Integration Manager and Integration Assistant for Excel Comparison

Integrating data into Dynamics can be accomplished with integration tools and technologies that play an important role in your customers business. Each integration tool offered by Microsoft Great Plains has its strengths in performing data integrations in diverse environments and situations. This document outlines key differentiation points between the Integration Manager and the Integration Assistant for Excel.

	Integration Manager	**Integration Assistant for Excel**	
		Build Business Object Wizard	**Build Desktop Application Wizard**
Overview			
Summary	The Integration Manager is aimed at the mid-market type client for use by power Dynamics users who need a range of integration capabilities ranging from source file options to scheduling and customizing integrations.	The Build Business Object wizard is aimed at the power Microsoft Excel user who needs to integrate in data created inside of Microsoft Excel and does not wish to leave the Microsoft Excel environment to do so.	The Build Desktop Application wizard is aimed at the power Microsoft Excel user who has custom forms, such as expense reports and timecards, created in Microsoft Excel that need to be integrated with Dynamics.
Positioning/ Product Description	Integration Manager provides the ability to perform powerful initial data loads and conversions as well as on-going repetitive data loads into Dynamics from any tab- or comma-delimited file or from most ODBC data sources.	The Build Business Object wizard provides the ability to integrate into Dynamics General Ledger, Receivables Management and Payables Management from any Excel spreadsheet.	The Build Desktop Application wizard provides the ability to integrate any custom form built in Microsoft Excel into ANY Dexterity-based module.
User Profile	Dynamics power user	Microsoft Excel power user	Microsoft Excel power user
Technical Knowledge/ Experience Required	No knowledge of SQL or table structures.	No knowledge of SQL, table structures or ODBC.	Some knowledge of Visual Basic for Applications is recommended.

Functionality			
Import/Export	Imports data from tab or comma delimited source files, along with most ODBC data sources. Export data from Dynamics to most ODBC data sources using the Direct to Table Import/Export feature.	Imports data from Microsoft Excel spreadsheets.	Integrates data from Microsoft Excel spreadsheets (custom forms).
Integration Setup	Use drag and drop technology to define the integration.	Use point and click technology to define the integration.	Integrations are defined using a wizard that "sends commands" to the Dynamics application.
Data Restrictions	Yes	No	No
Data Translations/ Cleansing	Yes	No	No
Data Validation	Yes *NOTE: The Direct to Table Import/Export feature is an exception to this*	Yes	Yes
Customization Capabilities	Customize integrations with VBScripting	No	Add additional functionality directly in Visual Basic for Applications.
Scheduling	Yes, using any Windows NT-based scheduler for running integrations at specified times.	No	No
Grouping	Yes, can group integrations in a batch format.	No	No
Technology Platform	Built on Microsoft COM and VBA technologies in a GUI environment.	Built on Microsoft COM and VBA technologies in a GUI environment.	Built on Microsoft COM and VBA technologies in a GUI environment.
Conclusion			
Pricing	Separately priced module.	Included with the Integration Assistant for Excel, which is a separately priced module.	Included with the Integration Assistant for Excel, which is a separately priced module.