience tells us that it's the next step that can be the hardest – as a long-term NAV user how do I get started on my Business Central upgrade journey and gain access to Constructa 5.0?

**At Kick we can help.**

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# How to know when it's time to upgrade

Let's first focus on the upgrade journey from a Dynamics NAV to Business Central, as it's in taking this step that will allow you to upgrade concurrently to Constructa 5.0.

If you are using Dynamics NAV then in most cases, we'd say it is time to upgrade, but we also look closely at the individual needs of every customer we work with to ensure this is the right step for them.  Generally, though, we believe that if you're using NAV then you are potentially selling your business performance short – and ultimately, you're not operating from a modern, supported and secure platform.

That can be a difficult statement to read but there is a route forward – kicking off your upgrade plan to migrate from NAV to Business Central.

When customers are hesitant about the case for upgrading, we ask them to consider their responses to a series of key questions:

Are you concerned about running on unsupported NAV, with the security and usability risks this brings?

Do you lack trust in the financial data you access to drive key business decisions?

Are you limited in your use of data, making it difficult to deliver a joined up customer experience?

Are you paying additional development costs due to having bespoke code within your NAV application?

Are you missing out on the benefits of cloud technology, such as rapid data recovery or minimising the risk of on premise data loss?

Do you lack clear visibility across your supply chain?

Do your projects typically run over time and over budget?

Are you failing to keep pace with legislative updates such as Making Tax Digital?

Should a customer answer 'yes' to any of these questions then it's highly likely that a NAV to Business Central upgrade is their right next step and we'll kick off the project to get them there.

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## Understanding the 'unsupported' risk

In our experience, the risk of running an unsupported version of Dynamics NAV should be of immediate concern and a key driver behind upgrading to Dynamics Business Central.  Here's some of the main risks when running unsupported:

**Security**: Microsoft continually improve their security to fend off malicious threats and attacks.  Unsupported NAV doesn't benefit from these updates, leaving businesses open to hackers and other breaches.

**Emergency Fixes**: If you continually miss out on upgrades across your software packages then one minor system breakage can cause multiple impacts, leading to the need for costly and complex emergency fixes.

**Lost productivity**: Every new version brings improvements and enhancements that deliver productivity gains, running unsupported means you miss out on these gains.

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# What can I expect once I upgrade to Business Central?

We deploy our tried and tested project methodology to deliver upgrades to Business Central, working closely and flexibly with you from consultation, to deployment, training and ongoing support.

Here's our top five immediate benefits you can expect on upgrade:

## 1.   A modern and newly designed User Interface (UI)

Business Central boasts a newly designed and improved interface.  The aim here is to make BC much easier to navigate and to generally create a better and more efficient experience for anyone in your business who is using the platform.  Over the mid to long term this will be a positive step for your business as employees become more productive and happier with using this modern and engaging UI.  However, there is short term transition required as employees get used to the new navigation and features, at Kick we build in a short user training programme to allow our customers to quickly overcome this hurdle.

## 2.   Full code review

Typically, we find customers using NAV, especially those with bespoke code written within the application, benefit greatly from a full code review at the outset of their upgrade to Business Central project.

In delivering your code review it's likely that we'll find code written that you no longer require or that's already written into the most recent version of Business Central.  If we can identify this, we can remove it – meaning you'll benefit from working on a fully supported version of Business Central and avoid the costs usually associated with the development work required to deliver upgrade to newer versions of Windows.

## 3.   Continually improving functionality

Microsoft deliver two product releases each year in which they improve, iterate and add new features.  The releases are scheduled for April and October each year with the cloud platform updated monthly by Microsoft, with on-premise customers taking cumulative updates.  The releases are keenly anticipated in the Business Central space and at Kick we're committed to helping you make the most of them.  Some recent releases include:

- Making life easier with unified Microsoft applications across marketing, sales, service, operations, HR and retail - and all integrated with Office 365

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- Better integration and use of AI across Outlook, LinkedIn, Teams, Azure and SharePoint
- Improving customer experience and employee productivity with the introduction of Power Platform to underpin Business Central, combining Power BI, Power Apps, Power Automate and Power Virtual Agent

## 4. New cost model

There are differing promotions that your business could potentially take advantage of when upgrading to Business Central.  For example, existing NAV users with an enhancement plan in place can upgrade to BC On Premise and receive 3 named users for every 1 concurrent user with no change to the enhancement plan cost.

We appreciate that every customer is different when it comes to the most suitable cost model, as a result we'll work with you to quickly identify your best option.

