



# Fastpath Audit Trail vs Microsoft Dynamics 365 for Finance & Operations Database Log



**FASTPATH**



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In Dynamics 365 for Finance and Operations (D365FO), there is an out-of-the-box piece of functionality called the Database Log which allows you to set up change tracking around tables within the environment.

We are going to look at comparing this native functionality to the features and methodology that Fastpath Audit Trail uses to track changes, report on these changes, and manage the audit data that has been tracked.

Among the questions covered in this eBook are the following:

- How does Fastpath Audit Trail *tracking* compare to D365FO database log?
- How does *reporting* compare between Fastpath Audit Trail and D365FO?
- Does Fastpath have out-of-the-box *templates* around most tracked areas?
- Does Fastpath have *data management* capabilities for audited data?

## Methodology

### D365FO

A SQL trigger-based solution that was originally built to be a debugging/troubleshooting tool. It is notorious for the performance impact that can happen when turning this feature on for a table.

### Audit Trail

Based on the eventing system built into D365FO, we listen for events that occur to tables and fields you are tracking and then record those changes. The solution was built from the ground up with auditing and minimal system impact in mind. We strive for an end user to not know our Audit Trail system is enabled and tracking changes.

## Setup / Configuration

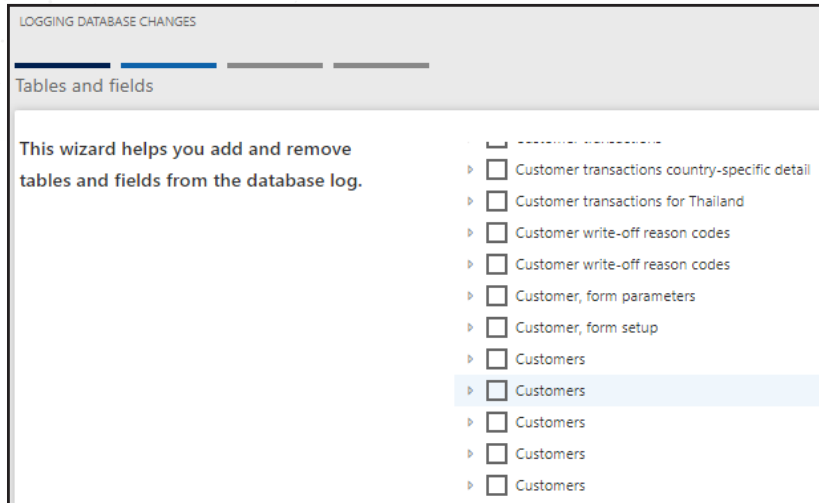
### D365FO

There is a wizard that walks you through table and field selections. There are no templates to help clients get started around most tracked tables.

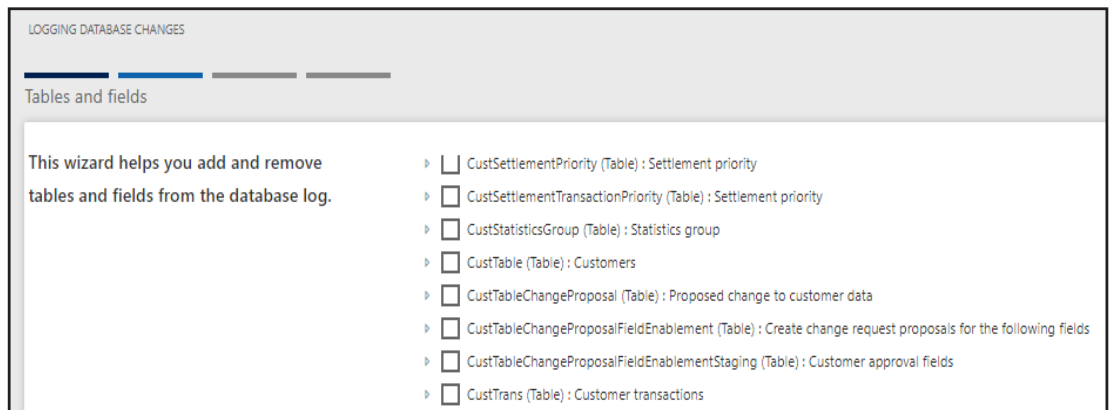
The screenshot shows a wizard window titled "LOGGING DATABASE CHANGES" with a sub-header "Tables and fields". The main content area contains the text: "This wizard helps you add and remove tables and fields from the database log." To the right of this text is a list of 25 items, each with a right-pointing chevron and a checkbox. At the bottom of the list are two checkboxes: "Show all tables" (checked) and "Show table names" (checked).

