

Preface

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. This book is primarily designed for end users, students, and consultants interested in learning how to use Dynamics AX.

Going beyond the operations on the user interface, you will 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 with the exercises, a free download of sample solutions is available.

Dynamics AX is a very comprehensive business solution, making it impossible 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 and logistics, and production control) and in finance management. It shows the application, but does not cover tasks in system administration and development.

Microsoft Dynamics AX Version

This book is based on Microsoft Dynamics AX released in March 2016 and updated in May 2016. It is an update of my previous book editions on Dynamics AX 2012.

Microsoft Dynamics AX in the current release officially hasn't got a version number, it is just called "Microsoft Dynamics AX" without version. The internal build version of this release is 7.0. Since the label "Dynamics AX" does not always make clear if an instruction refers to the latest release or generally applies to all releases, descriptions in this book use the name 'AX 7' when pointing out specific items of the latest release.

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" (United States English). 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 permission settings, by local features, or by specific modifications and features in your application.

In order to benefit from the explanations, it is recommended to access a working environment of Dynamics AX. A separate test application, where you can execute the exercises, is required to avoid an impact on actual company data.

For the screenshots in this book, the color theme “High contrast” and a small element size has been selected in the visual preferences of the user options. The illustrations refer to a sample company “Anso Technologies Ltd.”, which includes a simple setup limited to the described functionality. In order to grant a flexible choice of the training environment, the tasks in the exercises are specified in a way that you can use the Microsoft standard demo environment (“Contoso Entertainment System USA”) or any other test environment.

Available Support

In order to download the exercise guide, which refers to the exercises in this book, and other applicable resources, please access the online service of the publisher or my web site:

<http://axbook.addyn.com>

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

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