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# 40 Checklist for Overcoming Drupal End-of-Life phase & Other maintenance related challenges

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# Introduction:

Are you concerned that your current Drupal website will become obsolete in coming days? End-of-life (EOL) phase of a content management system such as Drupal can be very tricky. To ensure the longevity and scalability of your CMS, it is imperative to stay ahead of the curve and be proactive in taking the necessary steps.

This guide is specially designed to help you overcome Drupal EOL phase & other maintenance-related challenges. Our aim is to provide you with a comprehensive checklist that will enable you to make informed decisions on how best to proceed with the migration of your current website. With this guide, we hope to equip you with the necessary knowledge and strategies that will help you keep on top of your website's performance. Let's get started!

# What is Drupal's End-of-life phase?

Drupal's End-of-life (EOL) phase is the period of time when a particular version of Drupal will no longer be supported by its developers. After this period, all bug fixes and security updates will cease to be provided. This means that if you do not upgrade your website before the EOL phase, you risk security vulnerabilities and other potential issues.

For instance, if your current website is running on Drupal 8, the EOL phase for this version is November 2021. This means that you must upgrade your website to either Drupal 9 or 10 before November 2021 in order to keep receiving bug fixes and security updates. Otherwise, your website will be left vulnerable to malicious attacks.

Therefore, it is important to be aware of the EOL phase for your current Drupal version in order to take timely action and avoid potential risks.

# Maintenance-related challenges, if you choose to stick on with End-of-Life Drupal version:

If you choose to stick on with the EOL version of Drupal, your website will be exposed to a range of potential security vulnerabilities and other risks. This is because all bug fixes and security updates that protect your website from malicious attacks will cease to be provided by the developers. In addition, since no support is available for an EOL Drupal version, you may also face difficulties in getting help from the developer community if you run into any technical issues.

Furthermore, sticking on with an EOL Drupal version will also prevent you from taking advantage of the latest features and technologies that could help improve your website's performance and user experience. This is because all new updates are only released for the latest versions of Drupal. Therefore, it is important to upgrade your website before the EOL phase in order to make sure that you are not missing out on any new features or quality improvements.

In short, if you choose to stick with an End-of-Life version of Drupal, you will be exposing yourself and your website to a range of potential risks, so it is important to upgrade before the EOL phase.

# 40 Checklist for Overcoming Drupal End-of-Life Phase & Other maintenance related challenges :

1. Identify the version of Drupal your website is currently running on.

2. Check the End-of-life (EOL) phase for this version and note down the timeline.

3. Begin researching potential migration strategies to upgrade your website to a newer version of Drupal.

4. Assess the level of complexity involved in migrating each individual component of your website.

5. Create a detailed plan outlining the steps you need to take during the migration process.

6. Research potential pitfalls and how to avoid them during the transition period.

7. Document all existing Drupal modules, themes, content types, views and other components of your website so that they can be recreated in the newer version of Drupal.

8. Prioritize the components that will be migrated first, and identify those that can be added later on.

9. Decide whether to hire a professional development team or attempt the migration yourself.

10. Estimate the cost of the project and allocate adequate resources accordingly.

11. Ensure that all data is backed up prior to the migration process.

12. Test your website thoroughly after each stage of the migration in order to identify any potential bugs or issues.

13. Update all modules and themes to be compatible with the newer version of Drupal.

14. Perform a “dress rehearsal” for the entire site before making it live.

15. Monitor the performance of the website on a regular basis in order to detect any issues early on.

16. Make sure that all security patches and updates are applied as soon as they become available.

17. Create a schedule for performing periodic maintenance tasks such as database optimization, code clean-up & deletion of unused files.

18. Investigate potential caching solutions to improve the performance of your website.

19. Analyze user data and look for areas where improvements can be made in order to enhance the overall user experience.

20. Implement regular testing activities such as A/B testing, usability testing, etc., to identify any potential problems.

21. Ensure that all content is up-to-date and relevant.

22. Monitor the site for any broken links or errors in order to ensure user satisfaction.

23. Look for ways to optimize images, videos, and other media assets in order to reduce page load time.

24. Review your website's analytics data and look for areas where performance can be improved.

25. Consider using a content delivery network (CDN) to increase your website's global reach.

26. Take steps to ensure that all forms, search boxes, etc., are working correctly.

27. Review the terms of service for any third-party services used on your website and ensure that they are up to date.

28. Monitor the performance of any third-party tools or APIs used by your website in order to detect any potential issues.