Item	Selected
Administration	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bank	<input type="checkbox"/>
Case online request configuration key	<input type="checkbox"/>
CIS Payroll	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost accounting	<input type="checkbox"/>
Country/Regional specific features	<input type="checkbox"/>
Currency	<input type="checkbox"/>
Data import export framework	<input type="checkbox"/>
Data validation checklist	<input type="checkbox"/>
Database Log	<input type="checkbox"/>
Electronic banking	<input type="checkbox"/>
Email approval	<input type="checkbox"/>
Enterprise Portal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Event	<input type="checkbox"/>
Expense management	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fixed assets	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fixed assets (Russia)	<input type="checkbox"/>
General ledger	<input type="checkbox"/>
General ledger - advanced	<input type="checkbox"/>
General ledger - advanced II	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human resource I	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human resource II	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human resource III	<input type="checkbox"/>
Intercompany	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lean manufacturing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Manufacturing execution	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marketing automation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Master planning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Master planning service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Microsoft Outlook synchronization	<input type="checkbox"/>
Show all tables	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Show table names	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

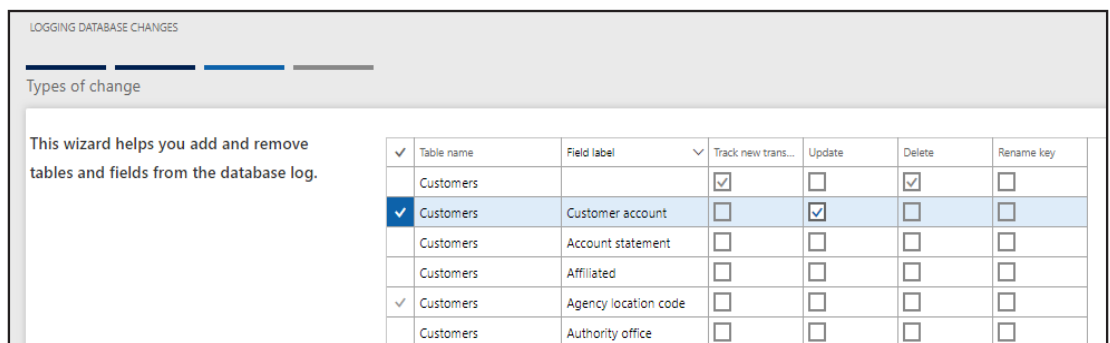
Tables are listed under the modules they are referenced by (cannot just get a full listing of tables). There is no way to filter, order, or sort the tables displayed. If you do not know which module a table falls under you must go through each module to find it. By default, table system names are not listed so there is a chance you can track the wrong table, for example there are five Customer tables listed in the default view.



You must explicitly ask to see the table names to reveal which table you would have to track.

