The Ultimate Guide to Drupal 10

Experience the ultimate trifecta of new features, seamless navigation, and bulletproof security with the latest Drupal update.





Introduction

Are you already a fan of Drupal, or are you just now discovering the magic of this content management system (CMS)? Either way, you're in luck! We're here to give you the lowdown on Drupal 10, the latest and greatest version of this popular platform. And who better to guide you through it than Xequals? We've got all the inside scoop to make sure you and your team get the most out of Drupal.

But don't just take our word for it - there are so many reasons why Drupal 10 is loved by all sorts of people. From developers to marketers to content creators, this CMS has something for everyone. So let's dive in and see what makes Drupal 10 such a hit! Drupal is the ultimate website building and maintenance tool! With a ton of capabilities and features, it makes creating and keeping your website a breeze. Plus, with all the benefits it offers, it's no wonder Drupal is a top choice for website development.





Developers look for a CMS with endless customization options and a thriving community of contributors! Its open source nature allows for maximum flexibility, while its stability and security make it a reliable choice for any project.

Marketing professionals

will love the powerful tools and features available to them through Drupal. It's a win-win for both the tech team and the marketing team.

Business owners will be pleased to know that not only will your developers and marketers be on board with Drupal, but it can also help your business become more agile, innovative, and competitive.



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Why Use Drupal?

Open Source & Drupal

Drupal is like a magical box of endless possibilities! It's not like those other content management systems that only let you use what they give you. No, no, no. With Drupal, you get to pick and choose the best tools for your specific needs. And the best part? It's all thanks to being an open source solution. That means a whole community of over 45,000 people are working together to make Drupal even better. So go ahead and be as creative as you want without worrying about being tied down to just one option. Drupal has got your back.

As an open source platform, Drupal offers:

- Endless customization options
- The freedom to take your code wherever you please
- A dedicated community constantly driving innovation, constant access to the latest and greatest features

Drupal Features for Modern App Development

Drupal's flexible architecture is perfect for building modern apps! With its adaptability and versatility, you can create apps that meet your specific needs and requirements. Whether you want to build a simple app or a complex one, Drupal's architecture has got you covered.

Developers can fully customize their code and data to showcase the unique qualities of their brand. Whether you need a traditional content management system or a more modern, headless approach, Drupal has you covered. Plus, it works for a variety of projects, from small and simple to large and complex, and across web and mobile platforms. With Drupal, you'll be able to easily manage and publish a ton of content while standing out from the competition.







Examining the Features that Enable Developers to Have More Options and Adaptability

Headless/Decoupled Support

Not only does it come equipped with the JSON:API specification, but it also has the ability to integrate with GraphQL and other standards through extensions. This means you can use Drupal as the central hub for all your content and easily connect it to a variety of front ends, like mobile apps and JavaScript frameworks.

Static Sites with Drupal

Drupal is like a superhero - it can transform from a complex, interactive website to a simple, static site in a snap! With the Tome extension, you can harness the power of Drupal's back end while serving up lightning-fast static content to your audience. Whether you need a dynamic, interactive experience or a streamlined static site, Drupal has you covered.

Mobile Experience

From the moment you start installing Drupal, this platform has mobile in mind. And with responsive design woven into every aspect of its functionality, it's ready to provide seamless experiences on all kinds of internet-enabled devices. Plus, Drupal's cleverly designed form elements ensure that even features like date/time pickers, phone number fields, and email addresses look and work great on mobile. In other words, Drupal has got you covered no matter how your users choose to access your site.



The Marketer-Friendly CMS

As a marketer, it is important to stay upto-date with the changing preferences of your customers and to act quickly in order to achieve the best results for your campaigns. Drupal allows you to do just that, by enabling you to easily create personalized and intelligent experiences for your users across various channels.

With Drupal, you have access to a wide range of SEO features, hundreds of marketing technology integrations, and visual builders for websites and landing pages. You can also take advantage of live previews, multilingual capabilities, and enterprise content workflows. Additionally, Drupal allows you to create reusable and composable content and use rich page templates. Many of these features can be implemented without the need for developer assistance.

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Examining the Features that Enables Work to be Streamlined for Marketers



Layout Builder

The Layout Builder core module allows for the creation of visually appealing layouts for your content. This module is unique in that it offers a single, user-friendly tool for three different purposes: designing layouts for templated content, customizing templated layouts, and creating custom pages.

Workspaces

Workspaces is an experimental feature that is currently being developed. It allows users to stage and publish multiple content changes, such as article text, sidebar blocks, and menu entries, all at once. With Workspaces, you can preview how these changes will look on your site as a whole. You can even create multiple "scenarios," such as election results or Oscar winners, and publish the appropriate version when the time comes.



