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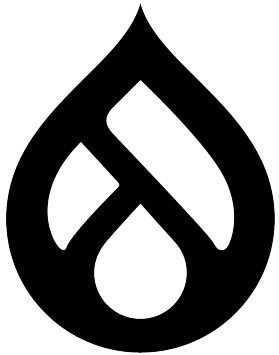
EXPERIENCE DIGITAL FREEDOM

Preparing for Drupal 10

Mike Madison



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Acquia Certified Grand Master Drupal 9
Acquia Certified Developer Drupal 9
Acquia Certified Site Builder Drupal 9
Acquia Certified Drupal 9 Back End Specialist
Acquia Certified Drupal 9 Front End Specialist

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Drupal 10

Is currently scheduled for release in June 2022.

https://www.drupal.org/about/10

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don’t panic

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What's included in Drupal 10?

The following key features are in the works in Drupal 9 and will be included in Drupal 10:

- Claro administration theme (replacing Seven).
- Olivero default theme (replacing Bartik).
- Further improved Layout Builder and Media functionality.
- Better decoupled developer and site builder experiences, especially for menu and URL handling.
- Introduction of CKEditor 5 with better authoring experience and more modern editing (replacing CKEditor 4).
- Modern JavaScript components to replace jQuery UI and some uses of jQuery.
- Theme starterkit tools for bespoke theme creation.
- Symfony 5 or 6 under the hood (replacing Symfony 4) and PHP 8 required to keep the system secure.

*** this list is likely to change as we get closer.

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OH AND...

ongoing security and feature coverage

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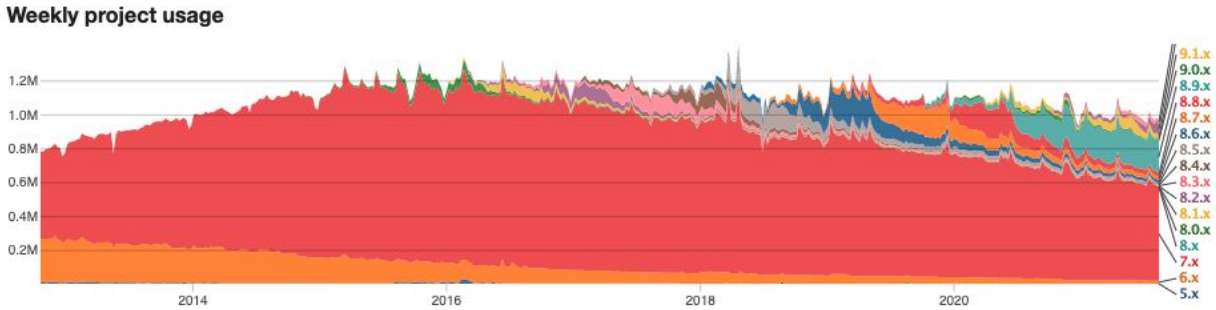
Seriously though...

Why are we talking about Drupal 10 **now?**

- ~60% of the Drupal community is still on D7
- Drupal 8 goes EOL in ~2 months and roughly ~10% on D9
- Drupal 10 is coming out in 8+ months



Week	5.x	6.x	7.x	8.x	8.0.x	8.1.x	8.2.x	8.3.x	8.4.x	8.5.x	8.6.x	8.7.x	8.8.x	8.9.x	9.0.x	9.1.x	9.2.x	9.3.x	Total
August 15, 2021	297	16,904	554,168	1	1,423	1,420	2,411	3,963	2,757	10,261	17,088	21,014	23,525	189,486	6,290	25,722	67,239	22,382	966,351

https://www.drupal.org/project/usage/drupal

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A few (blunt) thoughts

1. if this is causing you stress... this presentation is for you. because it shouldn't be causing you stress!

2. if you're not already running Drupal 9 (and/or if you JUST upgraded to D9)... this presentation is for you. because you're over a year late to the party.

3. if you're still running Drupal 7... well you're really late to the party (and sadly for you, most of this presentation is not aimed at you. sorry!)

