

DATA PLATFORMS • PROOF OF CONCEPT

Business Central to Microsoft Fabric with Open Mirroring

A proof of concept that replaced CSV extracts from a legacy Power BI sync tool with incremental mirroring of Dynamics 365 Business Central data into Microsoft Fabric, feeding silver and gold layers, a semantic model and Power BI reports.

CLIENT Business Central customer

ENGAGEMENT Proof of concept

BUILT WITH Business Central, bc2adls, Fabric Open Mirroring, Power BI

The transformation

✗ BEFORE

- ✗ A legacy Power BI sync tool extracting Business Central data
- ✗ CSV files in OneDrive as the hand-off to reporting
- ✗ No typed, governed data layer
- ✗ Each report reshaping the same files

✓ AFTER

- ✓ Business Central tables mirrored into Microsoft Fabric
- ✓ Only changed records sent, on a schedule
- ✓ Silver and gold layers in Fabric
- ✓ One semantic model behind the Power BI reports

0 CSV files in the reporting path

0 notebooks needed to apply changes

01 • THE CHALLENGE

Where they started

The client runs Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central. Their Power BI reports were fed by a legacy sync tool that extracted Business Central data into CSV files stored in OneDrive.



Legacy extract tooling

Data left Business Central through an ageing sync tool: one more component to maintain outside the data platform.



Files as the hand-off

Extracts landed as CSV files in OneDrive, so every report depended on files arriving complete and on time.



No governed layer

CSV files carry no data types or relationships, so the same shaping was repeated report by report.



Hard to grow

Adding a table meant changing the extract and everything downstream that read its files.

02 • THE SOLUTION

What we built

DATA LEAGUE proved a modern, file-free path from Business Central to Power BI, using Microsoft Fabric Open Mirroring and the open-source bc2adls extension.

HOW IT FITS TOGETHER



Business Central
bc2adls extension



Mirrored database
Fabric Open Mirroring



Silver and gold
Cleansed, then business-ready



Semantic model
Power BI



Reports
Power BI

01

Open Mirroring with bc2adls

The open-source bc2adls extension sends Business Central changes to the mirrored database's landing zone, and Fabric applies them automatically.

02

Only what reporting needs

Tables and fields are chosen in Business Central, and exports run on a schedule from the Business Central job queue, sending only changed records.

03

Silver and gold layers

Mirrored tables are cleansed and conformed in silver, then shaped into business-ready gold tables.

04

Semantic model and reports

A Power BI semantic model over the gold layer gives the reports one trusted set of measures, in place of CSV files.

03 • DELIVERY

How we delivered it

1

Assess

Reviewed the sync tool, the CSV files it produced and the reports that depended on them.

2

Set up mirroring

Created the Fabric mirrored database and a secure app registration, then installed and configured bc2adls in Business Central.

3

Build the layers

Shaped the mirrored data through silver and gold, ready for analysis.

4

Prove it in Power BI

Built the semantic model and reports on gold to prove the path end to end.

04 • RESULTS

What the proof of concept showed

0

CSV files in the reporting path

0

notebooks needed to apply changes



A proven way off CSV files

Business Central data reaches Power BI through Fabric, with no files in between.



Changes only

Incremental exports move only what changed, rather than repeated full extracts.



Less to maintain

Fabric applies the changes from itself, so there is no consolidation code to build or run.



Ready to scale

More tables are added from the Business Central setup page, with no new pipelines to build.

05 • TECHNOLOGY

Dynamics 365 Business Central

bc2adls (open source)

Fabric Open Mirroring

Medallion architecture

Power BI

With thanks to the open-source bc2adls project and its contributors.

Facing something similar? Let's talk.

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