

From complexity to clarity with visual scheduling

Visual Scheduling tools that empower
Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central users
to act fast and deliver more



Netronic Manufacturing

Content

About this eBook 03

What is Visual Scheduling? 04

How can a Visual Scheduler help? 05

Why do you need Visual Scheduling in Dynamics 365 Business Central? 07

Importance of current data 09

Visual scheduling tools from Netronic Manufacturing for Business Central: 11

 - *Visual Production Scheduler (VPS)* 12

 - *Visual Advanced Production Scheduler (VAPS)* 17

 - *Visual Job Scheduler (VJS)* 20

7 best practices for Visual Scheduling in Business Central 24

Conclusion and additional resources 26

About this eBook

This eBook provides a clear and concise introduction to visual scheduling in the context of Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central. It's designed for planners, schedulers, and project managers who want to better understand how visual scheduling can enhance transparency, responsiveness, and control in time- and resource-centric processes.

You will gain insights into:

- what visual scheduling is and why it matters in today's fast-paced manufacturing and service environments.
- how it complements and extends the capabilities of Business Central.
- the role of specialized scheduling extensions in unlocking real business value.



Whether you're evaluating Business Central or already using it, this guide helps you explore how visual tools can turn complex data into actionable decisions.

What is Visual Scheduling?

Visual scheduling is a planning approach that combines real-time business data with intuitive, drag-and-drop interfaces, typically in the form of Gantt charts, to create, monitor, and adjust time- and resource-based plans. It's especially useful in manufacturing, project management, and service industries, where understanding task dependencies, capacity constraints, and scheduling conflicts is critical. While ERP systems like Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central generate the data needed for production or project planning, visual scheduling transforms this information into a dynamic, easy-to-navigate visual model.

Visual scheduling allows planners to:

- Instantly see what's scheduled, when, and where.
- Detect potential conflicts or bottlenecks.
- Make fast, informed decisions by simply interacting with the schedule.

Unlike automated scheduling algorithms that make decisions on your behalf, visual scheduling puts the user in control, enabling responsive, human-centric planning backed by reliable data.



How can Visual Scheduling help?

Today's business environment is driven by complexity, constant change, and the need for speed. Organizations are dealing with exploding data volumes, shorter decision cycles, and increasingly decentralized planning processes. In this context, visual scheduling emerges as a powerful tool to translate data into clear, actionable insights. A visual scheduler helps by bridging the gap between your ERP data and operational decisions. By visualizing schedules as interactive Gantt charts, it transforms raw numbers into structured overviews, allowing planners and managers to:

See everything at a glance

- from tasks and capacities to dependencies and conflicts.

Respond faster

- by simulating "what-if" scenarios and understanding the impact of scheduling changes in real-time.

Stay in control

- with drag & drop adjustments and clear visual cues, users remain the primary decision-makers, not the system.

How can Visual Scheduling help?

Beyond simply displaying data, a visual scheduler delivers measurable value across three dimensions:

Information Value

Consolidates decision-critical data into one view, enabling clarity across operations.



Decision Value

Supports timely interventions by highlighting conflicts, resource overloads, and delivery risks.



Business Value

Enhances agility, increases on-time delivery performance, and improves customer satisfaction.

In short, a visual scheduler transforms your ERP from a data repository into a live planning environment, making it easier to plan ahead, react to changes, and keep operations on track.

Why do you need Visual Scheduling in Dynamics 365 Business Central?

Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central is a robust ERP solution that empowers small and midsize businesses to manage finance, operations, supply chain, and more. It's rich in data and offers powerful tools for business intelligence.

However, when it comes to time- and task-oriented planning, like production, project, or service scheduling, Business Central presents data in traditional tables, which can be difficult to interpret quickly.

This is where visual scheduling adds critical value.



While Business Central excels at storing and organizing planning data, visual scheduling unlocks its true potential by presenting it in a clear, interactive format.

Instead of scanning endless rows of information, users gain a visual overview of the entire schedule, including resource allocations, dependencies, deadlines, and potential conflicts.

Put simply: Business Central is the engine of your operations, but visual scheduling is the dashboard that helps you steer.

With Visual Scheduling, you can:

Gain instant clarity

Understand workloads, task sequences, resource utilization, and delivery commitments at a glance.

Make smarter decisions

Evaluate different scenarios, simulate changes, and anticipate the downstream effects of each move.

See what's ahead

Spot bottlenecks, delays, or resource clashes before they affect delivery or cost.