29. Make sure that all emails sent from your website are reaching their intended recipients.

30. Audit the security settings of your website and investigate any potential vulnerabilities.

31. Monitor the performance of your database in order to identify any areas that need improvement or optimization.

32. Ensure that all content is compliant with relevant laws and regulations.

33. Consider using automated testing tools to help speed up the process of quality assurance (QA).

34. Review the performance of all external services used by your website and ensure that they are working correctly.

35. Keep an eye out for new features, tools or technologies that could further enhance the user experience of your website.

36. Create a plan to regularly review and update all existing content on your website in order to maintain its accuracy.

37. Consider setting up automatic backups of your website in order to protect against any potential data loss.

38. Review all aspects of the migration process and make sure everything has gone according to plan.

39. Celebrate the successful completion of your Drupal migration!

40. Use the lessons learned during the migration process to inform future projects.

41. Review the overall performance of your website on a regular basis and look for ways to improve it further.

# Maintenance-Related Challenges Post Migration

1. Identifying and resolving any potential conflicts between Drupal modules and your existing website infrastructure.

2. Ensuring all content is up-to-date and relevant post-migration.

3. Making sure that all security patches are applied in a timely manner, and that the website remains secure against any potential threats or vulnerabilities.

4. Addressing any performance issues, such as slow page load times or broken links.

5. Evaluating the effectiveness of existing caching solutions and identifying opportunities for further optimization.

6. Maintaining website compatibility with common browsers and devices to ensure a seamless user experience.

7. Making sure all third-party applications are properly integrated and functioning as expected.

8. Finding ways to optimize existing content in order to improve website performance and reduce page load times.

9. Keeping up with latest industry trends in order to ensure that your Drupal site remains ahead of the competition.

10. Working with stakeholders and other team members throughout the process of maintaining your Drupal website.

# Steps for Upgrading your Drupal website:

Once you have decided to upgrade your current Drupal website, there are certain steps that you must take in order to successfully migrate your website without any hiccups.

1. Research the latest version of Drupal and determine which features you would like to have in your upgraded website.

2. Create a plan detailing the specific steps you will need to take in order to ensure a seamless upgrade process.

3. Backup all existing data stored on your Drupal website before starting the migration process.

4. Create a test environment in order to ensure that all the new features work properly before deploying them on the live site.

5. Install the latest version of Drupal and any required modules or themes for your website.

6. Migrate all existing content from your old website to the new one and make sure it is formatted correctly.

7. Test the new website to ensure that all features and components are working as expected.

8. Optimize the website in order to improve its performance, reduce page load times and optimize user experience.

9. Make sure all security patches are applied once the upgrade is complete in order to keep your data secure.

10. Launch the upgraded website and celebrate the successful completion of your project!

11. Regularly review the performance of your website and make sure that everything is up-to-date with the latest industry trends.

13. Monitor the website and look for any potential issues that may arise in order to address them quickly.

14. Provide ongoing maintenance and support for your website in order to keep it running smoothly.

15. Analyze user feedback and use it as a guide to further improve the performance of your Drupal website.

# #Closing Thoughts

Upgrading your Drupal website is a great way to make sure that your site remains secure, up-to-date, and performing optimally. To ensure a successful upgrade process, it is important to take the time to research the latest version of Drupal and plan out the steps you will need to take in order to deploy it successfully. It is also essential to create a test environment, back up existing data, and optimize the website for performance before finally launching it. Additionally, ongoing maintenance and support are required to ensure that your website remains secure and user-friendly. By following these steps, you can ensure that your Drupal website upgrade runs smoothly and provides a great user experience.

# #Get Help

DrupalPartners is a leading Drupal agency based in Atlanta,  GA. We specialize in Drupal website upgrades and migrations, as well as ongoing maintenance and support. Contact us today to learn more about how we can help you with your next Drupal website upgrade.

# ABOUT US

DrupalPartners is a global network of Drupal experts. We are dedicated to helping our clients succeed with Drupal.

We offer a wide range of services, including:

- Drupal consulting
- Drupal development
- Drupal training
- Drupal migration
- Drupal support

If you need help with your Drupal site, we would be happy to assist you. Contact us today to get started.

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