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Drupal 9 Migration: A Complete How-To Guide

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword	03
What is Drupal?	04
Why Migrate to Drupal 9?	05
Drupal Is API-First	06
Boundless Security For Website Safety	07
Performance Improvements	08
New Features and Functionality	09
Why Upgrade to Drupal 9 Now?	10
Drupal 9 and The Code Deprecated	11
How to prepare for Drupal 9 Upgrade?	12
If your site is in Drupal 8	13
If your site is in Drupal 7	14
If your site is in Drupal 9	14
Resource: Upgrading to Drupal 9	15
Drupal 10	15
About Us	16

Foreword

With Drupal 10 all set to release in December 2022, it is vital for all Drupal users to switch to Drupal 9 as soon as possible. Migrating to Drupal 9 is not difficult, but it does require some planning and prep work. This guide will take you through everything you need to know about migrating your site from Drupal 8 to 9, including what's changed under the hood, how to update your codebase for compatibility, and what steps to take before and after you upgrade.

Drupal 9 is not a radical change from Drupal 8. In fact, it is so similar to Drupal 8 that many sites will be able to migrate with just a few clicks. The main difference between the two versions is that Drupal 9 has been updated to use newer versions of third-party software libraries, such as Symfony and Twig. These updates provide significant performance improvements, as well as new features and security fixes.

What is Drupal?

Drupal is a free and open source content management system (CMS) that allows you to easily create and manage your website's content. Drupal is used by some of the largest websites in the world, including The Economist, The White House, and Harvard University. Celebrating its 20th birthday, the opensource CMS is all set to release Drupal 10 versions in December 2022.

Drupal 9 is the latest version of Drupal, and it was released on June 3, 2020. As of December 2020, Drupal 8 is no longer supported by the Drupal community. This means that Drupal 8 sites will no longer receive security updates or new features.

Drupal 9 is not a radical change from Drupal 8. In fact, it is so similar to Drupal 8 that many sites will be able to migrate with just a few clicks. The main difference between the two versions is that Drupal 9 has been updated to use newer versions of third-party software libraries, such as Symfony and Twig. These updates provide significant performance improvements, as well as new features and security fixes.

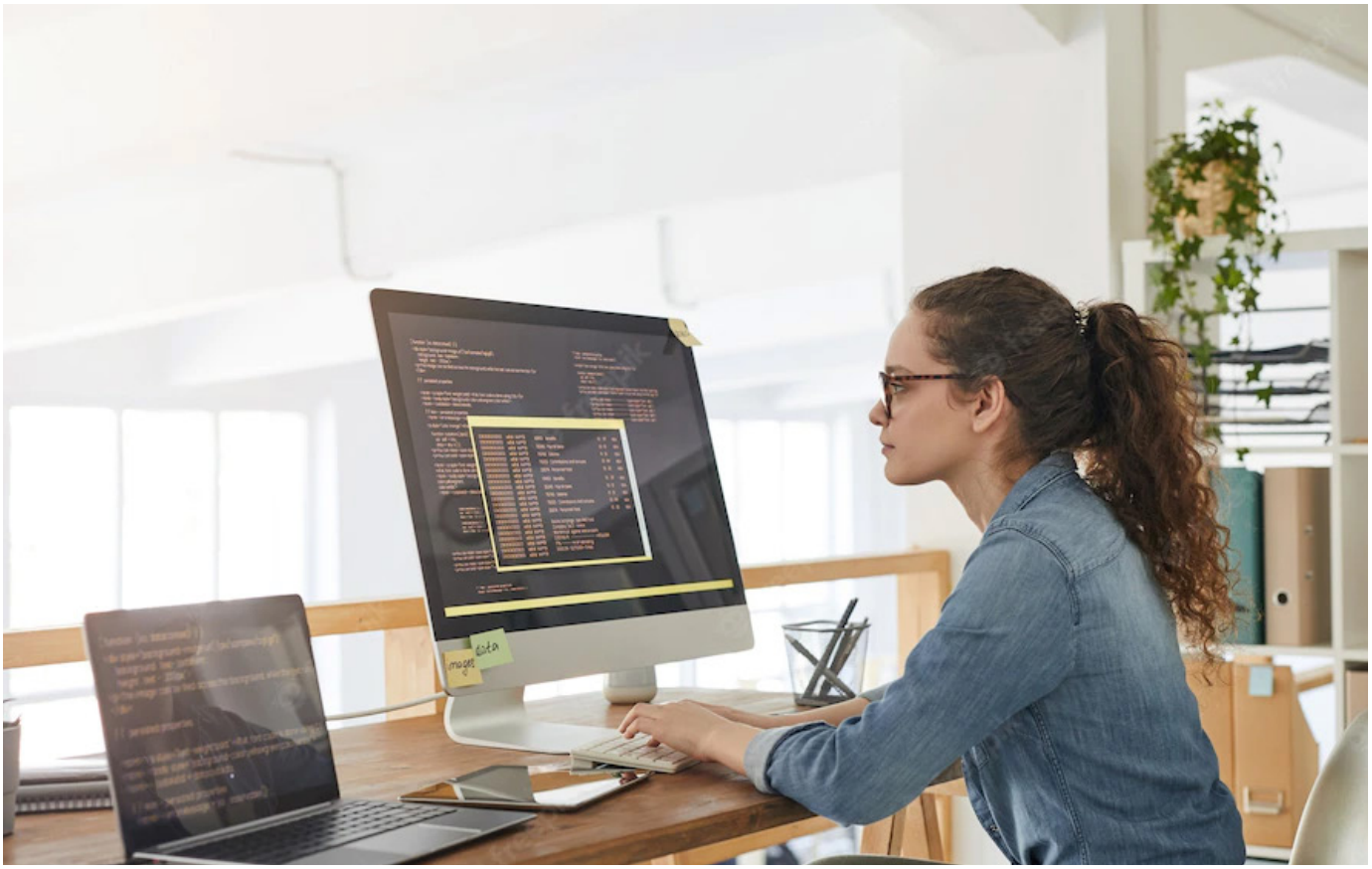
Why Migrate to Drupal 9?

