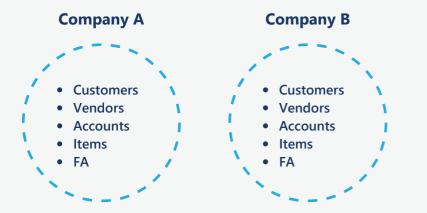# MEM vs Business Central

There are two ways out-of-the-box Business Central can be set up in the multi-entity environment. One is to keep each entity in a separate BC company and the other one, similar to MEM, is to set up entities in the same BC company, delegating a global dimension to represent an entity.

For companies with different localizations, for example US and Canada, you MUST use separate BC companies. You can achieve this with BC out of the box functionality or with Intercompany Suite (ICS)

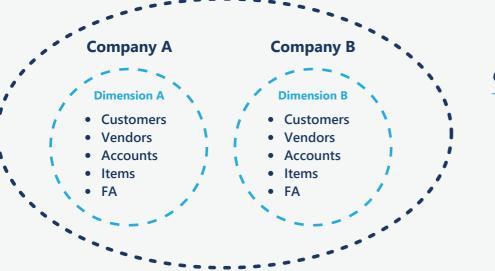| Pain point	BC separate companies	BC same company	BC + MEM	BC + ICS
Consolidated and per entity reporting	VAR creates custom reports	Consolidated reports are available; per entity reports need to be created by a VAR	Consolidated and per entity reports are available	Per entity reports are available; Some consolidated reports are available
User security to access entities data	Available	Not available	Available	Available
Master data maintenance (shared set of data)	Maintenance is available if master data is added by BC	Available but no security	Available	Available
Intercompany transactions due to/due from)	Available for a few types of transactions; cumbersome process	Not available	Available	Available
Easy new entity setup	Available with other ISVs products	Available	Available	Available
Expense/revenue allocation	Available. Cannot allocate inventory	Available	Available	Available. Cannot allocate inventory
Centralized purchases/sales	Available	Not available	Available	Available
Centralized receivables/payable	Not available	Not available	Available	On a Roadmap
Automatic transaction posting (post only once in the originating company)	Not available	Not available	Available	Available

MEM vs Business Central

Business Central, Separate Companies

Company A

- Customers
- Vendors
- Accounts
- Items
- FA

Company B

- Customers
- Vendors
- Accounts
- Items
- FA

Challenges

- Complex setup
- No real-time consolidation
- Multi-step intercompany recording
- No master data sharing but have sync between companies
- Challenging centralized processes recording
- No automation, duplication of effort

Business Central, the same company

Company A

Dimension A
- Customers
- Vendors
- Accounts
- Items
- FA

Company B

Dimension B
- Customers
- Vendors
- Accounts
- Items
- FA

Challenges

- Manual entity selection
- No user security and restrictions
- Manual intercompany recording
- Challenging centralized processes recording

BC + MEM

Dimension A **Dimension B**

Company A **Company B**

- Single set of shared master data
- Data security, user security
- Intercompany automation (due to, due from transactions)
- Entity allocation
- Reporting: consolidated and entity specific