



FASTPATH

Fastpath Change Tracking vs Microsoft Dynamics 365 for Finance & Operations Database Log





Fastpath Change Tracking vs Microsoft Dynamics 365 for Finance & Operations Database Log

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 Change Tracking 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 Change Tracking tracking compare to D365FO database log?
- How does reporting compare between Fastpath Change Tracking 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.

Change Tracking

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 Change Tracking system is enabled and tracking changes.

Setup / Configuration

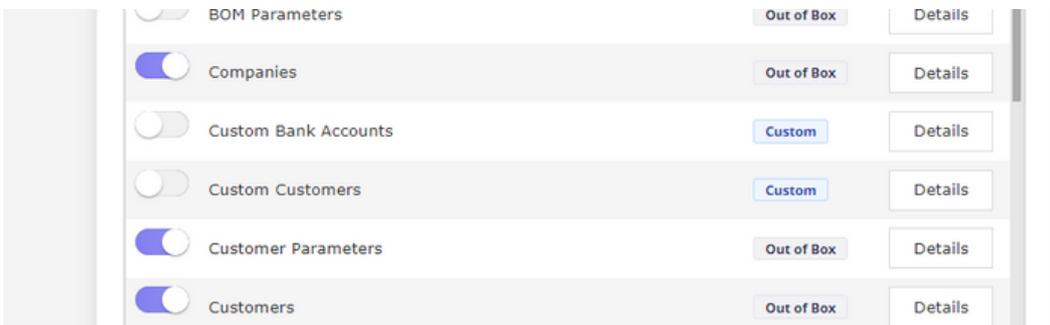
D365FO

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.

Track	Name	Template Ty...	Details
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Addresses	Out of Box	Details
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bank Accounts	Out of Box	Details
<input type="checkbox"/>	BOM Parameters	Out of Box	Details
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Companies	Out of Box	Details
<input type="checkbox"/>	Custom Bank Accounts	Custom	Details
<input type="checkbox"/>	Custom Customers	Custom	Details
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Customer Parameters	Out of Box	Details
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Customers	Out of Box	Details



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.

This wizard helps you add and remove tables and fields from the database log.



- > CustSettlementPriority (Table) : Settlement priority
- > CustSettlementTransactionPriority (Table) : Settlement priority
- > CustStatisticsGroup (Table) : Statistics group
- > CustTable (Table) : Customers
- > CustTableChangeProposal (Table) : Proposed change to customer data
- > CustTableChangeProposalFieldEnablement (Table) : Create change request proposals for the following fields
- > CustTableChangeProposalFieldEnablementStaging (Table) : Customer approval fields
- > CustTrans (Table) : Customer transactions

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.

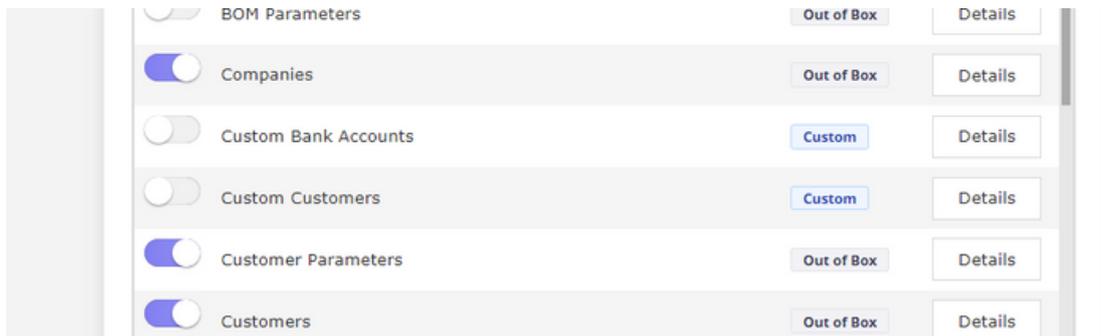
This wizard helps you add and remove tables and fields from the database log.

