

Better control, less busywork

Scheduling is not the same as sign-off

A hypothetical after-hours extension update starts the discussion.

In Business Central online, an existing per-tenant extension can target the next update window or a future minor/major environment update. A new installation supports only immediate or next-window deployment. Verify the package, environment, intended schedule and completed operation; scheduling does not perform business acceptance.

Admin Center PTE management: GA July 7, 2026. Current documentation checked October 16.

[Managing Apps](#)

[Upload, install, and manage PTEs in the admin center](#)

Optional deep technical notes: deployment surfaces

For administrators and developers implementing the workflow.

API v2.29 is an API contract version, not a tenant-version requirement. PTE upload and global-app updating are different operations. Dependency updates can select the latest compatible version. Scheduled PTE entries are not cross-visible between Admin Center and Extension Management before successful installation. The legacy upload flow and extensionUpload endpoint are planned for removal in 2027 wave 1; the whole page and Automation API are not being removed.

Environment update dates and downtime are separate from app-deployment schedules.

[Managing Apps](#)

[Admin Center API app management](#)

[Managing updates in the admin center](#)

[Deploying a tenant customization](#)

Make the trial answer a real question

The invoice examples and proposed evaluation measures are hypothetical, not tested customer results.

The trial is available only in production before the agent has been activated, and covers up to 50 invoices. It continues automatically into billable full mode under the configured billing prerequisites. Measure correction and review effort, not merely PDFs processed. The agent creates drafts and unposted invoices, not posted invoices or payments. Decide who owns the review and continued use.

Current adoption guidance, not a claim that the whole agent launched in October.

[Set up Payables Agent](#)

[Review and match incoming invoice drafts to orders](#)

[Try Payables Agent free without setting up email](#)

Optional deep technical notes: sender review and matching

Email trust, document validation and accounting approval are separate controls.

Known Sender policies apply with Manage per sender and no monitored subfolder. A monitored subfolder bypasses those policies and email-review settings. Matching warnings are deterministic checks, not AI confidence or an approval workflow. Missing unit-of-measure information blocks finalization; other warnings need not. Credit exhaustion leaves the agent active, and renewed credits can resume unread backlog. Deactivate when automatic resumption is not wanted. Reactivation can also process unread mail received since deactivation, so reconcile any manual handling before restarting. The Cost section displays consumed Copilot Credits, not a measured cash saving.

Known Senders appears in 28.4; improved matching is GA in 29.0. The current language matrix includes Danish, while older setup prose conflicts. Check the matrix and actual environment rather than asserting English-only availability.

[Update 29.0 for Business Central 2026 release wave 2](#)

[Set up Payables Agent](#)

[Manage known senders for Payables Agent](#)

[Review and match incoming invoice drafts to orders](#)

[Copilot and agents country/region availability and supported languages](#)

[Update 28.4 for Business Central 2026 release wave 1](#)

Reuse the parts that should match

A shared footer is a document-maintenance example, not a promise to convert every layout.

The new document experience combines a Word Body layout with reusable theme and header/footer parts. Keep deliberate company-specific differences through assignments and overrides. Compare representative rendered documents, including long examples, before adopting a shared change. Existing ordinary Word or RDLC layouts do not automatically become composite layouts.

Themes and reusable header/footer are GA in BC29; New Document Report Experience is disabled by default.

[Update 29.0 for Business Central 2026 release wave 2](#)

[Report and document layouts overview](#)

[Set up reusable themes and header and footer layouts](#)

Optional deep technical notes: report composition and evidence

Presentation reuse and financial report packaging solve different problems.

Themes and header/footer resolve independently, and extension-provided parts can affect precedence. Approval controls new assignment; retiring an assigned part does not clear the assignment. Financial report packages combine selected reports into one PDF with report-specific filters. Automatic definition-change logging in 2026 wave 2 differs from run/view/export logs. Neither packaging nor logging validates accounting logic or performs consolidation.

Lifecycle and scheduling include established capabilities; not every supporting behavior is new in October.

[Set up reusable themes and header and footer layouts](#)

[View a financial report](#)

[Auditing and financial reporting](#)

Connect a bounded business question

The proposed balance or overdue-invoice question is a hypothetical evaluation, not an executed query.

Start with supported API coverage, a narrow configuration and an appropriately authorized user. Check company, period, currency and accounting meaning against a known Business Central result. Read-only access prevents writes through that tool set; it does not make data disclosure or a misleading answer impossible. A compatible AI client and correct authentication are still required.

