



Drupal 7 End of Life is Near – Is Your Website Ready?

October 20, 2021



Agenda

What? Why? When?

Motivations

How do I prepare?



— **What? Why? When?**



What's an “End of Life” (EOL)?

This is when the the engineers that release regular updates for a piece of software will no longer be actively developing and maintaining it.

EOL Examples

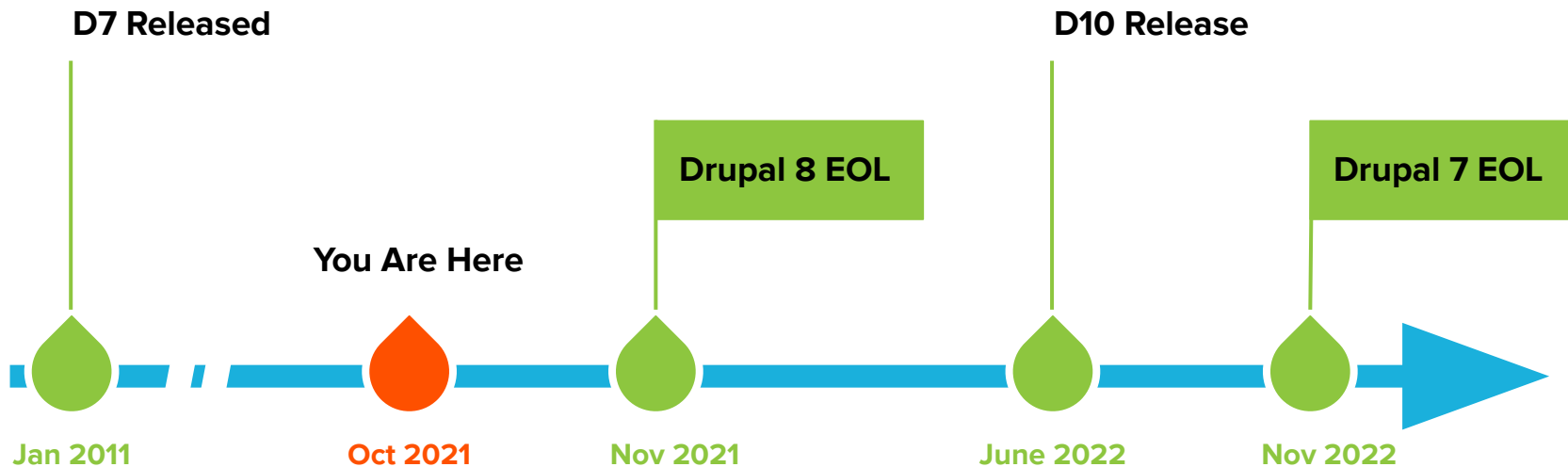
Internet Explorer → Edge

Mac OS 9 → Mac OS X

Windows XP → Windows 10

When is the Drupal 7 EOL?

Nov. 2022: Drupal 7 has been supported for over 10 years & 70+ releases





12

Months to Upgrade



Don't Freak out

- Your Drupal 7 site will not stop working
- It also doesn't mean you will get hacked.
- **Additional cushion:** Acquia & Pantheon are providing their hosting customers support beyond the official Drupal 7 EOL.



Plenty of time, It's Fine...?

The time is **now** to develop and execute a plan to upgrade.

In addition to a partner's timeline, the amount of time needed for activities, such as the following, need to be considered:

- Request & secure a budget internally
- Form an internal project team
- Choose a CMS Development partner
- Choose a hosting provider
- Content auditing & writing



Motivators



Security

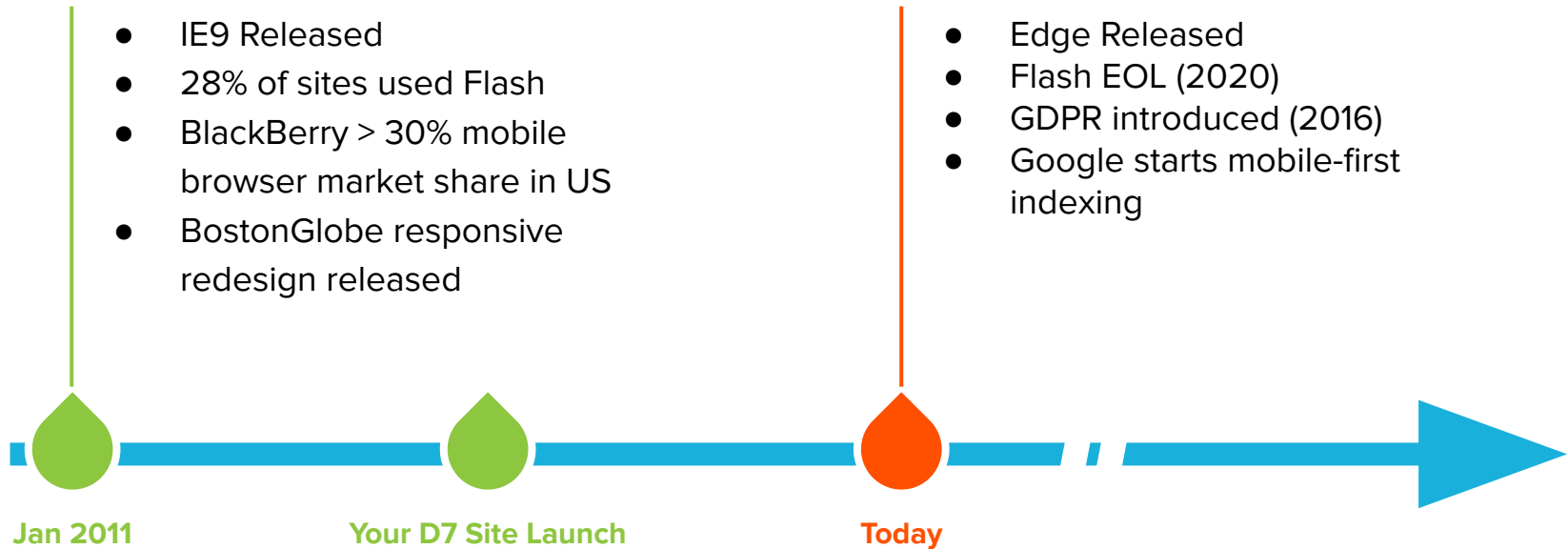
- Falling behind on security updates is major cause of breached sites.
- Hackers also know the EOL dates. This increases vulnerability.
- Technology for bad actors have improved over the years.

