Microsoft

Release overview guide, v2020.1.0
Last updated: April 3rd, 2020

Dynamics 365 Business Central

2020 release wave 1
April-September 2020

In this guide, you will be able to learn the most important things about this release wave.

Top things to know

Streamline your processes, make smarter decisions, and accelerate growth with Dynamics 365 Business Central—a comprehensive business management solution designed for small to medium-sized businesses.

New capability highlights

The **2020 release wave 1**, brings to market significant new services and capabilities to enable digital transformation for businesses. For Dynamics 365 Business Central, these new capabilities include:

Improved usability

- Search for features in the role explorer
- Enable non-interactive printing
- Import profiles and UI customizations
- Show parts that are hidden on pages
- Go to related records from list pages
- Improve pages that have multiple parts
- Bookmark reports
- Categorize data
- Enter data more easily
- Filter data and create views

Enhanced application features

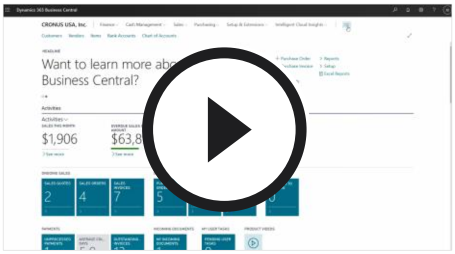
- Use resources in purchase documents
- Send the right documents to your contacts
- Receive more goods than you ordered
- Undo shipment or receipt lines for non-items

Better tool for admins and partners

- Integrate with Common Data Service
- Manage permissions with deeper insight
- Sync users with the Microsoft 365 admin center
- View data sizes per table
- Cancel sessions
- Use AL interface objects

Watch the release overview video

Learn about the key capabilities and features in the release wave.
Visit: aka.ms/Overview/2020RW1/BusinessCentral



Read the release plan

Explore the entire set of new capabilities planned for 2020 release wave 1.
Visit: aka.ms/Plan/2020RW1/BusinessCentral

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Engage with experts and peers.
Visit: aka.ms/Community/BusinessCentral

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Visit: aka.ms/Overview/2020RW1/Feedback

Unlock Next.

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Release summary

Dynamics 365 Business Central provides a comprehensive business-application solution designed and optimized for small and mid-sized organizations. Since its launch in April 2018, Business Central has seen increasing adoption by organizations looking to digitally transform their businesses. For 2020 release wave 1, Business Central investments center on service fundamentals to meet the demands of a rapidly growing customer base, enhanced user productivity, geographic expansion, and top customer-requested features. Improvements in migration tools reflect the prioritization of bringing on-premises Dynamics GP, Dynamics SL, and Dynamics NAV customers to Business Central online.

Service fundamentals: Performance, reliability, and supportability are at the core of the business. This wave focuses on service quality and accessibility. This wave also brings the results of a material top-to-bottom investment in Business Central service security.

Partners are a critical component of the Business Central ecosystem; this wave brings telemetry visibility for partners through Azure Insights. We are delivering top partner-requested improvements to the integration with Common Data Service to improve the extensibility of integrations with other Dynamics 365 workloads. Finally, feature flighting and support for managing deprecation of code in the AL language enable the non-disruptive future evolution of the service.

Productivity: End-user productivity is critical. This release continues the pattern of delivering improved productivity with enhancements to the modern client experience, streamlined data entry, and requested features, such as auto-insert for recurring sales and purchase order lines.

Geographic expansion: 2020 release wave 1 adds the ability to install multiple language translations for each tenant. Also, this wave adds localizations for Slovenia, Croatia, Latvia, Hungary, Peru, and Columbia. Localization for Brazil and India will follow in a later wave.

Customer requested enhancements: Business Central continues to respond to top customer-enhancement requests. In addition to multiple features picked from the product Ideas portal, we are enhancing areas that receive significant feedback, such as bank reconciliation.

Customer migration tools: To simplify the journey for existing Dynamics customers to Business Central online, we're adding support for migration from a broader set of Dynamics GP and Dynamics NAV versions, making improvements for selective migration of Dynamics GP customers and vendors, and enhancing the Dynamics GP Chart of Account setups migration.

Together, these enhancements are designed to drive further customer adoption by empowering the migration of Dynamics GP, Dynamics NAV, and Dynamics SL customers, activating the partners who are bringing their vertical solutions to Business Central online, and further accelerating the growth of net new customers to Dynamics 365.

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New capability highlights

The following capabilities demonstrate our continued investment to power digital transformation for our customers and partners. To learn more about the entire set of capabilities being delivered during this release wave, visit: aka.ms/Plan/2020RW1/BusinessCentral

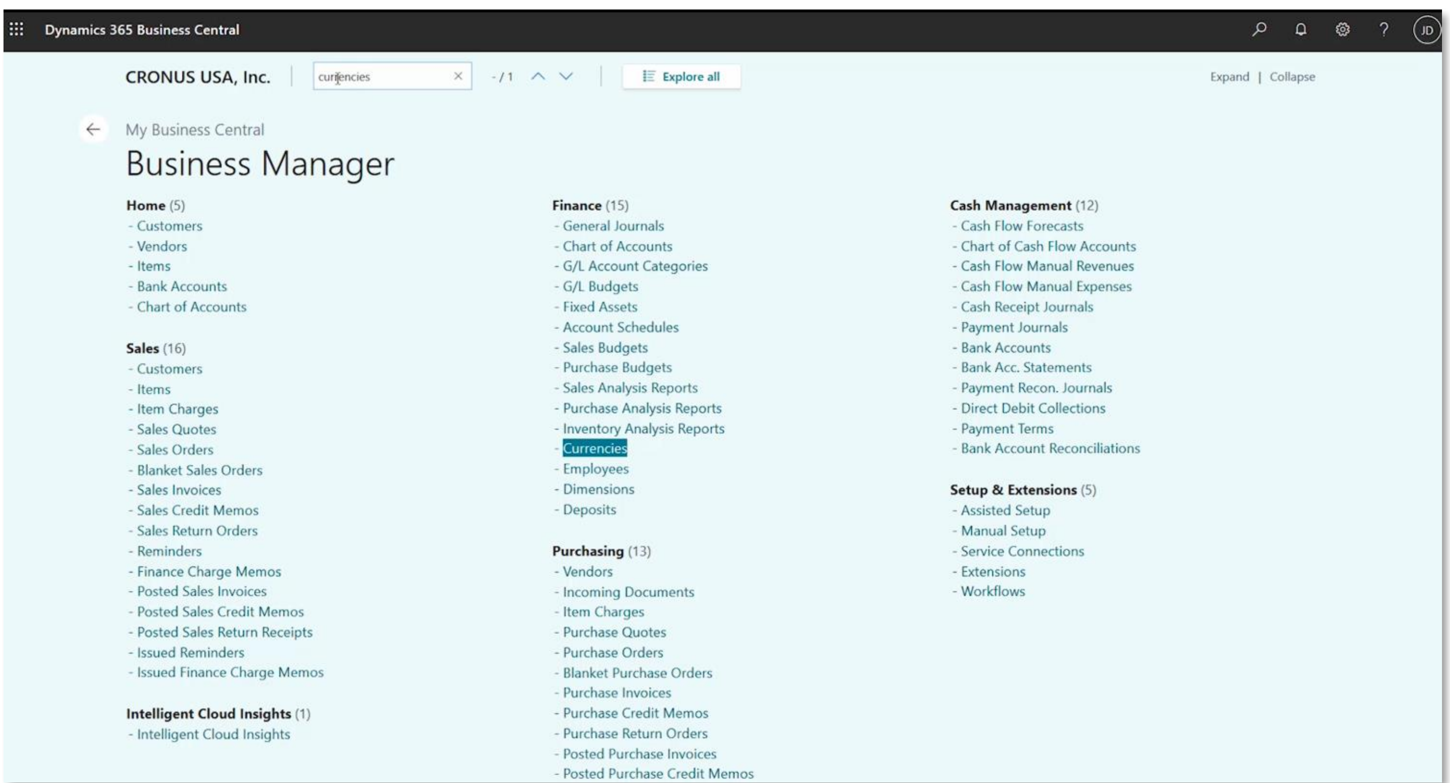
Improved usability

Search for features in the role explorer

The Business Central Role Explorer has a new addition that complements manual navigation and expanding or collapsing menu groups. Users can now open the Role Explorer, with either the "hamburger" icon or the Shift-F12 keyboard shortcut, and then start typing what they are looking for.

The Role Explorer does not filter the results but instead highlights the hits, as shown in the next image. Also, when a result is contained in a collapsed group, the Find function annotates that group using a teal-colored circle. Users can browse through the results using arrows or Ctrl+Up/Down keyboard keys. The Esc key closes the Find box and removes the value typed, so that new searching or browsing can be started. Note also that switching to the Explore all view retains the find value making it easy to navigate.