Multilingual Capabilities

Drupal is equipped with a variety of tools to allow for easy translation and multilingual functionality within the system. These features include the ability to install Drupal in 100 different languages, translation options for various types of content including nodes, taxonomy terms, menu items, and user profiles, and the ability to translate configurations like lists and forms.

Content Workflow

The Workflows module allows users to create multiple workflows and view the different states and transitions of content within these workflows. The Content Moderation module enables users to create and update content revisions that are not yet live, providing the ability to review and moderate content before publishing.



Unleashing the Power of Drupal Integrations

Drupal is a powerful platform that allows you to fully customize your website and content to meet your specific needs. With Drupal, you have the ability to integrate any modules or extensions, regardless of who created them or what platform they are built on. In addition, there are over 46,000 pre-built integrations and extensions available for Drupal users. If you don't find exactly what you're looking for, you can even create your own integration.

Drupal's integrations cover a wide range of functions, including form creation, personalization, CRM, e-commerce, digital asset management, marketing automation, GDPR compliance, social media marketing, and analytics. This means that you can continue to use the marketing tools your team is already familiar with while taking advantage of the flexibility and power of Drupal. Drupal seamlessly integrates with your organization's email, analytics, marketing automation, and other tech solutions, making it a hassle-free addition to your current technology infrastructure.



The Reliable CMS

As cyber threats continue to evolve and cause major financial losses for businesses and individuals, consumers are increasingly concerned about the security of their personal data. Drupal was created with a focus on security, trusted by government organizations, non-profits, and major enterprises to host mission-critical websites. The platform is maintained by a dedicated internal security team and a community of over 45,000 contributors, ensuring that your website is protected against modern cyber threats.

The Scalable and High-Performing CMS

For organizations managing large-scale web properties, it is crucial to have a technology platform that can handle high levels of traffic and activity without compromising performance. Drupal is well-known for its ability to provide topnotch performance and scalability, and has been trusted by some of the most visited websites globally, including those supporting major events such as the Olympics and the Super Bowl. If you want a reliable and scalable solution for your enterprise-level web needs, Drupal is a strong choice.

Drupal offers a variety of features designed to improve the performance of your website. These include: advanced caching with customizable cache clearing options, BigPipe technology for faster page loading, the ability to scale horizontally across multiple servers, deep integration with CDN networks for global accessibility, multi-region failover for high availability, optimized HTML generation, aggregation of JS and CSS files, support for lazy image loading, and support for modern image formats. All of these features work together to ensure that your website runs smoothly and efficiently. Drupal is a highly stable and secure content management system due to its comprehensive testing processes, which help to identify and resolve any potential issues before they can become bugs.

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Drupal 10: Expand on the Platform's Strengths

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Drupal is a renowned content management system that has been widely adopted by site builders across the globe due to its powerful capabilities.

It is highly secure, flexible, and offers a wealth of integrations that allow brands to differentiate themselves from competitors. On December 14, 2022, Drupal will release its latest version, Drupal 10, which includes all the best features and functionality of Drupal 9, and upgrading is expected to be seamless. Essentially, Drupal 10 is an improved version of Drupal 9 that leverages the platform's existing strengths.

Retaining Security is Key

In order to ensure optimal security for your website, Drupal regularly updates its platform to eliminate dependencies that may soon become unsupported or reach their end of life. This helps to keep your website safe and secure as the underlying technology evolves.

It's important to note that older versions of Drupal are still secure. However, as technology evolves and new security threats emerge, it's important for Drupal to continuously update its foundation to ensure that developers and site administrators have the tools they need to address any potential security issues. This is a key part of Drupal's mission to provide a safe and secure platform for users.

Drupal 10 has been designed to provide long-term support for users, which is why it requires PHP 8.1 and is built on Symfony 6.1. On the front end, we have dropped support for Internet Explorer due to Microsoft ending support for the browser earlier in 2022. By using Drupal 10, you can be confident that you are working with a stable and well-supported platform.



Drupal 10: What's New

Olivero Is Now the Default Front-End Theme

Say goodbye to Bartik and hello to Olivero, the new default front-end theme in Drupal 10. Bartik, which may no longer give Drupal a fresh appearance, will no longer be available in Drupal core. However, users who still wish to use it can download it as an extension.

Olivero, previously introduced and improved in previous versions of Drupal, offers a sleek and modern look as well as flexibility. It is also highly accessible and easy to navigate for users with visual impairments. In addition, Olivero is WCAG AA-compliant and includes functionality that supports new features and allows for the creation of multilevel menus. Upgrade to Drupal 10 and take advantage of the enhanced capabilities of Olivero.

