Binary Stream

Comparing Master Data Synchronization features for Dynamics 365 Business Central

	Dynamics 365 Business Central's built-in feature	Multi-Entity Management | Intercompany Suite
Pain points to address	Used during implementation to easily copy a new company setup from a template or main company.	The same as Microsoft out of the box.
	As part of the data maintenance when you need to maintain the same set of master data, for example a chart of accounts or list of items, between companies and need to make changes to the data across all the companies.	Map master data between the companies for the consolidated reporting. For example, to create customer statements or run aged accounts receivable across multiple companies.
Features comparison	You can only synchronize data within the same Business Central environment. Companies that have different environments due to different localizations will not be able to use this feature.	You can synchronize data within the same but also separate Business Central environments. Companies that have different localizations, e.g. UK and France, cannot use Microsoft Data Sync but can use Intercompany Suite.
	You can only synchronize data with Job Queue which might not be scalable in a SaaS environment with strict operational limits (max 3 concurrent tasks across environments).	You can synchronize data with Job Queue and also with Web Services which will allow you to connect to multiple BC environments. This will be useful for companies that keep their data on different servers in different locations or that require different localizations.
	You can only push data from one company to another (e.g. one direction) so there should be a master or template company that will maintain the main list of master data and where all updates to the master data will be happening.	You can set up a single direction and bi-directional synchronization. Users might want to maintain a template companies, like with the Microsoft feature, but also can allow to update records in any company. For example, an AR clerk finds a customer phone number change and updates a record in his/her company which will push the update to all connected companies.
	The set of data in a receiver company must be created by the Master Data Sync feature in order to be mapped to the master company. You cannot have two existing BC companies mapped with each other for the future use and maintenance.	We allow to map existing data between companies for consolidated reporting. If you acquire a company that already uses an ERP that you are not planning to update, you can map master data between your existing companies and the newly acquired company.

Business scenarios

Dynamics 365 BC's Master Data Synchronization feature

- You are setting up a new company that will use the same financial data (e.g. chart of accounts, payment terms, tax codes, etc.) and the same set of items your other companies already have. You want to bring the data from an existing company to speed up the implementation process. The companies must be in the same environment using the same localization. You might want to separate those companies since they have different year ends or you might want to restrict users so that they can access only one company and not another. You do not have MEM and need users' security restrictions being set this way.

- You maintain the list of master data and need to make a correction to a record. For example, update a customer phone number, modify an item description, or add a new vendor record. You want to update a record in a master company and have the update follow to all receiver companies. With the Master Data Sync you will update a record once and have the data consistent among all connected companies. The connected companies must use the same BC environment.

Limitations

Multi-Entity Management | Intercompany Suite

- We only support customers, vendors, items, and salespeople's records synchronization. Microsoft allows to synchronized almost all BC tables. Thus, when you are implementing a new company from scratch, you can utilize ICS for master data records only and will need to use Microsoft or file uploads to upload BC settings (e.g. tax codes, payment terms, accounts, posting groups, etc.).