Dynamics 365 Business Central

2020 release wave 2
October 2020-March 2021

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

Top things to know

Connect operations across your small or medium-sized business

New capability highlights

The **2020 release wave 2**, brings to market significant new services and capabilities to enable digital transformation for businesses. For Dynamics 365 Business Central, these new capabilities include:

Integration with Microsoft Teams

Customers can install the Business Central app from the Teams store when the app becomes available in preview in October 2020. Business users can search for the app from their Teams client, and administrators can make this available to all users based on organizational policies specified in the Microsoft Teams administration center.

Restore data to a point in time

Business Central local and delegated administrators (partners) can restore any environment (sandbox and production) to a certain point in time up to 30 days in the past.

Managing database capacity

Internal administrators and delegated administrators (partners) can get an overview of the database and file capacity available for their Business Central environments, and how much of it is currently used, in the Business Central admin center.

Telemetry for extension publishers

Extension publishers can get telemetry about issues in their extension before partners and customers report it.

Use the copy journal action

When working with large journals, it is important to have an easy way to correct mistakes. The copy journals function helps your accountant be more productive when correcting mistakes.

The company hub

The company hub in Business Central gives you a list of the companies you work in.

Check financial journals in background

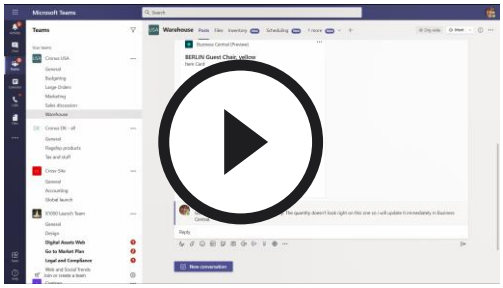
Based on product telemetry that shows where people often experience issues when processing financial journals, we've introduced validations that can help prevent issues with posting before they happen.

Azure key vault secrets

With this release, we are introducing an option for app developers to create their secrets in the Azure Key Vault account created in their own subscription.

Watch the feature overview videos

Learn about the key capabilities and features in the release wave.
Visit: aka.ms/Overview/2020RW2/BusinessCentral



Read the release plan

Explore the entire set of new capabilities planned for 2020 release wave 2.
Visit: aka.ms/Plan/2020RW2/BusinessCentral

Join the Dynamics 365 community

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

Help us improve

Is this guide helpful? ☺ ☹
Visit: aka.ms/Overview/2020RW2/Feedback

Dynamics 365 Business Central

2020 release wave 2
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Release summary

Dynamics 365 Business Central provides a comprehensive business application solution designed and optimized for small and midsized organizations. For 2020 release wave 2, Business Central investments center on delivering a world-class service to meet the demands of a rapidly growing customer base, improved performance, handling of file storage, geographic expansion together with support for Group VAT, top customer requested features, and deeper integration with Microsoft Teams.

Seamless service: Performance, reliability, and supportability are all three essential to ensure that the service quality remains ahead of the growth in usage. Accessibility, already in a strong position, must be preserved, and better support for resizing pages is added. The 2020 release wave 2 also incorporates 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 release wave enables further telemetry visibility for partners through Azure Insights, and it brings improvements in conflict handling for synchronization with Microsoft Dataverse.

Productivity: This release continues our commitment toward world-class productivity with enhancements to the modern clients, and requested features such as returning to the request page after previewing a report, and the ability to change the assigned printer before printing a report.

Microsoft Power Platform integration: This release includes further investments in our integration with Microsoft Power Platform. We are investing in both existing connectors as well as enabling virtual entities.

Modern development tools: As we have made the move entirely to Visual Studio Code, we continue to invest in areas that enhance productivity for developers.

Better with Microsoft 365: We enable integration with Microsoft Teams to help teams collaborate and make decisions faster by accessing their business data from Teams channels.

Geographic expansion: The 2020 release wave 2 lays the foundation for future onboarding of more countries and regions. We plan to onboard Brazil, Ireland, and Lithuania for Business Central 2020 release wave 2.

Customer-requested enhancements: Business Central continues to focus on responding to top customer enhancement requests. In addition to multiple features harvested from the product Ideas portal, top feedback areas such as email setup and use is enhanced.

Customer migration tools: To simplify the journey for existing Dynamics customers to Business Central online, support is added for migration from a broader set of Dynamics GP and Dynamics NAV versions. Improvements are also made for selective migration of Dynamics GP customers and vendors along with enhanced migration of Dynamics GP Chart of Account setups.

Together, these enhancements are designed to drive further service growth by empowering the migration from various versions of Dynamics on-premises, activating partners that bring their vertical solutions to Business Central online, and further accelerating the growth of net-new customers to Dynamics 365. All of this comes with improved service quality, supportability, end-user productivity, and improved experiences for customers and partners.