Table name	Field label	Track new trans...	Update	Delete	Rename key
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Customers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Customers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Customers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Customers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Customers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Customers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

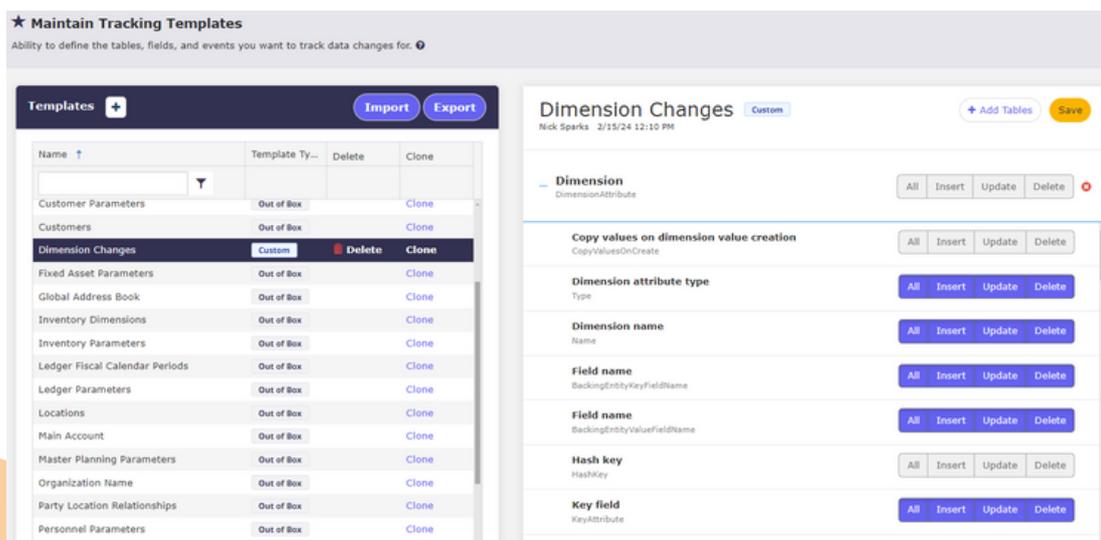


Change Tracking

Fastpath Change Tracking 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.

★ Maintain Tracking Templates
Ability to define the tables, fields, and events you want to track data changes for.

Templates + Import Export

Name ↑	Template Ty...	Delete	Clone
Customer Parameters	Out of Box		Clone
Customers	Out of Box		Clone
Dimension Changes	Custom	Delete	Clone
Fixed Asset Parameters	Out of Box		Clone
Global Address Book	Out of Box		Clone
Inventory Dimensions	Out of Box		Clone
Inventory Parameters	Out of Box		Clone
Ledger Fiscal Calendar Periods	Out of Box		Clone
Ledger Parameters	Out of Box		Clone
Locations	Out of Box		Clone
Main Account	Out of Box		Clone
Master Planning Parameters	Out of Box		Clone
Organization Name	Out of Box		Clone
Party Location Relationships	Out of Box		Clone
Personnel Parameters	Out of Box		Clone

Dimension Changes Custom + Add Tables Save

Nick Sparks 2/15/24 12:10 PM

Dimension
DimensionAttribute

All Insert Update Delete

Copy values on dimension value creation
CopyValuesOnCreate

All Insert Update Delete

Dimension attribute type
Type

All Insert Update Delete

Dimension name
Name

All Insert Update Delete

Field name
BackingEntryKeyName

All Insert Update Delete

Field name
BackingEntryValueFieldName

All Insert Update Delete

Hash key
HashKey

All Insert Update Delete

Key field
KeyAttribute

All Insert Update Delete

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.

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-007,22565425950	Update	2/27/2018 05:02:42 PM	SARA	Sara Thomas	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10347	Customers	usmf	US-007,22565425950	Update	3/1/2018 11:54:47 PM	SARA	Sara Thomas	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10347	Customers	usmf	US-009,22565425952	Update	2/13/2018 05:44:53 PM	Benjami1	Benjamin Da...	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10347	Customers	usmf	US-040,22565426192	Update	7/10/2017 01:19:09 AM	CONNIE	Connie Vrettos	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10347	Customers	usrt	2001,22565423403	Update	2/20/2018 11:53:43 PM	EmmaH	Emma Harris	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10347	Customers	usrt	2001,22565423403	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

SIGNATURE DETAILS

Login ID	Signer	Reason code	Comment	Signature date/time

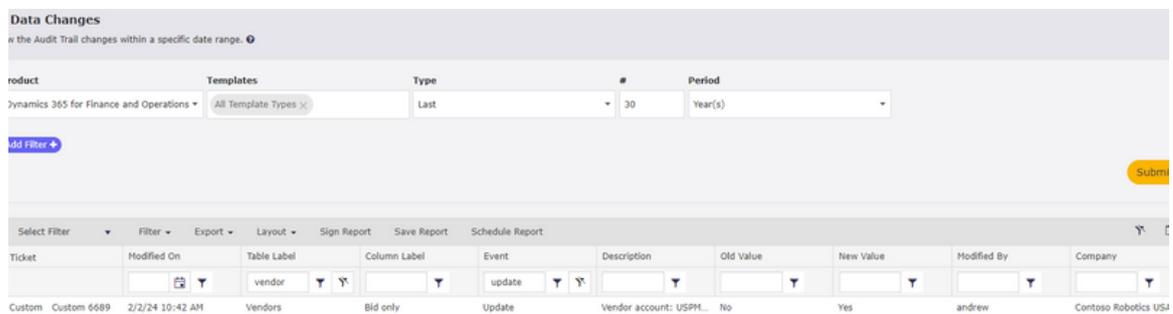
Show cumulative changes: No

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.

