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Migrating From Drupal 7 to 9:

Why should you not delay anymore?

Drive More Quality Visitors By Invoking Digital Transformation With Drupal's Latest Version

www.drupalpartners.com

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INTRODUCTION

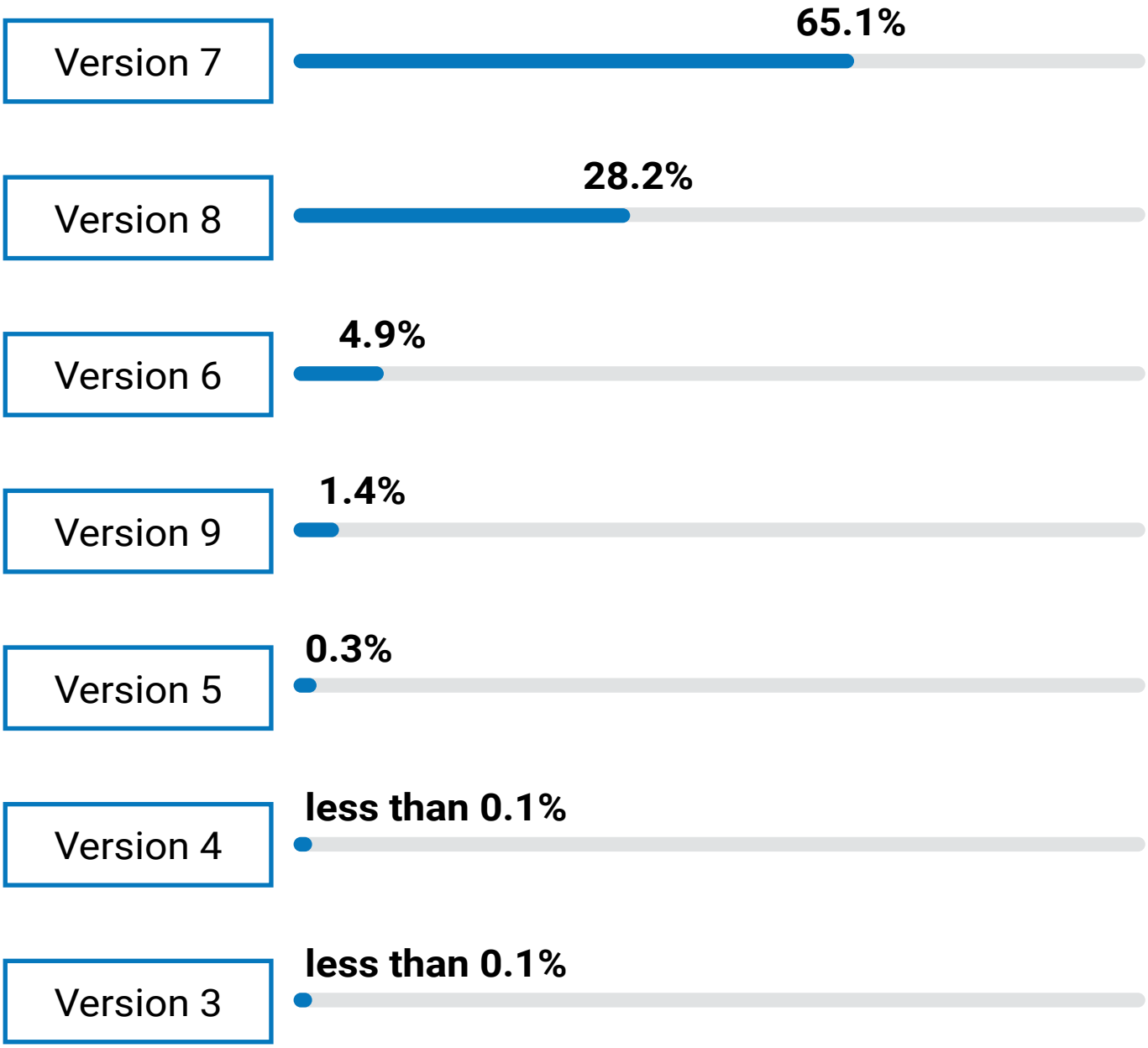
Drupal 9 is officially out and is just doing fine!

Drupal 9's unparalleled innovation opens up a million strategic planning opportunities for your organization with speed and flexibility. Drupal 9 is a superior and compelling version of Drupal 8; the stand-out feature of Drupal 9 enables you to perform an easy upgrade as feasible from Drupal 8. It is the right time to reimagine the open-source digital experiences this new version can help you adorn. This guide is a roadmap to prepare your site and your team to go to Drupal 9 from Drupal 7.

COMPLETE THE BIG MIGRATION...

Get on board the continuous innovation cycle that continues with Drupal 9, ensuring that future major version upgrades are easy. Let's begin...

This graph shows the percentage of websites using Drupal versions today.



DRUPAL 9: THE UNICORN OF THE DRUPAL VERSIONS

In a fast-paced world, speed decides the outcomes. If your website and its functionalities are running on the old versions, how well can you respond to changing customer expectations and disruptive industry trends? Speed is a driving factor to ascertaining relevance and growth. Drupal 9 is a pinnacle of such aspects, and it delivers more than you actually conceive.