Dynamics 365 Business Central

2020 release wave 2
October 2020-March 2021

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/2020RW2/BusinessCentral

Integration with Microsoft Teams

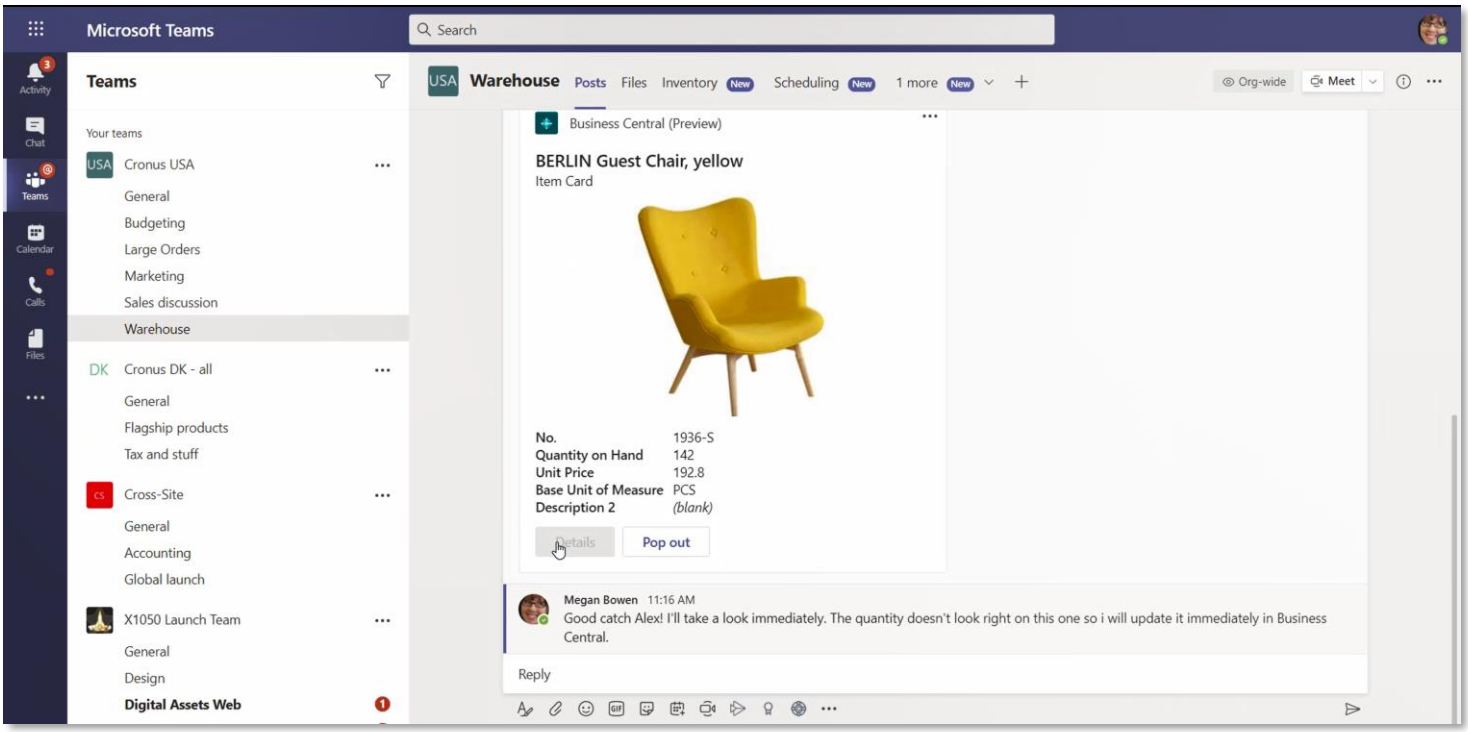
Customers can install the Business Central app from the Teams store when the app becomes available in preview in October 2020. Business users can search for the app from their Teams client, and administrators can make this available to all users based on organizational policies specified in the Microsoft Teams administration center.

Features available in preview from October 2020

The app provides two distinct but related features that help streamline conversations and empower users to act on their business data without leaving Teams:

- Paste a link to any Business Central record into Teams chat, and it will expand that into a compact card to share with your coworkers.
- View the full card details in a window inside Teams, including FactBoxes and other embedded content such as charts. Edit fields, initiate workflows, and take action from the window without having to switch apps.