Adapt quickly

Reschedule orders, shift priorities, or reassign resources with drag-and-drop simplicity.

Collaborate more effectively

Communicate clearly across departments using shared visual timelines instead of complex spreadsheets or siloed reports.

Transforming your scheduling processes from reactive to proactive allows you to run your operations with greater confidence, speed, and control.



Importance of current data

Visual scheduling is only as powerful as the data it presents. To deliver accurate insights and support agile decision-making, it must always reflect the current state of your business. Outdated data leads to flawed assumptions, missed opportunities, and costly mistakes.

That's why real-time synchronization with your ERP system, specifically Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central, is essential. Our visual scheduling solutions are built to ensure seamless, low-friction access to live planning data, with just two clicks needed to update the view.

Why it matters:

Agility in Action

Imagine a machine on your production floor finishes early or experiences an unexpected breakdown. If your scheduling tool isn't updated, you might miss the opportunity to reschedule and maintain delivery deadlines; or worse, assign new work to a non-operational resource. Live data allows you to react in minutes, not hours.

Avoiding decision blind spots

Delays in one process can ripple across multiple orders. Without current data, you might not recognize conflicts until it's too late to fix them. A live visual schedule brings these dependencies into focus instantly.

Confidence in every click

When you update your schedule, you need to trust that you're working with the latest information, especially when rescheduling resources, updating delivery dates, or communicating changes with customers.

Supporting operational resilience

Markets shift, supply chains fluctuate, and customer demands evolve. With real-time data feeding your schedule, you can stay resilient in the face of uncertainty - adjusting plans, rerouting work, and making smart trade-offs at the moment.

Ultimately, the value of visual scheduling depends not just on how things look, but how current they are. That's why we've developed our solutions to stay in sync with Business Central, so your visual schedule is always a true reflection of reality, ready to guide your next decision.



Netronic Manufacturing offers Visual Scheduling Extensions for your individual needs

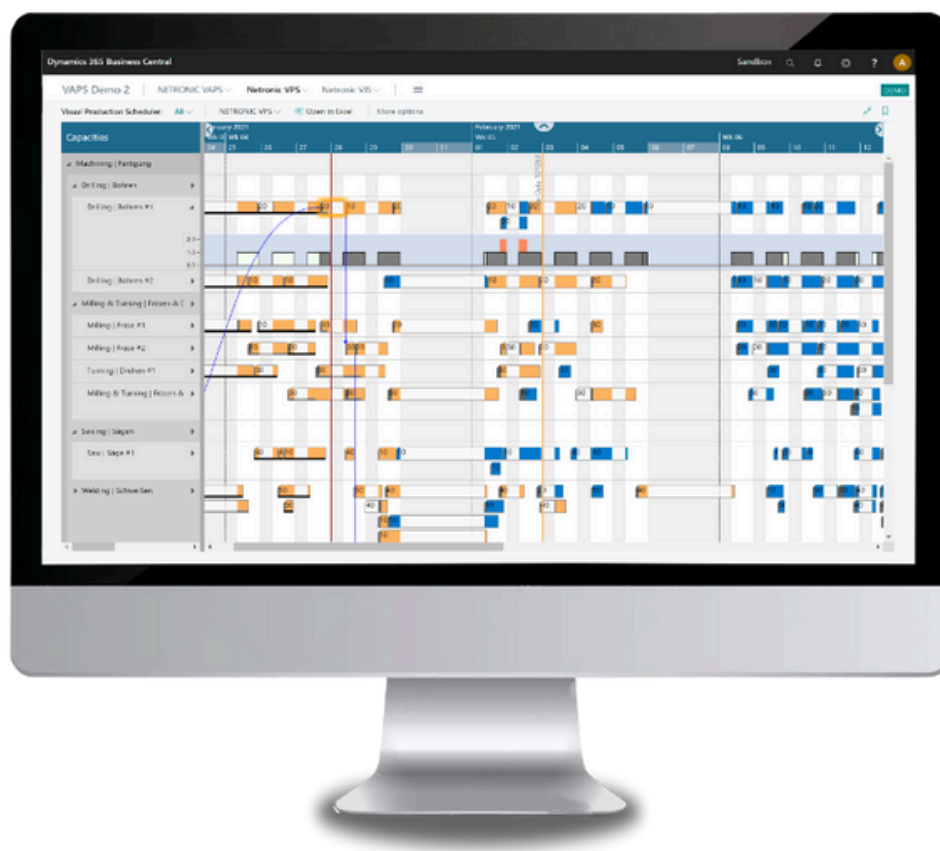
Gain operational agility with powerful scheduling software for SMB manufacturing.