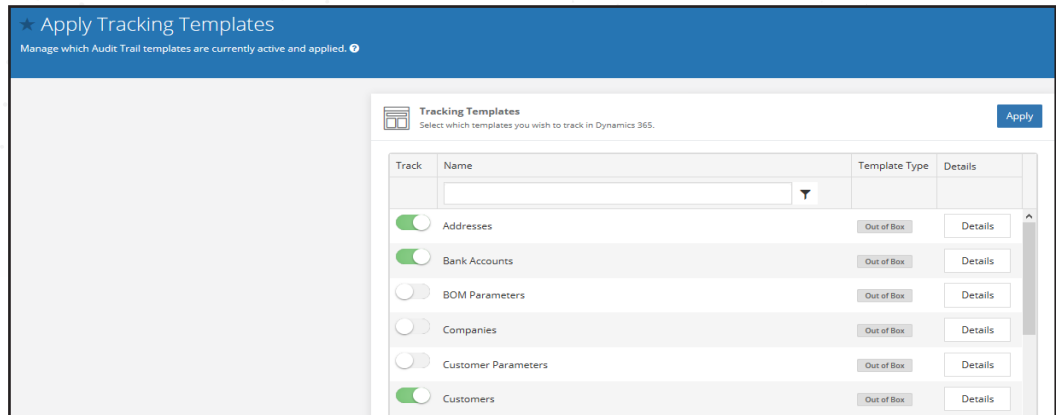


If you want to track Insert/Delete actions on a table, you are required to track all fields on that table. Update events can be done on a per field basis.

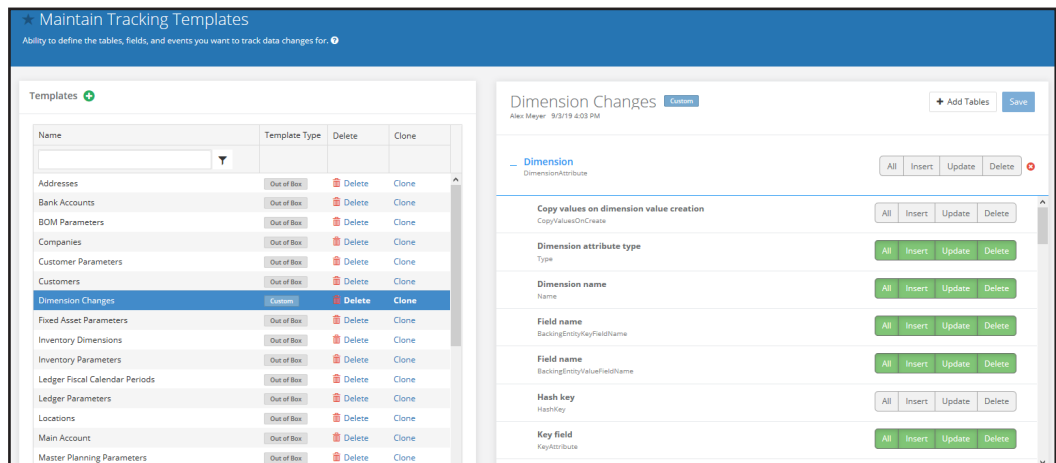


## Audit Trail

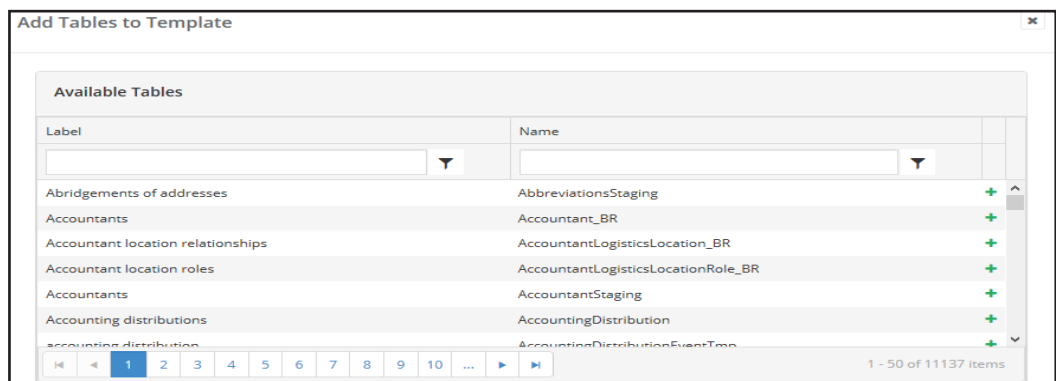
Fastpath Audit Trail has 25+ out-of-the-box tracking templates already set up and designed by our internal auditing team around areas that our clients and audit firms track most.



You can then either use these out-of-the-box templates or customize the templates (or create your own) to determine the table and fields you would like to track. Any physical SQL table can be tracked via our solution. You can easily track all events to a table or go all the way down to the event type on a particular table field to turn tracking on.



When setting up custom templates, tables can be easily searched by their label or system name.



