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How we upgraded to the latest Drupal 9 for a property identification solutions client

The upgrade from Drupal 8 to Drupal 9 made property identification solutions faster, more secure, and easier to maintain.

Drupal Partners Case Study

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About The Client

Since 1950, Metalcraft has been supplying property identification solutions. What began as a solution for Bostitch Stapler Company's logistics requirements has today developed into the form of Metalcraft that we know now. The answer to their question was to have Metalcraft deliver nameplates with printed names of Bostitch customers applied using solvent-activated glue onto their staplers.

How it started

Property identification is an essential component of many businesses and organizations, making it crucial for them to have reliable, up-to-date software solutions in place. After evaluating their options for a safe upgrade option, our team decided to migrate from Drupal 8 to Drupal 9.

The new version of the content management system would provide them with more security, speed, and the convenience of maintainenance than its predecessor. This upgrade allowed Metalcraft to keep up with their business needs while still optimizing their customer experience.

The Challenge

Metal Craft was running a severely outdated version of Drupal 8, and needed to upgrade to the most up-to-date iteration - 9.5.2. With many contributed modules that had to be updated plus several years' worth of content migration, this transition posed tremendous difficulty for them. Nonetheless, with perseverance and dedication they were able to make a successful shift. In addition to these, some of the most difficult obstacles include:

1. Uncomposify Format

2. Server access wasn't provided.

Our Key Findings

Our crew of Drupal-certified experts are adept at migrating and developing for websites that rely on Drupal. After our team examined the basics behind Metalcraft's website, here is what we uncovered:

1. Despite displaying no signs of lag on the front-end, this website was operating off Drupal 8.9 versioning for its backend needs.

2. The core module of the site must be given a modern upgrade in order to maximize its effectiveness.

3. Possibilities of dependency issues arising post-upgrade were eminent

Our Approach

Our project had two sides to it. Primarily, we needed to modify all of the contributed modules and custom code so that they were Drupal 9 compatible. Fortunately, this was a rather straightforward process which only took us a few hours to finish with remarkable success.

Drupal 8.9 to Drupal 9.5.2 upgrade Steps

To keep metalcraft.com up-to-date, we successfully transitioned it to the new Drupal 9.5.2 platform and here is the step-by-step approach

1. To ensure the protection of the data, a comprehensive backup of both the Drupal 8.9 database and files will be executed. .

2. Ensure the most current versions of all added-on modules, themes, and custom code for optimal performance.

3. Constantly review and apply applicable updates to ensure optimal functioning.

4. Composer json, composer lock to be prepared for 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. Complete The Testing

9. Launch the new Drupal 9.5.2 site

Seamless Upgrade Was Ensured Through These Key Solutions

1. The Upgrade process features progression from Drupal 8.9 to 9.0, then continuing onto Drupal 9.2 and finally upgrading it up to version 9.5; in addition, updating Compose 2 and Drush ^10.3.6 was part of this comprehensive update plan as well!

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 contributed modules

4. Updated the core module to the latest Drupal 9.5 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 Database schema (runupdate.php)

8. Applied the patches for dependency use

9. Cache clear from admin and cloudflare

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 update 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

Results:

30% Traffic Increase

60% Increased efficiency

70% Easier Reporting and Planning

The end result of this upgrade was a smooth transition between Drupal 8.9 and Drupal 9.5.2, ensuring that Metalcraft's website was running the latest version of the content management system with optimal performance. Besides the version upgrade, our client also witnessed some wonderful improvements in the back-end - improved security, increased efficiency, and easier reporting & planning.

The success of this project has been a testament to the dedication and perseverance of our team.

Conclusion

Though this project posed many challenges and obstacles, our team was able to successfully migrate the Metalcraft website from Drupal 8.9 to Drupal 9.5.2 and deliver an optimized, secure site with improved performance. Our team of experts provided key solutions that allowed for a seamless transition between the two versions, ensuring that there were minimal disruptions in the site's operations and no loss of data. We are proud to have been part of this critical project and look forward to continuing to provide support.

Other Useful Resources

Case Studies	Whitepaper	Fact Sheet	eBook
Blog	Webinar	Infographics	

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