Visual Production Scheduler (VPS)

What's the VPS?

The Visual Production Scheduler (VPS) is a visual drag-and-drop frontend to the standard manufacturing module of Dynamics 365 Business Central.

The VPS allows you to work on the results of the standard Business Central material requirements planning (MRP) process but with an added Gantt Chart that lets you see the production schedule by orders, the operations, items and material requirements, its constraints and capacities.



Why should I use it?

The VPS is an extension developed to address, through its complementary functions towards Dynamics 365 Business Central, the most common questions a planner must answer at any time given: what is the status of a specific order, if deadlines are met, which work or machine centers have free capacity or which seem to be a bottleneck, and if there's enough raw material in the inventory to start production early.

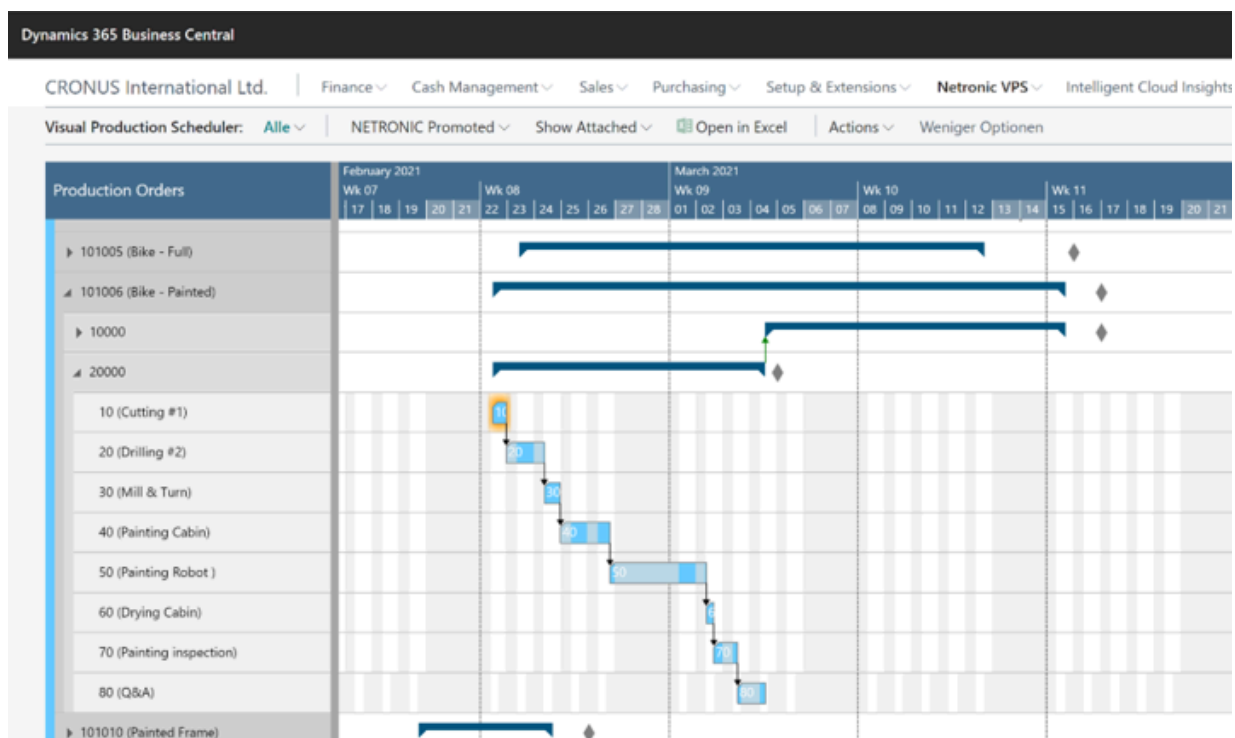
Functions of the VPS

- Based on the unchanged standard Business Central (BC) manufacturing module. Double-click connection to BC cards and dialogs. Integration with production orders, operations, work and machine centers tables.
- Clear visualization of production order routing lines, set up and runtimes.
- Scheduling instruments: (1) Manual drag & drop, (2) Schedule successors.
- Provide different views from various angles on the same data: by production order, by work centers and by loads.
- Work with intelligent and context-sensitive visual alerts.
- Filtering options.