Elevate Your Admin XP with Drupal's New Claro Theme

Claro is a modern, lightweight, and highly accessible administration theme that comes standard with Drupal. With its streamlined interface and support for mobile devices and accessibility, Claro enhances the user experience for admins while maintaining the full power and flexibility of Drupal.

With the introduction of Claro as the new default administration theme in Drupal 9, users will enjoy a fresh, modern interface with improved mobile and accessibility support. While the Seven theme is no longer available in Drupal 10 core, it can still be used as a contributed extension. Additionally, the Gin theme, built on top of Claro, provides additional customization options for the admin interface and serves as a foundation for future experimentation.



JavaScript Modernization

Drupal 10 has implemented modern JavaScript components to replace certain uses of jQuery UI. This transition will continue in future versions of Drupal 10. By updating to newer technologies, Drupal remains at the forefront of web development, offering users the best possible experience. Stay ahead of the curve with Drupal 10 and its continuous updates.

Upgrade Your Editing Experience with CKEditor 5

CKEditor 5: The New Standard for Authoring, Editing, and Support in Drupal.

Drupal 10's incorporation of CKEditor 5 ensures a superior authoring and editing experience, as well as ongoing support once CKEditor 4 reaches end of life in 2023. With a new architecture and features like media import through drag-and-drop and streamlined image alt-text editing, CKEditor 5 makes content creation a breeze. Navigation has also been improved, making it easier than ever to use Drupal's built-in WYSIWYG text editor. CKEditor 5's new architecture introduces important changes, such as the requirement for explicit support for all HTML elements to be edited. This means that developers with custom integrations or modifications for CKEditor 4 will need to address compatibility when upgrading to CKEditor 5.

Drupal and CKSource, the company behind CKEditor, have a strong partnership and have worked together to make the transition from CKEditor 4 to 5 as smooth as possible for users. If you don't have custom integrations, you can use an automatic migration tool to preserve your text in the new version. For those with customized buttons and other features, the CKEditor 5 Dev Tools project can help you implement them in the updated version. Additionally, CKEditor 5's modern architecture allows for the integration of premium features like collaborative editing, available with a CKSource subscription and the CKEditor 5 Premium Features extension for Drupal.

Drupal 10's Starterkits Transform Theme Development

With Drupal 10's Starterkits, front-end developers can easily create new themes by using a copy of a base theme as a starting point, rather than extending the base theme at runtime. This allows for updates to the default markup and CSS of base themes, like the Starterkit theme in Drupal core, while maintaining stability in site front-ends. Runtime subtheming is still an option, but should only be used when the extended theme is fully under your control.

Improved Performance Through Streamlined Core Code

Drupal 10's core code has been cleaned up and streamlined, resulting in a smaller, leaner system with renewed focus on Drupal's fundamental building blocks. This means less code to maintain and fewer potential security issues to worry about, resulting in improved overall performance.

In Drupal 10, code has been rewritten to be more efficient and all deprecated code from Drupal 9 has been completely removed. This helps reduce confusion and redundancy in Drupal's APIs, leading to improved performance and ease of use.

In an effort to improve overall performance and streamline the platform, Drupal 10 has removed certain features that are no longer widely used or have been superseded by better solutions. For example, the news aggregator module, which allowed for integration of data from various RSS feeds, has been removed from Drupal core and is now available as a contributed project. To make Drupal 10's core more streamlined and manageable, a number of modules have been removed and are now available as contributed projects. These modules were selected based on low usage, lack of integration with other modules, or lack of an ecosystem. By focusing on core functionality, Drupal 10 offers a leaner and more efficient system.

Modules Moved	Themes Moved
Aggregator	Bartik
CKEditor 4	Classy
Color	Seven
HAL	Stable
Quickedit	
RDF	



Preparing for Drupal 10



Get Started with Drupal 10

Installing and using Drupal is completely free, including access to over 40,000 modules to extend site functionality and over 2,500 themes to modify appearance. If you're running the site locally, you may need to install additional server and database software, as well as a PHP interpreter. You can also test out Drupal quickly and easily at SimplyTest.me, where you'll have access to a full Drupal installation for evaluation and customization (expiring after 12 hours).

The transition from Drupal 7 to 8 involved extensive changes that often required a complete site rebuild, but the introduction of Drupal 8 simplified and streamlined the process. As a result, upgrading to future versions, like Drupal 10, is much easier and requires fewer changes.

