

# **DRUPAL 9**

# THE FULL UPGRADE GUIDE

A NORTH STUDIO EBOOK



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>02</b>	<b>WHAT IS DRUPAL 9?</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>WHAT TO KNOW WHEN YOU UPGRADE TO DRUPAL 9</b>
<b>02</b>	<b>DRUPAL 9 KEY BENEFITS</b>		
	<b>02 DRUPAL 9 VS DRUPAL 8</b>		<b>07 FROM DRUPAL 8 TO DRUPAL 9</b>
	<b>03 DRUPAL 9 VERSUS DRUPAL 7</b>		<b>07 FROM DRUPAL 7 TO DRUPAL 9</b>
	<b>04 OTHER MAJOR FEATURES OF DRUPAL 9</b>	<b>08</b>	<b>MODULE AND TEMPLATE ECOSYSTEM</b>
<b>05</b>	<b>OTHER CMS PLATFORMS</b>	<b>09</b>	<b>WHY NORTH STUDIO</b>
<b>06</b>	<b>UPGRADING TO DRUPAL 9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>AUTHOR'S BIO</b>



# WHAT IS DRUPAL 9?

Drupal 9 is the latest iteration in the Drupal content management system.

## DRUPAL 9 KEY BENEFITS

### DRUPAL 9 VS DRUPAL 8

Drupal 8 provides the foundational framework for all forward-compatible versions of Drupal. Drupal 9 has largely the same framework elements as Drupal 8, such as object-oriented development structure, improved security infrastructure, and faster performance.

Unlike the conversion from Drupal 7 to Drupal 8, sites will not need to be totally rebuilt to support the upgrade, and instead will need to simply undergo the process of upgrading Drupal Core itself and any module available on Drupal 9.

In addition, Drupal 9 is backwards compatible. That means that all contributed modules and most custom code can be upgraded to Drupal 9 with little to no extra effort. This is a key part of why the conversion to Drupal 9 from Drupal 8 is closer to an upgrade and a migration.



## DRUPAL 9 VERSUS DRUPAL 7

All other major benefits of upgrading to Drupal 8 included as well as:

- Object oriented coding for better sustainability and flexibility
- Security greatly improved
- Increased performance and speed
- Supported by the Drupal community as the newest release

**OTHER MAJOR FEATURES OF DRUPAL 9:**

- The removal of Panelizer in favor of Layout Builder for user-friendly content manipulation
- Headless CMS compatibility
- Improved Multilingual Support features
- Content structuring to allow multiple, interchangeable workflows for content entry
- Removal of Deprecated Code



## **OTHER CMS PLATFORMS**

Drupal 9 has the security and robust infrastructure that is significantly more similar in style to other PHP frameworks, making it easier for developers to maintain it. In addition, Drupal's robust ecosystem of modules extends the framework's capabilities securely and continuously is an inherent part of the Drupal platform.

### **WORDPRESS**

While Wordpress is well known and popular in the content management system space, it has notable limitations.

- This includes a less flexible taxonomy system
- Significantly less secure, more prone to hacking and intrusion
- Accounts for 75% of all hacked websites on the internet
- Less flexible data display system compared to Drupal's Views module
- Multilingual support is third party only (not built in)



## UPGRADING TO DRUPAL 9

There is good news!

If your site has no deprecated code on it, you can upgrade easily, safely, and quickly.

At North Studio, Upgrading to Drupal 9 costs less than 25% the total cost of the upgrade from Drupal 7 to Drupal 8 on average.

**D9**  
VERSUS  
**D8**

COMPARING THE BOTTOM LINE OF NEW  
AND OLD DRUPAL

**9**

D9 upgrades cost on average 25% less than a D8 upgrade.

Backwards compatible - meaning only one upgrade is all you'll ever need.

**8**

Higher cost of upgrade - meaning a higher total cost of ownership.

Lacks backwards compatibility - meaning one day, you'll need to upgrade again.