Included views in VPS

Production order



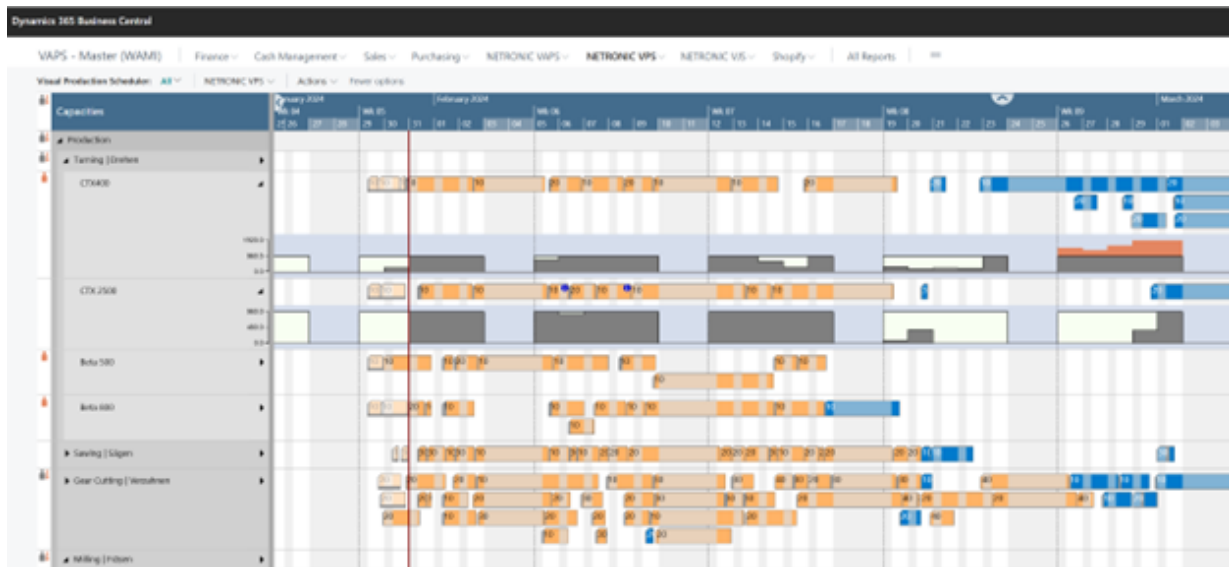
This view enables you to answer delivery date-related questions such as: What's the status of the X, Y and Z production orders? Will they meet the deadline or not?

It shows data by production order status, production order or production order line and works with symbols to visualize delivery dates. In addition, you can retrieve specific data production orders, such as the routing and, the work and machine centers scheduled for each order.

This overview can also provide information on the "critical path" or if the associated work and machines still have some "buffer" to cope with potential delays in preceding operations.

Included views in VPS

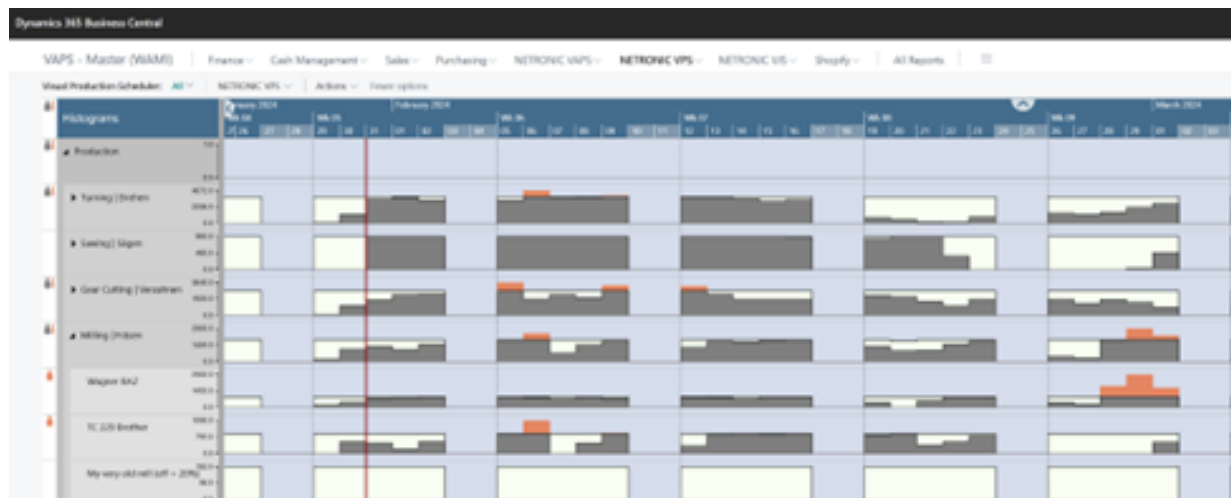
Capacity view



Shows all manufacturing data structured by the registered resources. The production order routing lines are colored by the status; visual alerts appear in case an operation moves past the due date. You can complement the view by showing the amount of hours or units assigned per resource, this is the histogram, or capacity load chart.

