Drupal 7, Drupal 8, and Beyond

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To make sure we’re all on the same page...

Drupal 5 (January 2007 – January 2011)
5.0 → 5.1 → 5.2 … (bug fixes)

Drupal 6 (February 2008 - )
6.0 → 6.1 → 6.2 … (bug fixes)

Drupal 7 (January 2011 - )
7.0 → 7.1 → 7.2 … (bug fixes + small features)

Drupal 8 …. anything goes!
When will Drupal 8 be born?

Drupal Eight!

August 2013?

Weight: 85 MB

Proud parents: The Drupal community

Image by Erik Hersman
Whenever it’s ready
My perspective
Drupal 7 contributions

Hint: Fix a lot of typos in the code…

Graphic by Marco Villegas
Hint: Fix a lot of typos in the code…
Drupal 8?

Graphic by Marco Villegas
Drupal 8?

Look, it’s me!
I hope that means I have an interesting perspective on Drupal 8 (somewhere between an “insider” and “outsider”)
The Plan
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• Go through some new Drupal 8 features
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• Say what looks good about them
The Plan

- Go through some new Drupal 8 features
- Say what looks good about them
- Say what looks risky about them
The Plan

• Go through some new Drupal 8 features

• Say what looks good about them

• Say what looks risky about them

• Talk about what they need right now
Now is the best time to be critical about Drupal 8

After it is released is too late.
We are about to enter the “clean-up phase”
What’s the overall risk?
Drupal has a dirty secret:
No one upgrades their sites

![Weekly project usage chart showing usage trends for Drupal versions 5.x, 6.x, 7.x, 8.x, and total. The chart shows a significant increase in usage after the Drupal 7 release date.]
Even after the site’s code is no longer supported (Drupal 5)

Drupal 7 released – Drupal 5 unsupported

Caveat: Heavily undercounted, but biased towards upgrade-conscious sites
Even after the site’s code is no longer supported (Drupal 5)

Caveat: Heavily undercounted, but biased towards upgrade-conscious sites

Drupal 7 released – Drupal 5 unsupported

Might hit zero in mid-2014…
Will Drupal 6 be different?

(Will Drupal 7?)
What’s the overall risk?

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   - Easier to just backport things (security patches for D6 after D8 release?)
Mobile

25X growth over next 5 years!

This is what Drupal relies on to grow
What’s the overall risk?

1. De facto forking of the project
   - Drupal reinvents itself every few years
   - Upgrading is difficult and not done right away
   - Easier to just backport things (security patches for D6 after D8 release?)

2. Drupal 8 has no built-in audience. It must sell itself, so it better be good.
Some Drupal 8 features (in alphabetical order)

- For more details:
  “Raising the Bar for Drupal: WSCCI, Scotch & Vodka (and Rum!)”
  Forest Mars (1:30 pm in Friend 004)

- Thanks especially to:
  Angie Byron (webchick)’s hook_future_alter() slides
  http://webchick.net/drupal-8-slides
1. Borrowing code from other projects

- Symfony (PHP framework)
- Guzzle (HTTP client)
- Twig (templating engine)
- Doctrine (code annotation parsing)
- EasyRdf (RDF processing and testing)
- CreateJS (JavaScript library for rich interactions)
- etc.
Why it’s good

Drupal’s code for determining a visitor’s IP address

```php
function ip_address() {
    $ip_address = &drupal_static(__FUNCTION__);

    if (!isset($ip_address)) {
        $ip_address = $_SERVER['REMOTE_ADDR'];

        if (variable_get('reverse_proxy', 0)) {
            $reverse_proxy_header = variable_get('reverse_proxy_header',
            'HTTP_X_FORWARDED_FOR');
            if (!empty($_SERVER[$reverse_proxy_header])) {
                // If an array of known reverse proxy IPs is provided, then trust
                // the XFF header if request really comes from one of them.
                $reverse_proxy_addresses = variable_get('reverse_proxy_addresses', array());

                // Turn XFF header into an array:
                $forwarded = explode(',', $reverse_proxy_addresses);
                // Trim the forwarded IPs; they have a length of two
                $forwarded = array_map('trim', $forwarded);

                // Tack direct client IP onto:
                $forwarded[] = $ip_address;

                // Eliminate all trusted IPs:
                $untrusted = array_diff($forwarded, $reverse_proxy_addresses);

                // The right-most IP is the most specific we can trust.
                $ip_address = array_pop($untrusted);
            }
        }
    }
}
```
Why it’s good

Drupal’s code for determining a visitor’s IP address

Lots of complex low-level server-specific code that has nothing to do with Drupal.
Why it’s risky:
These are smaller, newer projects compared to Drupal

- Wordpress: 8,402,283 websites
- Drupal: 554,495 websites
- Symfony: 464 websites

(Ok, the actual numbers are probably very very very wrong…)

(from BuiltWith Trends: trends.builtwith.com)
Better measure: Conference attendance?

• **Symfony Live**
  – September 2012 @ San Francisco
  – November 2012 @ Berlin
  ~ 200-300 attendees each

• **DrupalCon**
  – March 2012 @ Denver … ~3,100 attendees
  – August 2012 @ Munich … ~1,800 attendees
Newer, less mature projects will have bugs that Drupal already fixed

This is not a criticism. It’s a software development fact.
Remember those IP addresses?

