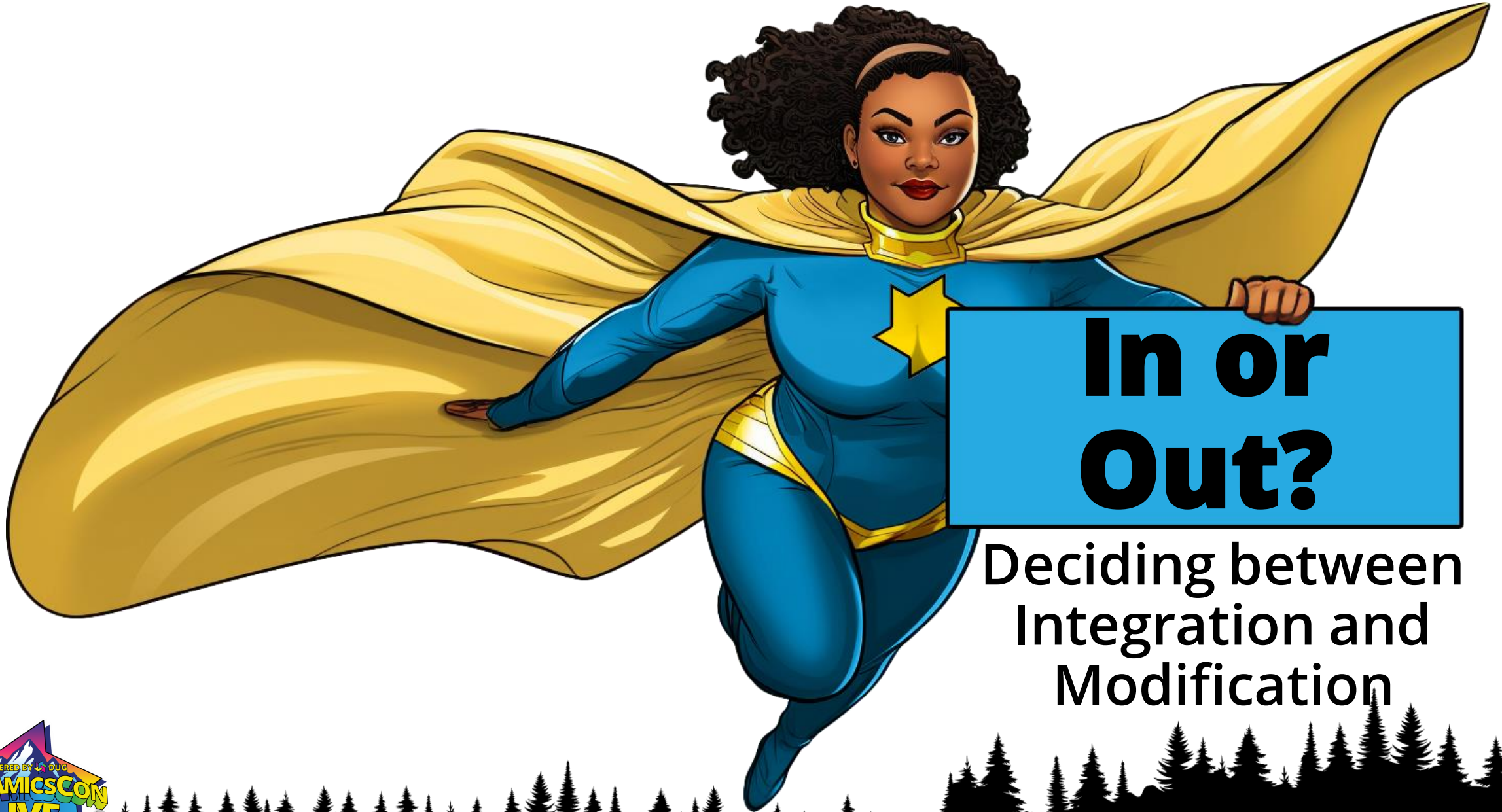




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DYNAMICS CON LIVE

MAY 2024



In or Out?

Deciding between Integration and Modification



Presenter



- Director of IT at VPT, Inc.
- User/Developer starting with NAV 2013
- DUG Meetup Leader
- DUG Advisory Committee
- Gamer