Business-data MCP is for Business Central online. API-based access and direct data-query tools have different status.

[Model Context Protocol \(MCP\) in Business Central overview](#)

[Configure the Business Central MCP server](#)

[Use Business Central MCP with non-Microsoft clients](#)

Optional deep technical notes: MCP status and surfaces

Do not collapse every Microsoft MCP endpoint into one capability.

API expansion/query support has a June 12, 2026 GA record. Direct Data Query Tools remain labeled preview in current setup guidance despite the broader BC29 GA query headline. Admin Center MCP is a separate production-ready preview; AL troubleshooting MCP is a debugging surface requiring a paused debug session. The built-in read-only default can be replaced by an administrator-designated default. Writes require configuration, permitted operations and user access; OAuth consent alone does not erase those checks.

The direct-query status conflict is recorded, not silently resolved.

[Model Context Protocol \(MCP\) in Business Central overview](#)

[Configure the Business Central MCP server](#)

[Use Business Central MCP with non-Microsoft clients](#)

[Unlock more Business Central data with MCP server enhancements](#)

[Business Central Admin Center MCP server](#)

Measure both sides of an index change

A hypothetical quiet week is not proof that a month-end index has no value.

Indexes can improve reads while costing storage and write maintenance. Observe representative activity and involve a qualified administrator or developer before a narrow test. Disabling is immediate, but re-enabling is queued for the next scheduled midnight process. Plan that asymmetry rather than assuming an instant undo.

General index management predates October; BC29 lists expanded SIFT controls as GA.

[Update 29.0 for Business Central 2026 release wave 2](#)

[Manage database index usage](#)

Optional deep technical notes: index evidence

This episode does not prescribe production tuning or promise a measured performance gain.

Current live guidance protects unique, primary-key and systemid indexes; the older blanket SIFT exclusion is stale. Usage metrics come from SQL counters that can reset on engine startup. A zero counter is not a lifetime history. No time zone for the midnight process or detailed SIFT-specific tuning recipe was established.

Checked against current Microsoft index-management and SQL counter documentation, October 16, 2026.

[Update 29.0 for Business Central 2026 release wave 2](#)

[Manage database index usage](#)

[Index usage statistics reference](#)

Test the interface and the business outcome separately

A working screen is not evidence that an external integration contract still works.

BC29 removes publishing Microsoft UI pages as SOAP endpoints, not every SOAP service. Inventory actual consumers and choose a supported API contract rather than merely replacing a URL. Page Scripting can capture supported client steps and expected-result checks, but does not prove external API behavior. Use controlled sandbox data for state-changing replay.

The specific SOAP cutoff applies in v29; Page Scripting reaches GA in BC29.

[Update 29.0 for Business Central 2026 release wave 2](#)

[Use the page scripting tool for acceptance testing](#)

[SOAP web services](#)

Optional deep technical notes: upgrade test boundaries

UI regression, AL tests and external integration tests answer different questions.

Microsoft-page OData removal in v30 is a separate future change. Page Scripting requires recording/playback permissions and does not automate arbitrary web pages, embedded Power BI or control add-ins. Replay changes actual data; stepping backward does not undo it. Selected-row-count validation requires the whole list loaded. Pipeline replay predates the current GA milestone.

Version-specific scope is essential; no universal claim that all integrations stop working in October.

[Use the page scripting tool for acceptance testing](#)

[SOAP web services](#)

[Deprecated features in the platform](#)

[Run page scripts in pipelines for automated testing](#)

The connector has its own calendar

A Shopify-specific planning discovery, not a universal deadline for every webshop integration.

Microsoft maps the spring 2026 connector to Shopify API 2026-01 and the autumn connector to 2026-07. Its FAQ advises acting before year-end for the spring connector and distinguishes the API calendar from the Business Central major-update window. Shopify's current schedule instead lists 2026-01 through January 16, 2027 at 15:00 UTC and documents fallback to the oldest accessible stable version. This discrepancy is not proof of either a universal January 1 outage or safe compatibility after fallback. Identify the actual connector/API dependency, use a supported upgrade route and verify order and inventory synchronization.

Primary documentation checked October 16, 2026. Microsoft's December 31 statement and Shopify's January 16 schedule differ; verify current guidance for the actual installation.

[FAQ for technical details](#)

[About Shopify API versioning](#)