## Reporting D365FO

The database log report shows a header record of events that have been tracked. To see detailed information you have to find the change you are looking for, select it, and then go to the History tab. This is the only report surrounding the tracked data available.

Clean up log Reinsert Database Log Refresh Signature review

### Database Log

Overview History

Reference table ...	Table name	Company	Record identification	Type of change	Created date and time	Created by	Creator name	Signed	Signer
10347	Customers	usmf	US-007,22365425950	Update	2/27/2018 05:02:42 PM	SARA	Sara Thomas	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10347	Customers	usmf	US-007,22365425950	Update	3/1/2018 11:54:47 PM	SARA	Sara Thomas	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10347	Customers	usmf	US-009,22365425952	Update	2/13/2018 05:44:53 PM	Benjami1	Benjamin Da...	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10347	Customers	usmf	US-040,22365426192	Update	7/10/2017 01:19:09 AM	CONNIE	Connie Vrettos	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10347	Customers	usrt	2001,22365423403	Update	2/20/2018 11:53:43 PM	EmmaH	Emma Harris	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10347	Customers	usrt	2001,22365423403	Update	2/21/2018 12:10:17 AM	EmmaH	Emma Harris	<input type="checkbox"/>	

The History tab will then show a historical record of changes to this object along with old and new values. There is also an option to have a user sign off on a change.

### Database Log

Overview History

Type of change	Created date and time	User	Signed
Update	2/27/2018 01:06:54 AM	SARA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Update	2/27/2018 05:02:42 PM	SARA	<input type="checkbox"/>
Update	3/1/2018 11:54:47 PM	SARA	<input type="checkbox"/>

Field name	Value	Previous value
CustGroup	10	30

SHOW SIGNATURE DETAILS

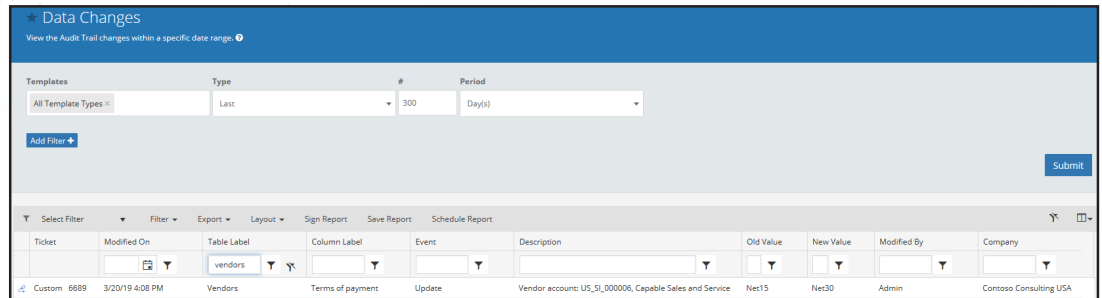
Signer	Reason code	Comment	Signature date/time

Show cumulative changes  
No

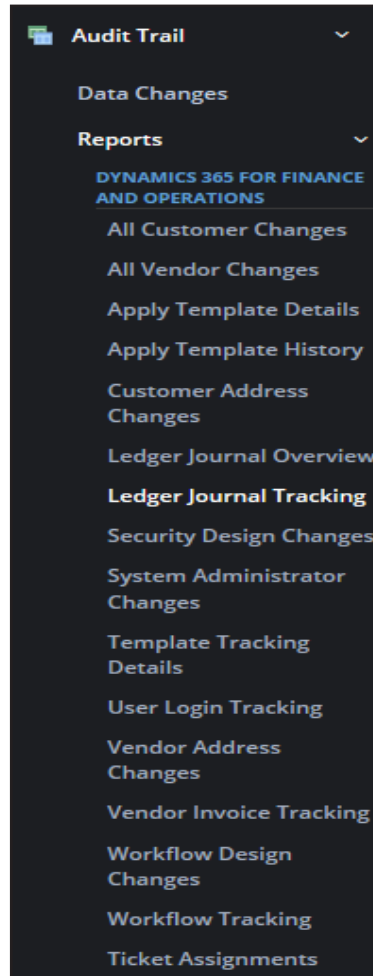
This type of reporting is not very conducive to auditing. For example, there is no way to search for all changes to vendors over the last 30 days and what those changes were, without a custom report.

