

Microsoft Dynamics® SL Business Portal, Project Self Service Suite, Time and Attendance & Key Performance Indicators Discontinuation Announcement

With the release of Microsoft Dynamics SL 2015, the Business Portal feature for Microsoft Dynamics SL will not be available for Microsoft Dynamics SL 2015. Two Microsoft Dynamics SL SKUs, which required the Business Portal, will also be discontinued. These SKUs are: *Project Self Service Suite, Time and Attendance and Key Performance Indicators*. All associated SKUs will be removed from the Microsoft Dynamics SL price lists with the release of Microsoft Dynamics SL 2015. The Service Provider License Agreement (SPLA) will be updated to reflect these changes on January 1, 2015.

The Business Portal provided web based access to Microsoft Dynamics SL data on Windows desktop machines. A new feature called Microsoft Dynamics SL Web Apps is included in Microsoft Dynamics SL 2015. Web Apps will replace the commonly used features of the Business Portal. The new web apps provide web based access to Microsoft Dynamics SL data from smartphones, tablets as well as desktop machines.

Time and Attendance, Project Self Service Suite and Key Performance Indicators provide access to features that were installed on the Business Portal. Time and Attendance provided Web based Time entry for the Payroll module. Key Performance Indicators provided access to predefined views of Microsoft Dynamics SL data. The Project Self Service Suite provided web based project access for the Time and Expense Entry for Projects, Project Analyst and Communicator modules. The Web Apps are being developed to either replace the same features as these two SKUs at the release of Microsoft Dynamics SL 2015 or during the course of the SL 2015 release.

Licensing

The Microsoft Dynamics SL product line has two pricing models. The original model, Modular Based Licensing (MBL), required the purchase of individual modules. The more recent model, Business Ready Licensing (BRL), bundles modules together.

For customers on MBL, the Microsoft Dynamics SL Business Portal is accessed using MBL licenses called *Business Portal Vendor or Customer Users* and *Business Portal Employee Users*. The comparable BRL license is called the *Light User*. The Light User license and the Business Portal licenses provide remote access to Microsoft Dynamics SL data. This includes using the new Microsoft Dynamics SL Web Apps, Microsoft Excel, Business Portal and more.

The existing MBL SKU named *Business Portal Vendor or Customer Users* will be renamed Light User Vendor or Customers. The MBL SKU name *Business Portal Employee User* will be renamed to the *Light User* when Microsoft Dynamics SL 2015 launched and will reflect the removal of Business Portal. The Protected List Price (PLP) for the MBL Business Portal (now called Light User for Microsoft Dynamics SL 2015) and BRL Light User will not be changed on upgrade to Dynamics SL 2015. The PLP for Project Self Service Suite, Time and Attendance and Key Performance Indicators will be moved to Microsoft Dynamics SL 2015 professional or standard base pack.

Customers on Microsoft Dynamics SL 2011 will still be able to install and use the Business Portal. Microsoft will continue to support the Business Portal for Microsoft Dynamics SL 2011 through the end of the Microsoft Dynamics SL 2011 lifecycle. Note that mainstream support for Microsoft Dynamics SL 2011 ends July 12, 2016. Extended support is available through July 13, 2021. Please visit the Microsoft Support Lifecycle site (<http://support.microsoft.com/lifecycle/>) for more information.

This announcement provides partners with the 120-days' notice required pursuant to the Solution Provider Agreement (SPA).

Frequently Asked Questions

Question: Why did Microsoft want to remove the Business Portal?

Answer: The Business Portal has provided a way to access Microsoft Dynamics SL information for over ten years. Several limitations have kept it from being widely used on devices, for example tablets or smartphones. Microsoft Dynamics SL has released Microsoft Dynamics SL Web Apps to provide a way to access Microsoft Dynamics SL data on desktops, tablets and smartphones. The initial goal is to replace the most commonly used Business Portal features when Microsoft Dynamics SL 2015 is released and then to continue adding new Microsoft Dynamics SL Web Apps.

Question: When is the Business Portal being removed from Microsoft Dynamics SL?

Answer: At the release of Microsoft Dynamics SL 2015 there will be no Business Portal code shipped.

Question: What is the impact on existing Microsoft Dynamics SL 2011 customers using the Business Portal, Project Self Service Suite, Time and Attendance and Key Performance Indicators?

Answer: Existing Business Portal customers will be able to continue using Business Portal without any changes until they transition to Microsoft Dynamics SL 2015. When customers upgrade to Microsoft Dynamic SL 2015 they have the option to use the new Microsoft Dynamics SL Web Apps. Your MBL Business Portal license will be transitioned to Light User licenses allowing you to access Microsoft Dynamics Web Apps and other remote connections to Microsoft Dynamics SL.

When Project Self Service Suite, Time and Attendance and Key Performance Indicators customers upgrade to Microsoft Dynamics SL 2015 they will receive like functionality.

Question: What about the customers' current Microsoft enhancement plan for Business Portal, Project Self Service Suite, Time and Attendance and Key Performance Indicators?

Answer: No change as long as the customer remains active on plan. Your Business Portal license will be transitioned to Light User licenses at the same Protected List Price (PLP).

Question: Where do customers go for Business Portal, Project Self Service Suite and Time and Attendance support after the release of Microsoft Dynamics SL 2015?

Answer: Microsoft will continue to support previously released versions of Business Portal, Project Self Service Suite and Time and Attendance pursuant to the Microsoft Lifecycle Support policy.

Question: How do customers learn more about Microsoft Dynamics SL Web Apps?

Answer: Customers should contact their Dynamics SL channel partner to learn about Microsoft Dynamics SL Web Apps. For customers who don't have a partner visit Microsoft Dynamics [CustomerSource](#) to learn more about Microsoft Dynamics SL Web Apps.