Effortlessly Upgrade to Drupal 10 from Drupal 9 with the Upgrade Status Module

Upgrading from Drupal 9 to Drupal 10 is made easy with the Upgrade Status module, which can be run on the Drupal backend UI or through the command line with Drush. This module helps you update your database server, PHP version, and more to those compatible with Drupal 10, identifies unnecessary extensions that can be removed, and checks for compatibility issues and deprecated code in your contributed modules. It also guides you in updating custom code with Drupal Rector to speed up the process. Enable the Upgrade Status module on your Drupal 9 site to get a personalized estimate of the needed changes and a roadmap for a smooth upgrade to Drupal 10.

Drupal Rector automatically generates fixes for common compatibility issues during an upgrade, making the process much easier than manually updating your code. While it covers the most common deprecated APIs, any remaining issues identified by Upgrade Status will need to be addressed manually. Fortunately, Drupal Rector provides guidance and directs you to documentation on the necessary changes.

Drupal Rector has significantly improved in its ability to identify and fix issues for compatibility when upgrading from Drupal 9 to 10. If a contributed project is not yet compatible with Drupal 10, the Lenient Composer plugin can be used to update the project on your site. If there are uncommitted patches available for the project, the cweagans/composer-patches tool can be used to apply patches and provide feedback to the patch authors and module maintainers. This allows your site to continue running on Drupal 9 while also being compatible with Drupal 10, making the process of upgrading to Drupal 10 seamless and hassle-free.

With the release of Drupal 9.5, no new features will be added to Drupal 9. Instead, all future features, including key ones like Automatic Updates and Project Browser that are currently available as contributed or addon extensions, will be developed for Drupal 10. Upgrade to Drupal 10 to take advantage of the latest and greatest in feature development.

Drupal 8

As Drupal 8 has reached its end of life, upgrading to Drupal 10 involves first updating to Drupal 9. The Upgrade Status Module can help you analyze your site and determine any necessary updates, while Drupal Rector can assist with most custom code updates. With nearly 9,000 contributed projects compatible with Drupal 9, the upgrade process is made easier with these valuable tools.

Drupal 7

As of November 2023, support for this version will no longer be available. However, there's no need to worry. Drupal 10 offers tools that make migrating from Drupal 7 a breeze. Additionally, if you choose to upgrade to Drupal 9 now, many of the contributed projects you're using may already be compatible with Drupal 10, making the transition even smoother.

Xequals can help with this process by providing tools like Drupal Module Upgrader and community add-ons like Migrate Tools and Migrate Plus to easily upgrade your custom modules for compatibility with Drupal 8, 9, and 10.



The Future of Drupal 10



Drupal 10: The Latest and Greatest in Web Development Technology

Drupal 10 was released on December 14, 2022 and two minor releases, 10.1 and 10.2, are scheduled to be released in June 2023 and December 2023, respectively. There are three initiatives being developed as contributed extensions with the goal of eventually being included in Drupal core. The Automatic Updates feature allows for the application of updates to Drupal core in a separate, sandboxed copy of a site, allowing the site to remain operational until the updated version is ready to be deployed. Automatic Updates can detect and report any issues during the update process and can detect and run database changes during the update process. While currently stable as a contributed extension, Automatic Updates is expected to be added to Drupal 10 core as an experimental module.

Project Browser is a tool that allows site builders to easily locate and install modules and themes. It is located within the Drupal site on a new "Browse" tab under "Extend," so you don't need to leave your site to search for projects. Once you have selected a project, it can be installed using Automatic Updates' Package Manager component. This makes it convenient for site builders to find and install the resources they need for their site.

Drupal recipes are designed to help web developers easily add desired features and functions to their applications. In the past, distributions provided everything needed to build a specific type of site in a single package including Drupal core, contributed modules, themes, and predefined configurations. This made it possible to quickly set up complex, specialized sites in fewer steps than if each element was installed and configured separately.

Drupal 10 introduces a new concept called recipes, which allow for the combination and preconfiguration of Drupal features. Unlike distributions, recipes can be installed at any point in a Drupal application's development and can be built upon other recipes to create Recipe Kits. Additionally, recipes are declarative and can harness dependent modules to build functionalities. This offers greater flexibility and customization compared to distributions, which can be difficult to keep updated, cannot be easily removed or added once a project has begun, and cannot be mixed and matched with other sets of functionalities.

There is currently a lot of excitement surrounding improvements to the frontend of technology, particularly with the discontinuation of support for Internet Explorer. Stay tuned for updates on these exciting developments.





About Xequals

Xequals specialise in implementing digital platforms such as Learning Management Systems, CRMs, Workflow Systems, Member Portals, advanced websites, and headless iOS/Android Apps.

We are experts in the Drupal CMS and have over 80 years in-house experience using the Drupal framework to achieve ambitious web products.