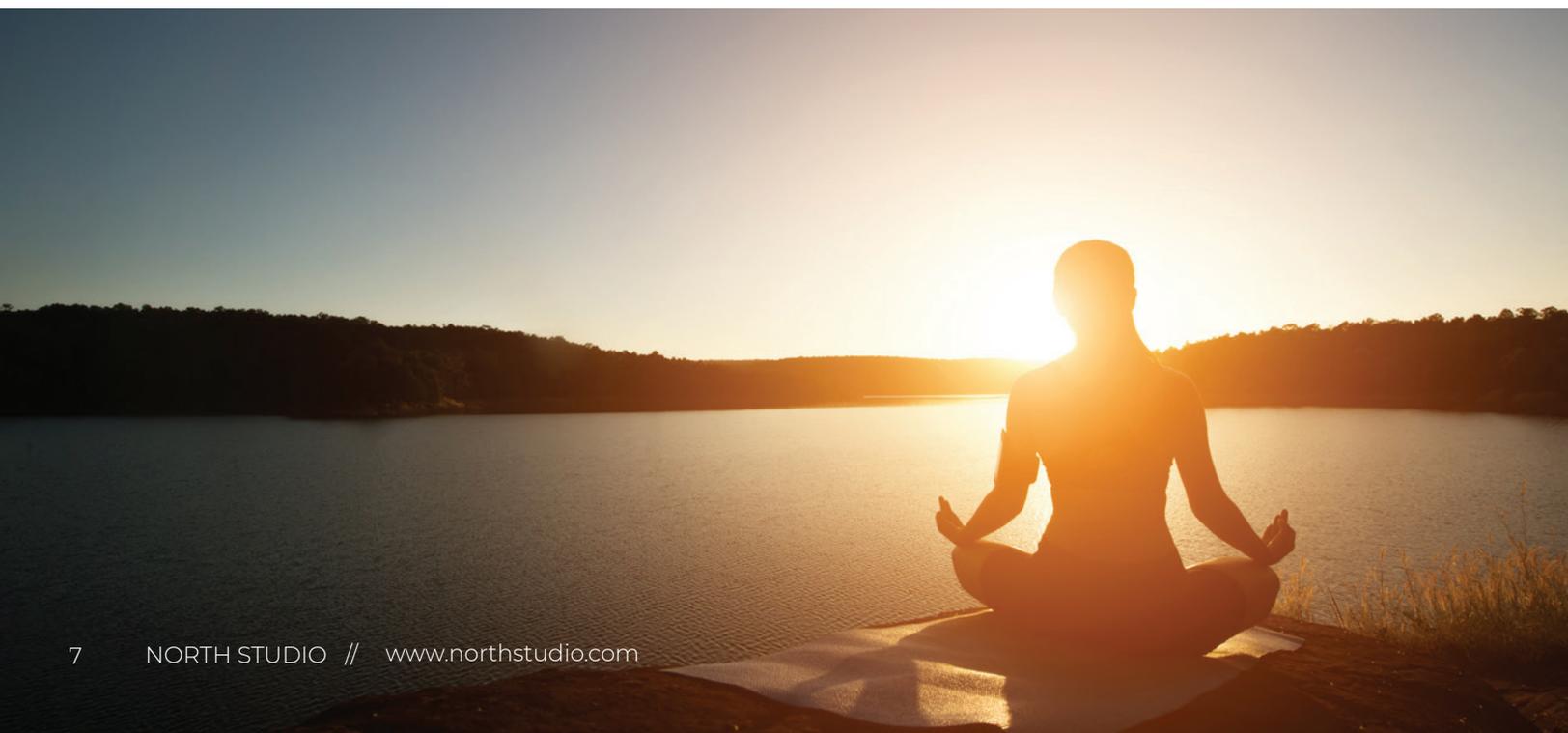
## WHAT TO KNOW WHEN YOU UPGRADE

### FROM DRUPAL 8 TO DRUPAL 9

- Same framework with slight code changes for cleaner coding and maintenance practices moving forward
- Backward compatibility
- All Drupal 8 modules are compatible with Drupal 9 modules unless they contain deprecated code, in which case the individual module must be upgraded to Drupal 9 coding standards