Watch the overview video:
aka.ms/Overview/2020RW1/BusinessCentral/RoleExplorer



Enable non-interactive printing

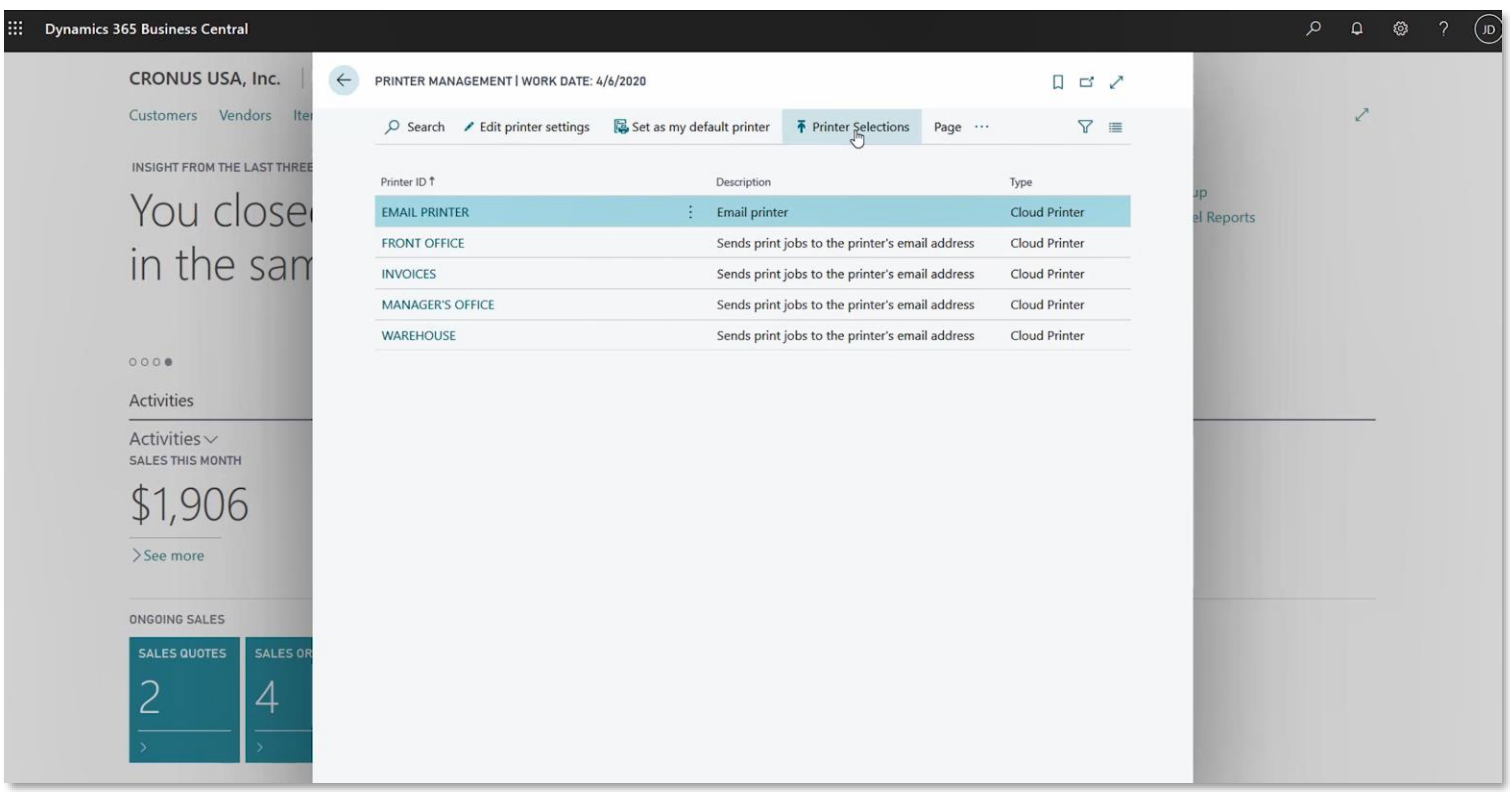
Users can print reports directly from the desktop using the predefined printers configured on the Printer Management page. If the printers are selected and set up properly, then no additional steps, such as downloading files or navigating through previews, are necessary. In addition, administrators can have the power to configure print jobs for specific tasks, users, or for more complex printer setups.

Complex printing scenarios where labels must be sent to one printer and a packing slip to another are common in many businesses. Users expect to be able to configure, save, and retain certain properties describing such flows, and they expect to print each report directly to a predefined printer.

Printing directly to a printer is now possible from the modern desktop clients. The setup that you make on the Printer Management page allows you to control which device to print to, including to cloud printers as defined by extensions. Using the Business Central modern clients, users who work in the browser can set up a printer selection for each report so that documents, labels, and other content are printed automatically on the selected printer. Administrators can manage a list of printers (including cloud printers), for example, by creating a friendly name for each and setting defaults. Additionally, for on-premises installations, any network printer that the server has access to will be available on the Printer Management page.

In addition, a predefined Email Printer extension is installed and ready for customers to use. This supports major printer manufacturers that enable email printing scenarios.

Watch the overview video:
aka.ms/Overview/2020RW1/BusinessCentral/Printing



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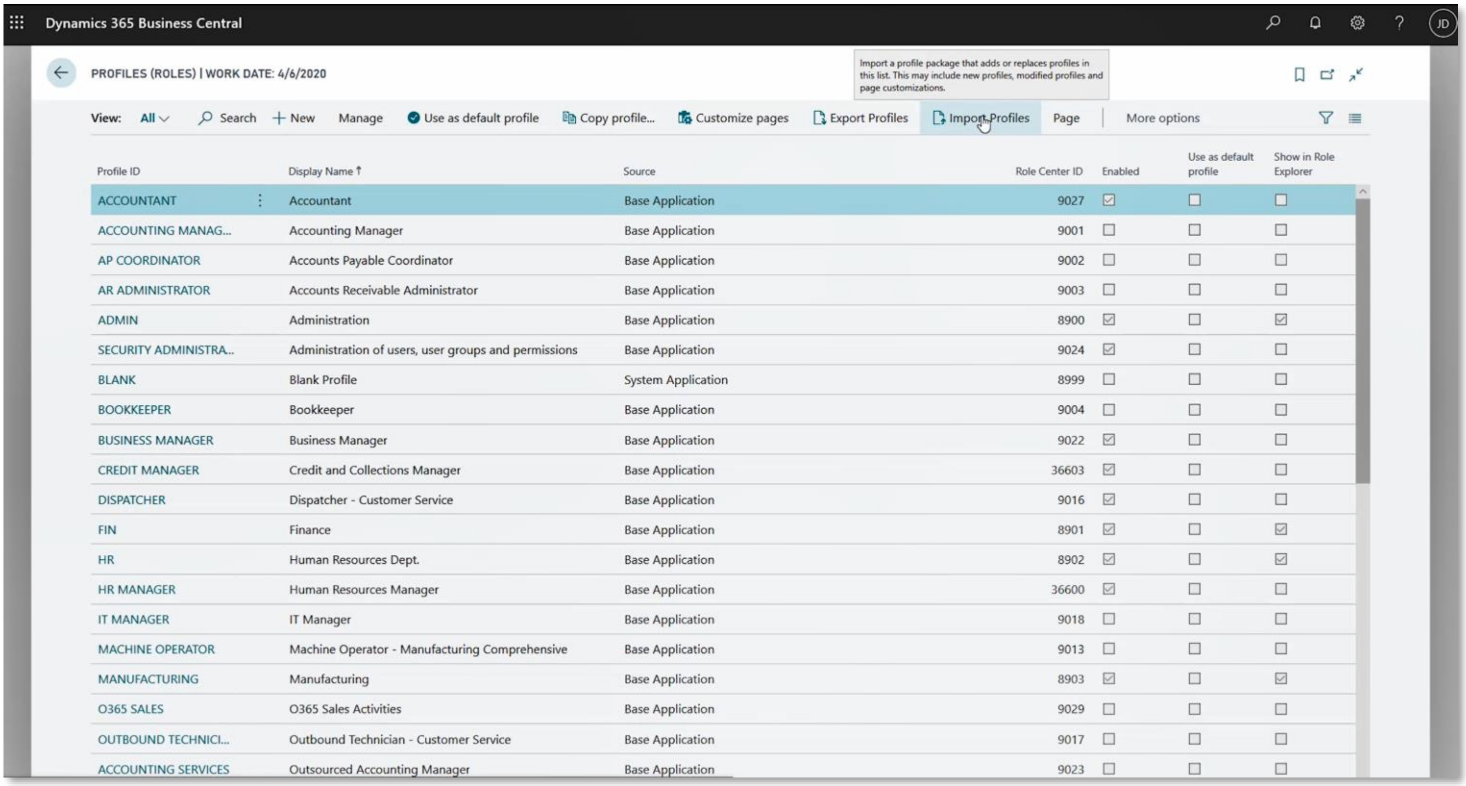
Import profiles and UI customizations

Administrators and consultants benefit from a rich toolset that supports role-tailoring in Business Central. By having both an export and import function for profiles (organizational roles) and their corresponding user interface customizations, customers can easily back up their profile customizations before making further changes, replicate profiles across environments, or safely explore possibilities in an online sandbox before importing into production. All this without requiring the assistance of developers.

Import a package of profiles or per-profile UI customizations using a simple wizard that guides you through the process.

Watch the overview video:
aka.ms/Overview/2020RW1/BusinessCentral/ImportProfiles



Show parts that are hidden on pages

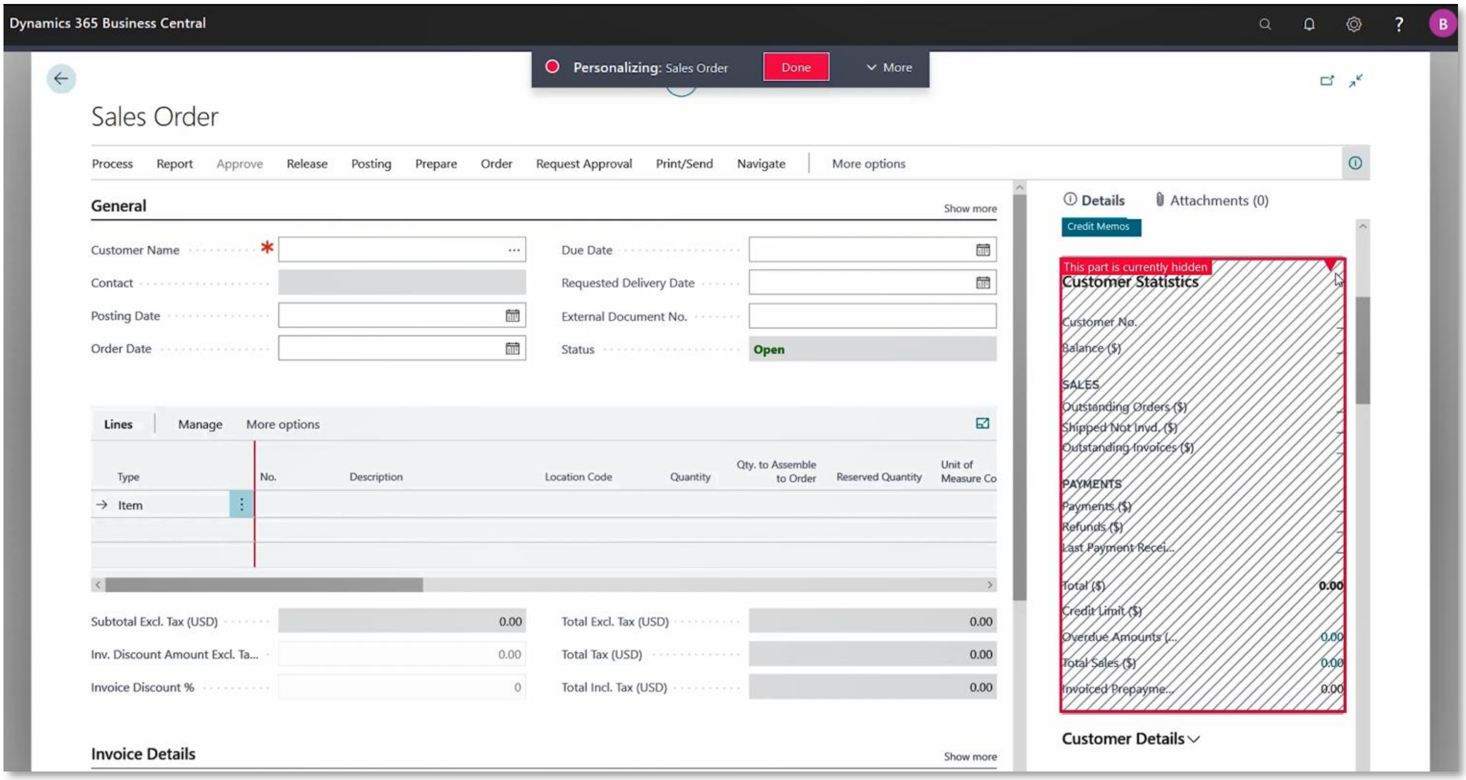
Business Central is able to adapt to the unique needs of the user, department, or organization.