Included views in VPS

Histogram view



This view comprises all the capacity load charts at one glance. This way you can see which work and machine centers will face capacity issues based on the current production schedule.

Who would benefit from Netronic Manufacturing VPS?

- VPS (Visual Production Scheduler) is designed for Business Central users who are currently relying on Excel, whiteboards, or paper for their planning. These companies often struggle with a lack of visibility and transparency in their scheduling.
- VPS is designed for smaller make-to-order manufacturers with relatively straightforward production processes. It is perfect for companies that manage a low to moderate volume of new production orders per day and need a simple yet powerful tool to gain clarity and control over their schedule.

Visual Advanced Production Scheduler (VAPS)

What's the VAPS?

The VAPS is the first finite capacity scheduling extension to combine automatic scheduling with drag-and-drop capabilities, fully integrated into Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central.



Built on three smart pillars

To support manufacturers in gaining control over their production planning, our solution is built on three pillars:

Finite Capacity Scheduling:

This approach ensures that production is always scheduled based on actual available capacity. By respecting the limitations of work and machine centers, it prevents overloads and creates realistic, achievable production plans.

Simulations:

Rather than working directly on live production data, users can create multiple simulation scenarios. This allows for safe exploration and iteration without disrupting operations. Once the optimal plan is identified, it can be confidently applied as the new production schedule.

Earliest Material Availability Date (EMAD):

The system calculates the earliest possible date that required components will be available for production. This insight enhances planning accuracy and enables automation based on material readiness, helping to avoid delays and improve on-time delivery.

Why should I use it?

Its finite capacity will make sure you never overload machine centers. To achieve this, any change in the schedule triggers the automatic recalculation of the entire schedule. This principle applies to all routings: whether it's a simple routing, a complex one, a serial or parallel routing. The VAPS may push operations in time to postpone their start according to the set-up the planner has decided. The VAPS lets you squeeze in operations and always get your schedule adjusted accordingly.

Functions of the VAPS

- Includes all functions from the VPS, plus:
- List unassigned production orders on a virtual standby resource. From there, you can either drag & drop it to a machine center or apply semi-automatic scheduling tools. The VAPS helps you by highlighting the allowed alternative machines.
- Automatically schedules a production order – without impacting the overall schedule .
- Capability to pin operations to lock time slot.
- Meaningful colour schemes to focus on various scheduling aspects.
- Allows you to run multiple simulations of the schedule, build scenarios, compare and publish your preferred schedule.
- Takes material availability into account when scheduling, and
- Supports working with alternative machine centers and routings.



Included views in VAPS

The Capacity View offers flexible color-coding options to help you focus on what matters most.

With 12 distinct color schemes available in the VAPS, users can tailor the visualization to highlight specific aspects of production—making it easier to analyze, interpret, and act on the data.

Available color modes include:

- Item View
- Machine/Work Center View
- Production Order Status
- Progress
- Availability
- Wait Times
- Production Order View
- MRP View
- Shop Floor Status
- Production Line Assignment
- Production Line Sequence
- Execution Status



Who would benefit from Netronic Manufacturing VAPS?

VAPS is tailored for manufacturers who have outgrown basic planning tools. These companies are often already using digital scheduling solutions such as advanced Excel models, drag-and-drop interfaces, or standalone scheduling software but still struggle to manage the increasing complexity of their production environments.

Typical challenges include limited visibility and transparency, a high velocity of production orders and processes, and too many constraints and dependencies to handle manually.