I've just released Symfony 2.0.19 and 2.1.4. Both releases contain a security fix.

Damien Tournoud, from the Drupal security team, contacted us two days ago about a security issue in the Request::getClientIp() method when the trust proxy mode is enabled (Request::trustProxyData()).
That worked well, but what will happen after Drupal 8.0?
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Concern within the Drupal security team about coordinating with all these other projects
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Concern within the Drupal security team about coordinating with all these other projects

Discussion:
groups.drupal.org/node/250578
drupal.org/node/1451056
2. Fields (lots of new ones) and Views … all in Drupal core!
Overall this is pretty good

- But Drupal core is getting big… very big (both good and risky)
- Will features get locked in and not be developed further?

Help Views be great before Drupal 8 is released: drupal.org/community-initiatives/drupal-core/vdc-roadmap
3. HTML5 and Mobile

On a narrow screen, Drupal 7 is not so good out of the box… Drupal 8 tries to fix that.
What’s good: Mobile administration
What’s good: Responsive themes and images
What’s risky

Making desktop worse to make mobile better?
What’s risky

Making desktop worse to make mobile better?

Discussion: drupal.org/node/1852346
4. Inline editing
What’s good: This is pretty neat stuff (both technically and for end users)
**What’s risky: Mildly complex sites?**

This content is displayed several places on the site… If I edit this description in this block, what actually gets changed?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Articles</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>First article</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short description.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone number:</td>
<td>555-1111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail address:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:person1@example.com">person1@example.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Link:</td>
<td>Outside link!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related blog post:</td>
<td>My blog post</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Second article</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short description.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone number:</td>
<td>555-1112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail address:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:person2@example.com">person2@example.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Link:</td>
<td>Another outside link!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related blog post:</td>
<td>My other blog post</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What’s risky: Mildly complex sites?

This content is displayed several places on the site…

If I edit this description in this block, what actually gets changed?

What about content workflows?
What’s risky: Mildly complex sites?

Welcome to My Site

No front page content has been created yet.

- Add new content

This content is displayed several places on the site...
If I edit this description in this block, what actually gets changed?

Discussion: drupal.org/node/1862784

drupal.org/node/1678002
5. Managing configuration

Changing functionality on your production website without having to click lots of buttons on your production website...

(a.k.a. Features module in D6/D7)
I took this View and edited it via the user interface on my development site.
It creates a file which I can move to my production site

```
sites/default/files/config_-GEdUBbxE4jJ2Nj6WjVf-nocxTQmZMoza2RI3H1Ct9A/staging$ ls -l
-rw-r--r-- 1 7:37 177:576 177:576 README.txt
-rw-r--r-- 1 7:37 177:576 177:576 views.view.articles.yml
```
On my production site I press a single button.
Changes go live!

Articles

Second article

Short description.

Phone number:
555-1112

E-mail address:
person2@example.com

Link:
Another outside link!

Related blog post:
My other blog post

First article

Short description.

Phone number:
555-1111

E-mail address:
person1@example.com

Link:
Outside link!

Related blog post:
My blog post
Managing configuration

• **What’s good:** Having this in core will be an amazing tool for developers

• **What’s risky:** This is a completely new implementation (not based on the Features module)

• **What it needs:** Testing and review

[drupal.org/community-initiatives/drupal-core#cmi](http://drupal.org/community-initiatives/drupal-core#cmi)
6. Multilingual improvements

Translational will be downloaded from the Drupal Translation website. If you want this, select English and continue the installation. For more information, see the online handbook.
Se seleccionar un perfil de instalación

- Estándar
  Instalar con las características de uso más comunes
- Mínimo
  Build a custom site without pre-configured functions

Elegir un idioma

Elegir perfil

Guardar y continuar
(Oh, and once your site is running – lots and lots of improvements to entity and field translations)
What’s risky?
What’s risky?

• Nothing, really…
What’s risky?

• Nothing, really…

• Except if it doesn’t get finished…
What’s risky?

- Nothing, really…
- Except if it doesn’t get finished…

[drupal.org/community-initiatives/drupal-core#d8mi]
7. Web services

(This is why Symfony was added.)

drupal.org/community-initiatives/drupal-core#wscci
Still to come or in progress...

- Content previews?
- WYSIWYG in core?
- Project browser?
- Blocks and layouts?
- Other modules (like Date fields or Pathauto) in core?
- Cleaner and easier to find modules page
- Under-the-hood changes for themers (Twig) and developers (Entity API improvements)
- And lots more…
What’s risky: Does Drupal provide everything for everyone?
What’s risky: Does Drupal provide everything for everyone?

Wordpress.org

Decisions not Options

As developers we sometimes feel that providing options for everything is a good thing, you can never have too many choices, right? Ultimately these choices end up being technical ones, choices that the average end user has no interest in. It's our duty as developers to make smart design decisions and avoid putting the weight of technical choices on our end users.
Conclusion

- Drupal reinvents itself every few years.
- That’s worked in the past.
- Each time, the reinvention gets more ambitious.
- Drupal 8 might be the biggest change yet.
- There are risks, but it’s an exciting time to be doing Drupal!

- **Get involved:** Contribution sprint tomorrow
- **In general:** drupal.org/contribute