Watch the overview video:
aka.ms/Overview/2020RW2/BusinessCentral/Teams



Dynamics 365 Business Central

2020 release wave 2
October 2020-March 2021

Restoring environments to a point in time in the past

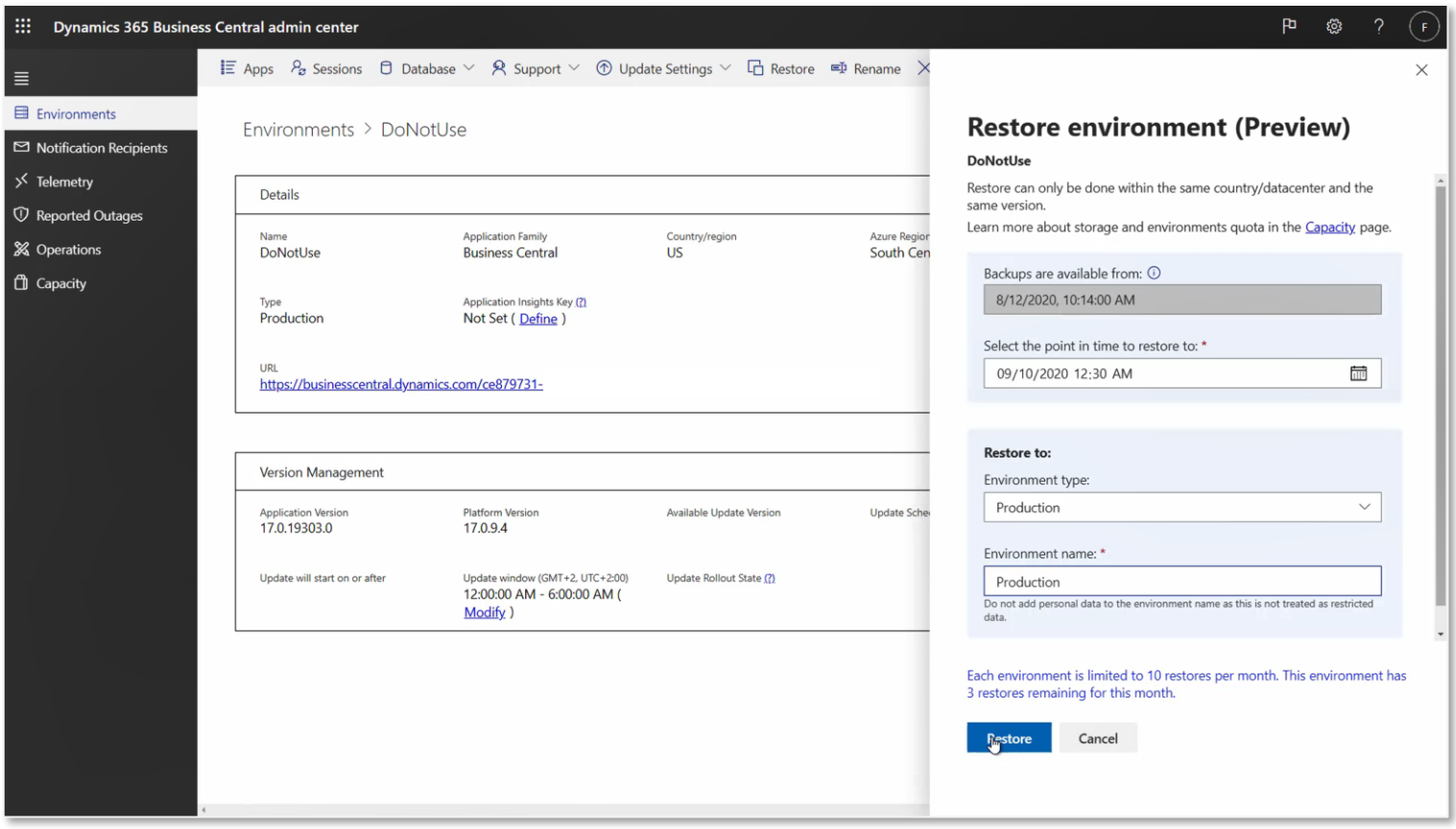
Protecting your business-critical ERP data in Dynamics 365 Business Central environments and providing continuous availability of the service are extremely important to our customers.

In some situations, the data in the production environment can be damaged in a way that makes it difficult or impossible to recover by simply undoing the changes one by one. Such changes are typically introduced unintentionally, as a result of a developer or an application user mistake. To help customers recover their data, we are introducing a new data recovery feature in the Business Central administration center.

All your online environments are backed up. System backups occur continuously by the underlying technology used by the Business Central service: Azure SQL Database. Find the documentation about the Azure SQL Database automatic backups at FAQ for Dynamics 365 Business Central – How often are production databases backed up?.

With this release, Business Central local and delegated administrators (partners) can restore any environment (sandbox and production) to a certain point in time up to 30 days in the past. The restore can be performed within the same Azure Region and the same country (localization). The restore operation permission is granted to admin users, who also have a specific permission set assigned to them within the environment. The log of restore operations will be visible in the Business Central administration center.