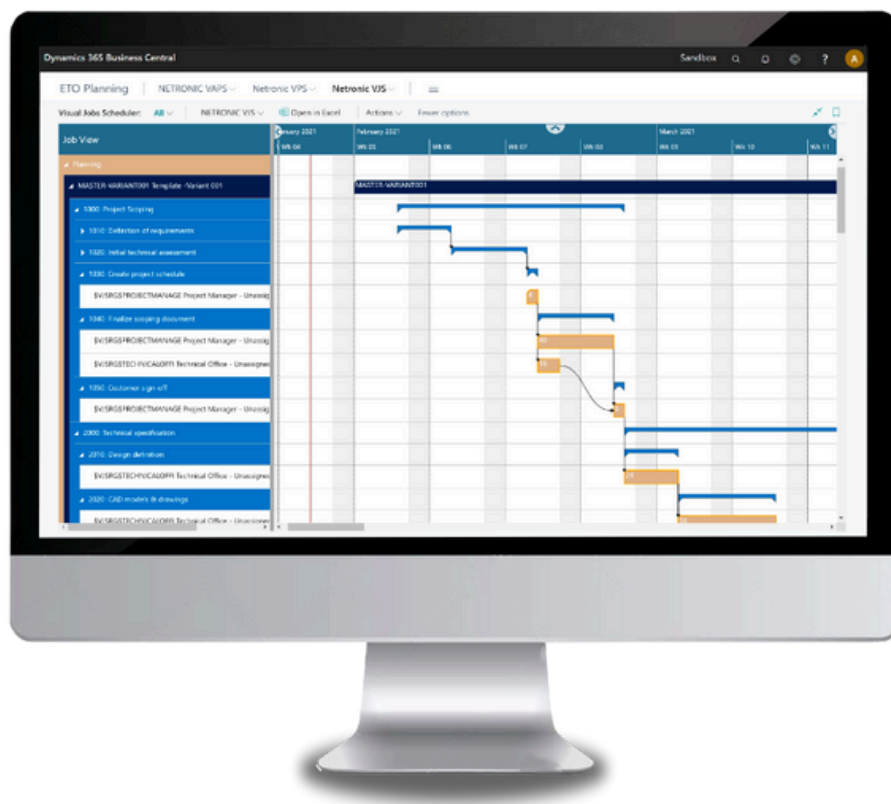
VAPS is especially well-suited for larger make-to-order manufacturers with sub-assembly processes, a high volume of new production orders per day, and a dynamic environment where constant change is the norm and rapid responsiveness is critical.



Visual Job Scheduler (VJS)

What's the VJS?

The Visual Jobs Scheduler (VJS) is a drag-and-drop front-end that enhances Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central's standard Jobs and Resources module. It provides an intuitive, visual interface for planning and managing projects and resource allocations, helping users improve transparency, optimize workloads, and streamline execution.



Why should I use it?

The VJS is based on the unchanged standard BC visualizes the project structure and data model of jobs, job tasks, job planning lines and resource allocations making it easy to use, change, adapt and resolve. This extension can help you answer a lot of questions on the project status at a glance, for example: What is the timeline of my project? How much will a delay in a task affect my milestone? What do my team's calendars look like? Who can I assign to a task? And much more.

Functions of the VJS

Summing this up, a comprehensive visual scheduling solution to better plan and manage jobs and projects within Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central should:

- be based on the unchanged standard BC jobs and resource planning module.
- provide different views from both a project and a resource perspective on the same data, along with their capacities.
- enable users to interactively create, define and save dependencies between job tasks.
- deliver immediate answers to the typical milestone- and resource-oriented questions of a project manager's day-to-day work.
- achieve this by applying intelligent and context-sensitive visual alerts.
- plan resources at resource group level (standard BC doesn't allow this).
- easily extend jobs over a period and visually split job planning lines.

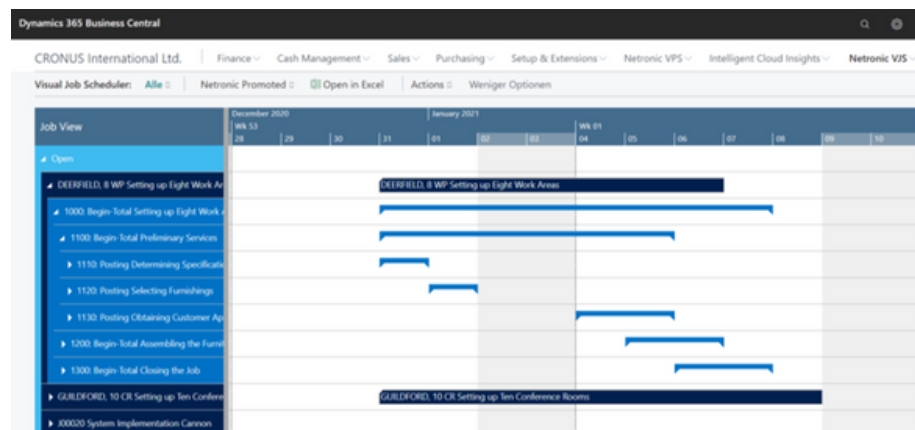
Who would benefit from Netronic Manufacturing VJS?

