Preface

When looking for a business management solution supporting business processes in mid-sized and large companies, Microsoft Dynamics AX is likely to be your favorite. Because of its deep functional and technological integration, it is also a good choice for universities teaching ERP systems.

Reading this Book

The primary purpose of this book is to provide you with a good knowledge of the standard application concept and functionality, enabling you to run business processes in Microsoft Dynamics AX 2012. This book applies to you, if you are an end user, student, or consultant interested in learning how to use Dynamics AX.

Going beyond the operations on the user interface, you will also learn how the different parts of the application work together. As a result, you will also take advantage from learning the end-to-end application concept, if you are a system administrator, developer, IT executive or experienced consultant not knowing the complete application already.

Actually working in an application is the best way to learn it. This book therefore includes exercises building up on each other in a comprehensive case study. If you need support for the exercises, a free download of sample solutions is available.


Since Dynamics AX is a very comprehensive business solution, it is not possible to cover all parts of the application in a single book. In order to provide a profound understanding of the core application, this book addresses the primary functionality in supply chain (including trade, logistics and production control) and finance management. It shows the application, but does not cover tasks in system administration and development. If you want to learn more about the concepts and options for implementing Dynamics AX, the book “Implementing Microsoft Dynamics AX 2012 with Sure Step 2012” by Keith Dunkinson and Andrew Birch might be interesting for you.

Applicable Settings

In Dynamics AX, you can individually choose the language of your user interface. Descriptions and illustrations in this book refer to the language “EN-US”. Whereas
it is obvious that the Dynamics AX client displays different labels when choosing languages like Spanish or Russian, there are also differences when selecting British English. For example, the label for the field “Sales tax” is “VAT” in British English. Other differences between your application and the descriptions in the book are possibly caused by your permissions, by applicable local features, or by specific modifications and features implemented in your Dynamics AX system.

In order to benefit from the explanations, it is recommended to access a Dynamics AX application. A separate test application for executing the exercises minimizes the risk of affecting actual company data.

The exercises and illustrations refer to a sample company “Anso Technologies Ltd.”, which shows a simple setup limited to the described functionality. In order to grant flexibility for selecting the training environment, the tasks in the exercises are specified in a way that you can also use the Microsoft standard demo environment (“Contoso”) or any other test environment.

This book has been updated for Microsoft Dynamics AX 2012 R3. If you are using Dynamics AX 2012 R2 or the initial version of Dynamics AX 2012, a limited number of features and settings work different. Notes in the book show the differences of the initial version and R2, enabling you to use this book in all versions of Dynamics AX 2012. If you want to know in which version you are working, click the button Help / About Microsoft Dynamics AX in the command bar of the Dynamics AX client – the dialog then shows if you use R2 or R3.

Available Support

In order to download solutions to the exercises in this book and other applicable resources, please access the online service of the publisher or following web site:

http://axbook.addyn.com

If you have comments or questions regarding the book or the exercises, please contact me through the web site mentioned above or via e-mail to lua@addyn.com.

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