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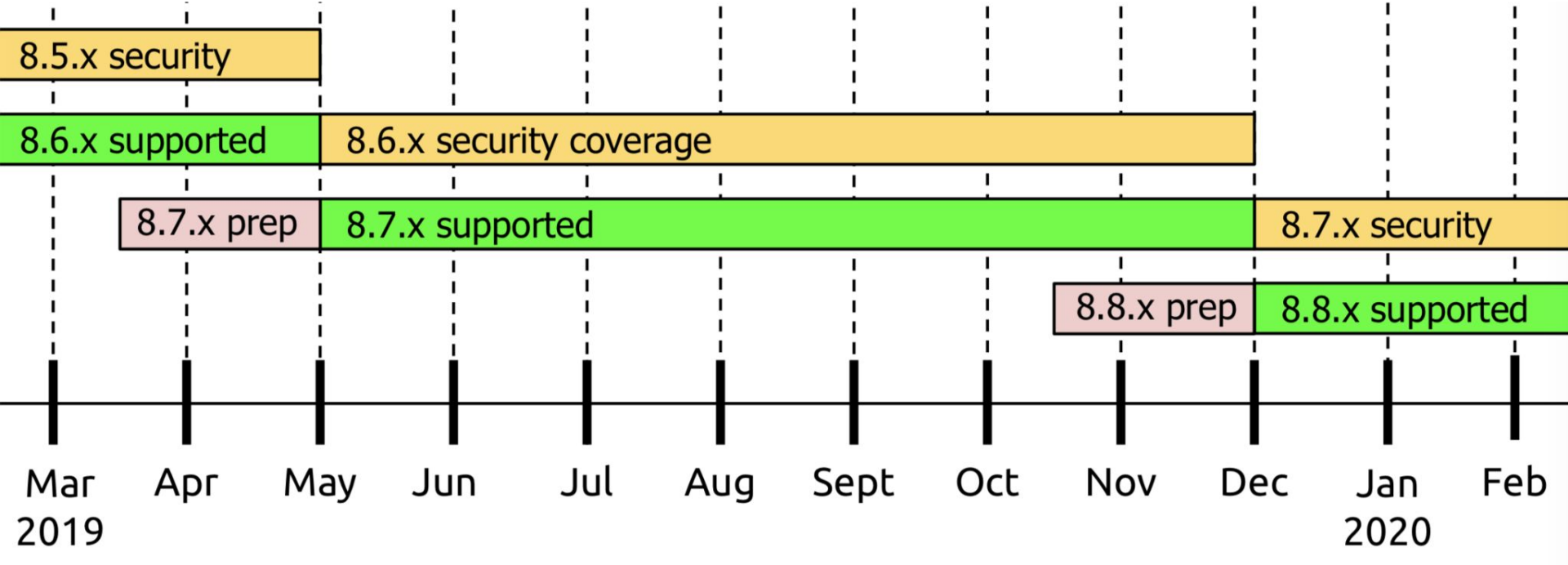

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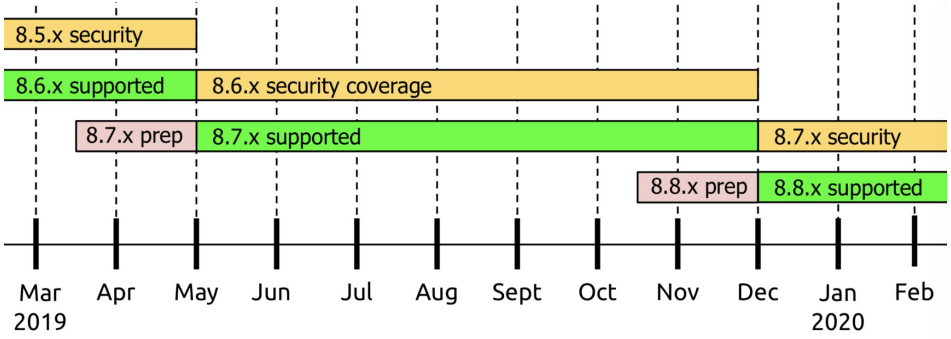
Ever since D8 released in 2015...



