The Intriguing Case Of Migrating Big Fundraising Ideas From Drupal 7 to Drupal 9

A complete overview of the process and steps involved in upgrading from Drupal 7 to Drupal 9.

Drupal Partners Case Study

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About The Client

Ever since 1999, Big Fundraising Ideas has been helping schools nationwide raise millions. With their team of experienced fundraisers, they have held more than 100 fundraising programs for a variety of projects. Their fundraising programs are tailored to each school's individual needs and goals. Big Fundraising Ideas provides comprehensive support from start to finish, including goal setting, donor outreach, and event planning. They also provide guidance on proper budgeting and using resources efficiently.

How it started

With Drupal 8 sunsetting in November 2021, our client was determined to migrate to the major current version of Drupal. They had no option but to go with Drupal 9, which was an incredible choice. This would help them keep a safe and secure environment for the large chunk of data and scale up as when the situation demands. Therefore, bigfundraisingideas.com called upon its trusted digital agency DrupalPartners, to handle their migration hassle-free.

The Challenge

Big Fundraising Ideas were desperate to migrate from the Drupal 7 version and upgrade its platform to the current, secure Drupal 9.5.2 system for more outstanding reliability, performance, and scalability. With a considerable amount of custom-built modules and code, alongside years of content to migrate over, this was a hugely challenging task like any other. Besides these, here is the list of other challenges that were to be addressed:

1. Serve compatibility

2. Security updates

3. Core views overwrite

4. Config sync

5. Customized patches on the custom module, which is not covered on the rector module

6. Layout builder updates

7. Commerce and Commerce Orders

What we discovered

Our proficient team of Drupal-certified migrations experts have devotedly studied and examined the key elements of bigfundraisingideas.com, this enabled us to specialize in both migration and development for Drupal websites. After an extensive analysis, here are our main findings:

1. The website had custom modules built for the client's unique needs that were not compatible with Drupal 9.

2. The content contained a large amount of images, forms, and text blocks that had to be migrated with precision.Code changes were necessary to update the website's functionality in order for it to remain compatible on Drupal 9.

3. We also identified and fixed broken links during the process.

Our Approach

In order to migrate the website from Drupal 7 to Drupal 9, our team of developers followed the standard process of migration, which involves the following steps:

1. Analyzing and evaluating the existing site structure for compatibility with Drupal 9.

2. Identifying any issues or conflicts that would need to be addressed before commencing migration.

3. Migrating content from Drupal 7 to Drupal 9.

4. Retesting the migrated website for functionality and usability.

5. Updating the custom modules for compatibility with Drupal 9.

6. Reviewing and validating all the installation settings, configuration changes, and core updates needed to complete the migration successfully.

7. Resolving security patches and identifying any potential security issues.

8. Testing the migrated website for performance optimization, scalability, and user experience enhancements.

The Migration From Drupal 7 to Drupal 8

Here is the step-by-step process of how we upgraded bigfundraisingideas.com to Drupal 8:

1. Analyzed the migration process and prepared the specifications

2. Take a fresh setup for Drupal 8 and install the necessary modules

3. Work on the Content-type and Field Creation

4. Export the data from Drupal 7 (using the view data export module)

5. Apply the ETL process

6. Install the Migration, Migration UI, Migration Plus, and CSV Migration modules

7. Write the c custom CSV migration script for all the content types, images, media, orders, products, etc.

8. Import the data using Drush Comments

9. Once data are ready, work on the UI part

10. Work on the UI development and move it to QC

11. Work on the SEO and Performance Optimization

12. Once it is confirmed from the Client end, Setup the Live server

13. Do the final Content Migration

14. Test the website (Recognition testing)

15. Move it to Live to the Latest Drupal 8 version

Drupal 8 to Drupal 9.5.2

Here is how we moved bigfundraisingideas.com to the latest Drupal 9.5.2:

1. Existing Drupal 8.9 Database and file backup completed

2. Check the updates for all contributed modules, themes, and custom code

3. Apply the required updates

4. Composer json, composer lock to be prepared for the Drupal 9 upgrade

5. Drupal 8.9 database schema update to Drupal 9.5.2

6. Upgrade contributed modules, themes, and custom code (if compatible)

7. Use the upgrade status and upgrade Rector modules to upgrade the core

8. Testing

9. Launch the new Drupal 9.5.2 site

Key Solutions Provided To Support Smooth Upgrade

1. The Upgrade process included going from Drupal 8.9 to Drupal 9.0. , Drupal 9.2 to Drupal 9.5.2, update compose 2, Drush ^10.3.6”

2. Installed the “Upgrade Status” module and verified Drupal 9 compatibility for the website where the Drupal 9 compatibility score was above 85%

3. Removed unused modules and updated the contribute modules

4. Updated the core module to the latest Drupal 9.5.2 version

5. Applied the right patches for dependency issues (Core Module)

6. Upgraded Contrib Module and Custom Module (Drupal 9 compatible) to the latest version and applied patches for dependencies

7. upgraded the Drupal 9.5.2 Database schema (runupdate.php)

8. Applied the patches for dependency use

9. Cache clear from admin and sucuri

Results

The website's migration proved successful, as all the core and contrib modules were compatible with Drupal 9 and there was no issue related to broken links or other errors. Our team of developers completed the entire migration process in a timely manner and ensured that all functionalities were working properly on the new version of Drupal.

As a result, the website traffic has significantly increased, and the website is now able to handle more traffic with better performance. The entire migration process was completed without downtime or disruption of existing services. This made the user experience much smoother and improved overall site usability.

Conclusion

The greatest benefit of upgrading from Drupal 7 to Drupal 9 is that it provides the latest security patches and updates which can protect the website from malicious content and activities.

Moreover, it also enables faster page loading time, improved performance, better scalability, enhanced user experience, and more features that make it easier for developers to create custom applications. The upgrade has also helped boost the website's traffic as users are now able to access the information faster and find what they need in less time.

Other Useful Resources

Case Studies	Whitepaper	Fact Sheet	eBook
Blog	Webinar	Infographics	

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