- Project managers
- New BC users



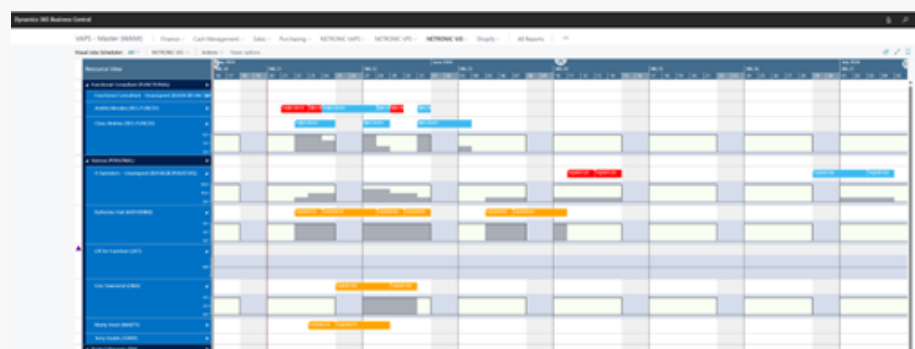
Included views in VJS

Job views



Show the data by job status, jobs, job tasks, job planning lines and resource allocations. Provides you the capability to drill down from a high-level view to a detailed view understanding both the project structure and the dependencies between single job tasks or even planning lines. This view enables you to change the schedule by simple mouse interactions, i.e. drag & drop of jobs, jobs tasks and job planning lines.

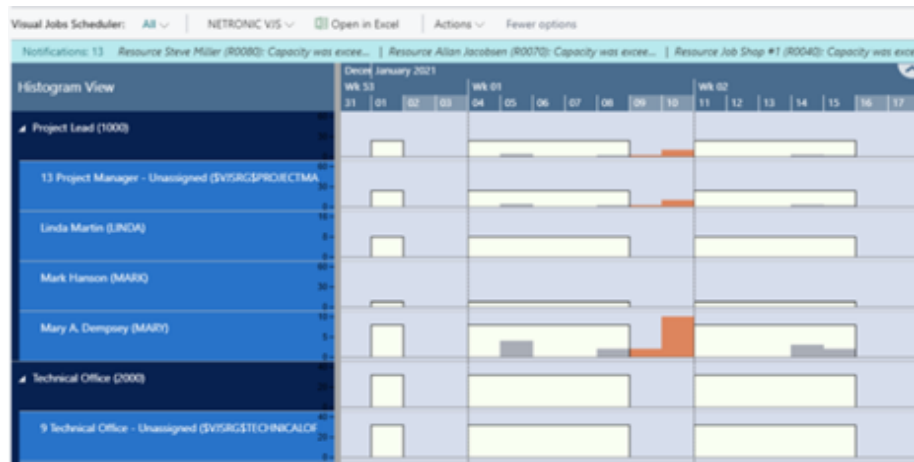
Resource view



This view lists the project data by resource groups and resources. You can identify the project task line by colour regarding to the status of the project as well as the length per task. The number in each bar or "card" represents the number of hours allocated. The resource view portrays the resource utilization in a chart or as we call "the histogram".

Included views in VJS

Histogram view



This view lists the project data by resource groups and resources. You can identify the project task line by colour regarding to the status of the project as well as the length per task. The number in each bar or “card” represents the number of hours allocated. The resource view portrays the resource utilization in a chart or as we call “the histogram”.

7 Best Practices for Visual Scheduling in Business Central

To unlock the full value of visual scheduling, it's essential to follow a set of guiding principles. These best practices rooted in usability, data integrity, and integration serve as the foundation for successful planning and scheduling in Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central.

1. Commit to a Visual-First Planning Approach

Visual scheduling tools are designed to simplify complexity. By presenting schedules in an intuitive format with drag-and-drop interaction and intelligent visual alerts, planners can take immediate, informed action. Once implemented, the key to success is consistent use: empower your teams to fully adopt the visual scheduler as their daily operational cockpit—making it the central hub for all scheduling decisions.

2. Keep Scheduling Data Current and Accurate

Scheduling environments are dynamic—production delays, machine breakdowns, and shifting priorities are daily realities. To reflect these changes accurately, you need a scheduling solution that emphasizes data currency. Regularly review and refine setup times, run-time estimates, and routing data to ensure that your planning reflects what's happening on the ground.