When personalizing pages in Business Central, users can show a hidden part on any page, such as a FactBox on a sales document. This unlocks two common scenarios:

Business users can personalize their pages and bring back a part that they have previously hidden. Similarly, power users and consultants can unhide parts that they have previously hidden.

Developers can now choose to place secondary content on a page object and hide it, giving their customers a simple starting point with the page and the ability to unhide that content if it is relevant to their business processes.

Watch the overview video:
aka.ms/Overview/2020RW1/BusinessCentral/ShowHidden



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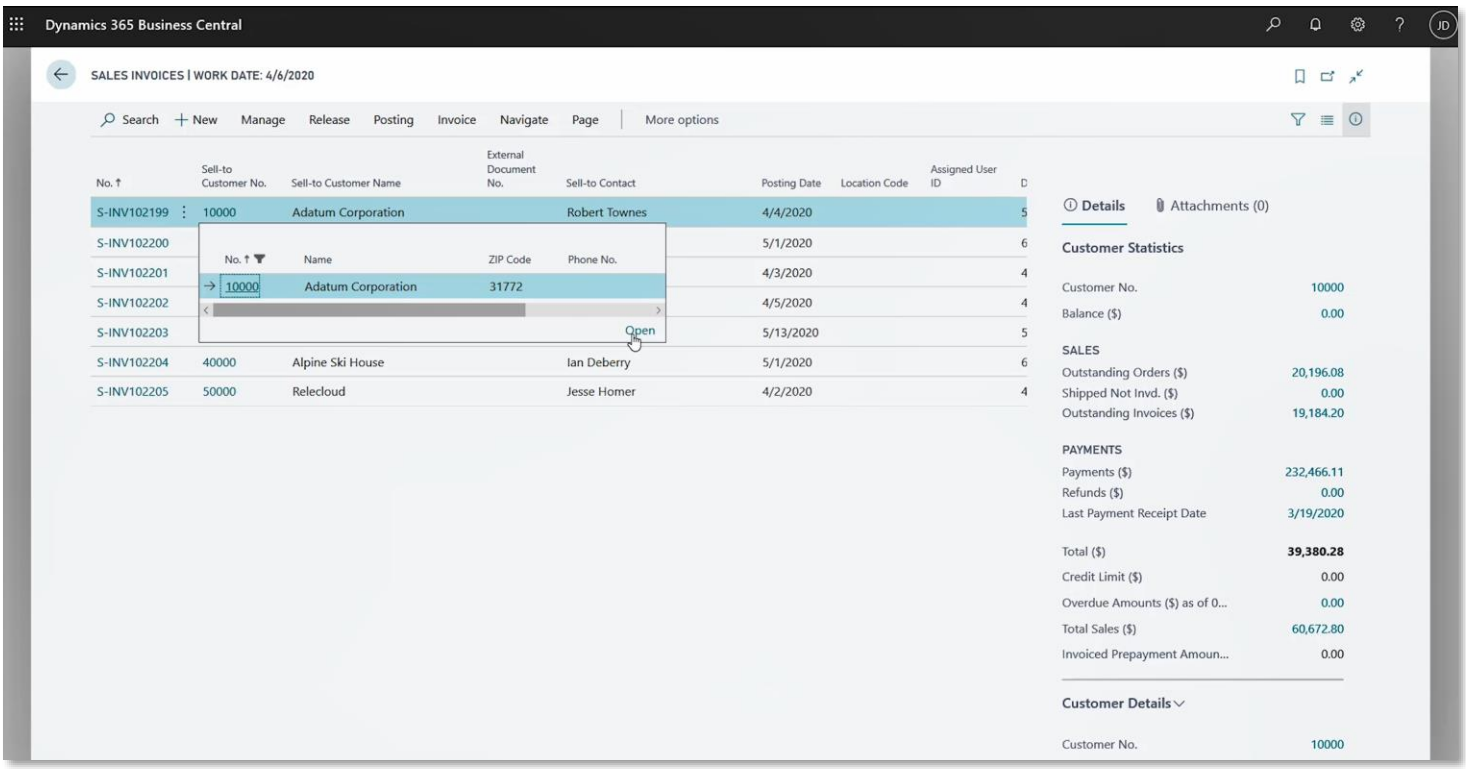
Go to related records from list pages

Navigating through your business data, jumping from one context to the other or simply drilling through data is essential for a busy professional.

We are adding capabilities for users to navigate via links to even more places than today. This allows you to open a related card from a list, such as a customer or item card from a sales order.

Watch the overview video:
aka.ms/Overview/2020RW1/BusinessCentral/RelatedRecords



Improve pages that have multiple parts

Some business tasks require advanced screen layouts that reflect the nature of the task and the volume of data associated with the task. By having highly optimized layouts, users get the best overview of their data to quickly make decisions and act, reducing the need to scroll and navigate to get the task done.

Improvements to pages composed of multiple parts

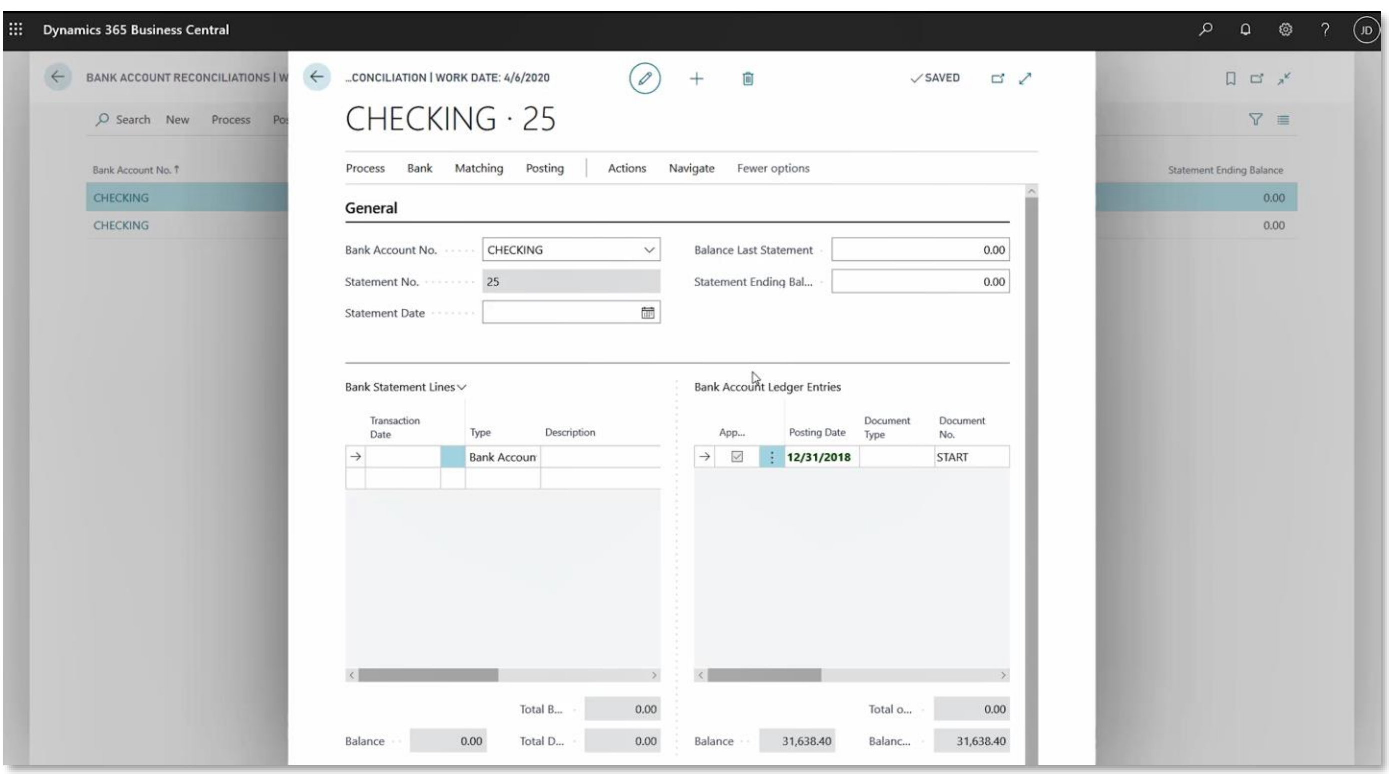
The desktop client adds full support for page objects that are composed of multiple parts, such as ListParts or CardParts. This capability was already possible on a Role Center or FactBox pane. But the canvas of other page types wasn't optimal for displaying parts alongside other content, resulting in overlapping UI elements or unreachable data.

Developers are now able to implement pages by choosing from prescribed AL patterns that give predictable outcomes. For example, they can display two lists side by side on a ListPlus page. Or, have multiple dependent lists shown above each other on a Document page. Pages already using these control patterns will automatically benefit from this change with no further development effort needed.

Available April 2020: Optimizations for ListParts as used on List pages, Document pages, Card pages, and ListPlus pages.

Available after April 2020: Optimizations for ListParts as used on Worksheet pages, and CardParts as used on various page types.