Bugfix / security releases have been occurring on a regular basis.

Minor release versions have been released roughly every 6 months.

Major releases have been happening every 2-5 years (e.g. Drupal 8, 9, 10).

https://www.drupal.org/about/core/policies/core-release-cycles/schedule

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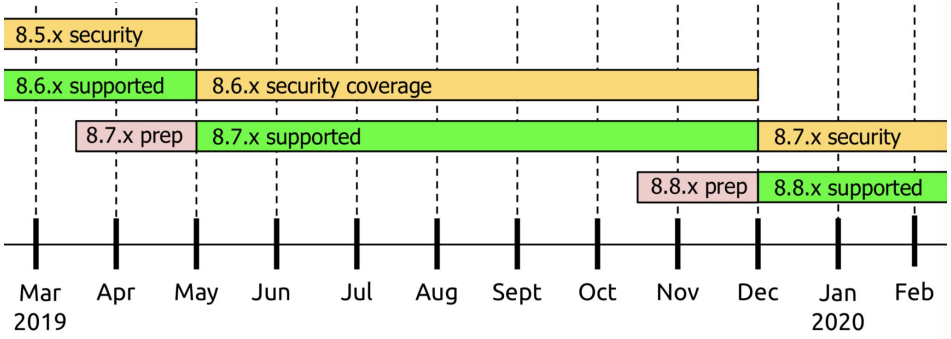
This is **well documented** and in my experience, very reliable!



https://www.drupal.org/about/core/policies/core-release-cycles/schedule

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Why does cadence matter?

You should be able to plan for some things...

1. there is going to be **at least** one bug/security fix release of Drupal core every month.

2. you should be doing at least one upgrade / deploy of Drupal core every month (all the way through production)

3. minor versions (e.g. 9.2.x 9.3.x, etc.) come out every ~6 months. you should be updating these as soon as (feasibly) possible.

How does this impact you?

Use this knowledge to your advantage!

1. Estimate how long it takes you to do a production deployment
    a. perform necessary update(s)
    b. testing / validation
    c. deployment / downtime
2. Build that time into your monthly workload and assume **minimum** one deployment per month
3. Profit?

Is once a month really enough?

...no.

BUT it's better than 2x a year.

Let's review: https://www.drupal.org/project/drupal/releases

August: 2 bug / security releases (so far)
July: 2 bug / security releases
June: 2 bug / security releases

Is once a month really enough?

Update Quarterly: 6 versions of Drupal

Update Monthly: 2 versions of Drupal

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Believe it or not... the more often you update the easier it is to update.

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Is once a month really enough?

The most ideal scenario is that **every single update** gets applied to your site in a “timely” manner. This includes:

- security fixes (ideally within 24 hours)
- bug fixes (ideally within a week)
- minor versions (as soon as possible)