3. Give Planners the Final Say

Visual scheduling is a decision-support tool—not an automated black box. It should surface conflicts, highlight dependencies, and deliver context-aware alerts—but always leave the final decision with the planner. A modern scheduler enhances human judgment by providing clarity and speed—not by replacing it.

4. Design the Scheduler Around Specific Use Cases

A generic Gantt chart is not enough. The true power of visual scheduling comes from tailoring the visualization to match the workflows and decision points of your business. Whether it's managing production orders, field service teams, or project tasks—ensure your scheduler aligns with your operational realities and supports hands-on adjustments when needed.

5. Choose a Native Extension, Not a Bolt-On Add-On

A visual scheduler delivers the most value when it feels like a natural extension of your ERP system—not a foreign layer. Seamless integration with Business Central means faster user adoption, less training, and a smoother experience. Look for scheduling tools that pull directly from your existing data structures—production orders, routings, BOMs, calendars—and work inside the BC interface your team already knows.

6. Select Tools That Support Microsoft's Modern ERP Strategy

Microsoft's vision for Business Central emphasizes repeatability, scalability, and cloud-readiness. Visual scheduling solutions should align with that strategy—working within the platform rather than modifying it. Avoid tools that require extensive customizations or compromise system upgrades. The right scheduler enhances Business Central's capabilities while preserving future flexibility.

7. Avoid static outputs, plan interactively

A visual scheduler should do more than visualize a snapshot in time. It must enable bi-directional interaction: planners should be able to make changes directly on the chart, see the immediate impact of those changes, and commit updates back to Business Central in real-time. This interactive loop turns the scheduler into a living, decision-making tool rather than a static report.

By following these seven principles, organizations can turn visual scheduling from a helpful interface into a strategic capability—fueling faster decisions, tighter operations, and greater control.



Conclusion and next steps

This eBook has introduced the key concepts, value, and best practices for adding visual scheduling capabilities to Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central. But understanding the benefits is just the first step, seeing them in action is where the real impact begins.

As the saying goes: "Seeing is believing."

To help you move from theory to practice, we've embedded all the strategies discussed in this guide into our Netronic Manufacturing suite of purpose-built visual scheduling extensions for Business Central:

- Visual Advanced Production Scheduler (VAPS)
- Visual Production Scheduler (VPS)
- Visual Jobs Scheduler (VJS)



Social proof

“The VAPS fundamentally changed the way we manage and run our production. On the one hand, it gives us transparency and the right tools to achieve stable and seamless production processes. On the other hand, it allows us to react to unplanned incidents quickly and to make the right decisions fast.”

Ignacio Garrido Ceca, Managing Director, Adix

“It was truly remarkable how swiftly we received responses – sometimes almost too quickly to even process internally.”

Andreas Schweiger, Production Manager, Stummer
Kommunalfahrzeuge Ges.m.b.H

"VJS is a 100% integrated solution and has helped us a lot since everything is under one roof. With everything under one dashboard, it has really become easier for our planners to do the scheduling."

Cristian Coianiz, Project Manager, Inarca SpA

"The VAPS made planning significantly easier compared to our previous use of spreadsheets. The visual nature of the tool allowed for quicker and more intuitive adjustments, eliminating the need for extensive copying, and pasting. With the VAPS, we can confirm delivery times to our customers with much more precision than before."

Gary Browning, Business Unit Manager, Alumasc

“Visual Production Scheduler has significantly improved our operational efficiency by enabling precise resource planning and utilization. It streamlines the allocation of resources, ensuring optimal availability and reducing waste. By leveraging accurate data such as capacity and efficiency of Work centers and consequently machine centers, we can now provide more reliable lead times, enhancing customer satisfaction and building trust with them as well as our sales team.”

Claudio Pirolli, OPAL-RT Technologies



Bring Your Products To Life

Boyum IT Solutions is an award-winning software house specialized in empowering SMEs to bring their products to life, creating sustainable and purposeful customer relationships. We care about realizing your vision of delivering meaningful experiences to your customers and are here to help you unlock your business's full potential. For over two decades, we have been committed to this mission, assisting customers in more than 130 countries. With unparalleled support from our trusted network of over 1100 partners, we combine global reach and local expertise to offer you the best solution for your business.

Boyum IT Solutions A/S

✉ sales@boyum-it.com

🌐 boyum-solutions.com

🌐 linkedin.com/company/boyumit

📺 youtube.com/user/boyumit

📷 instagram.com/boyumit

📍 Boyum IT Solutions
Sintrupvej 71b, 1th
DK - 8220 Braband