Watch the overview video:
aka.ms/Overview/2020RW1/BusinessCentral/MultipleParts



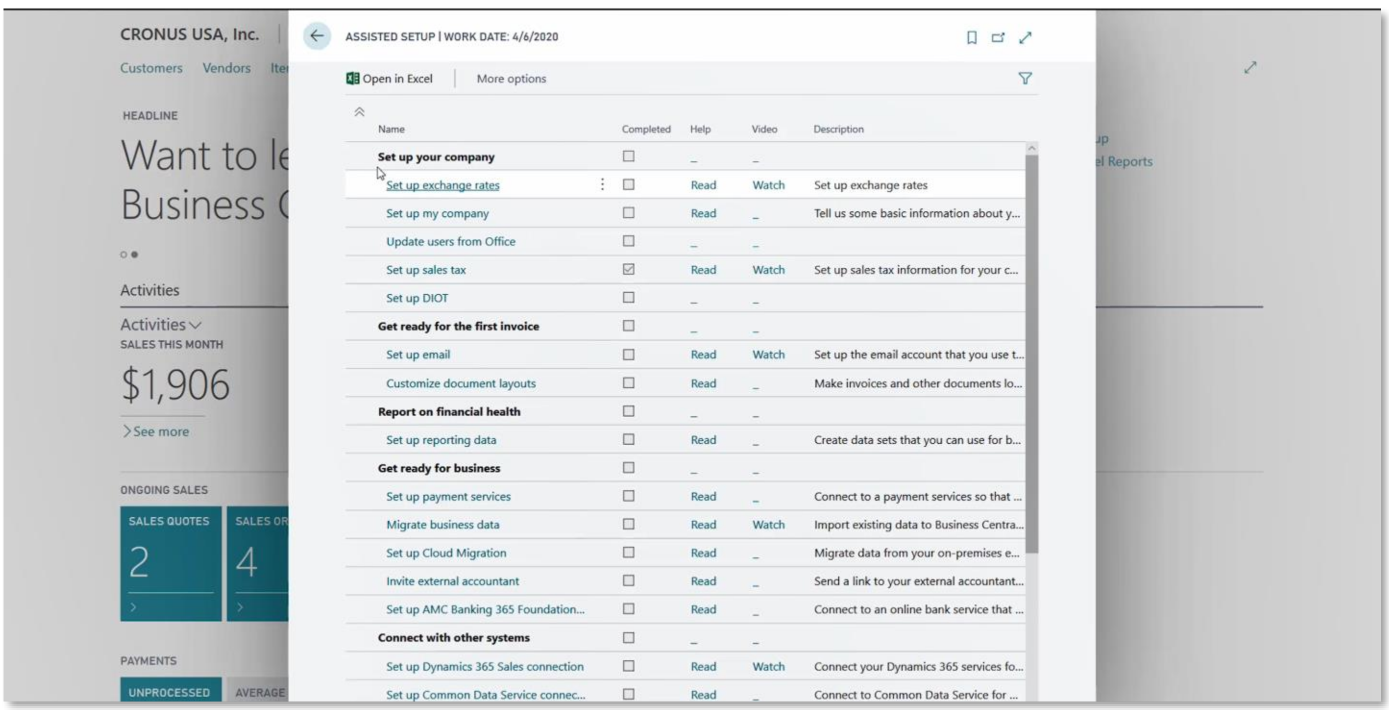
Categorize data

Users get a better overview of their data when it is grouped into categories. Some data is best represented as a deep hierarchical list. Business Central empowers developers to design pages for both of these scenarios, so that users can get the best possible overview and navigate to the relevant records.

On page objects where a repeater control has the ShowAsTree property set to True, users will experience a new level of efficiency when working with the data tree. Users can easily drill down and back out again, using a keyboard or mouse, by expanding and collapsing groups or by using the Expand all and Collapse all actions.

Developers can also specify if a tree should start as fully expanded or fully collapsed.

Watch the overview video:
aka.ms/Overview/2020RW1/BusinessCentral/CategorizeData



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Enter data more easily

Back-office workers often need to capture information or digitize paper material at high speed. For some users, this is their main activity for the whole workday. When this cannot be automated through means like OCR and AI, users require an efficient interface that does not get in the way of quickly typing in data.

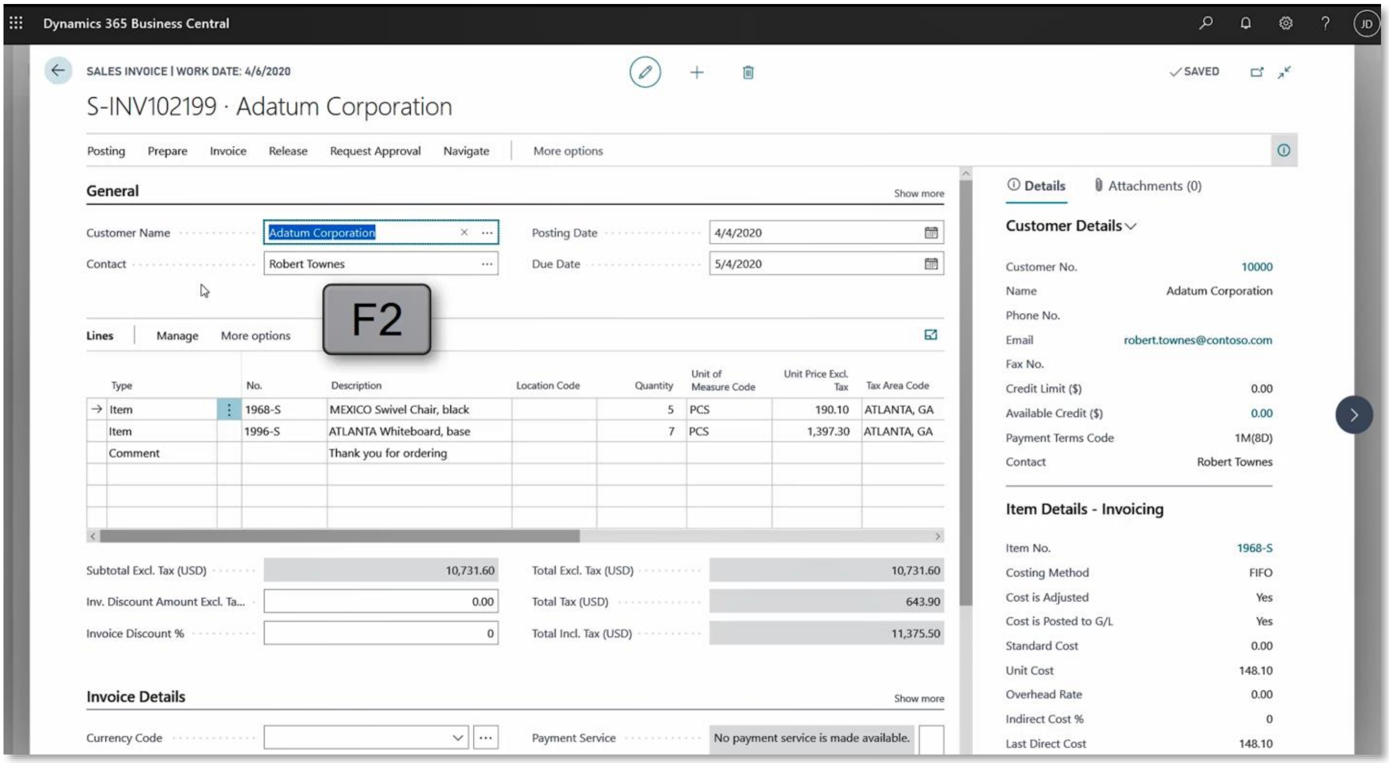
Various adjustments that enhance typing or navigating fields in a list.

In editable lists, users will be able to use the left and right arrow keys to navigate to the previous or next cell in a row. This provides a consistent experience between editable and non-editable lists and increases the speed and agility of exploring data in a list or worksheet.

Similar to Microsoft Excel, we've introduced the F2 key that toggles between selecting the entire value of a field and placing the cursor at the end of the value. This allows users to quickly replace the value or add to it. The F2 key is available for editable fields and editable cells in lists.

When typing to fill in a row of data, the Tab key no longer sets focus to the ellipses that bring up the context for the row. This improves efficiency when rapidly entering data and ensures that Tab key presses are predictable. The context menu remains reachable using the left or right arrow keys.

Watch the overview video:
aka.ms/Overview/2020RW1/BusinessCentral/EnterData



Filter data and create views

As the business grows, so does table data in the database, making quick analysis of the data or even finding records more challenging without the right tools. Defining the perfect set of filters can be a time-consuming, iterative process where the ability to persist filters will save having to recreate them the next time they are needed.

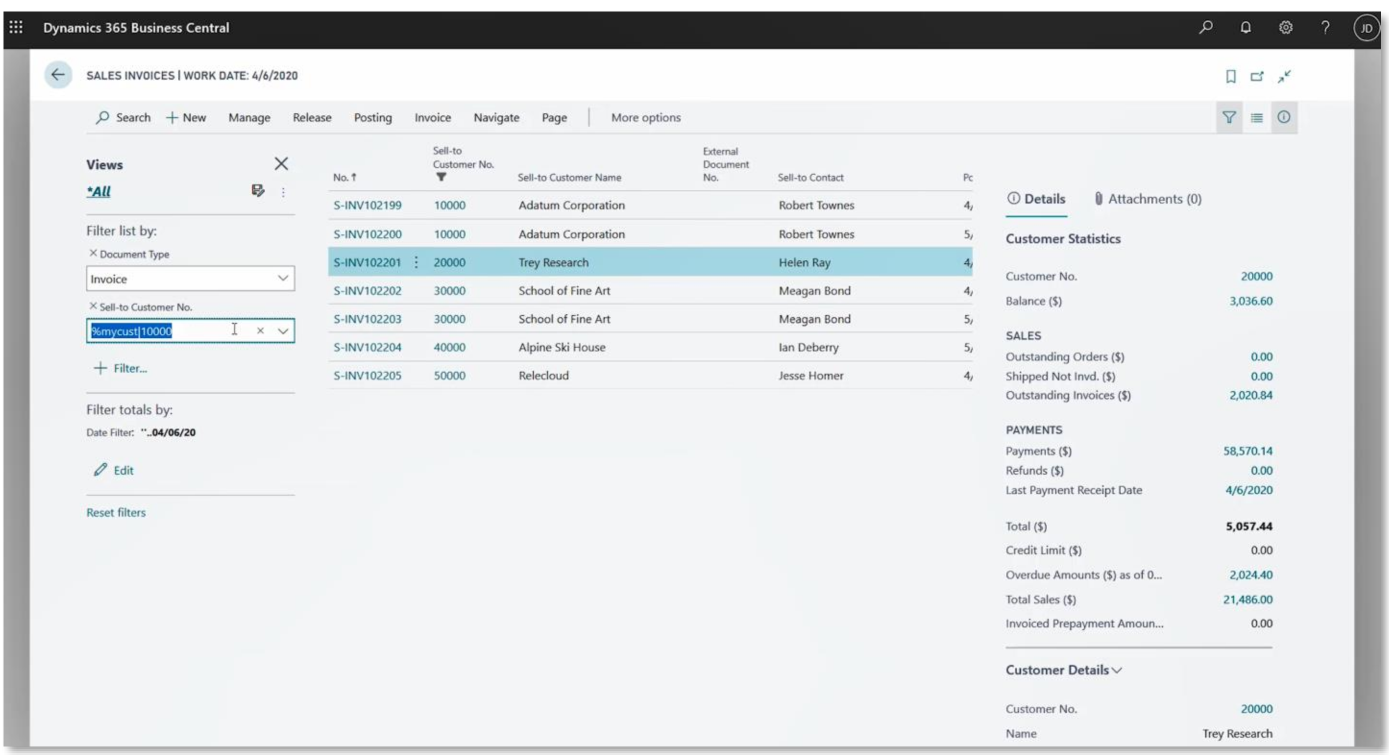
The 2019 release wave 2 eliminated the need to recreate commonly used filters by allowing users to permanently save filters as a view in the web client. Based on community feedback, we're now improving the filter experience further:

When authoring filters that use expressions, such as date ranges or filter tokens, you can toggle the filter field to display either the expression or the corresponding value. To view the expression, simply set the focus to the filter field using a keyboard or mouse. This is particularly useful when saving list views so that date- or time-sensitive expressions can easily be modified when needed.

While on a list page, saving the URL as a browser favorite will include the current view, allowing you to link directly to the view when you navigate to that favorite. Note that the web client URL will only include views and filters that have been saved.

When working with lists, Business Central will help you pick up where you left off if you are disconnected or you reload the web page by trying to return to the last view you visited.

Watch the overview video:
aka.ms/Overview/2020RW1/BusinessCentral/FilterData



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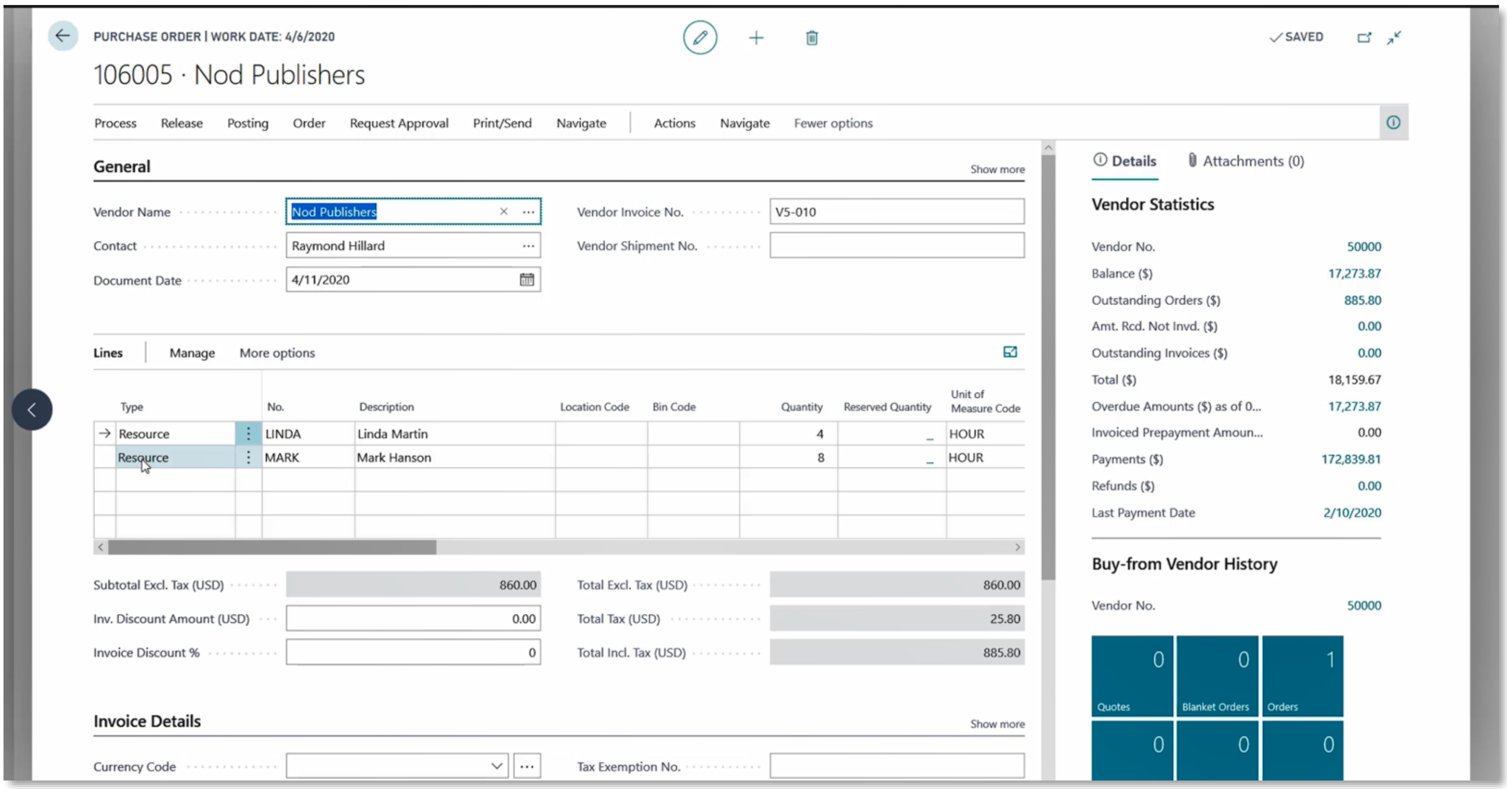
Enhanced application features

Use resources in purchase documents

Most businesses tend to outsource or hire external, named resources on a temporary basis, such as for a particular project or job. The ability to purchase resources allows you to track and process such transactions.

You can now use Resource as a line type of purchase documents. For example, you can add resources on purchase orders, invoices, and credit memos and post purchase transactions for them. You can correct purchase documents with resource lines, copy them, or use resource extended text.

Watch the overview video:
aka.ms/Overview/2020RW1/BusinessCentral/PurchaseDocuments



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Send the right documents to your contacts

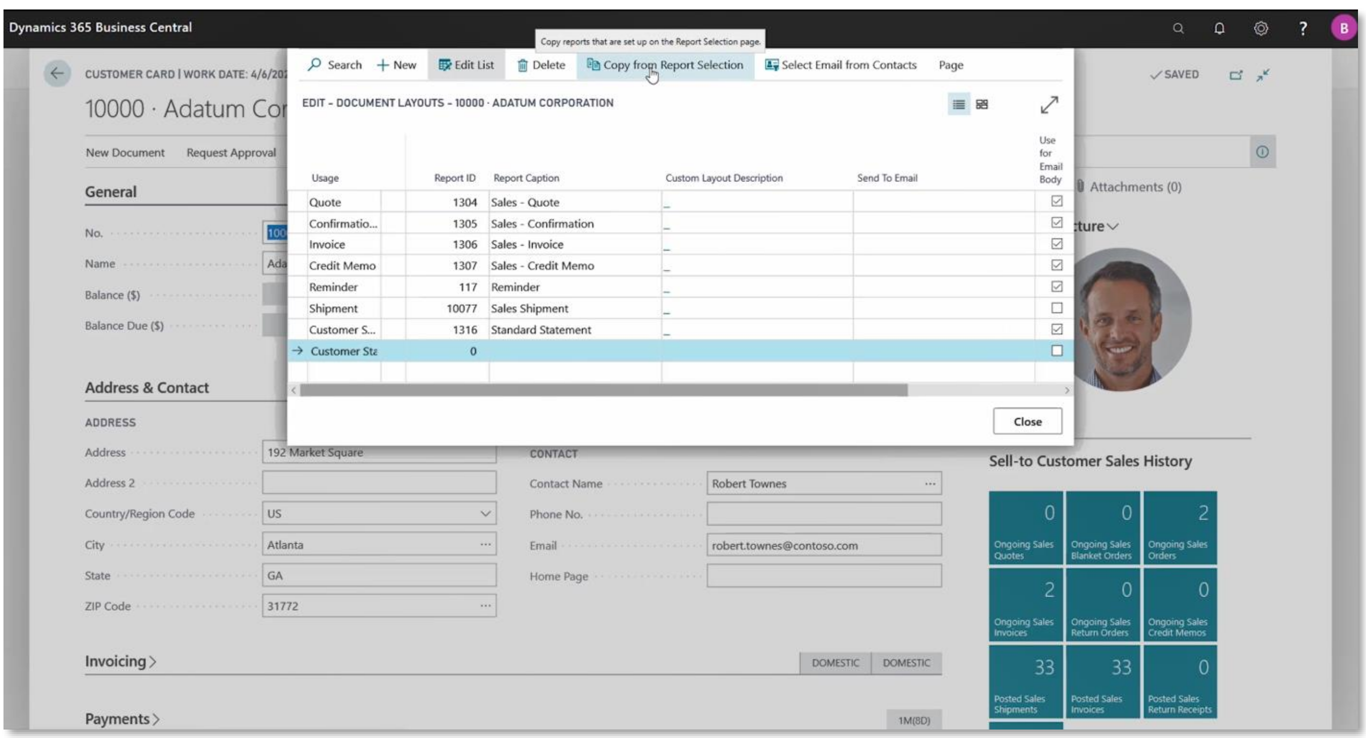
Businesses deal with multiple customer and vendor contacts who are responsible for different areas of operation, such as accountants, purchasers, and warehouse people. Each of these contacts must be sent different sets of documents generated by Business Central.

You can now save time while sending documents to different customer or vendor contacts by setting up specific contacts to use with specific documents. For example, customer statements will be sent to accountant contacts, sales orders to your customers' purchasers, and purchase orders to vendors' salespeople or account managers.

You can now populate the Document Layouts page for vendors and customers based on settings on the Report Selection page. To send specific documents to specific company contacts, choose the company contacts to use for specific document layouts.

