DRUPAL partners
A DIVISION OF INNOPPL

The Myth Surrounding Drupal Migration For 2022

Be prepared for a compelling journey that is more flexible, secure, fast-paced, and scalable!

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PREFACE

Way Forward - Drupal 2022!

With the New Year 2022 around the corner, an upgrade to the latest Drupal platform will present a plethora of opportunities for business owners to scale up through strategic planning. 2022 will set the pace to conceptualize the open-source digital experiences that the new version can help attain. This eBook comprises useful instructions to prepare your site and your team.

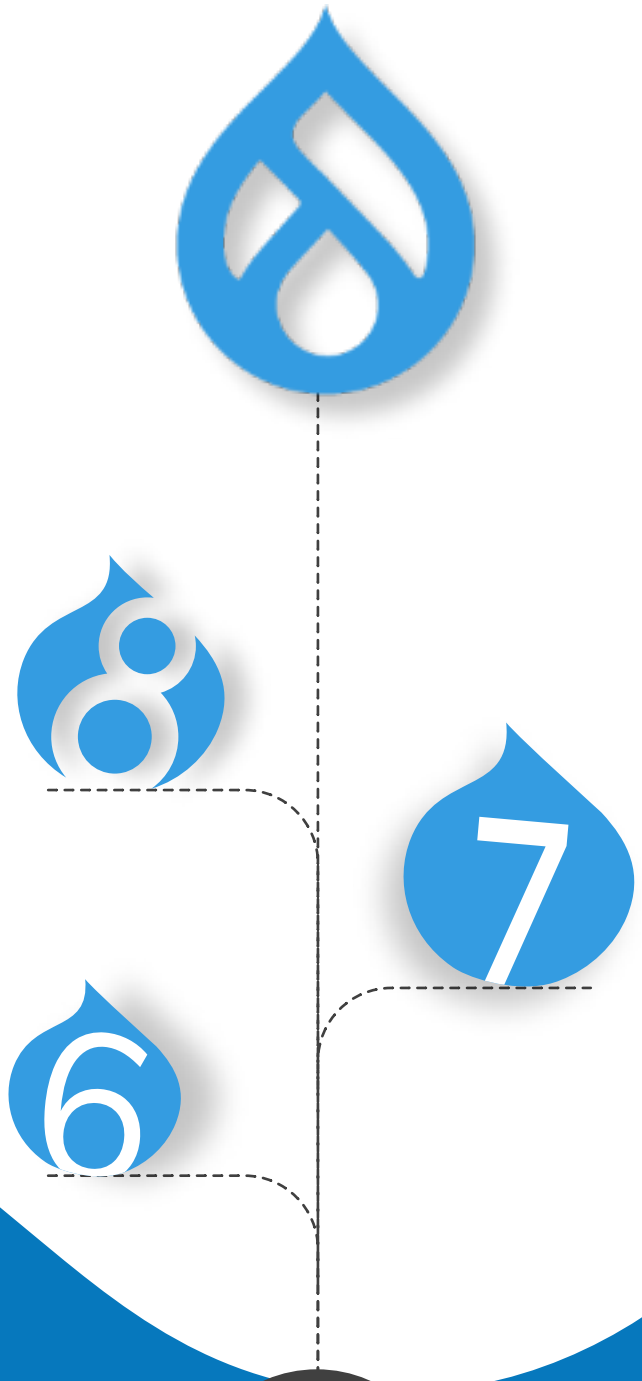
If you are a Drupal site owner, you can better position yourself by upgrading to the latest platform. Buckle up your team to prepare your website to reign on in the future!

THE DRUPAL JOURNEY

Compared to the latest platform, earlier Drupal versions came with vital codes and architectural modifications..

Going from Drupal 7 to Drupal 8 witnessed a well-orchestrated modernized platform - here are some of the essential characteristics:

- Drupal 8 came backed with a robust Symfony framework.
- Twig - new theme engine
- A new text editor CKEditor was a perfect upgrade.
- Drupal 8 boasted of 200+ new features.
- Drupal 7 rolled out in 2011 and Drupal 8 in 2015.



SO, WHAT'S IN STORE FOR THE DRUPAL 9 UPGRADE?

Unlike previous versions of Drupal, the Drupal 9 version is built on Drupal 8 using deprecations and optional updated dependency support. Simply put, there is no new object model to learn, no further data schema to adapt: so, easily upgrade to Drupal 9, and start working.

Drupal 9: Reinvented, not unique of its kind...