Watch the overview video:
aka.ms/Overview/2020RW2/BusinessCentral/Restore



Dynamics 365 Business Central

2020 release wave 2
October 2020-March 2021

Managing database capacity

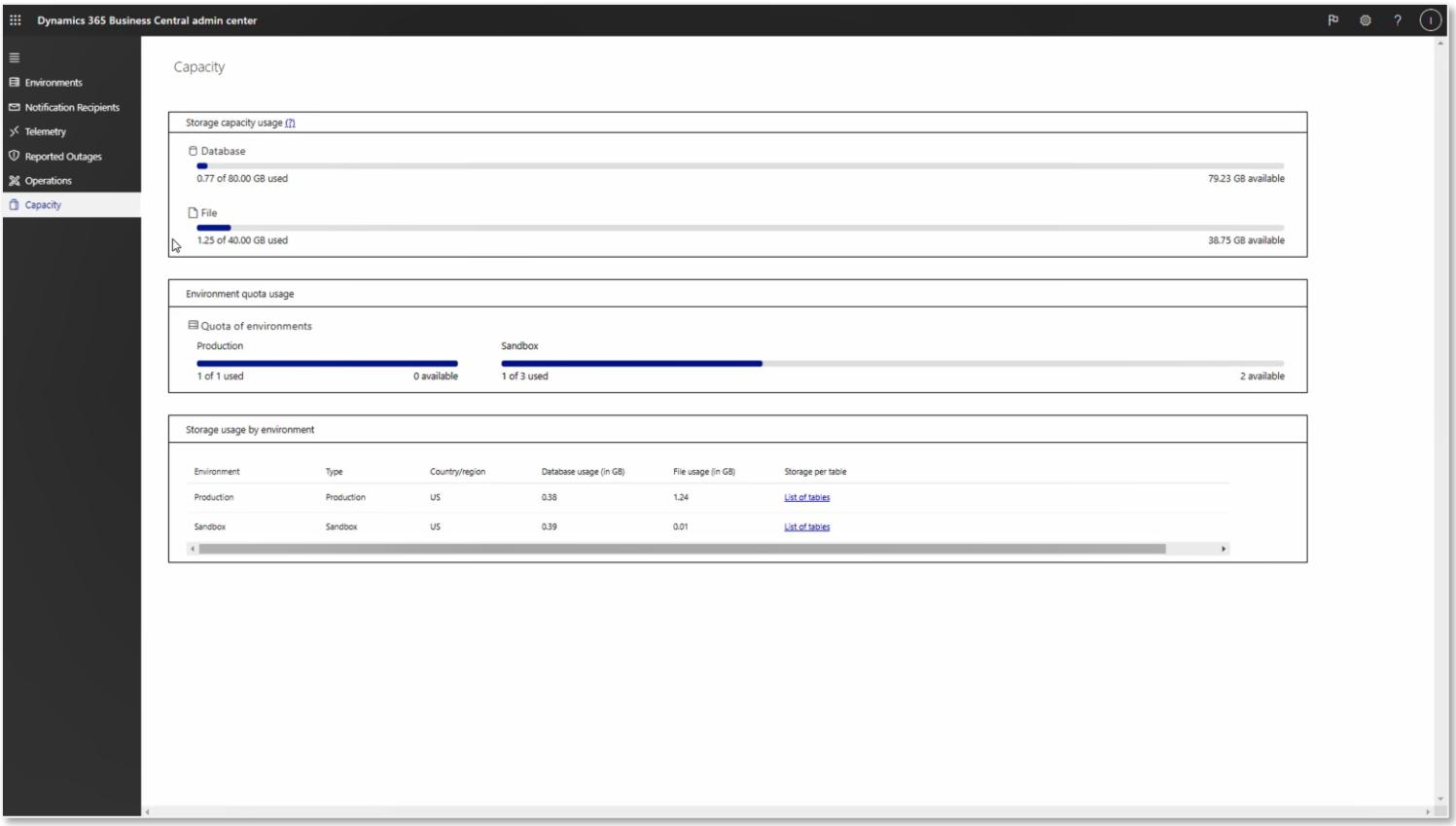
With this release wave, internal administrators and delegated administrators (partners) can get an overview of the database and file capacity available for their Business Central environments, and how much of it is currently used, in the Business Central admin center. This overview helps administrators better control the size of the environments so that they can purchase additional capacity or free up capacity in time for when it is needed.

Administrators can now use a new storage capacity add-on for Business Central to go beyond the current default limit of 80 GB database capacity, by purchasing additional database capacity for their environments when the default quota is exceeded. Every additionally purchased production environment will increase the tenant-wide database storage capacity by 4 GB.

Note that exceeding the paid storage limit will not interrupt transaction processing. Beginning with 2020 release wave 2, we plan to block administrative actions that create additional environments or copies of the environments when paid storage limits are exceeded.

Learn more in this announcement: Extend data storage for Dynamics 365 Business Central

Watch the overview video:
aka.ms/Overview/2020RW2/BusinessCentral/Capacity



Dynamics 365 Business Central

2020 release wave 2
October 2020-March 2021

Telemetry for extension publishers

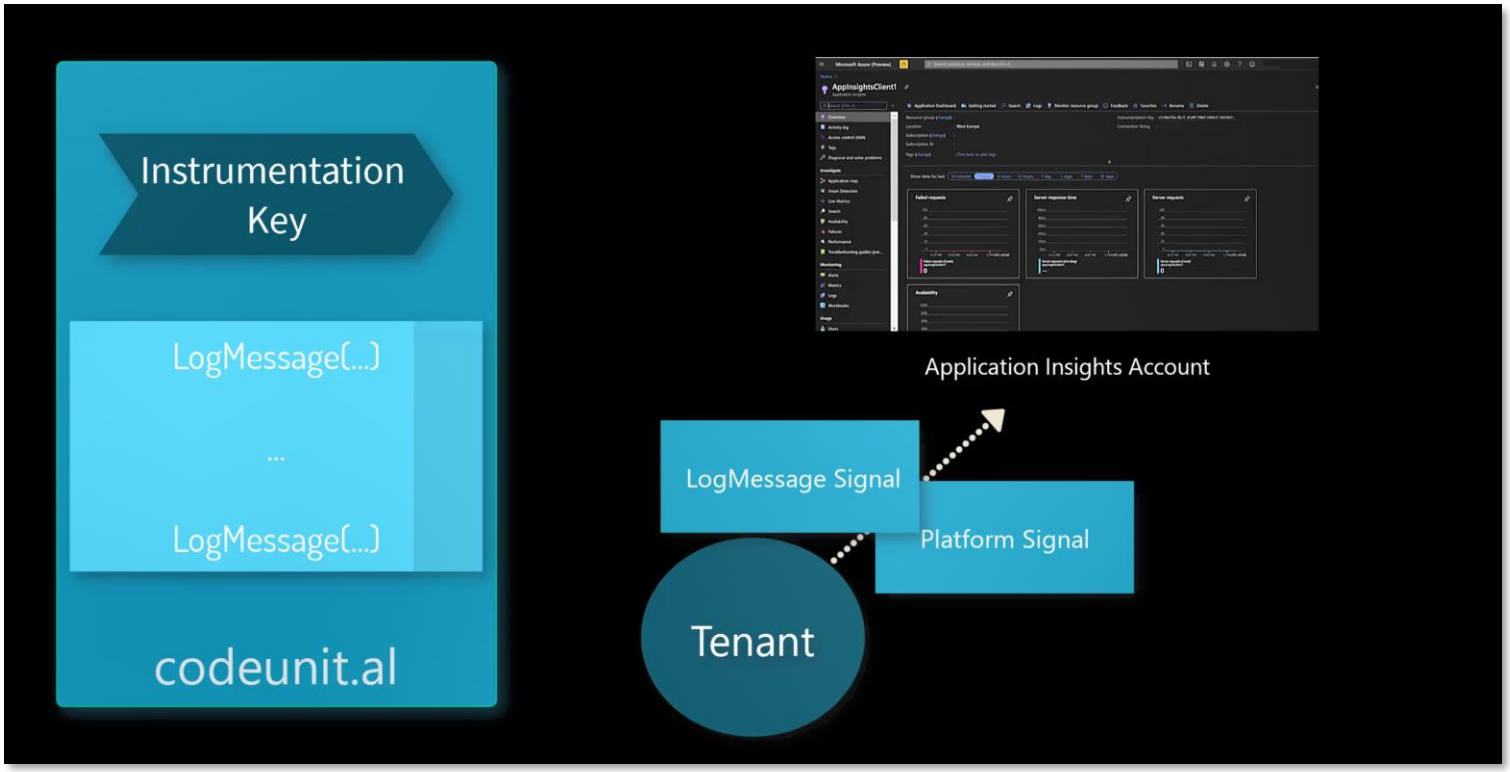
Extension publishers can get telemetry about issues in their extension before partners and customers report it.

