

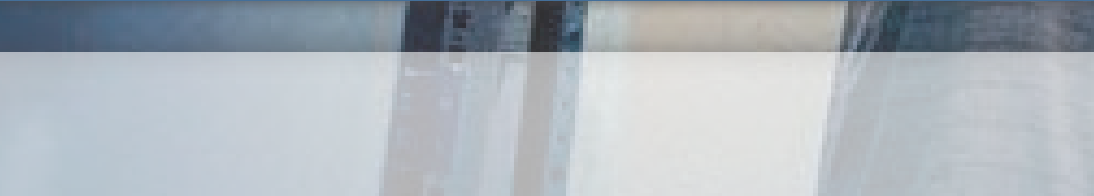


*Microsoft®
Business
Solutions*

Because no two companies
are exactly alike.

MICROSOFT BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

CUSTOMIZATION TOOLS—GREAT PLAINS



Whether your business requirements include specialized business applications, integration of legacy systems, or simply a few tweaks to adjust the software to your preferences, you can tailor Microsoft® Business Solutions–Great Plains® to meet those needs with great flexibility.

The Customization Tools series also provides a suite of powerful, industry-standard tools and technologies familiar to millions of developers. With these tools, you can easily share data and processes with other applications and add or change functionality.

Integrate, customize, and extend your solution to match the way you do business.



Solutions

for Pursuing Your Business Vision

Microsoft Business Solutions–Great Plains offers integrated capabilities for financial management, distribution, manufacturing, project accounting, human resource management, business analytics, and customer relationship management. By delivering deep access to decision-driving information, a rapid return on investment, and expert, dedicated customer service, Microsoft Great Plains helps you grow and manage your business better.

Microsoft Business Solutions for Customization Tools includes:

eConnect

Build custom solutions for high-volume, high-speed programmatic integration between Microsoft Great Plains and external applications using the eConnect series of programmable tools.

Integration Manager

Easily integrate and incorporate data—including XML, most Open Database Connectivity (ODBC) data sources, and comma- and tab-delimited text files—from virtually any database or desktop application into Microsoft Great Plains.

Modifier with Microsoft Visual Basic for Applications (VBA)

Designed for both developers and end-users, Modifier with Visual Basic for Applications (VBA) offers a widely used development environment and rich customization tools that provide maximum benefit to your organization.

Dexterity

Customize Microsoft Great Plains applications using Dexterity, which provides developers an integrated macro language especially suited for new modules or customizations that extensively access the Great Plains database.

Software Development Kit (SDK)

Work directly with data tables to create extended customizations and integrations via the SDK. Comprehensive documentation includes an outline of the Great Plains data model, while essential tools further help developers to make customizations and integrations.

“I love how seamlessly this solution operates. It’s easy to configure and as we improve our business processes, we can rapidly modify our solution without the high cost of custom programming.”

JOHN KIESTER
DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

ROKENBOK TOY COMPANY

Tools that extend your business management system

Connect your organization's applications and data to create a powerful flow of information that enables smarter decisions and a more productive workforce. With eConnect, you can use the latest industry-standard technologies to create real-time, transactional connections across Microsoft Great Plains, external applications, and outside organizations.

Industry-standard technologies that drive your system forward

With eConnect, developers can design integration packages that permit outside data sources such as Web storefronts, Web services, legacy applications, and more to interact with Microsoft Great Plains applications. Accessing business objects using eConnect allows full data integration from data sources based on non-Microsoft platforms.

- Instead of rebuilding transportation protocols, developers can focus on XML and business logic development. By enabling efficient customizations of your existing infrastructure, eConnect helps reduce IT costs and increases your return on investment.
- Utilize the latest industry-standard technologies, including Visual Basic objects, stored procedures, BizTalk Server AIC adapters, COM integration, MSMQ, and XML documents exchange. Integrate with business objects that act as a doorway for imported data, helping ensure data validation and returning well-formed XML.
- Reduce your development costs by utilizing existing investments. Combining industry-standard technologies with eConnect enables integrations with the business logic stored in Microsoft Great Plains.
- Extend business logic to suit the specific needs of your business. eConnect provides multiple methods of adding new business logic appropriate to your organization, including adding additional XML nodes, pre- and post-SQL procedures, and custom middleware.
- With open access to eConnect's extensive integration tool kit, developers can implement eConnect quickly and design customizations for your business solution.

