

DEVELOPER TOOLKIT FOR MICROSOFT DYNAMICS GP

Customize, integrate, and extend your organization's applications and data to fuel stronger collaboration, smarter decisions, and a more productive workforce. By taking advantage of emerging industry standards, you can extend Microsoft Dynamics™ GP to better connect information, people, systems, and devices, share data more easily, integrate processes, and manage change in a demanding business climate.

A toolkit of developer components

The Developer Toolkit for Microsoft Dynamics GP brings together several software developer components for building integrating applications, custom front-end solutions, or extensions for your Microsoft Dynamics GP systems. These tools include:

- Microsoft® Visual Studio® Tools for Microsoft Dynamics GP
- Web Services for Microsoft Dynamics GP
- eConnect

Each of these components includes a runtime version, as well, for deploying solutions that may have been developed by your Microsoft partner or another independent software vendor.

Benefits

Increase the value of existing IT investments

Use the power of technologies such as Microsoft SQL Server™, Microsoft Visual Studio, and the Microsoft .NET Framework, as well as industry standards such as Web services and Extensible Markup Language (XML), to increase data sharing and integrate business processes throughout the organization.

Simplify integrations

Developers can include functionality in a program without having to fully understand the underlying business logic or complexity of the Web service they are connecting with, or having to reinvent their integrations each time a new Microsoft Dynamics GP version is released.

Reduce development costs

Let developers work within their existing development environment, using their tools of choice. Web Services for Microsoft Dynamics GP help shorten development time and simplify system complexity for lower integration, development, and maintenance costs. The Developer Toolkit components provide a choice of employing Microsoft Visual Studio, Dexterity, or other development programming environments.

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Features Overview

Developer Toolkit for Microsoft Dynamics GP

Customize and further extend your Microsoft Dynamics GP solution with a toolkit that includes documentation, samples, and command-line tools and compilers to help developers create and deploy Microsoft .NET Framework applications.

Industry-Standard Tools and Languages

Move data in and out of Microsoft Dynamics GP using tools and languages that are familiar to developers, including Microsoft Visual Studio, the Microsoft .NET framework, and XML.

Extensible Web Services

Integrate data from external data sources — including Web services, CRM applications, Web storefronts, and legacy applications — with developer tools that use a series of transactional business objects. Ensure the accuracy and integrity of external data by processing data through business logic contained in Microsoft Dynamics GP, helping ensure that data meets the processing criteria before being committed to the database.

Visual Studio Tools

Create forms consistent with the look and experience of native Microsoft Dynamics GP forms, using Microsoft Dynamics GP templates that install as add-ins to Microsoft Visual Studio. Build client side extensibility for Microsoft Dynamics GP through industry-standard tools, such as Microsoft Visual Studio .Net.

eConnect

eConnect helps eliminate costly data re-entry by offering businesses with an existing online storefront, Web service, or data source the ability to integrate to Microsoft Dynamics business management solutions. Using a series of transactional business objects, eConnect offers fast and accurate integration from outside data sources to Microsoft Dynamics GP. eConnect will be the underlying connection mechanism for Web Services as well as a key component in the integrations with Microsoft Dynamics CRM and Microsoft Retail Management System.

Consistent Event Model

Web Services for Microsoft Dynamics GP enable easier extensibility across various scenarios. Multiple integrations can be built on the same service or service operation to allow many different integrating products to react to events happening within Web Services. For example, saving a customer record utilizing Web services could trigger an event to populate data within a third-party developer's table by utilizing specific Web Services for Microsoft Dynamics GP eventing capabilities.

Extensible Policy/Behavior Model

By enabling specific defaulting behaviors for custom integrations or add-ons, developers can work flexibly to define how integrating applications create data within Microsoft Dynamics GP. Developers can utilize existing Microsoft Dynamics GP application policies and behaviors, and/or create their own within this policy/behavior subsystem.

Extensible Security Framework

ISVs can enable security for their own services and other third-party products, build their own Web services security framework, and manage security from one centralized console. Web Services for Microsoft Dynamics GP will also support integrated security for Microsoft Windows® operating systems.

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Product Availability

The Developer Toolkit is available for purchase by Microsoft Dynamics partners to develop solutions for Microsoft Dynamics GP Professional or Microsoft Dynamics GP Standard customers. The Toolkit is also available for direct purchase by Microsoft Dynamics GP Professional customers.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the Developer Toolkit for Microsoft Dynamics GP?

A: This toolkit will consist of all eConnect components, a set of extensible Web Services, and a set of Visual Studio Tools (add-ins) that are used for integrating with the Microsoft Dynamics GP application. The Developer Toolkit is designed to provide much greater extensibility to Microsoft Dynamics GP, and provide developers the ability to utilize Microsoft technologies and tools that are built around .NET, such as Microsoft Visual Studio.