There are several reasons why you should migrate to Drupal 9 as soon as possible. Firstly, as mentioned above, Drupal 8 is no longer supported by the Drupal community. This means that your site will no longer receive security updates or new features.

Secondly, migrating to Drupal 9 now will make it easier to upgrade to Drupal 10 when it is released. Drupal 10 will only be compatible with sites that are already running on Drupal 9, so if you don't migrate to Drupal 9 now, you will have to do a complete site rebuild when Drupal 10 is released.

Finally, migrating to Drupal 9 now will give you access to the new features and performance improvements that come with the updated third-party software libraries.

In short, migrating to Drupal 9 now will make it easier to upgrade to Drupal 10 later, and it will also give you access to the new features and performance improvements that come with the updated third-party software libraries.



Drupal Is API-First

Drupal 9 is API-first, which means that it is designed to work with other software systems through APIs. This makes it easy to integrate Drupal with other systems, and it also makes it easier to migrate your site to Drupal 9.

If you are using Drupal 8, you are already using an API-first CMS. However, the Drupal 9 API is simpler and more powerful than the Drupal 8 API. The new API makes it easier to create and manage your content, as well as to integrate Drupal with other systems.

To put it simply, Drupal 9 is a more powerful and flexible CMS than Drupal 8. Plus, migrating your site to Drupal 9 is easy!

Boundless Security For Website Safety

Drupal 9 includes all the security fixes that have been released for Drupal 8, as well as new security features. This makes Drupal 9 more secure than Drupal 8, and it also makes it easier to migrate your site to Drupal 9.

Drupal 9 also includes a new security baseline that makes it easier to keep your site secure. The security baseline is a set of recommended security settings that you can use to harden your site. Besides that, the security team also provides a security advisory service to help you keep your site secure.

To summarize, Drupal 9 is more secure than Drupal 8, and is simple to move your site from Drupal 8 to 9.

Performance Improvements

Drupal 9 has many contributed and core modules that can help improve your website's performance:

Core Modules

- Big Pipe
- Internal Dynamic Page Cache
- Internal Page Cache

Contributed Modules

- Advanced CSS/JS Aggregation
- AdvAgg Cdn: Helps to load assets (CSS/JS) from public CDN
- AdvAgg CSS/JS Validator: Validates CSS and JS file
- AdvAgg External Minifier: Minifies Javascript and/or CSS with a command line minifier.
- AdvAgg Minify CSS : Helps in minify css files with 3rd party minifier
- AdvAgg Minify JS : Helps in minify js files with 3rd party mi
- AdvAgg Modifier : Allows one to alter the CSS and JS array. (May have compatibility issue)
- AdvAgg Old Internet Explorer Compatibility Enhancer

New Features and Functionality

Drupal 9 includes new features and functionality that make it easier to manage your content and integrate Drupal with other systems.

Some of the new features in Drupal 9 include:

- improved content moderation tools
- a new headless mode for decoupled sites
- improved multilingual support
- a new media library
- a new layout builder
- less dependency on third-party dependencies
- buttery smooth options for upgrading (rolled out with depreciated code)
- major new versions of Symphony and Twig
- Panelizer removed and replaced
- supports backward compatibility unlike previous versions
- Workspace & CKEditor module added
- Claro set as the default administration theme
- The system information and update manager added
- Data update added as an experimental module
- Drupal Console updated to 1.0.0 version
- Configuration Read-only Mode

These features make it a good idea to migrate your site to Drupal 9 now so that you can take advantage of the new features and functionality.