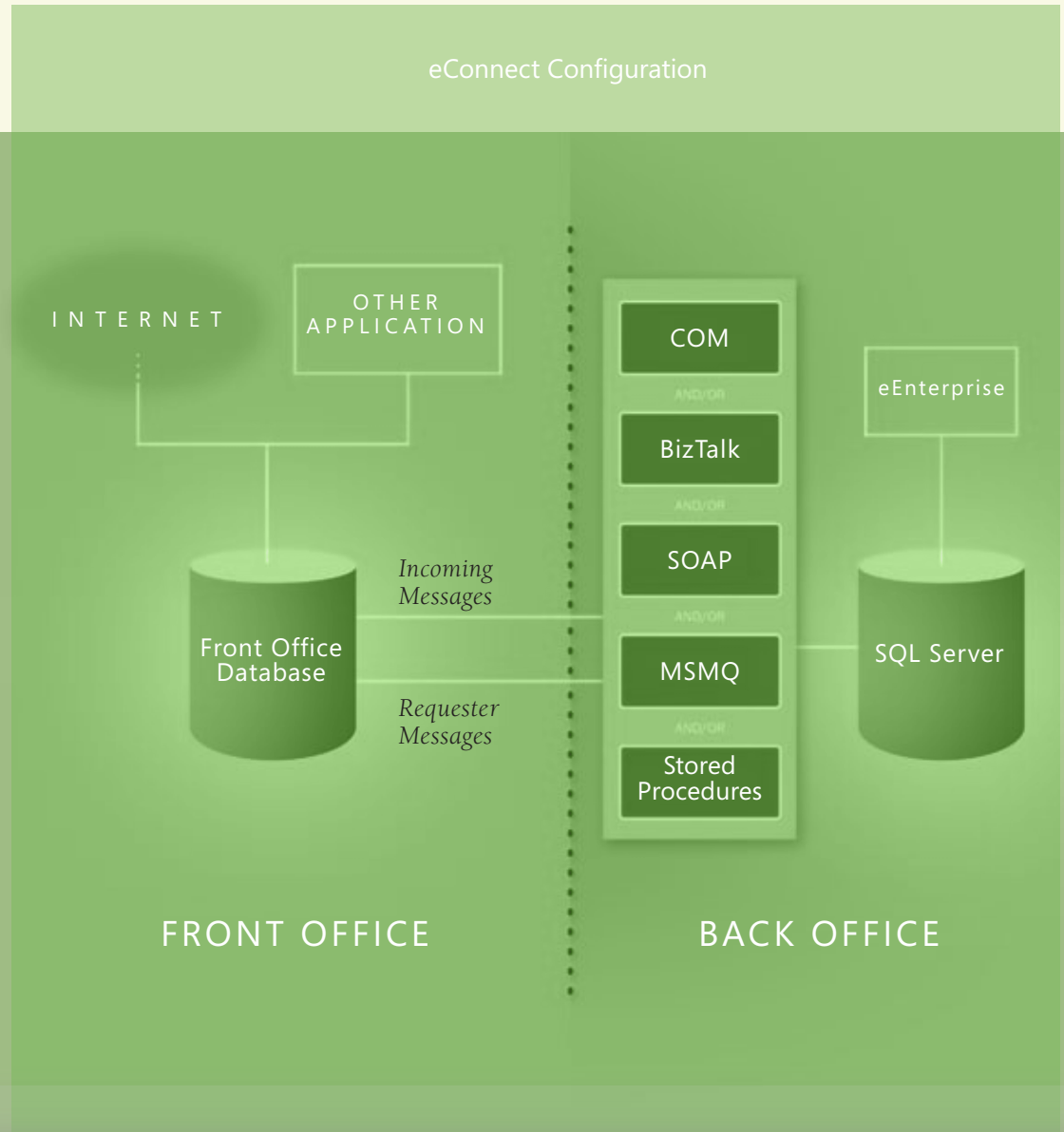
End-user benefits that improve productivity and business insight

Using eConnect to design your customized business solution provides advantages for your end-users as well.

- Eliminate duplicate effort by using eConnect to pass XML documents in and out of Microsoft Great Plains, streamlining data entry processes, reducing re-keying of information, and tying your systems together.
- Make better business decisions with easier access to powerful information. eConnect supports the ability to build applications that connect to your financial management data and support many different models for data access.
- Share information back and forth across multiple applications, giving you the information you need, when you need it.

“By leveraging eConnect technology, a key component of eStore Advantage, we are able to provide a solution that is seamlessly integrated with Microsoft Great Plains. This helps companies to optimize business operations and increase their bottom line.”