Q: Are there any limitations to the areas within Microsoft Dynamics GP available for integrations using Developer Toolkit components?

A: None of the components of the Developer Toolkit provide full Microsoft Dynamics GP client connectivity. Each of the components will provide certain connection points, dependant upon the maturity of the product (i.e., Developer Toolkit component) and the Microsoft Dynamics development schedule. For examples, eConnect now provides hundreds of connection points, while Web Services will provide over two hundred connection points with the first release in calendar Q2 of 2006. You may contact the Microsoft Dynamics Developer Support team for more specific details.

Q: What are the benefits of the Developer Toolkit to customers and developers?

A: Customers will be able to take advantage of emerging industry standards, facilitate easier exchange of data, and help reduce the brittleness of traditional integration approaches, new feature development time, and maintenance costs — all of which make it easier to deal with business change quickly and cost-effectively.

An initial benefit that developers will receive is a common integration experience through the Web Services for Microsoft Dynamics GP technology tier. With this toolkit, developers are able to utilize industry-standard Microsoft technologies and tools like Microsoft Visual Studio .NET to integrate with Microsoft Dynamics GP. These tools are built around .NET technologies and have robust capabilities for integrating with Web Services. Equipped with a common technology and toolset, developers can work more flexibly with the amount and types of integrations they are able to create. The reduced number of required integration technologies helps free developers to spend more of their investment on creating solutions that benefit the business.

Q: What are Web Services for Microsoft Dynamics GP?

A: Web Services represent a platform on which developers can build the same distributed applications they've always built, but this time with interoperability as the highest priority. One of the primary advantages of the XML Web Services architecture is that it allows programs written in different languages on different platforms to communicate with each other in a standards-based way, and allows for data transformation both into and out of Microsoft Dynamics GP.

Q: Will I still be able to use eConnect?

A: eConnect is a critical piece of the Developer Toolkit that enables integration through the eConnect architectural layers. However, we do recommend that partners and ISVs begin using the Web Services tier for Microsoft Dynamics GP when it releases in Calendar Q1 of 2006.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Will eConnect still be on the price list?

A: eConnect itself will not be included on the Microsoft Dynamics GP price list effective with the Microsoft Dynamics GP 9.0 release. Instead, eConnect will be included within the Developer Toolkit that will be available for Microsoft Dynamics GP Professional customers. Below is a table outlining the packaging changes.

	eConnect	Developer Toolkit
ISVs	\$20,000 USD maximum with eConnect for ISV program (redistributable code); actual tool has no charge	\$3,000 USD yearly, includes the ability for customers to run 3rd party applications
Partners	Included in NFR copies	\$3,000 USD yearly (not included in NFR copies)
Customers	<p>Microsoft Dynamics GP Professional eConnect Core - \$5,000 USD eConnect Distribution - \$7,500 USD eConnect Project - \$5,000 USD eConnect Total Solution - \$13,000 USD</p> <p>Microsoft Dynamics GP Standard eConnect Core - \$2,500 USD eConnect Distribution - \$3,750 USD eConnect Project - \$2,500 USD eConnect Total Solution - \$6,500 USD</p>	\$3,000 USD for Professional customers only (yearly module enhancements will apply)

Q: What will the process be for existing customers of eConnect?

A: All customers currently registered with any eConnect modules will receive the Developer Toolkit, including customers on Microsoft Dynamics GP Standard.

Q: When will Web Services and Visual Studio Tools for Microsoft Dynamics GP be delivered, and how can I get them?

A: Web Services and Visual Studio Tools for Microsoft Dynamics GP are scheduled to start releasing in Calendar Quarter 2006 via download.

Q: Will the Developer Toolkit be available globally?

A: Yes.

Q: What about new Microsoft Dynamics GP Standard customers who want to take advantage of the capabilities within the Developer Toolkit?

A. For Microsoft Dynamics GP Standard customers, Integration Manager will be the recommended integration tool for purchase. Microsoft Dynamics GP Standard customers seeking more complex or robust integrations via eConnect Web Services, and/or Visual Studio Tools will be directed to their Microsoft Dynamics Partners to develop these solutions for them, as the Developer Toolkit runtime (and distribution rights) will be included within the Developer Toolkit purchased by the Microsoft Dynamics Partner.

Q: Are the Visual Studio Tools for Microsoft Dynamics GP targeted at Dexterity developers or non-Dexterity developers?

A. The answer would be both. Visual Studio Tools will provide a custom development environment for creating forms that look like Microsoft Dynamics GP, and then attaching logic to those forms, either through industry-standard Web services, C# coding, or Dexterity, depending exactly on what you wish to accomplish. The Microsoft Dynamics Developer Support team can assist with evaluating what tools to use to maximize your efficiency and develop with the future in mind.