MEKORMA

A Simpler Path to AP Automation for IT Teams

Why ERP-Embedded Automation Reduces Risk, Overhead, and Long-Term Complexity

Executive Summary

If you support **Microsoft Dynamics GP or Business Central**, you may be pulled into Accounts Payable (AP) automation decisions, not because AP is an IT function, but because **automation choices have long-term consequences** for system stability, security, and risk.

Many AP automation tools promise efficiency for finance, yet introduce new platforms, integrations, and security models that IT must support indefinitely. Over time, these "integrated" or non-embedded solutions can increase complexity, expand audit scope, and ultimately divert IT resources away from more meaningful, strategic work.

This whitepaper outlines an alternative approach: ERP-embedded AP automation.

By running directly inside Microsoft Dynamics, embedded solutions reduce system sprawl, inherit ERP security controls, and simplify long-term support.

For IT teams balancing system updates with risk management, this approach offers a calmer, more sustainable path forward.

1. Why AP Automation Decisions Land with IT

When finance evaluates AP automation, the implications quickly become architectural:

- Where does the data live?

- Who manages access?

- What happens during ERP updates or when something breaks?

Many IT teams find themselves supporting AP tools that live outside Microsoft Dynamics. These separate platforms have their own databases, authentication layers, and update schedules. Even when these tools integrate successfully at launch, they often create ongoing work for IT, such as:

- Monitoring APIs and data sync jobs

- Managing security reviews and access requests

- Answering audit questions about third-party systems

Over time, some types of AP automation, particularly external integrated platforms, can become a source of operational noise, adding more complexity than they solve. **Reviews** highlight issues such as clunky integrations with ERPs that require constant monitoring of APIs and data syncs, and rigid workflows that require exception handling and workarounds, burdening both IT and finance teams with ongoing maintenance. These types of issues turn automation into another layer of overhead rather than a streamlined solution.

It's essential to **choose an automation solution** that best supports both IT and finance teams, while considering organizational goals and requirements.

2. The Limits of "Integrated" AP Automation

Integration is often positioned as best practice. In reality, it can be a compromise.

Integrated AP solutions connect to Dynamics through APIs or connectors, but they are still separate systems. For IT, that separation matters as it introduces additional points of potential failure, additional security surfaces, and additional systems that IT must understand and maintain.

For IT teams focused on stability and predictability, integrated AP automation solutions can still leave you wrestling with frustrating architecture challenges and added workload.

3. ERP-Embedded AP Automation: A Different Architectural Model

ERP-embedded AP automation operates directly inside Microsoft Dynamics rather than alongside it. From an IT perspective, this changes the equation, ensuring:

- The ERP remains the system of record

- User access follows existing role-based permissions

- Security, backups, and compliance stay centralized

- Updates align with the ERP's lifecycle

Instead of adding another platform to govern, embedded automation works seamlessly within the environment you already trust. That means fewer moving parts and fewer long-term support demands. You can learn more about the differences between embedded and integrated automation **here**.

4. Security, Compliance, and Audit Implications

Every external system expands your audit footprint.

Standalone or integrated AP platforms often require IT to manage separate user access policies and explain how sensitive financial data moves between systems. This adds time and risk, even when the tool itself is well designed. While non-embedded platforms can work well for organizations using multiple ERPs or with complex requirements, from an IT perspective, the benefits of embedded solutions are clear.

With ERP-embedded AP automation, security remains consistent with your existing Dynamics framework. Permissions, approvals, and data access are governed by the same controls you already manage.

For IT, this offers:

- Clearer ownership of risk
- Fewer exceptions during audits
- Less effort in maintaining parallel security models

Automation becomes easier to approve when it doesn't complicate compliance.

5. Reducing Ongoing IT Overhead

One of the quiet costs of external AP tools is day-to-day support.

IT teams are often pulled into issues related to payment workflows, printer challenges, or approval delays. This happens most often when the tools sit outside the ERP and require additional intervention.

Embedded AP automation helps restore boundaries and simplify processes. Finance can operate within Dynamics, managing their workflows independently, while IT retains governance without becoming a constant escalation point.

The payoff is fewer interruptions and more time for strategic priorities like system optimization, security planning, and future-proofing the business.

6. Supporting Both Microsoft Dynamics Business Central and GP Environments

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7. Evaluation Considerations for IT Teams

When reviewing AP automation options, IT teams benefit from asking architectural questions early:

▸ Does this solution live inside the ERP or beside it?

▸ Will it inherit existing security roles and permissions?

▸ How many systems will IT support after implementation?

▸ What changes when Dynamics is upgraded or migrated?

These considerations help ensure automation decisions align with long-term stability, not just short-term gains.

Conclusion: Aligning AP Automation with IT Priorities

For organizations seeking sustainable AP automation, architecture matters.

The best automation doesn't demand your attention; it quietly supports your goals by bringing greater ease, control, and care to your workflows.

By reducing system sprawl, centralizing security, and minimizing ongoing support, ERP-embedded AP automation offers a calmer approach for IT teams supporting Microsoft Dynamics. With **embedded automation**, finance gains efficiency without introducing unnecessary risk, and IT gains time back, without sacrificing control.

Fewer Integrations. Fewer Surprises. More Control.

To learn more about Mekorma's fully embedded AP automation solution, visit **mekorma.com**, or contact us to schedule a personalized demo.

Talk to an Expert

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