The Document Layouts page for a customer now contains additional usage options for reminders and posted shipments. The Document Layout page for a vendor now contains additional usage options for purchase orders and posted return shipment.

Watch the overview video: aka.ms/Overview/2020RW1/BusinessCentral/SendDocuments



Receive more goods than you ordered

When you receive more goods than you ordered and it's cheaper not to return such goods or your vendor offers you a discount, order processors and warehouse workers must be able to handle such receipts without going through a lengthy process of preparing and getting approval for a new purchase order.

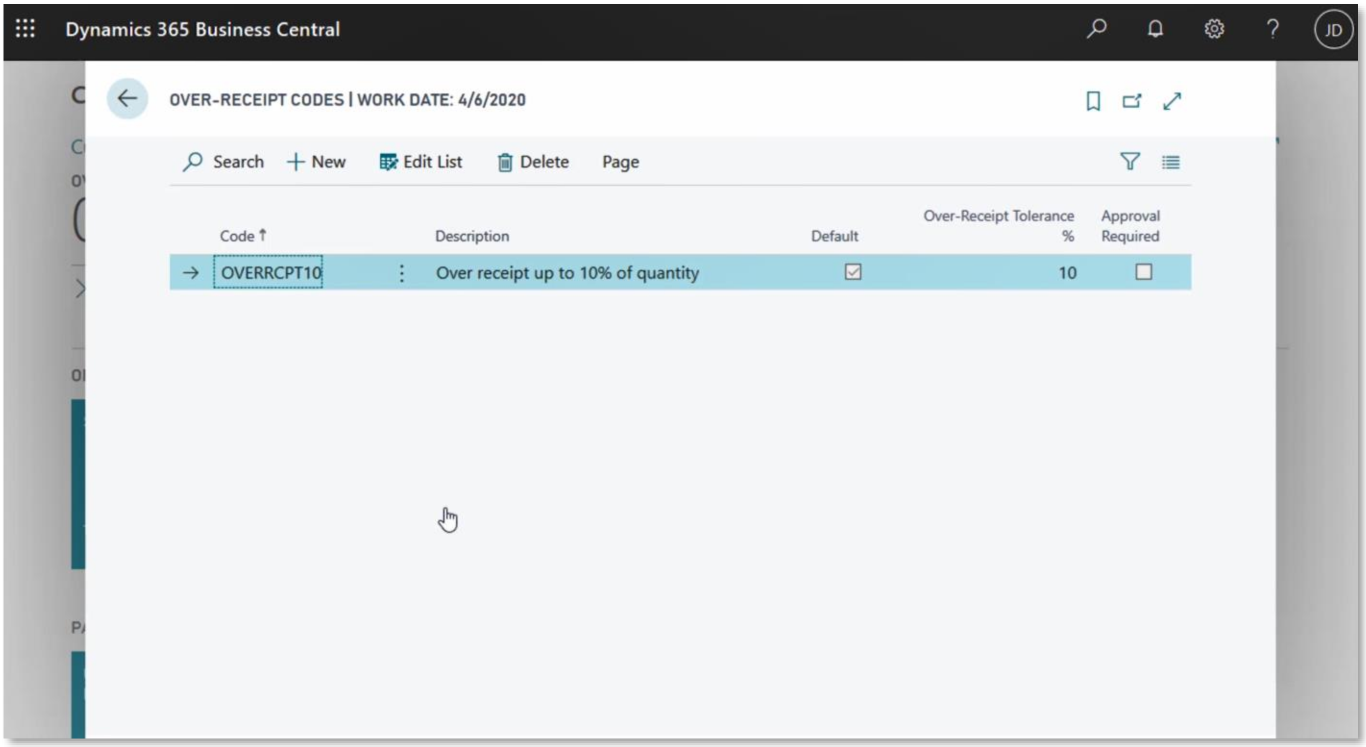
You can now receive a quantity higher than the ordered quantity on purchase orders according to an over-receive policy that you set up on the Over-Receipt Codes page. Here you can fill in the Over-Receipt Tolerance % field and select a policy to be used by default.

If your company uses purchase order approval, over-receiving can trigger a reapproval. You define this on the Over-Receipt Codes page. The Approve Over-Receipt workflow response is available in the workflow engine for this purpose.

On the cards for items and vendors, you can select in the Over-Receipt Code field which policy to use by default on purchases.

When you have selected an over-receipt code, you can enter a higher-than-ordered quantity in the Quantity to Receive field on released purchase orders and warehouse receipts.

Watch the overview video:
aka.ms/Overview/2020RW1/BusinessCentral/ReceiveMore



Better tools for admins and partners

Integrate with Common Data Service

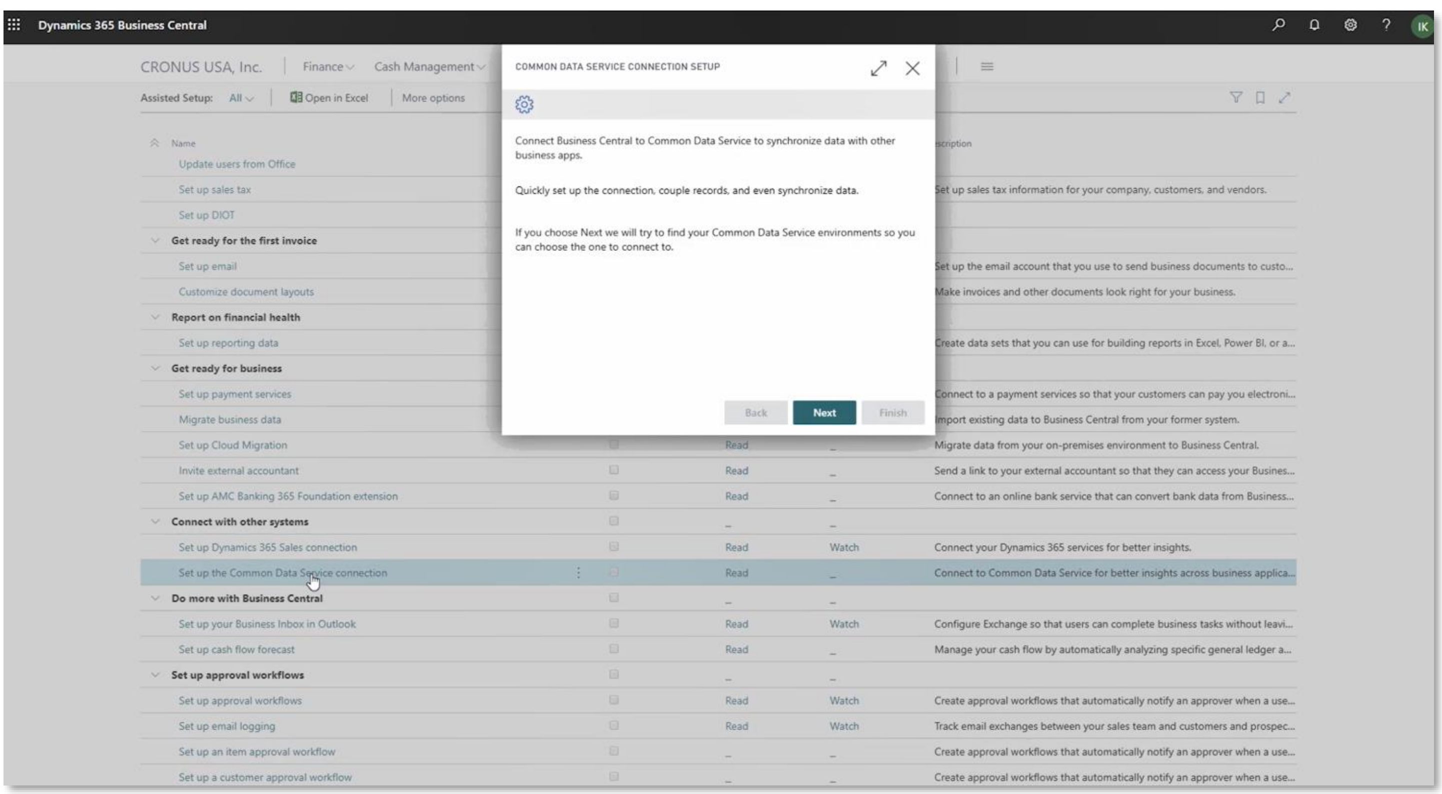
A new Common Data Service onboarding experience will be provided, where users will be able to connect to a Common Data Service environment and associate a Business Central company with a Common Data Service business unit. This will allow for multiple companies to connect to a Common Data Service instance. During setup, the Common Data Service connection entities from the default Common Data Service database will be synchronized.

This provides extensibility support for developers developing integrations for Common Data Service.

Common Data Service is at the center of the Dynamics 365 suite. Common Data Service enables users to have a 360-degree view of their business as data is available in Common Data Service. Once data is in Common Data Service, users will have a shared, consistent view of data across the Dynamics 365 solution. Dynamics 365 Business Central will support a set of entities in the Common Data Service default database provided in a "Business Central CDS Base Solution," which other integrations will depend on. The base solution will bring the capability to map a Company entity to a Business Unit entity in Common Data Service.

When developing extensions that integrate with Common Data Service, Business Central 2020 release wave 1 will bring extensibility capabilities, where Common Data Service tables and Common Data Service table extensions can be created. This will allow for any custom attribute to be synchronized.