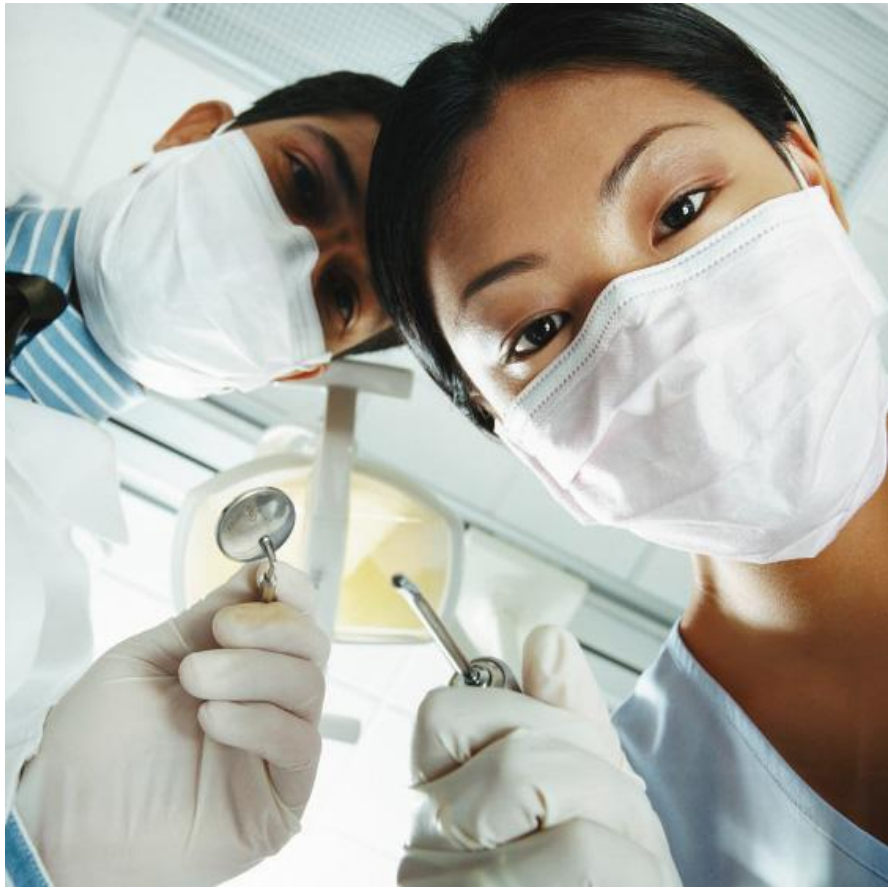
Recent Review of Customer Codebase

- Running Drupal 8.6
  - Good news: running Drupal 8!
  - Bad news: 2+ years out of date, major security vulnerabilities, blocked from executing D9 update directly (must be running Drupal 8.8.x or newer)
- Significant amount of custom code
  - Good news: well structured / written custom PHP (thousands of lines)
  - Bad news: Significant deprecation, cannot address until drupal/core updated to newer version of D8

Verdict:

- massive technical debt, seemingly insurmountable effort to obtain goal
- significant stressors due to D8 EOL in November.
- forced to hire outside help to reach deadline given size / skill of team

A great anecdote from DrupalCon and the Security Team



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..but how?!

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Align with the “Powers that Be”

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Build a Sustainable Staffing Model

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Automate Automate Automate

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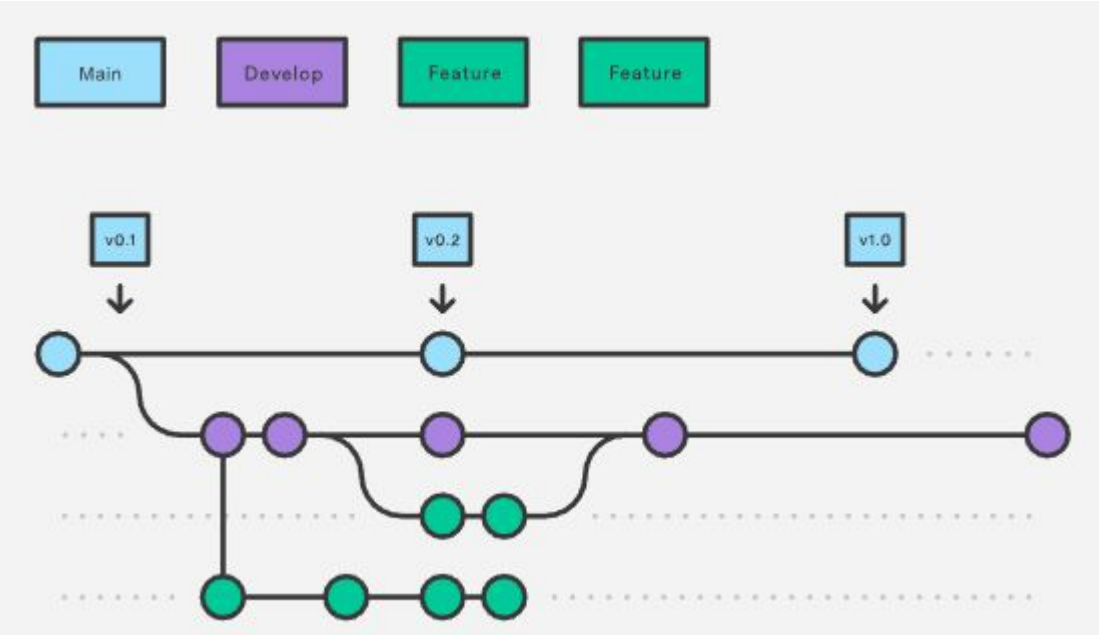
Use Gitflow to Your Advantage