## 5. Deciding on your business-transformative cloud options

Microsoft invests more than £1bn a year in their cloud platform, Azure.  This investment ensures customers who deploy Business Central either On Cloud or as a hybrid option within Kick's own highly secure datacentre can expect the highest levels of security, privacy, compliance and transparency for their data – alongside all the operational efficiencies and cost savings associated with migrating your business to the cloud.

Upgrading to Business Central while remaining On Premise will continue to be an option and for organisations such as those in the public sector and legal services this may be the best option.  An annual enhancement plan will ensure On Premise customers benefit from ongoing support and access to latest updates.

Crucially, with your upgrade to Business Central you will have the opportunity to upgrade to the latest version of Constructa, 5.0.  This upgrade is available to Kick customers with a current Constructa enhancement plan in place.  Here's what you can expect from our most advanced Constructa release yet…

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# Unleashing the power of Constructa 5.0

We've made significant investment in Constructa 5.0, developed and stress tested over the last 12 months, in order to ensure it aligns more closely than ever with Business Central and meets the unique finance and ERP demands of the construction industry.

In consultation with Constructa users, we identified three key areas of improvement that would benefit organisations across the construction industry, alongside taking a series of steps to strengthen the overall stability of the application. Subsequently, Constructa 5.0 delivers both improved functionality and enhanced features that deliver benefits in the following areas:

| **Improved cost management** | **Simplified compliance** | **Become more productive** |
|---|---|---|
| With enhanced control over all construction costs including projects, plant, staff, materials | With Construction Industry Scheme and VAT legislation changes | With a series of time saving enhancements and new features |

Let's look at how you Constructa 5.0 will deliver these benefits to your organisation.

### Improved cost management with Constructa 5.0

- Full flexibility in General Ledger posting for subcontractor deductions and retentions, allowing multi G/L account mappings for financial analysis.
- Full management reporting in CVR, with non-posting cost-to completion for commercial and quantity surveyor departments, without G/L impact
- Enhanced plant cost management with commitments visible in CVR, approvals based on expected plant costs (allowing full control of purchases) and specific vendor and project pricing available
- Project specific pricing ensuring use of pre-agreed rates in procurement lifecycle
- CAPEX cost adjustments in one step from CVR on internal projects
- Drive economies of scale across plant, subcontract and materials costs with enhanced procurement workbench
- Cost staff timesheets on a percentage basis, rather than time
- Review historic CIS transactions with full PO, invoice and credit memo audit trail
- Review and audit valuation orders and history by sub-contractor
- Preview posting on all construction documents allowing impact testing of any transaction prior to ledger posting
- User defined yard addresses/office locations for use against all purchasing
- Foreign currency compatible

## Simplifying compliance with Constructa 5.0

- Business ready for upcoming VAT legislation changes, with reverse charge in place for all sub-contractor and contract sales transactions
- CIS resubmission available, preventing the need to contact HMRC for corrections, with improved audit and reporting functionality
- Validation on sub-contractor CIS verification expiry dates, ensuring compliance with CIS legislation

## Save time with Constructa 5.0

- Enter CVR adjustments once with capability to flag as recurring
- Single solution for ordering plant, CIS and materials from sub-contractors, with capability to report invoices directly to HMRC
- Fully flexible document sending profiles and batch mailing with Business Central documents
- Improved error handling throughout, including per line reporting on plant bookings
- Proactive invoice error detection with upfront mandatory dimension checks
- Standard user groups, permissions and role centres to simplify implementation
- Interactive project directory giving a one stop shop for all key project stakeholders

## Ready to upgrade?

Having a Microsoft partner such as Kick will help your business fully realise the capabilities offered by Business Central and Constructa 5.0. We'll ensure you get your data working to benefit, not slow down, your business, enhancing those all important customer relationships - all whilst ensuring that you can access and utilise the financial information that will help your business to be successful in the highly competitive construction industry.

Useful Links

- Access our handy Dynamics NAV v Business Central functional specifications table to see the huge range of features you'll access as part of an upgrade to Business Central and Constructa 5.0
- Business Central in 3 minutes https://youtu.be/sDYBMZ2I2YA

Why partner with Kick ICT for your NAV to Business Central upgrade?

- We've been deploying NAV and Business Central solutions for over 30 years

- Extensive experience in upgrading all legacy versions of Dynamics NAV to Business Central

- Deploying Constructa UK-wide across the construction sector

- Experience migrating customers to Business Central from traditional, siloed accounting platforms such as Sage 50, QuickBooks or Xero

- We provide NAV and Business Central solutions to over 100 customers across thousands of users

- Multiple deployment options available on cloud, on premise or as a hybrid cloud solution

For more information on Business Central and Constructa 5.0, or any of the applications within the Microsoft ecosystem please visit our website or call us on 01698 844 600 to arrange a no-obligation chat.

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