You can now add an instrumentation key for Azure Application Insights in the app.json file for an extension.

When events such as the following happen in code units that are part of the extension, then this signal will be sent to the Azure Application Insights account that has the supplied instrumentation key:

- Long-running SQL queries
- Report execution
- Extension updates
- Update errors due to exceptions thrown in upgrade code in the extension
- Web service requests

Watch the overview video:
aka.ms/Overview/2020RW2/BusinessCentral/Telemetry



Dynamics 365 Business Central

2020 release wave 2
October 2020-March 2021

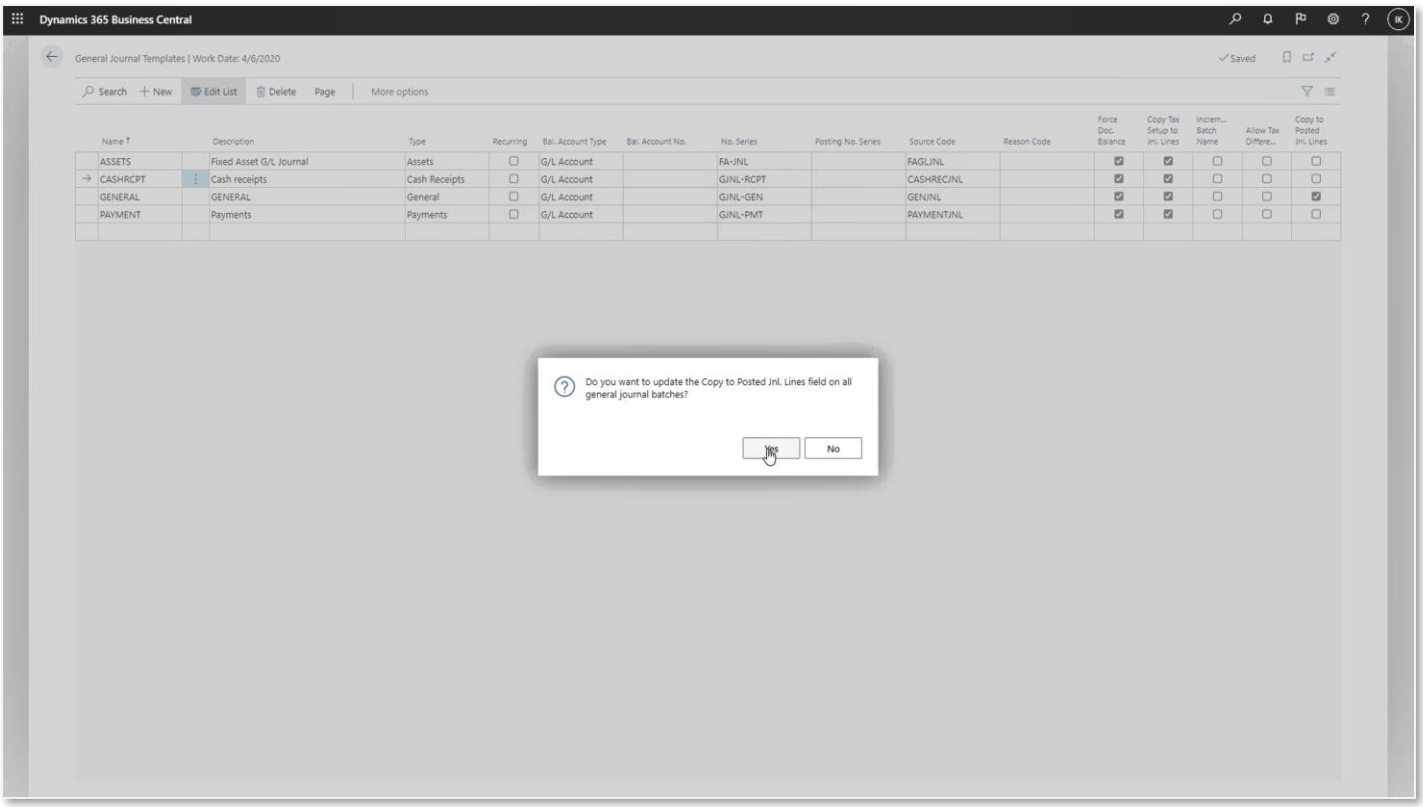
Use the copy journal action

You can choose to Copy to Posted Jnl. Lines in General Journal Templates to enable copying of journals to Posted General Journals. You can also enable or disable Copy to Posted Jnl. Lines on a specific General Journal Batch that belongs to General Journal Templates where Copy to Posted Jnl. Lines was enabled.