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Prioritize Appropriately

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Resolve (Technical) Debt and Blockers

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In Practice: Drupal GovCon Codebase

- Security Updates dropped yesterday (8/25) for Webform and Admin Toolbar.
- Notification received via Twitter + Email from Drupal Security Team
- Updates started immediately
- PR opened after local validation
- Security Updates deployed to dev once CI/CD success
- Prod backed up + deployed w/in 2 hours of security update releases

(I was doing this while I was doing other work and by no means did it take 100% of my attention).

How / Why was I able to do this so quickly / safely / easily?

1. Security updates *only*. Minimal changes to other things (no database updates / config changes, etc.)
2. CI/CD pipeline installs Drupal, executes basic automated testing, etc.
3. Regularly deploys to production site and **high degree of confidence** in our methodology + process
4. Tag based deploys + database updates “just in case”

SO TOO CAN YOU

None of these things I'm talking about are particularly "hard" to do.

They do take time, effort, and potentially money (depending on your access to things like CI/CD).

Remember: investing in process pays significant dividends and while it may put you "behind" at first, you will eventually recoup your investment many times over in what you make up for later on.

...isn't this a Drupal 10 Talk?

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I’m so glad you asked...

Getting ready for Drupal 10 for *most* projects / teams isn’t about installing an update. If this was the case... a lot more than 10% of the community would be running Drupal 9.

What we’re talking about is bigger than that... it’s more than just a technical task. It’s a change in behavior that will impact how your team operates, how you respond to community updates, and how you handle your technical priorities.

Goal Setting

I'm a manager (and a firm believe in goals / OKRs). So I have a goal for all of you on this call and watching this recording:

I want you to set a goal of updating to Drupal 10 on your codebase within a month of its release in June 2022. **This does not mean successfully updated in production, it just means that you attempt the update to find any outstanding issues.**

If you're feeling very ambitious... set a stretch goal of installing one of the early access alpha/beta releases in April/May 2022 (to get ahead of any major issues).

FREEZE:

What was your reaction to that goal?

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I make zero promises

I was able to update the Drupal4Gov website *months* before I was able to update Drupal GovCon last year.

I wrote about it:

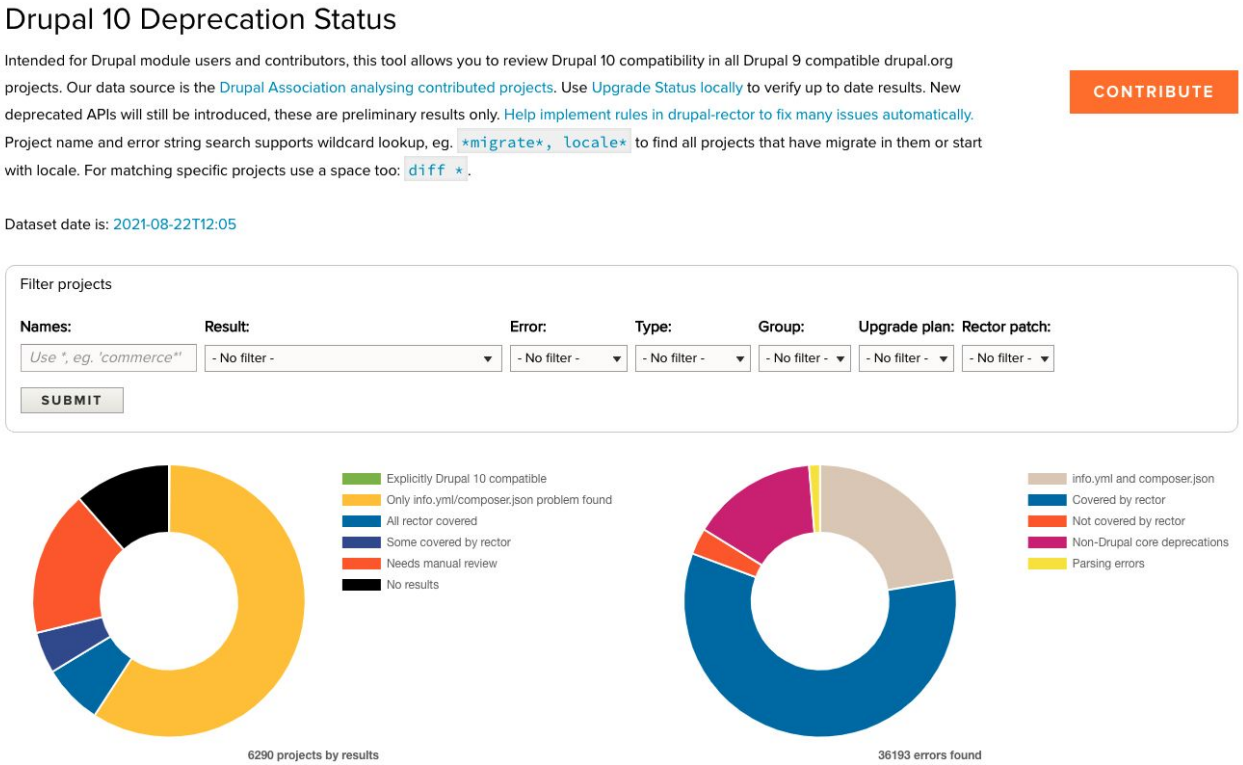
- D4G Update in July 2020
- DGC Update in October 2020*

* note: we could have done DGC sooner, but we didn't want to do it in the middle of or just before the conference

BUT

- Doing the update early will
- Identify blocking problems with your site(s) / platform
- Give you the opportunity to contribute back to the community through:
  - Drupal.org issues (for core / contrib)
  - Conference presentations (as an early tester / adopter)
  - Blog articles (on your experience)
- Prepare you to “actually” do the update in the future
- Build confidence in your testing processes and procedures

Community Readiness



https://dev.acquia.com/drupal10/deprecation_status

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Community Tools

Upgrade Status automatically scans your codebase and flags incompatible code / modules (both custom and contrib) that would block your update. It also tells you how to fix issues in custom code.

Drupal Rector helps automate the fixes of many deprecated issues in modules so you don't have to!

What should you do RIGHT NOW?

1. Get on Drupal 9 ASAP

2. Work with your team (both technical + non-technical) to establish a proper release cadence and structure

3. Automate and simplify your testing, deployments, etc.

4. Prioritize updates from the community above internal work whenever possible (and it makes sense)

5. Start reviewing Upgrade Status and planning for Drupal 10 “well before” June 2022

Get out your bell and sandwich board

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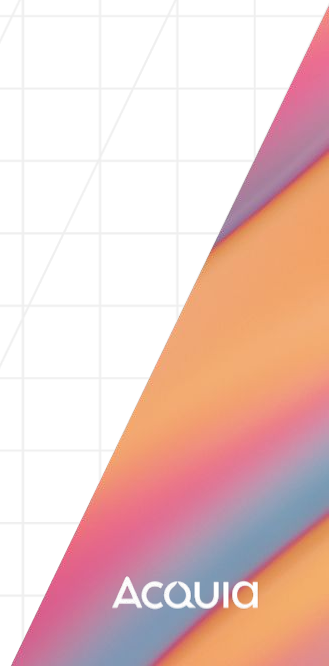
Questions