Suppose you are wondering that it might require a custom code to upgrade. Nah! Many of it will be upgradable to Drupal 9 on day one.

STILL ON DRUPAL 7 OR DRUPAL 8 - WHAT IS YOUR WAY FORWARD?

Drupal Extended Support

November 2023.

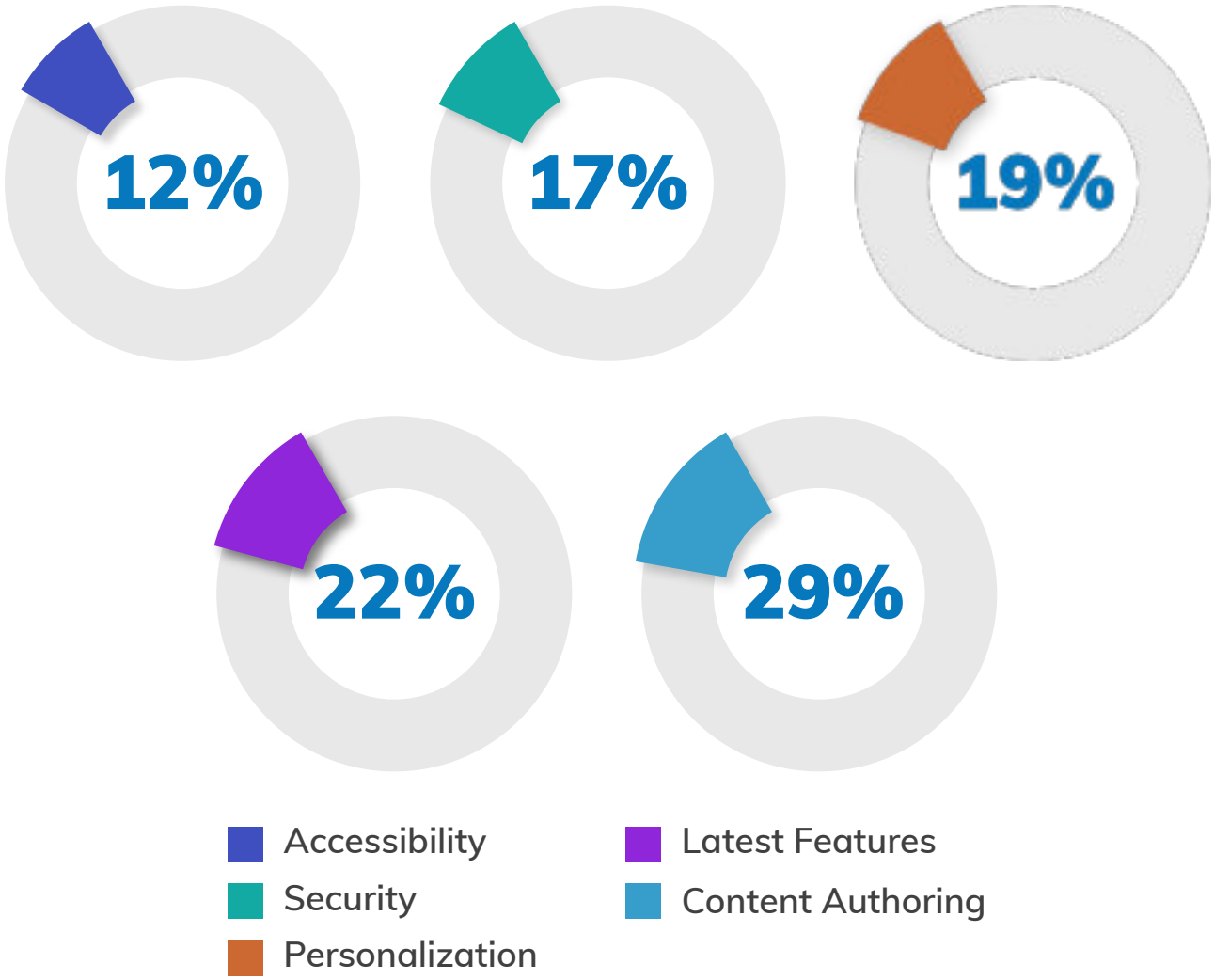
November 2021.

If you are interested in continuing your journey on the Drupal platform, then a site rebuild or migration is mandatory. Even though there is time to settle down on the latest version, we recommend the sooner, the better. This guide is for both Drupal 7 & 8 users; use the proactive steps suggested to migrate before time. Those mentioned above "end of life" date mark the cut0ff of community support for Drupal 7 and Drupal 8.

