Export to Azure Data Lake overview

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What is Export to Azure Data Lake?

Export to Azure Data Lake lets you connect your finance and operations environment to a data lake to unlock insights that are hidden in your data.

> ⓘ **Note**
>
> Over the past 12 months, we've been working to fill in gaps and add new features that members of the user community have highlighted. **Synapse Link for Dataverse service built into Power Apps**, the successor to the **Export to Data Lake** feature in finance and operations apps, is generally available and ready for you. Synapse Link provides one experience for working with data from all Microsoft Dynamics 365 apps.
>
> We want you to benefit from the enhanced performance, flexibility, and improved user experience that Synapse Link offers as soon as possible. Therefore, we've announced the deprecation of the **Export to Data Lake** feature, effective October 15, 2023. If you're already using the **Export to Data Lake** feature, you can continue to use it until November 1, 2024. If you're new to the **Export to Data Lake** feature or are planning to adopt this feature in the coming months, we recommend that you use Synapse Link instead.
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When you enable the Export to Azure Data Lake add-in, you connect your finance and operations environment to a designated data lake. Authorized users can then copy data from your finance and operations environment to that data lake. Tools such as Power BI and Azure Synapse enable analytics, business intelligence, and machine learning scenarios for data in the data lake.

Install Export to Azure Data Lake add-in

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> The **Export to Data Lake** feature isn't available in Tier-1 (developer) environments. You must have a cloud-based Tier-2 or higher sandbox environment to enable this feature.

Before you can use the **Export to Data Lake** feature in finance and operations environments, your administrator must install the **Export to Data Lake** add-in and connect your environment with a data lake. The **Export to Data Lake** add-in must be installed in your environment via Lifecycle Services. You must contact your Lifecycle Services administrator to perform this operation.

The **Export to Data Lake** add-in requires connection information for your data lake. Therefore, before you install it, you must create a storage account (that is, an Azure data

Export to Data Lake in finance and operations apps

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The **Export to Data Lake** feature lets you copy data from your finance and operations apps into your own data lake (Azure Data Lake Storage Gen2). The system lets you select the tables and entities that are included. After you select the data that you want, the system makes an initial copy. The system then keeps the selected data up to date by applying changes, deletions, and additions. After data changes in your finance and operations app instances, there might be a delay of a few minutes before the data is available in your data lake.

Enable the Export to Data Lake feature

Data and metadata stored in Azure Data Lake

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How data is stored in the data lake

Data in Microsoft Azure Data Lake is stored as comma-separated values (CSV) files in a folder structure that is maintained by the system. This folder structure is based on the organization of data in finance and operations apps. For example, you'll find folders that have names such as **Finance**, **Supply Chain**, and **Commerce**. Inside these folders, you'll find subfolders that have names such as **Accounts Receivable** and **Accounts Payable**. Further down the hierarchy, you'll find folders that contain the actual data for each table.

Make Entity store available as a Data Lake

> ⓘ **Important**
>
> This feature is currently in public preview. This feature is comprised of the following components:
>
> - **Automated Entity store refresh** - Available in Platform update 23.
> - **Entity store data in Microsoft Azure Data Lake (full push)** - Available in Platform update 26.
> - **DataFlows for Entity store schemas on PowerBI.com** - Available in a future platform update.
> - **Entity store data in Azure Data Lake (trickle feed)** - Available in Platform update 28.
> - **Extend analytical workspaces by using PowerBI.com** - Available in a future platform update.

Automated Entity store refresh

You need to enable automated Entity store refresh before enabling Data Lake integration.

1. Go to **System administration** > **Set up** > **Entity store**.

   On the **Entity store** page, a message indicates that you can switch to the **Automated Entity store refresh** option. This option is managed by the system. An admin doesn't have to schedule or monitor the Entity store refresh.

2. Select **Switch now**.

   > ⓘ **Important**
   >
   > This action isn't reversible. After you switch to the **Automated Entity store refresh** option, you can't revert to the old user interface (UI) experience.

3. Select **Yes** to continue.

Business events generated by the Export to Azure Data Lake service

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What are business events?

Business events are generated by Microsoft Dynamics 365 applications when something interesting occurs during a business process (for example, an invoice is posted). They're also generated by Dataverse and Microsoft Power Platform, the platform that underlies Dynamics 365 products. External applications can consume business events and trigger actions. For more information about business events, see Microsoft Dataverse business events.

Change data in Azure Data Lake

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When you select the **Enable near real-time data changes** option, data is inserted, updated, and deleted in your data lake in near real-time. As data changes in your finance and operations environment, the same data is updated in the data lake within a few minutes. You also get the data changes in a separate **Change feed** folder.

Change data in a data lake lets you build near-real-time data pipelines that react to data changes in finance and operations apps. The **Change feed** folder in the data lake contains every data change in finance and operations apps. This folder is automatically created and maintained by the **Export to Data Lake** feature.

Why do you need change data in a data lake?