On the Posted General Journals page, you can now use the Copy Selected Lines to Journal function to create a copy of a general journal line or a batch with opposite signs (a reversing journal), a different posting date or document number. The Copy G/L Register to Journal function will copy all journal lines that belong to selected G/L Register to target General Journal.

On Recurring General Journals, in the Reverse Date Calculation column, you can now enter the date formula that will be used to calculate the date with which reversal entries will be posted where Reversal Recurring Methods are used. Please note that Reverse Date Calculation can be added to Recurring General Journals through page personalization.

Watch the overview video:
aka.ms/Overview/2020RW2/BusinessCentral/CopyJournal



Dynamics 365 Business Central

2020 release wave 2
October 2020-March 2021

Company hub

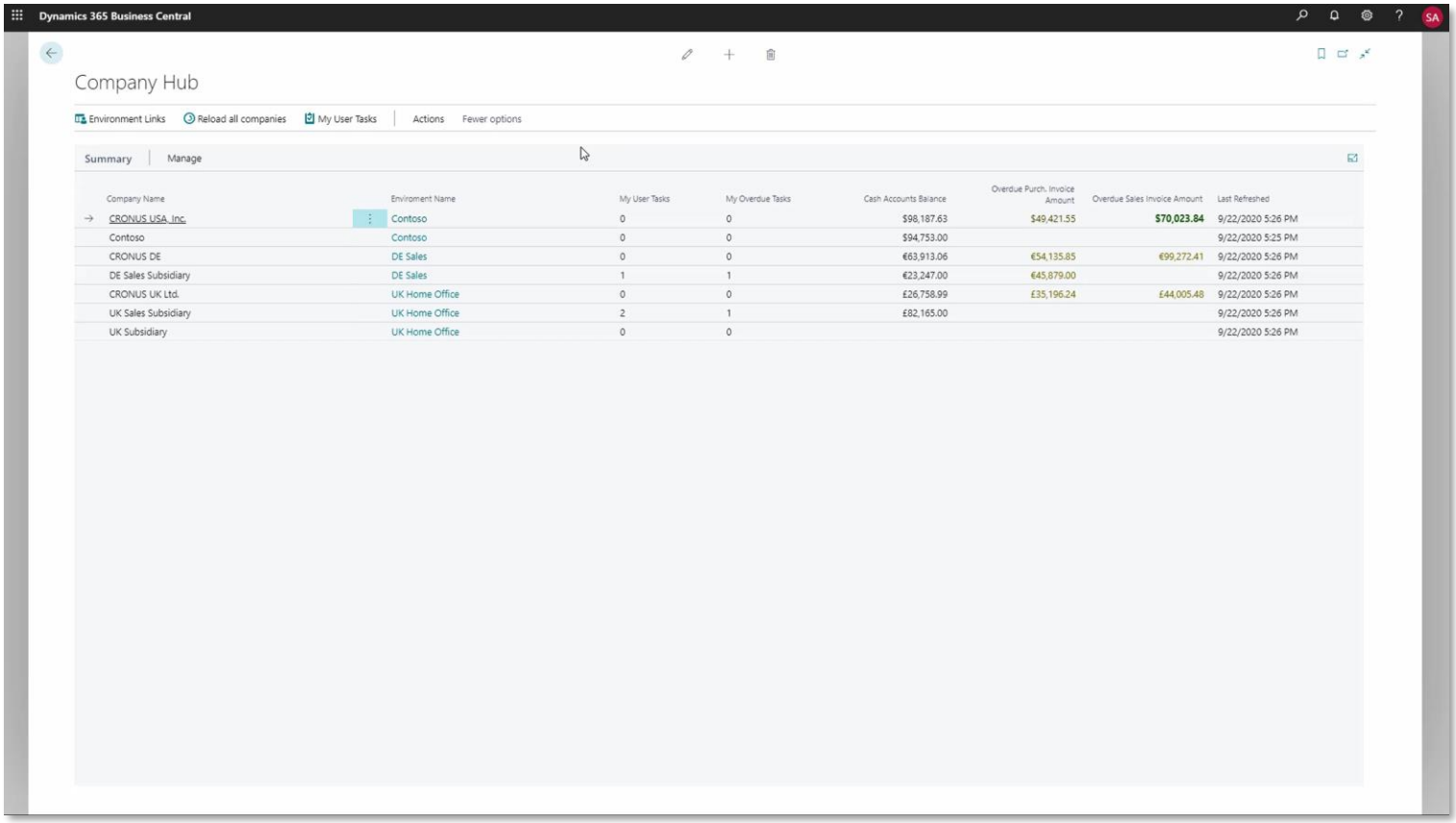
The company hub in Business Central gives you a list of the companies you work in. You can easily add new companies by just providing a URL and a name for the company. The list of companies contains a few KPIs for the company that is displayed for the user if they have the needed access. You also have a list of assigned user tasks for a given company, so you can keep track of work required for each company.