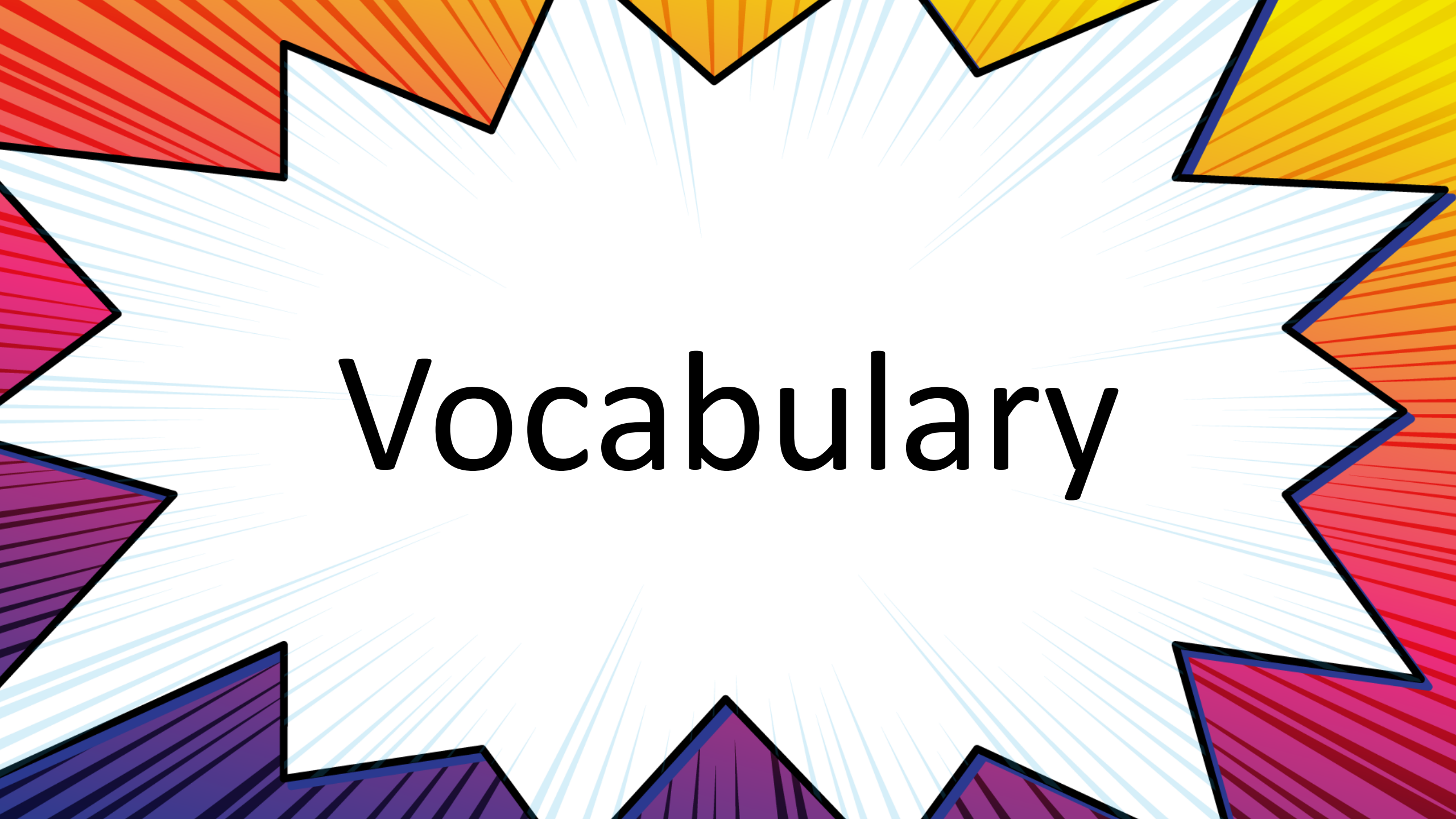


Objectives

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- Quick vocabulary lesson
- Discussion of each approach
- Identify Key factors when deciding between approaches
- Review examples of both





Vocabulary

Words, words, words...

In (Internal Modification)

- No dependencies outside the system
- Only using native interfaces
- Will always be an extension

Out (Integration)

- Integration with an external system through APIs
- May be an extension or it could be completely external
- PowerApps are here but special

Both

- Provide new functionality to your users





In

Characteristics of the approach

Advantages

- No need to deal with linking systems
- Easier to develop/maintain
- UI Consistency
- Easier to manage security
- No potential compatibility issues

Disadvantages

- External tools may be better suited to the task at hand
- BC UI may be consistent, but not well suited to all tasks
- BC Storage space for large datasets can get expensive



Examples

- Adding metadata to Sales Comments to control display on reports
- Adding fields to existing tables
- Creation of additional document types



iDynamics
commissions



Change
Tracking

FOR DYNAMICS 365
BUSINESS CENTRAL



Word Wrap Comments

by Cost Control Software





Out

Characteristics of this approach

Advantages

- Can be easier/faster to build
- Fully custom UI possible
- Utilize specialized systems to handle the data
- Present data to users both in and outside BC
- Data does not have take up space in your BC instance

Disadvantages

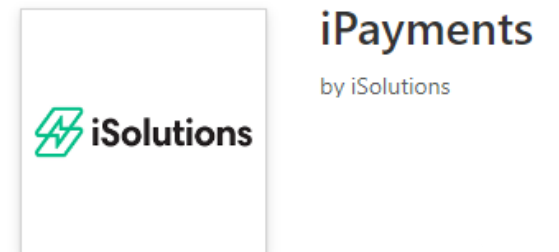
- Security of additional systems adds complexity
- Introduces multiple points of failure
- Requires data synchronization which can be complicated
- Compatibility with both BC and the external system must be maintained



Examples



- Integration with an external system like a CRM
- Putting data to be delivered to customers on a download site and generating a protected share
- Importing and processing incoming shipments from contract manufacturers





Power
Platform?!?

Is Power Platform Special?

Yes

- Easier – Designed for citizen developers.
- MS provided connectors mean that it is reasonable to expect will be well maintained
- Security within your Microsoft Organization

No

- Citizen development without proper planning and guides can be a disaster
- APIs that those connectors consume can still change
- Data sync can still fail
- Security not limited to just configuration in BC





Considerations

Main Questions

- Who is using the data?
- What is processing the data?
- How much data is there?
- Would this be easier outside the system?
- How much risk will the additional point of failure add?
- How complex is the solution?



Specific Configurations


In

- Data only needed within the system
- Maintainers of the data already use Business Central
- Business Central UI makes sense for handling the data

Out

- Externally maintained data
- External system processing is necessary/easier
- Custom UI is better suited
- Large amounts of data
- Risk from additional point of failure minimal





Final Thoughts And Questions

Thanks for coming!

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