Why Upgrade to Drupal 9 Now?

There are several reasons why you should upgrade to Drupal 9 now:

- Drupal 9 is more powerful and flexible than Drupal 8.
- Drupal 9 is more secure than Drupal 8.
- Drupal 9 has better performance than Drupal 8.
- Drupal 9 has new features and functionality that make it easier to manage your content and integrate Drupal with other systems.
- Migrating your site to Drupal 9 is easy!

So what are you waiting for? Upgrade to Drupal 9 today!

Drupal 9 and The Code Deprecated

One of the goals of Drupal 9 is to remove all code that has been deprecated in Drupal 8. This includes both code within Drupal core and contributed modules.

The removal of deprecated code makes Drupal 9 more powerful and flexible than Drupal 8, and it also makes it easier to migrate your site to Drupal 9.

In addition, the removal of deprecated code makes Drupal 9 more secure. This is because deprecated code is often the source of security vulnerabilities.

So upgrading to Drupal 9 now will not only give you access to new features and functionality, but it will also make your site more secure.

How to prepare for Drupal 9 Upgrade?

There are a few things you can do to prepare for your Drupal 9 upgrade:

- First, check to see if any of the modules you are using are not compatible with Drupal 9.
- If there are modules that are not compatible with Drupal 9, you will need to find replacements for those modules.
- Next, you will need to update your Drupal 8 site to the latest version. This is important because it will make sure that your site is using the most up-to-date code.
- Finally, you will need to migrate your site to Drupal 9. The process of migrating your site to Drupal 9 is easy, and there are a number of resources available to help you.

If your site is in Drupal 8

Use the Drupal 9 Upgrade Status module to check the status of your modules and themes. This module will scan your code and give you a report of which modules and themes are compatible with Drupal 9 and which ones need to be updated.

You can find the Drupal 9 Upgrade Status module here:
https://www.drupal.org/project/UpgradeStatus

If you use contributed modules that are not compatible with Drupal 9, you will need to find replacements for those modules. The Drupal community has built a huge number of modules that are compatible with Drupal 9, so finding replacements should not be difficult.

You can find a list of Drupal 9 compatible modules here:
https://www.drupal.org/docs/9/update/choosing-drupal-9-compatible-contributed-modules

If you use custom code, you will need to update your code to remove any deprecated code. The Drupal 9 deprecation policy is available here: https://www.drupal.org/node/2549252

Once you have updated your modules and themes, you will need to update your Drupal 8 site to the latest version. This is important because it will make sure that your site is using the most up-to-date code.

You can find instructions for updating your Drupal 8 site here:
https://www.drupal.org/docs/8/update

Finally, you will need to migrate your site to Drupal 9. The process of migrating your site to Drupal 9 is easy, and there are a number of resources available to help you.

If your site is in Drupal 7

If your site is in Drupal 7, you will need to migrate it to Drupal 8 before you can migrate it to Drupal 9. The process of migrating your site from Drupal 7 to Drupal 8 is well-documented, and there are a number of resources available to help you.

You can find instructions for migrating your Drupal 7 site to Drupal 8 here: https://www.drupal.org/docs/8/upgrade/migrate-drupal-8

Once your site is in Drupal 8, you can follow the instructions above for upgrading your Drupal 8 site to Drupal 9.

If your site is in Drupal 9

If your site is already in Drupal 9, you are ready to go! You do not need to do anything to prepare for the Drupal 10 release.

When Drupal 10 is released, you will be able to update your site to the latest version with just a few clicks. There is no need to migrate your site to Drupal 10, as it will be backward compatible with Drupal 9.

So if your site is already in Drupal 9, sit back and relax! You are all set for the Drupal 10 release.

Resource: Upgrading to Drupal 9

If you need help upgrading your Drupal 8 site to Drupal 9, you can find a number of resources online. Here are a few that we recommend:

Drupal 8 Upgrade Guide: https://www.drupal.org/docs/8/upgrade

Upgrade Status Module: https://www.drupal.org/project/UpgradeStatus

Drupal 9 Compatibility Checker:
https://www.drupal.org/docs/9/update/drupal-9-compatibility-checker

Drupal 9 Upgrade Tips and Tricks:
https://evolvingweb.ca/blog/drupal-9-upgrade-tips-and-tricks

Drupal 10

Drupal 10 will be released in the second half of 2022. The Drupal community is currently working on Drupal 10, and you can follow the development process here: https://www.drupal.org/10

There is no need to migrate your site to Drupal 10, as it will be backward compatible with Drupal 9. When Drupal 10 is released, you will be able to update your site to the latest version with just a few clicks.

So if your site is already in Drupal 9, sit back and relax! You are all set for the Drupal 10 release.

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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