Developing upon the spontaneous and user-friendly processes started with Drupal 8, Drupal 9 comes loaded with robust tools and features that allow designers, developers, and marketers to deliver result-oriented digital experiences from layout to launch.

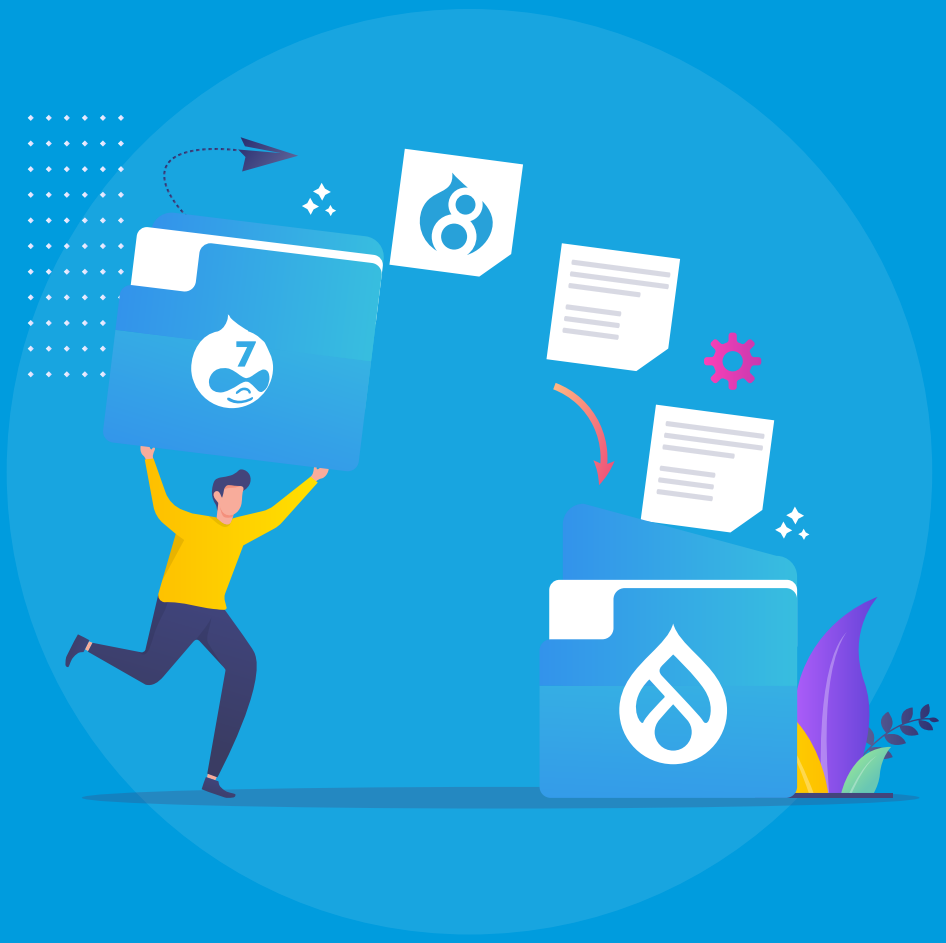
D9 equips you with the agility to compete against the fast-evolving technology landscape. Take a look at how 'speed' with Drupal 9 is multifaceted:

Quickly move your website onto a robust, future-ready CMS. By backward-compatibility and a range of defined migration paths, getting on to Drupal 9 is the most straightforward upgrade process you would have ever completed.

Unlike your older D7, you can efficiently deliver digital experiences faster. Top brass features such as content workflows, improved media management, layout builder, etc., empower you to go live with new sites and campaigns effortlessly.

Technology advancements are mandatory benefactors that you need to adapt to keep up the pace. A defined upgrade schedule ensures you embrace the current and compatibility with the latest range of emerging technologies.

COMMON OBJECTIONS TO MIGRATING TO DRUPAL 9



THE PRESENT STATE OF DRUPAL 7: WHERE IS IT HEADED?

730,000+ websites across the globe use approximately D7

Drupal 7 version is now pretty old and a well-built one officially supported by the Drupal team until November 2022.

However, Drupal 7 support was previously planned to stop in 2021 due to the pandemic's impact.

The End Of Support: What is expected out of it?

- **Security considerations.** Keeping your website's and customers' data safe is vital for any business. One of the golden safety rules is to apply security updates in Drupal regularly. After the end of support, Drupal will release no more security updates. Therefore, more vulnerabilities to cyber-attacks.
- **Hiccups in the website's work.** Drupal website will receive no official bug fixes or improvements. A few things on the website may not be working correctly, and this can drive away potential customers.
- **No further development.** After the end of support, you cannot expect any excellent features created for your Drupal version.

THE BENEFITS OF DRUPAL 9 OVER DRUPAL 7

- Long upgrades are gone into the past.
- Better security.
- Faster.
- Accessible to all audiences.
- More open to integration.
- Smooth editorial experiences.
- Multilingual.