Watch the overview video:
aka.ms/Overview/2020RW1/BusinessCentral/CDS



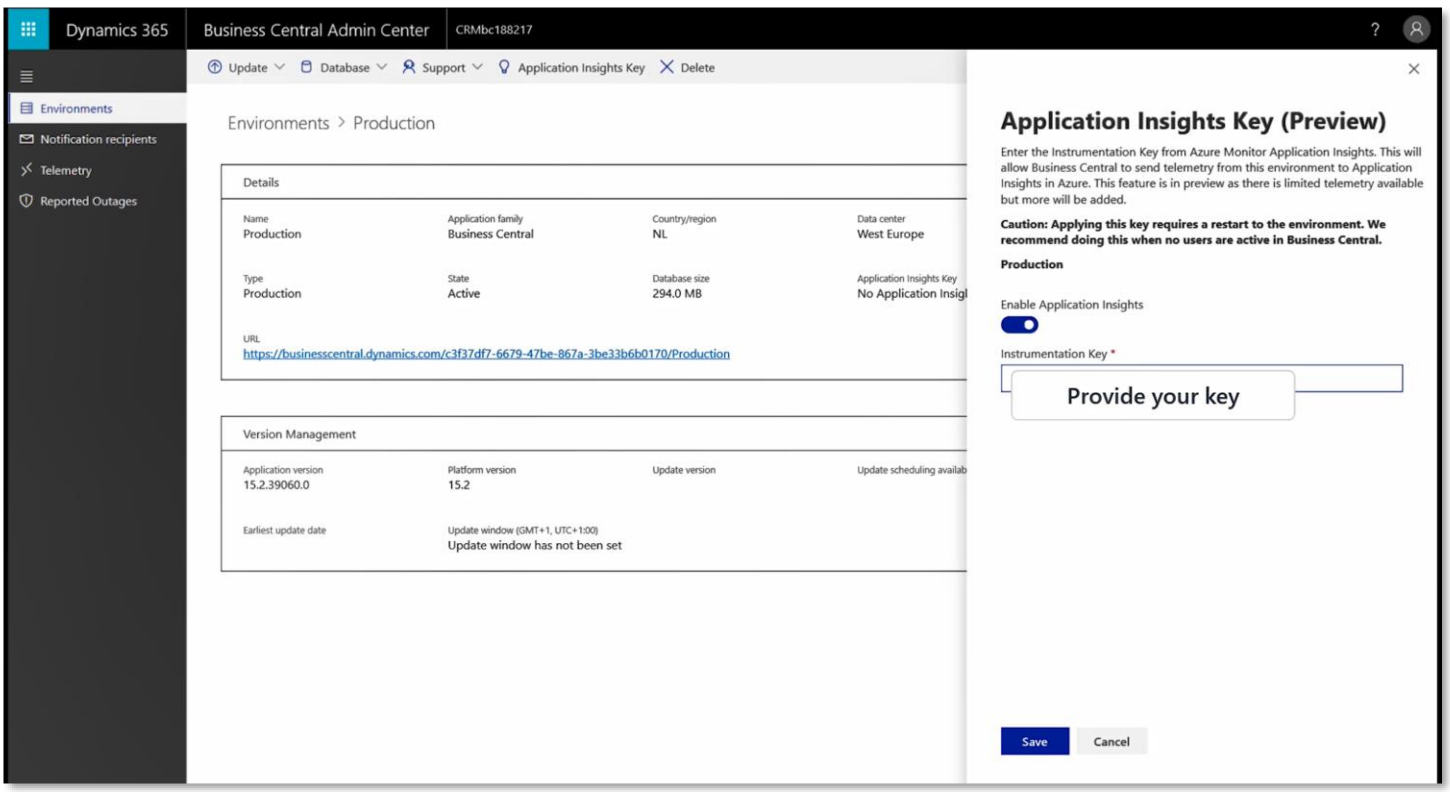
Get telemetry in Application Insights

Partners can monitor performance of web service requests and reports.

The Business Central server will emit telemetry about the execution time and timeouts of web service requests and reports.

Partners and customers can use this to monitor their environments for performance issues caused by web service requests and reports and be more proactive in preventing these issues from occurring.

Watch the overview video:
aka.ms/Overview/2020RW1/BusinessCentral/Telemetry



AL interfaces

An interface is used when you want to decide which capabilities need to be available for an object, while allowing actual implementations to differ, as long as they comply with the defined interface.

This allows for writing code that reduces the dependency on implementation details, makes it easier to reuse code, and supports a polymorphing way of calling object methods, which again can be used for substituting business logic.

Use the new interface object to declare an interface name along with its methods and apply the implements keyword along with the interface names on objects that implement the interface methods.

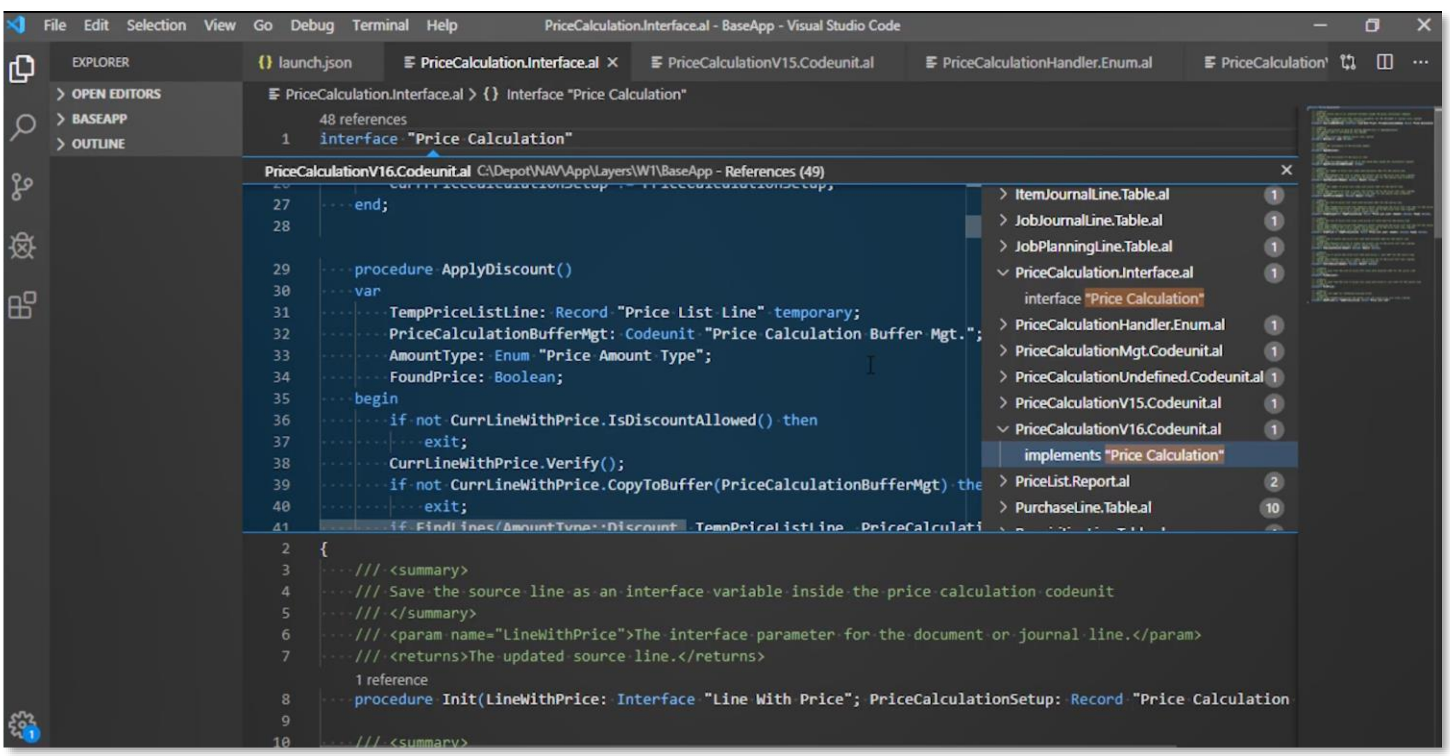
The interface object itself does not contain any code, only signatures, and cannot itself be called from code, but must be implemented by other objects.

The compiler checks to ensure implementations adhere to assigned interfaces.

A new QuickFix CodeAction can be used to insert interface stubs, if the compiler errors on one or more interface implementations are missing.

You can declare variables as a given interface to allow passing objects that implement the interface, and then call interface implementations on the passed object in a polymorphic manner.

Watch the overview video:
aka.ms/Overview/2020RW1/BusinessCentral/Interfaces



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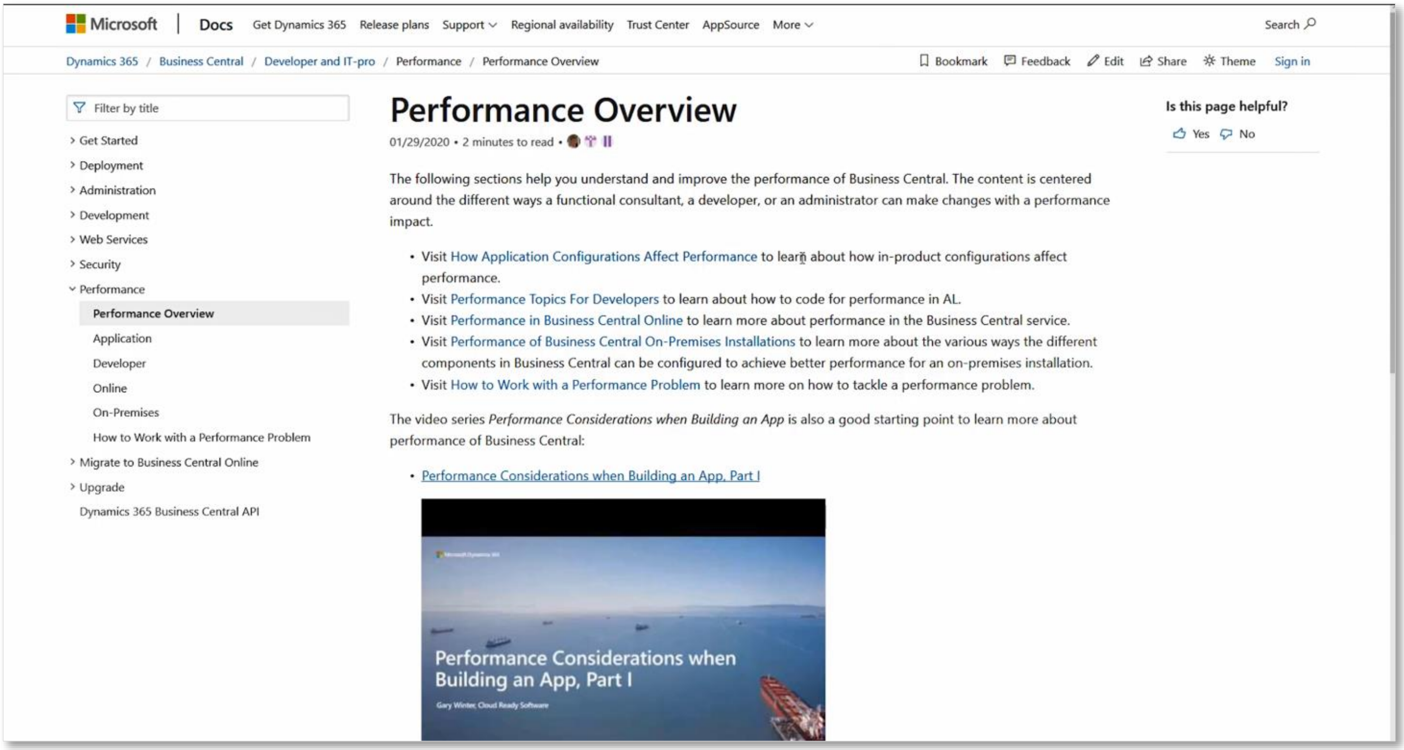
Performance tuning guide

Understand and improve the performance of Business Central. The content is centered around the different ways a functional consultant, a developer, or an administrator can make changes with a performance impact.

