

Options for Upgrading your Drupal 7 or Drupal 8 Site

Drupal 8 end-of-life is November 2, 2021 — Drupal 7 end-of-life is November 28, 2022

If you are currently on Drupal 8

1. The upgrade process from Drupal 8 to Drupal 9 is relatively easy.
 2. You should utilize the Upgrade Status module https://www.drupal.org/project/upgrade_status to get a sense of what modules have a Drupal 9 version available and what changes to custom code will need to be made.
 3. The number of contributed modules without a Drupal 9 version and amount of custom code will be the biggest factors of complexity.
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Upgrade Options

Move to Drupal 9

1. This is the most complex option and likely requires a full rebuild.
2. If you want to take advantage of innovation in the past couple versions of Drupal, then you might want to consider this route.
3. If you are interested in the longevity of your site, and you want to stick with Drupal, this is your best move.
4. “The last major upgrade”.

Drupal 7 Vendor Extended Support

1. Not a lot of information yet, but will likely be similar to the Drupal 6 program.
2. A group of approved and vetted vendors will continue to provide security updates for Drupal 7 core and certain contrib modules under the Drupal 7 Vendor Extended Support program.
3. Updates will be made available for free as they are released.
4. Does not solve the issue of PHP 7 becoming end-of-life in November 2022 as well. Drupal 7 and contributed modules will need to become PHP 8 compatible.

Move to Backdrop CMS

1. Backdrop CMS is a fork or a modified version of Drupal 7.
2. Backdrop has a built-in upgrade path from Drupal 7. Backdrop will be familiar to people with Drupal experience because it is so similar to Drupal, but includes numerous usability improvements and new features.
3. Backdrop will prioritize backward compatibility with Drupal 7 until at least 2024. A large selection of widely used Drupal 7 modules are already available for Backdrop, and more are on the way.