The company hub is an extension that gives you either a dedicated Company Hub home page (if you use one tenant as the main access point) or a similar task page if you use the company hub from within a company where your role requires you to have a different home page. Both have the same features and the same easy access to the companies you work in.

If you use Dynamics 365-Accountant Hub today, Accountant Hub is deprecated in this release wave. The company hub supports the same features, and we recommend that you use the company hub as a replacement for Accountant Hub.

It's easy to migrate to the company hub from Accountant Hub. When you have installed the company hub in a Business Central tenant, use the Edit in Excel feature on the Client list page to export data from Accountant Hub and open a similar Excel spreadsheet in the company hub. Then, use copy and paste to move the data and finally publish the spreadsheet from the company hub to get the data into your Business Central.

Watch the overview video:
aka.ms/Overview/2020RW2/BusinessCentral/CompanyHub



Dynamics 365 Business Central

2020 release wave 2
October 2020-March 2021

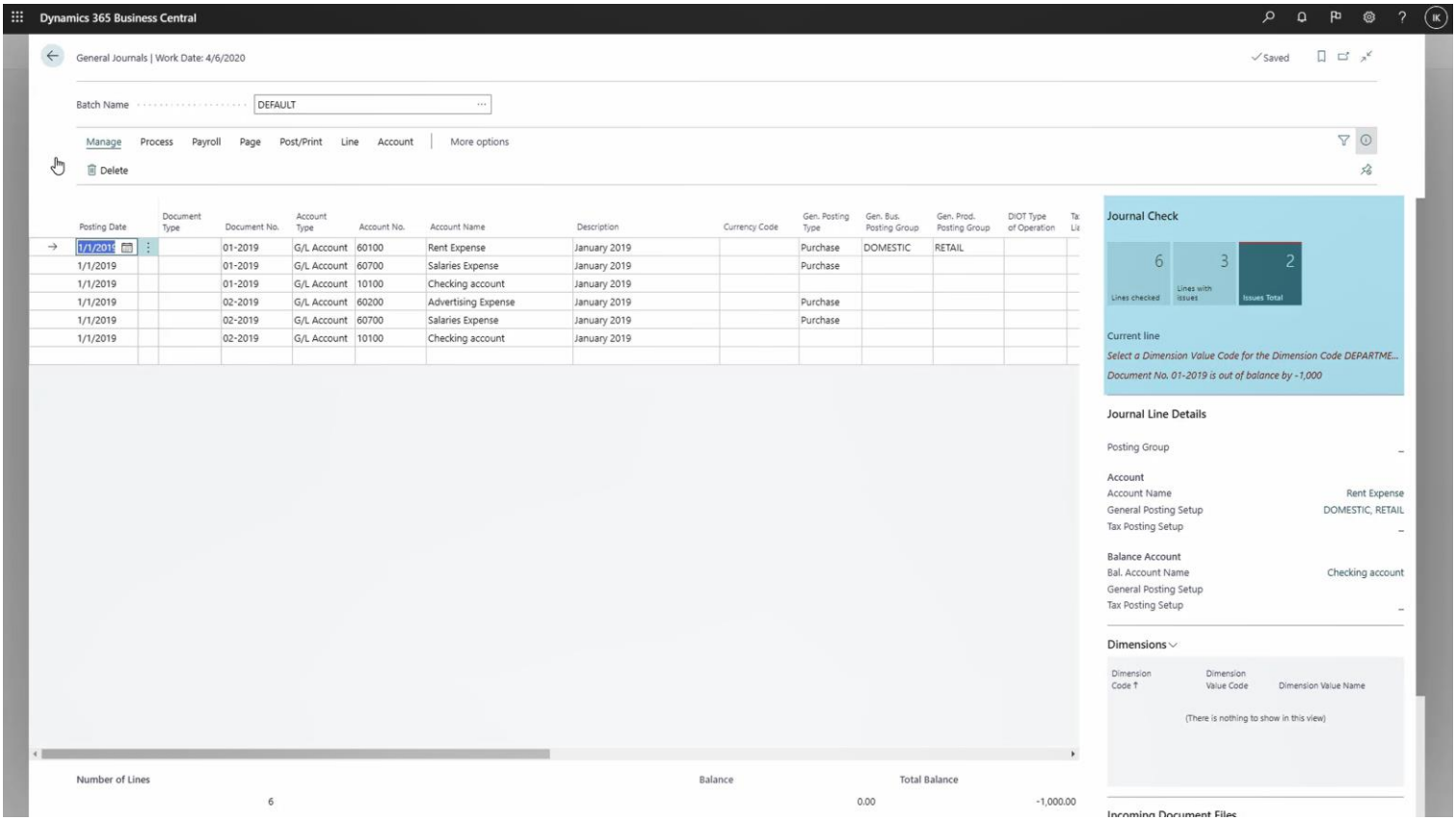
Check financial journals in background

On the General Journal Batch page, you can choose Background Error Check to have Business Central validate financial journals, such as general or payment journals, while you're working on them. When the validation is enabled, the Journal Check FactBox displays next to the journal lines and will show issues in the current line and the whole batch. Validation happens when you load a financial journal batch, and when you choose another journal line. The Issues total tile in the FactBox shows the total number of issues that Business Central found, and choosing it will open an overview of the issues.