Visit: aka.ms/bcperformance for more details.



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View data sizes per table

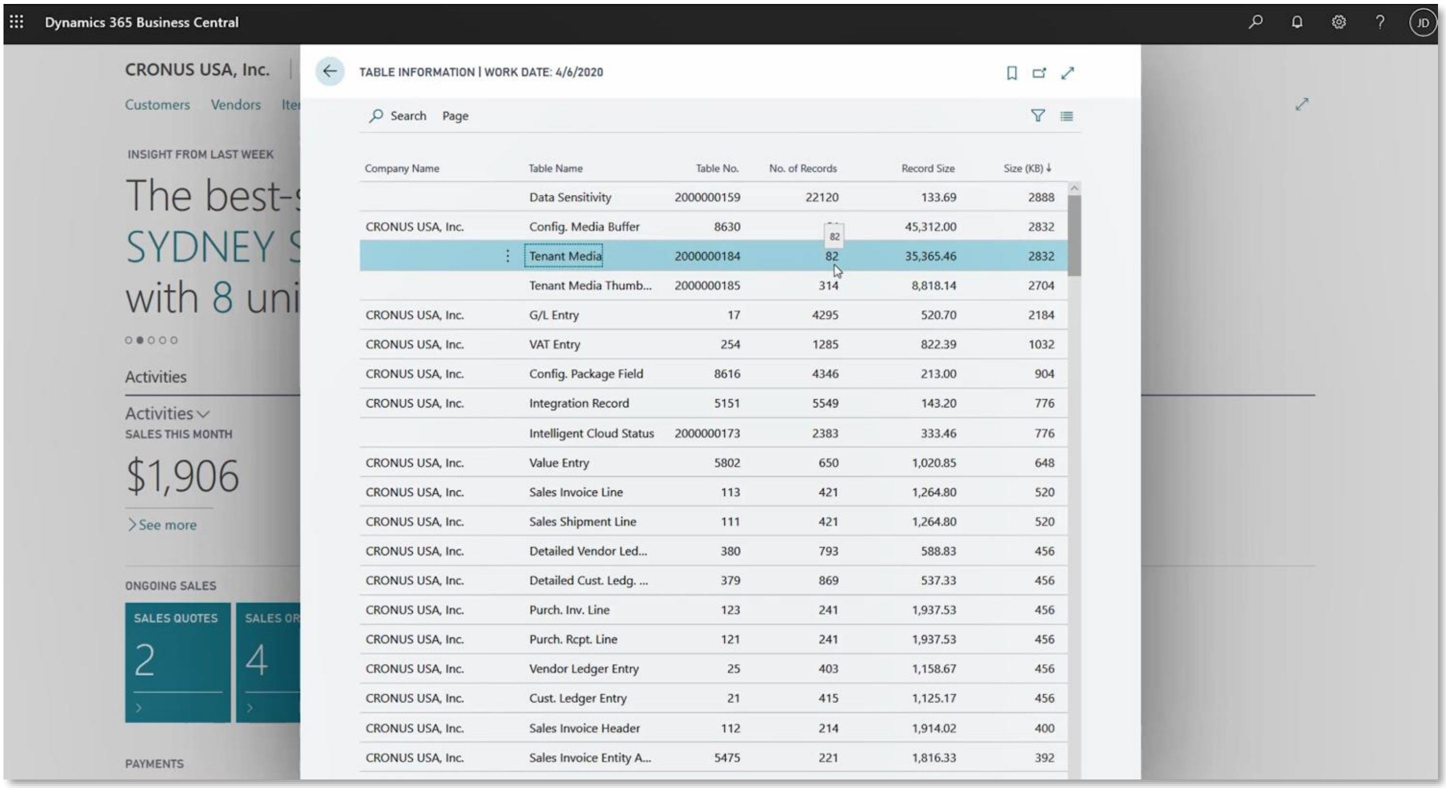
When troubleshooting performance issues, sometimes it is necessary to see the distribution of data size across tables. This feature makes it easy for an administrator to look up this information.

A new page called Table Information shows the following:

- Company Name
- Table Name
- Table No.
- No. of Records
- Record Size
- Size (KB)

Information is shown for all companies for which the user has SUPER permissions.

Watch the overview video:
aka.ms/Overview/2020RW1/BusinessCentral/TableSize



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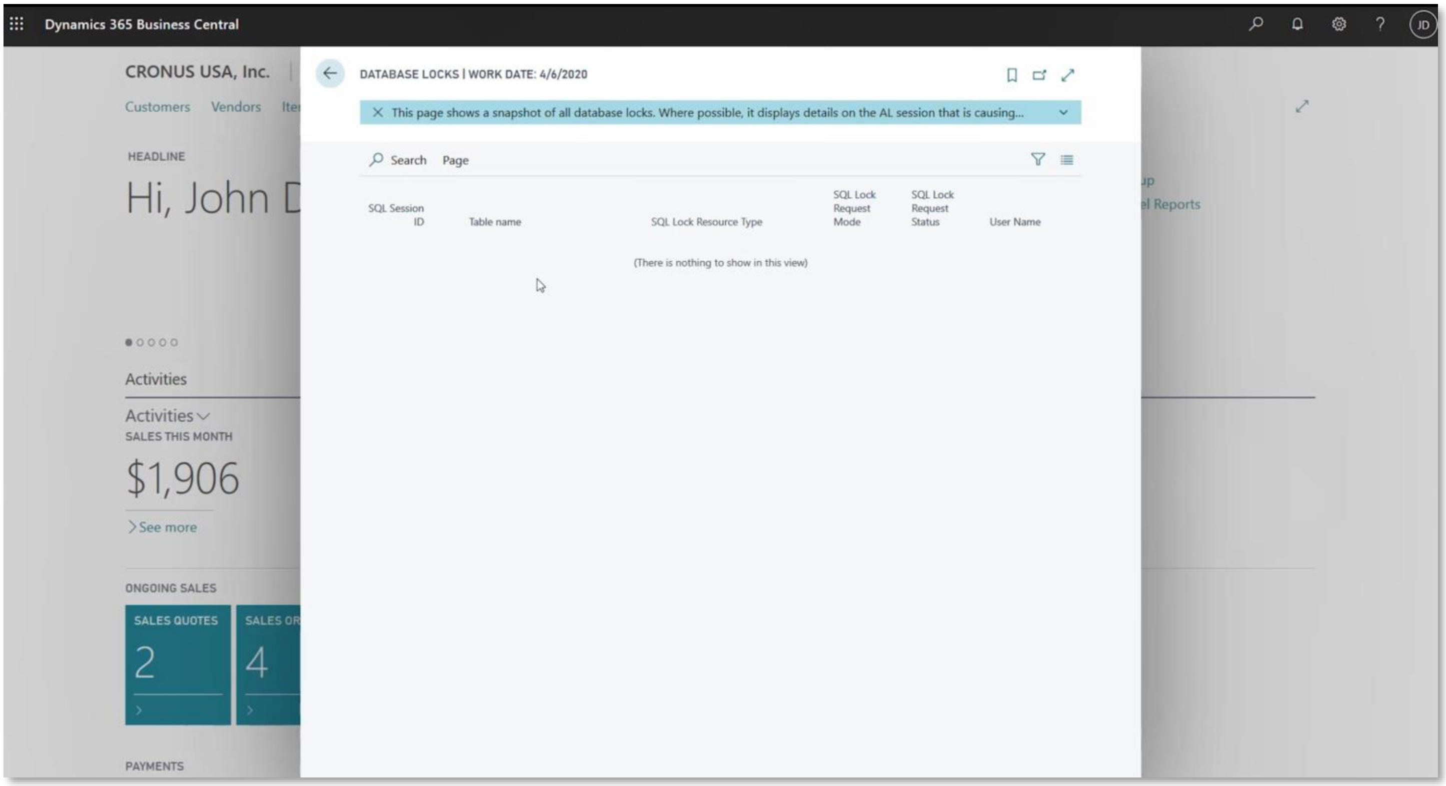
Cancel sessions

Sometimes, canceling a session is the only way to unblock a customer. For example, a long-running report is locking data in a table, preventing warehouse employees from working.

Prior to this feature, partners would need to contact support to locate and terminate the session.

In the Business Central administration center, an administrator can see a list of active sessions on an environment and cancel one or more of them. All existing resources consumed by a session will also be canceled.

Watch the overview video:
aka.ms/Overview/2020RW1/BusinessCentral/CancelSessions



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Update process and global rollout

Release schedule

Learn about the 2020 release wave 1 schedule and early access opt-in period. Visit: aka.ms/EarlyAccessFAQ

For application administrators

End-user impacting features to the user experience enabled automatically

End-user impacting features should be reviewed by application administrators. This facilitates release change management and enables successful onboarding of new capabilities released to market. For the complete list, look for all features tagged "End users, automatically" in the release plan.

Features that must be enabled by application administrators

This release wave contains features that must be enabled or configured by administrators, makers, or business analysts to be available for their end users. For the complete list, look for all features tagged "End users by admins, makers, or analysts" in the release plan.

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Get the most out of Dynamics 365

Release plan
View all capabilities included in this release. aka.ms/Plan/2020RW1/BusinessCentral

Product updates
Stay up to date on latest product updates. aka.ms/Updates/BusinessCentral

Release calendar
Know important release milestones. aka.ms/Updates/Calendar/BusinessCentral

Licensing
Improve your understanding of how to license Dynamics 365. aka.ms/Licensing/BusinessCentral

Product documentation
Find documentation for Dynamics 365. aka.ms/Documentation/BusinessCentral

User community
Engage with Dynamics 365 experts and peers in the community. aka.ms/Community/BusinessCentral

Upcoming events
Find and register for in person and online events. aka.ms/Events/BusinessCentral

Product trials
Get started with Dynamics 365. aka.ms/Trials/BusinessCentral

Product ideas
Help us improve Dynamics 365. aka.ms/BCIdeas

Help us improve
Is this guide helpful?