DONTE KIM
PRESIDENT
NODUS TECHNOLOGIES



Work with a familiar, reliable development environment

Designed for both developers and end-users, Modifier with Visual Basic for Applications (VBA) enables you to customize data entry windows for ease of use and better workflow with Visual Basic tools and cost-effective development resources.

Great Plains Modifier

Great Plains Modifier provides the ability to customize Microsoft Great Plains windows quickly. This includes rearranging window layout and customizing the look and feel of individual data entry windows, as well as making global changes to prompt and message text.

Visual Basic for Applications

Visual Basic for Applications allows you to embed business rules within Great Plains application logic, integrate custom ActiveX controls with Great Plains forms, or tightly integrate Great Plains with popular productivity and business packages.

These tools enable efficient customizations that maximize benefits for your organization.

- **Streamline data entry for each user.** Modifier with VBA provides extensive capabilities for altering the display of information in a window, or entering and processing information in new ways.
- **Leverage existing resources.** The same version of VBA built into Great Plains is also found throughout Microsoft Office, making it easier and more cost-effective to leverage development resources for creating custom solutions. Because this is the same VBA environment found in other applications used every day within your business, the learning curve is shortened.
- **Take advantage of new technologies.** Microsoft Great Plains supports Microsoft COM standards and ActiveX Data Objects (ADO) in addition to VBA, so new components and applications are always available. These include controls as diverse as bar code printers, credit card authorization controls, and zip code databases.
- **Share customizations across the organization.** Modifier with VBA allows you to quickly “package” any customized forms, reports, or screens, and e-mail them to colleagues for fast and simple import and installation.

Simplified integrations and customizations

Microsoft Great Plains includes components that allow end users to utilize data from virtually any platform source and help developers to create, implement, and fine-tune extended customizations and integrations.

Integration Manager

Integration Manager allows end users to bring data easily from virtually any database or desktop application into Microsoft Great Plains. These include XML, most Open Database Connectivity (ODBC) data sources, and comma- and tab-delimited text files.

- Define your integration without in-depth knowledge of the underlying data structures or tables. Integration Manager's intuitive tools simplify the process of mapping external data fields to fields within Microsoft Great Plains. You can also customize data processing to meet your specific needs, using advanced SQL query support and built-in Microsoft VBScript.
- Verify the accuracy and integrity of external data before committing it to your database. All data that you choose to import is processed through Microsoft Great Plains business objects, helping ensure that data meets your validation criteria.
- Easily upgrade your integrations from version to version without significant effort. All business objects are based upon the COM standard, providing you with a platform for quickly delivering additional business objects as the Microsoft Business Solutions product line grows.
- Define recurring integrations by using Integration Manager to load data automatically from external applications into Great Plains.
- Review integrations quickly and easily with the Integration Manager Object Browser. System administrators have easy access to all components of an integration, making ongoing maintenance—including extensive error checking and logging—simple.

Dexterity

Dexterity provides developers with an integrated macro language for customization of Microsoft Great Plains applications. Especially suited for new modules or customizations that extensively access the Great Plains database, Dexterity is also an excellent choice for creating new forms linked to the underlying database.

- Create the same look and feel as Great Plains by leveraging an easy distribution and implementation method for stand-alone or integrated applications.
- Speed custom application development by taking advantage of an integrated macro language for regression analysis testing of applications.
- Utilize Great Plains resources with access to all utilities within the Great Plains development environment.

Software Development Kit (SDK)

The SDK helps developers work directly with data tables to create extended customizations and integrations. Comprehensive documentation includes an outline of the Great Plains data model, while essential tools further aid customizations and integrations.

"What we've got with Great Plains is a very strong core product with complete flexibility, and .NET will allow us to customize the software exactly how we want it now and for the future. Microsoft Great Plains is the core of everything in our operations and everything is driven from it, so it is imperative that we continue to keep up with the emerging Microsoft technologies."

HUGH SMITH
MANAGING DIRECTOR

COMPUTERCORP



Realize your business vision now.

Microsoft Business Solutions offers a wide range of business applications designed to help small and midmarket segment businesses become more connected with customers, employees, partners, and suppliers. Microsoft Business Solutions applications automate end-to-end processes for enterprise resource planning, customer relationship management, and business analytics.



More information about Microsoft Business Solutions can be found at

<http://www.microsoft.com/BusinessSolutions>

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