### FROM DRUPAL 7 TO DRUPAL 9

- New framework design
- No backwards compatibility
- All custom modules will need to be remapped to Drupal 8 or Drupal 9 modules, or rebuilt from scratch in the new framework coding style
- Many new features and functionality, including Views and other central modules included





## MODULE AND TEMPLATE ECOSYSTEM

Drupal 9 also brings big changes to many core modules. In addition to security improvements and improved multilingual features, these are the biggest changes you should be on the lookout for:

**Layout Builder:** Replacing the old Panelizer module, Layout Builder makes page-building easy, allowing users to build pages on the front end, and implement block sections at will. This makes D9 the most user-friendly version of Drupal to date.

**Symfony/Twig:** D9 also ships with the newest versions of Symfony/Twig, bringing updated PHP libraries out the gate to new sites. This means that with Drupal 9, you won't have to worry about your website's libraries reaching end of life any time soon.

**Content Workflow:** Perhaps the biggest change for user efficiency, D9 will come out of the box with content workflow, which will allow users to define multiple workflows in a session. While D8 introduced the idea of multiple workflows in Drupal, D9 ensures it will be available to everyone out the gate.



# WHY NORTH STUDIO

Since 1998, North Studio has been delivering leading edge solutions for Mobile & Web. Our customers span the globe - from startups to brand name multinational conglomerates to national government entities and many educational institutions. We've been at this since the web's infancy right up to today's highly complex systems and have a proven track record working with over a thousand clients.

Migration is one of our core competencies that puts us on the map, and is one of the many reasons organizations choose to partner with us for our digital muscle in this realm. If you're an organization looking for advice, online navigation, strategy, or a phenomenal partner to help migrate your site, we'd love to open up the conversation with you. Shoot us an email or give us a holler today at [support@northstudio.com](mailto:support@northstudio.com).

# AUTHOR'S BIO



## **DR. SHALLON BROWN // Chief Technology Officer (CTO)**

Dr. Shallon Elizabeth Brown has been in software engineering for over 20 years, and has specifically worked in Drupal since 2007 on Drupal Core 5.

She recently completed her Doctorate in Information Systems Engineering, where she graduated at the top of her class with a 4.0 GPA, becoming the youngest person to ever obtain such a degree from her department, and the first African American woman in the world to publish a manuscript on open source technology. Her manuscript, titled "Motivations in Open Source: A Quantitative Study on Drupal in Academia," was the first doctoral manuscript in the world to ever be published on Drupal at the time of publication. She was later chosen as the Keynote Speaker for Baltimore's 2017 Drupalcon Higher Education Summit, where she got to present the findings of her work. You can find Dr. Brown online at [@DrShallon](#) on Twitter.





*Candace and the team have done a great job navigating what has been a very complex partner relationship program alongside delivering a high quality set of deliverables to date.*

**THE BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION**



*These guys built our amazing new site in Drupal 8. Everyone there from project management to designers, coders and SEO experts were fantastic to work with, responsive (like our site) and true experts in their fields. We can't thank North Studio enough for all they do.*

**EMERGENT BIOSOLUTIONS**



*I wish we had started our project with these folks. They not only rescued us but have an absolute pleasure to work with. Great resources, wonderfully competent people and great customer service. When was the last time your developer asked you how they were doing and if you were happy with their service?*

**TECHNIC**

# SOURCES:

[HTTPS://WWW.DRUPAL.ORG/ABOUT/9/FAQ](https://www.drupal.org/about/9/faq)

[HTTPS://WWW.DRUPAL.ORG/BLOG/  
MIGRATION-SECURITY-AND-MORE-  
WE-ANSWER-YOUR-BURNING-QUESTIONS-ABOUT-DRUPAL-9](https://www.drupal.org/blog/migration-security-and-more-we-answer-your-burning-questions-about-drupal-9)

**NORTH  STUDIO**

[info@northstudio.com](mailto:info@northstudio.com)

[www.northstudio.com](http://www.northstudio.com)