You can use the Show Lines with Issues and Show All Lines actions to toggle between journal lines that have or don't have issues.

The new Journal Line Details FactBox provides a quick overview and access to data from journal lines, such as the G/L account, customer, or vendor, as well as to the posting setup for specific accounts.

Watch the overview video:
aka.ms/Overview/2020RW2/BusinessCentral/CheckJournals



Dynamics 365 Business Central

2020 release wave 2
October 2020-March 2021

Azure key vault secrets

In the world of software as a service (SaaS), the apps typically do not run in isolation—they often interact with other services.

Some Business Central extensions make web service calls to non-Business Central services. For example, one extension might call Azure Storage to read or write blobs. Another extension might call the extension publisher's web service to do an operation.

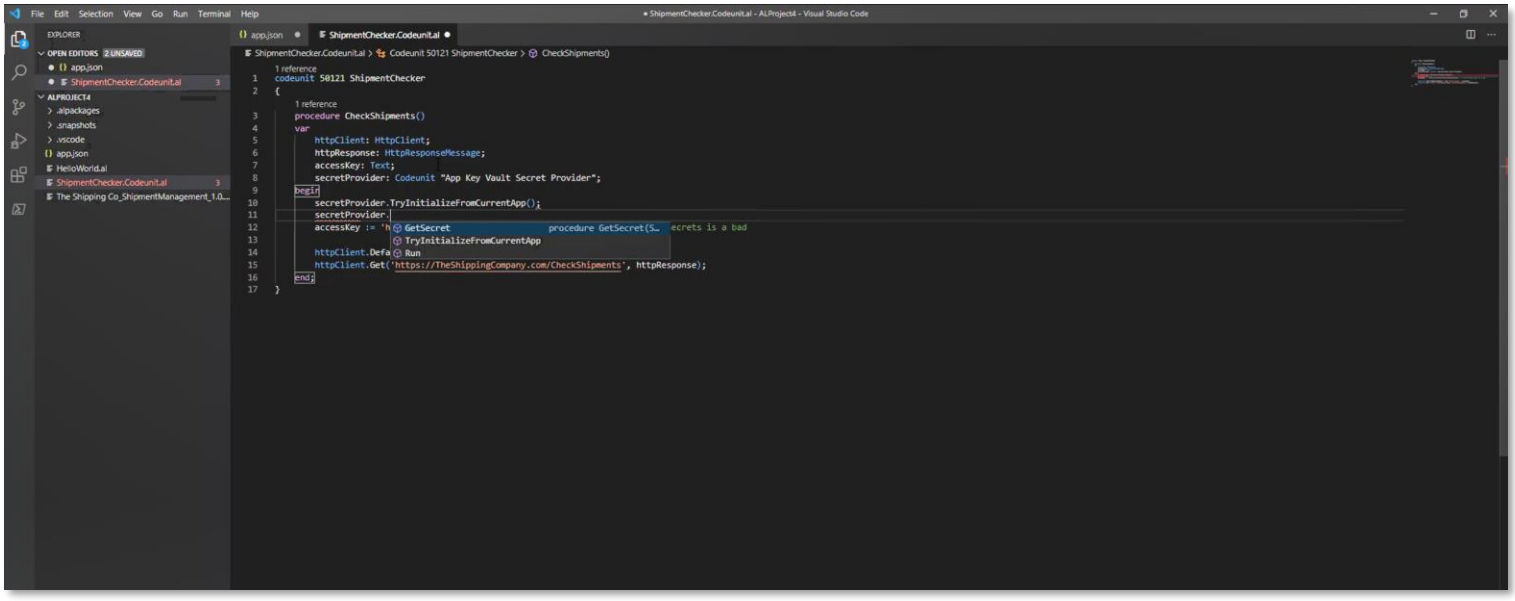
These web service calls are typically authenticated, which means the extension must provide a credential in the call. The credentials enable the other service to accept or reject the call. You can consider the credentials as a kind of secret to the extension. A secret shouldn't be leaked to customers, partners, or anybody else. So where can the extension get the secret from? Here is where Azure Key Vault is used. Azure Key Vault is a cloud service that works as a secure secrets store. It provides centralized storage for secrets, enabling you to control access and distribution of the secrets.

With this release, we are introducing an option for app developers to create their secrets in the Azure Key Vault account created in their own subscription. The Azure Key Vault account can then be specified in the app.json file of the app. With the key vault specified, the Business Central online service now allows app code to read the secrets from the vault during code execution. The secrets will not be accessible to other apps installed on the same environment.

This capability will be available in Business Central online for all apps registered on AppSource (additional onboarding steps will be required). It will not be available for per-tenant extensions and developer extensions (that is, extensions that are published directly from Visual Studio Code to a sandbox environment).

The feature will also be supported for on-premises deployments of Business Central.

Watch the overview video:
aka.ms/Overview/2020RW2/BusinessCentral/AzureKeyVault



Dynamics 365 Business Central

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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/2020RW2/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

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