Captcha's have been forced to evolve into something that even humans find challenging.



Digital Strategy Evolution

Consider this an opportunity to not only upgrade CMS technology but also the evolve it's digital strategy.



Key Drupal 9 Features

- Fully integrated media library
- Advanced content workflow & moderation tools
- Advanced performance features
- API-First Architecture
- Integrated multilingual capabilities
- Mobile-first architecture
- Integrated visual query builder (Views)
- Semi-annual releases of new features

Some good news

Drupal sites with a **2022 development cycle** will launch with or will be an easy upgrade to **Drupal 10**.

— How can I prepare?



Preparation: Content

Audit, Sort & Evaluate your content

Ensure you have a grasp of the good, the bad and the ugly

Gather representative examples of pages

For each type of page you have (e.g. News Detail, News Listing) select a representative example and document the URL

Audit your content governance model/strategy

Is it working? Desire to to a decentralized or centralized model?

Preparation: Representative URLs

	Variant	Variant URL	Notes
Home	Home	URL Here	
Landing Page	Landing Page - Maximum	URL Here	
	Landing Page - Minimum	URL Here	
General Page	General Page - Maximum	URL Here	
	General Page - Minimum	URL Here	
Program	Program Listing	URL Here	
	Program Detail - Maximum	URL Here	
	Program Detail - Minimum	URL Here	
Organization	Organization Listing	URL Here	
	Organization Detail - Maximum	URL Here	
	Organization Detail - Minimum	URL Here	

How can I prepare?

Preparation: Technology & Features

Document custom features

Marketing tracking, landing pages, contributed and custom modules

Document 3rd Party integrations

For example, CRM integrations such as Salesforce and recurring syncs with a source of record for faculty/staff.

Consider consolidation of disparate sites into a family

Standardization of multiple D7 sites into a common D9 codebase for reduced upfront and long term costs.

Preparation: Other

Secure budget for hosting

Plan for there to be an overlap between your hosting of Drupal 7 and Drupal 9 site.

Form an internal web project team

Often times this will include people outside core web team; ensure you secure their time

Preparation: Choose a path forward

BASIC D9 MIGRATION

Rewrite of the codebase to convert from D7 to D9.

D9 MIGRATION WITH REFRESH/REDESIGN

D9 rebuild with discovery, sitemap, wireframes, and visual design work.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM A PARTNER WITH EITHER PATH

Backend Rebuild

- Functional specifications
- CMS editing improvements
- Security & performance improvements

Theme Rebuild

- Accessibility improvements
- Modern implementation of HTML5, CSS3 & ES6 JavaScript
- Improved SEO structure

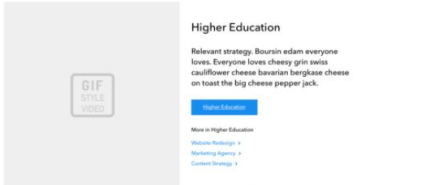
Preparation: Functional Specs

Recurring Components
Checkerboard

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Used on:

- General
- Case Study Detail



Higher Education

Relevant strategy. Boursin edam everyone loves. Everyone loves cheesy grin swiss cauliflower cheese bavarian bergkase cheese on toast the big cheese pepper jack.

[Video Assets](#)

More in Higher Education

[Website Redesign](#)

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[Content Strategy](#)

Fields Needed

- Display Type ★
 - Options:
 - Small
 - Large
- Checkerboard Items [unlimited] ★
 - Image [max 1] ★
 - Image upload (.jpg or .png)
 - Vertical Image [max 1]
 - Image upload (.jpg or .png)
 - Ambient Video [max 1]
 - Video URL field (Vimeo)
 - Note: This is an ambient video (autoplay).
 - Title ★
 - Text Field - Plain
 - Description ★
 - Text Area - Simple HTML
 - Button [max 1]
 - Title + URL Field
 - Link Area Title
 - Text Field - Plain
 - Links [max 4]
 - Title + URL Field

Features

- Videos play in place.
- If there are multiple checkerboard items, the media and text content layout alternates.
- The Display Type determines whether it displays as the large or the small version.
 - The small version uses the "Image" field.
 - The large version uses the "Vertical Image" and the "Image" fields (depending on screen width).

Healthcare

Relevant strategy. Boursin edam everyone loves. Everyone loves cheesy grin swiss cauliflower cheese bavarian bergkase cheese on toast the big cheese pepper jack.

[Website](#)



How can I prepare?

Decorative graphic element in the top-left corner consisting of overlapping orange and yellow circular shapes.

Thank You!

Decorative graphic element in the bottom-right corner consisting of overlapping orange and yellow circular shapes.