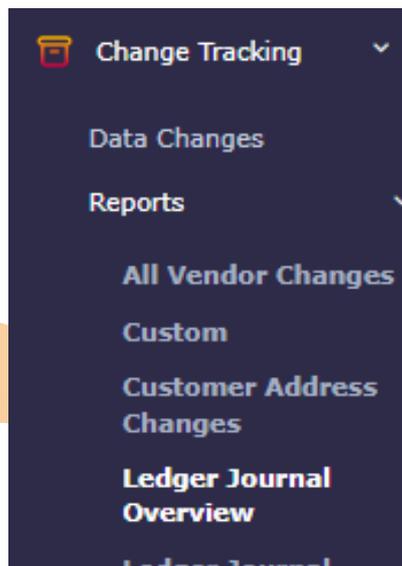


Change Tracking

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 Change Tracking 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.

★ Dynamics 365 for Finance and Operations Ledger Journal Tracking
View detailed information about Ledger Journals.

Type: Last # 30 Period Year(s)

Add Filter + Submit

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
5/29/19	6/12/19 6:04 AM	1	Yes	Admin	Admin	0	Current	mymf	Contoso Entertainm...	CustPay
5/29/19	6/12/19 6:04 AM	1	Yes	Admin	Admin	0	Current	mymf	Contoso Entertainm...	CustPay
5/30/19	6/12/19 5:55 AM	1	Yes	Admin	Admin	0	Current	mymf	Contoso Entertainm...	VendPay
5/30/19	6/12/19 5:55 AM	1	Yes	Admin	Admin	0	Current	mymf	Contoso Entertainm...	VendPay
5/28/19	6/12/19 5:39 AM	1	Yes	Admin	Admin	0	Current	mymf	Contoso Entertainm...	APInvoice
5/28/19	6/12/19 5:39 AM	1	Yes	Admin	Admin	0	Current	mymf	Contoso Entertainm...	APInvoice
5/10/19	6/10/19 4:32 AM	1	Yes	Admin	Admin	0	Current	mymf	Contoso Entertainm...	GenJrn
5/10/19	6/10/19 4:32 AM	1	Yes	Admin	Admin	0	Current	mymf	Contoso Entertainm...	GenJrn
5/7/19	6/10/19 3:50 AM	1	Yes	Admin	Admin	0	Current	mymf	Contoso Entertainm...	GenJrn
5/7/19	6/10/19 3:50 AM	1	Yes	Admin	Admin	0	Current	mymf	Contoso Entertainm...	GenJrn
4/30/19	4/30/19 1:05 PM	1	Yes	Admin	Admin	0	Current	usmf	Contoso Entertainm...	GenJrn

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.



Change Tracking

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.

The screenshot shows a web interface titled "Manage Data" with a subtitle "Ability to collect, archive, restore and purge Audit Trail data." The main content area is for "Dynamics 365 for Finance and Operations" and is divided into three sections:

- COLLECT DATA CHANGES:** "Moves audit trail data from the selected product to the Fastpath Assure system for audit trail reporting." Includes a "Collect" button.
- 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." Includes a date selector set to "6/15/19" (89 Days Ago) and an "Archive" button.
- 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." Includes a date selector set to "6/15/19" (90 Days Ago) and a "Purge" button.

A yellow circle is overlaid on the left side of the screenshot, and a large decorative graphic of overlapping orange, yellow, and pink curved shapes is at the bottom left of the page.



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 Change Tracking, 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

Since 2004, Fastpath has been a global leader in application governance, risk and compliance, enabling organizations to manage and automate the processes around access control and data access risk quickly and efficiently. In a world full of complexity, Fastpath simplifies audit and compliance activities by helping to quickly identify, quantify and manage key risks within all major ERP, CRM and HRM systems. We enable businesses to seamlessly orchestrate their security, compliance and risk management across multisite, multi-application environments. We help clients all over the world make strategic business decisions confidently, knowing their organization is secure and compliant.