It is never advisable to run on a supported version, as it is risky in terms of safety and the website's performance. A sudden unanticipated hiccup will get you zero help to have it resolved, so move on to the current version when it is right.

DRUPAL WEBSITE OWNERS IN 2022 - WHAT'S THEIR AREA OF MARKETING FOCUS.

A Drupal 9 Readiness survey carried out by our marketing personnel revealed what really the site owners wanted?



Many of our Drupal clients showed interest in enhancing the content authoring to improve the visitor experience. Going from Drupal 7 to Drupal 8 is significant advancement; thereby, content management may have taken second fiddle to website management.

PREPARING FOR DRUPAL 9

Stay relevant to the overall team's requirements. It is vital to consider the user at all points when determining usability in addition to content, and we have web development and design. All of these substances constitute the success of a strategic digital roadmap. Connect the editors and site builders to get a strategic advantage with the upgrade process.

Simultaneously with the development tasks, there lies a dire need to equip for a Drupal 9 site incrementally; teams can also improve their editors' experience. Structure your upgrade plan to give content authors greater ownership over the site.

CUSTOMIZATIONS & ADMIN INTERFACE - HOW YOU GOT TO APPROACH FOR THE BEST!

Adding fields, making customizations, and tagging on new features without disturbing code is easy. The core codebase and configuration will not change in Drupal 9. But, too many customizations can bloat, create regression risks, and present sluggish performance.

Securing up-to-date help text, reasonably organized fields on content types, and consistent field titles support a straightforward admin interface. Periodic examinations of your content types, site configuration, and fields will protect the well-being of your site on Drupal 9 and beyond.

PREPARING YOUR SITE

Site production involves four code and core considerations that will support migration to Drupal 9.

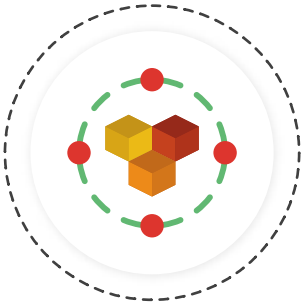
UPGRADE TO MINOR RELEASES

Keep updating the minor releases when they are released to wait as the best compatible for Drupal 9. Here is how it is done:

- Make a backup of your existing database.
- Update all Drupal core code to the latest version.
- Perform any additional steps noted in the release notes.
- Execute any required database updates via update. PHP.

Drupal 9 core - Find out what's new!

Drupal 8 has unfolded productively on a six-month minor release cycle. The new improvements and functionality with each release have been received and implemented well. Drupal development requires these updates to support mainstay contrib modules.



Audit contributed modules

Drupal's contrib modules continue to be significant, connecting dots to strengthen functionality and customize a site's experience. If you're willing to move on to Drupal 9, then running an audit of your current Drupal modules will help you keep up with the pace.

PHP Upgrades

Drupal's underlying Symfony, PHP framework, is updated regularly. Staying up to date on PHP's newest iterations guarantees security and performance boost benefits. It is more comfortable supporting new code rather than juggling all the old versions.

PREPARING FOR TESTING & RELEASE

Usually, the regression test cases are chosen from already created functional test cases. It could be before release when complete regression testing needs to be completed. But, testing creates consistency in releases and can reduce stress about regressions. Here is what you need to carry out:

- **Editor UAT Involvement**
- **Identify "P1" Flows**
- **Consider Visual Regression Testing (VRT)**
- **Automate Smoke tests**
- **Automate Releases**

DRUPAL READINESS & WAY FORWARD...

With Drupal Partners, we will help you evaluate whether your migration plans, website, digital, and design strategies are practical and capable of winning the desired results. Our experts will walk you through the steps in reengineering or adjusting an application or database to fit the new environment from the one for which it was initially designed.

Whether you are already on Drupal 9, Drupal 8, or Drupal 7, we help you with a Free SEO Audit that will get a complete list of errors hindering your site from achieving the top spot on Google. Nevertheless, we are ready to help you at any point in your Drupal journey.

ABOUT US

Drupal Partners is passionate about all things Drupal. And that's why we named our company after it! We've gathered some of the best brains in the web development industry and cut them loose to create mind-blowing, forward-thinking websites. And we want your project to be next! What we're really good at: - Drupal Migration - Drupal Maintenance - Drupal Development - Drupal Module Development - Drupal Theme Design - eCommerce - Responsive Design - Multisites - Intranet.

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