THE ROAD FROM DRUPAL 7 TO DRUPAL 9

If you are on Drupal 7 then there are two choices that you can pick before it's too late to migrate;

- Migrate directly from Drupal 7 to Drupal 9
- Migrate from Drupal 7 to Drupal 8, and then complete the migration to Drupal 9 by 2021

However, both options are legitimate approaches that you can consider before you make your migration decision.

Both are equally going to cost you in terms of money, time, and effort. The migration from Drupal 7 to Drupal 8 or Drupal 9 is similar to the complexity, but Drupal 8 to Drupal 9 is more like a minor upgrade. Since you are moving from Drupal 7 - in both cases - what matters for you is to plan and execute it accurately. Nevertheless, it might take some time for the Drupal community to have the complete set of contrib modules compatible with Drupal 9. Drupal 7 is complex and packs a lot of various contrib modules. While Drupal 9 core included most of it, there might still be some that will need Drupal 9 compatible modules on the marketplace.

Even though the ideal migration path could point Drupal 7 to Drupal 8 to Drupal 8, here are a few things for you should ponder:

Drupal 7 is available till 2022, and Drupal 8 support ends in November 2021. So if you are currently on Drupal 7 and haven't yet migrated to Drupal 8, you'll face a time crisis at this step.

Our experts wouldn't recommend it unless it's already. The best way to go with the migration is from Drupal 7 to Drupal 9.

DRUPAL 9 HAS MORE MINOR RELEASES LINED UP. DO I WAIT FOR A MORE STABLE VERSION OF DRUPAL 9? HOW DO I KEEP UP?

Drupal 9's more minor releases can be frequent and reflect a more comprehensive trend in software development, where iterative development means frameworks make more frequent releases.

Waiting for a 'more stable version is the standard approach in the software landscape; it doesn't apply to the Drupal 9 upgrade.

Here are some tools that we recommend to keep your site current:

- Composer and Drush to manage website updates
- DependaBot to create automatic pull requests with updates for sites of any size
- Automatic Updates module: It's still a work in progress, and it's planned for Phase 2, and might be helpful for your smaller websites. A few web hosts and most Drupal vendors also provide update services for a fee and take care of this.

IS DRUPAL 9 DEVELOPMENT COMPLICATED AND MORE CHALLENGING THAN ON DRUPAL 7?

Drupal 7 is way different from Drupal 9, it is challenging but not difficult. Drupal 9 developers would need to pick up a lot of things to implement changes in the existing stuff. Simply put, it is basically the same as upskilling and learning any new technology.

Drupal developers need to gather pace to complete the migration as Drupal 7 approaches its end-of-life. Fortuitously, the new tools in Drupal 9, such as Composer, Twig, and PHPUnit, are used by other PHP projects. Therefore, Drupal 7 developers can learn quickly, which will help them work on Symfony or Laravel projects.

OPTIONS THAT YOU CAN BET-ON AFTER DRUPAL 7 END-OF-LIFE

Drupal 7 is nearing its end-of-life, and with Drupal 9 the only option, it might seem like an obvious path to take. In some cases, it cannot be the ideal move. What happens to those, not in the suitable space, budget, or resources or businesses that are not ready to upgrade yet?

A few might even be thinking of moving to an entirely different CMS altogether? Let's find out...

MIGRATE TO DRUPAL 9

Drupal 9 is more user-friendly, accessible, inclusive, flexible, and scalable software than the previous versions.

Its notable features include:

- Headless CMS capabilities
- Drupal 9 helps easy migration
- Seamless user-experience
- Clean code and works with the new version of PHP
- Long-term official support

When to avoid the migration to Drupal 9?

If you are shutting down your Drupal 7 website or wishing to shift to an entirely new CMS, you may avoid the migration. In every possible way, Drupal 9 migration is your best choice if you continue.

THE PROCESS OF MIGRATION FROM DRUPAL 7 TO DRUPAL 9

STEP 1
Perform a kernel update

STEP 2
Update all plugins

STEP 3
Connect and run the upgrader module

STEP 4
Upgrade from Drupal 7 to 9

THE PROCESS OF MIGRATION FROM DRUPAL 8 TO DRUPAL 9

STEP 1
Check your hosting for compatibility

STEP 2
Update the Drupal 8 engine to the latest minor version

STEP 3
Update the additional code modules and themes

STEP 4
Start the auto-update process

FINAL THOUGHTS

Incredible digital experiences have become the stepping stool of business growth. Drupal is committed to providing organizations the means to build continuously innovative digital experiences. Having said that, it is evident that Drupal 9 your ideal next step.

Of course, you can complete the migration process yourself. Despite the outside brevity of the upgrade to Drupal 9 described here, it is a challenging process with some unforeseen pitfalls in the way, and it is better to entrust its implementation to professionals.

We are ready to offer our aid.

The Drupal Partners team comprises certified, highly trained, and experienced developers, engineers, marketers, and designers. We can particularly claim sizable expertise in the development and migration of Drupal-based solutions. Once your organization comes to that decision, you look forward to the next step - get in touch with us, and we will migrate you from Drupal 7 to Drupal 9.

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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