## Audit Trail

Our default Data Changes report shows all changes tracked by Fastpath with one record for each change. It allows for easy searching and filtering, and also allows you to tie a ticket from a ticketing system (ZenDesk, ServiceNow, Jira, etc) to the change. All reports within Fastpath have the capability to be exported to PDF, Excel, and CSV file formats and can be scheduled to be sent to a user on a periodic basis and then can be signed off by the user as well.



We also have several other reports that report on specific areas of the system you have tracked. These out-of-the-box reports continue to grow with feedback from customers and audit partners, and we allow for custom reports created by customers as well.



Some of these reports go beyond data tracked by our Audit Trail and look at historical data automatically tracked by D365FO. For example, the Ledger Journal report looks at all ledger journals and allows you to see all information surrounding the journal (debit/credit, batch, type, voucher, account, and all workflow approvers). There is nowhere to see a culmination of this data within D365FO.

Transaction Date	Posted Date Time	Posted Id	Posted	Posted By User Id	Posted By User Name	Posting Layer Id	Posting Layer	Company Id	Company Name	Journal Name
5/28/19	6/12/19 8:04 AM	1	Yes	Admin	Admin	0	None	mymf	Contoso Entertainme...	CustPay
5/28/19	6/12/19 8:04 AM	1	Yes	Admin	Admin	0	None	mymf	Contoso Entertainme...	CustPay
5/28/19	6/12/19 8:04 AM	1	Yes	Admin	Admin	0	Current	mymf	Contoso Entertainme...	CustPay
5/28/19	6/12/19 8:04 AM	1	Yes	Admin	Admin	0	Current	mymf	Contoso Entertainme...	CustPay
5/29/19	6/12/19 7:55 AM	1	Yes	Admin	Admin	0	Current	mymf	Contoso Entertainme...	VendPay
5/29/19	6/12/19 7:55 AM	1	Yes	Admin	Admin	0	Current	mymf	Contoso Entertainme...	VendPay
5/29/19	6/12/19 7:55 AM	1	Yes	Admin	Admin	0	None	mymf	Contoso Entertainme...	VendPay
5/29/19	6/12/19 7:55 AM	1	Yes	Admin	Admin	0	None	mymf	Contoso Entertainme...	VendPay

## Data Management

### D365FO

No out-of-the-box data management (archiving/purging) of audited data is provided. This entire process is put on the client to manually perform.

### Audit Trail

Data management functionality has been built into the application, users can archive and purge data from Fastpath, and set up schedules for these processes to run going forward.

**Manage Data**  
Ability to collect, archive, restore and purge Audit Trail data.

**Dynamics 365 for Finance and Operations**

**COLLECT DATA CHANGES**  
Moves audit trail data from the selected product to the Fastpath Assure system for audit trail reporting.

**ARCHIVE DATA CHANGES**  
Archives audit trail data older than the specified date. This will remove this data from your audit trail reports but is available for restore, if needed.

Date \*  
6/15/19  
89 Days Ago

**PURGE DATA CHANGES**  
Purges archived audit trail data older than the specified date. This will permanently remove the audit trail data from the Fastpath Assure system. The purge process will only delete data from the archive tables.

Date \*  
6/15/19  
90 Days Ago



## Get the Tools That Work Best For You And D365FO

By providing this comparison of Microsoft Dynamics 365 for Finance & Operations Database Log and Fastpath Audit Trail, it is our hope that the differences and benefits between the two have been clearly explained.

For a live demonstration which targets your specific requirements, please [contact us](#).

## About Fastpath

Founded in 2004, Fastpath has deep expertise in audit, security, and compliance, with multiple Certified Internal Auditors on the team. Fastpath has global partnerships with several audit firms and a client base which spans across multiple industries within both publicly traded and privately-held companies. Fastpath Assure® is a cloud-based audit platform that can track, review, approve and mitigate access risks across multiple systems from a single dashboard.

Visit our [website](#) for [additional resources](#) like this eBook, on-demand webinars and more.