



Drupal Community Meeting The Road to WordPress

Carina Antunes, Joachim Valdemar Yde
IT-PW-WA, IR-ECO-PRD

03-APR-2024
<https://indico.cern.ch/event/1396270/>

Agenda

- Status on Drupal 10
- Web Governance at CERN
 - Understanding the need for governance
 - Overview of web governance structure
- CERN's web presence today
- Web Governance Board decisions
 - The future of CERN's web presence
 - Governance of customisation
- Next steps

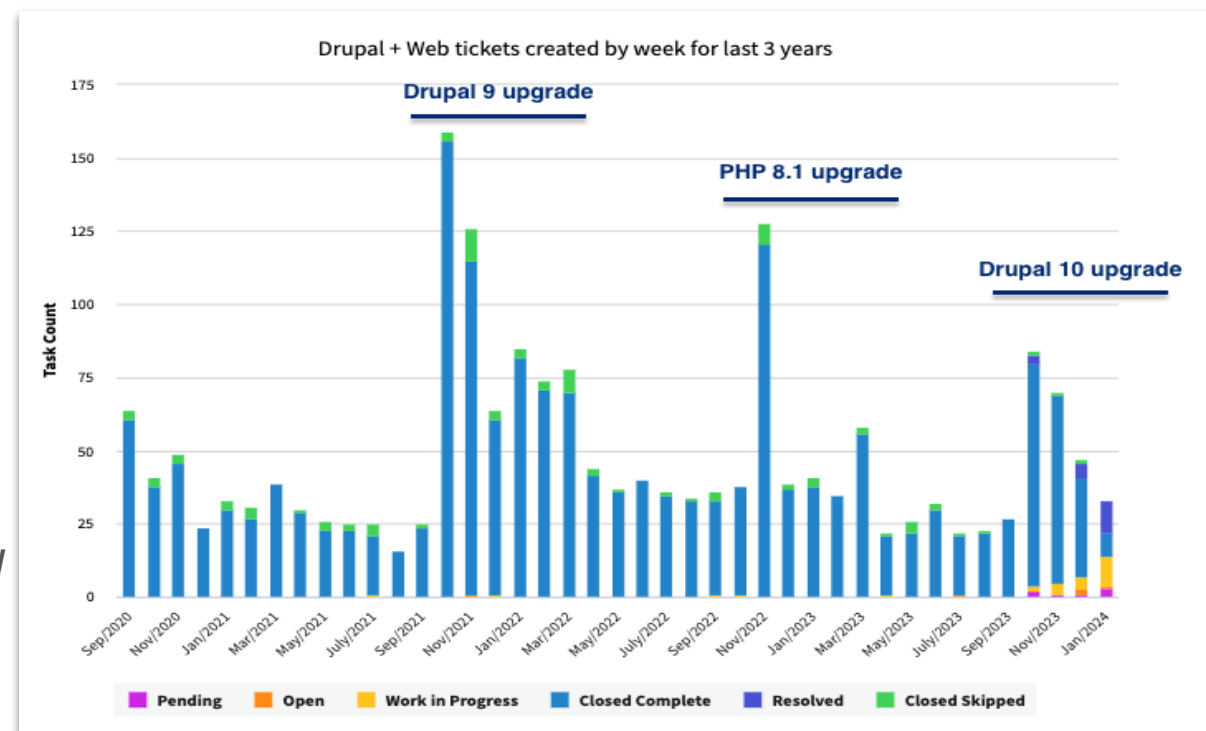
Status on Drupal 10

Migration status and customisation overview

Status on Drupal 10 (1/7)


- A lot has happened since our last meeting in September!
- We have largely **finished the Drupal 10 upgrade**
 - Smoothest major Drupal upgrade to-date (*first phase!*)
 - 8 production websites left; all non-critical behind SSO
 - Upgrades were forced to remaining instances
modules upgraded where possible, otherwise removed

Thank you for your assistance!



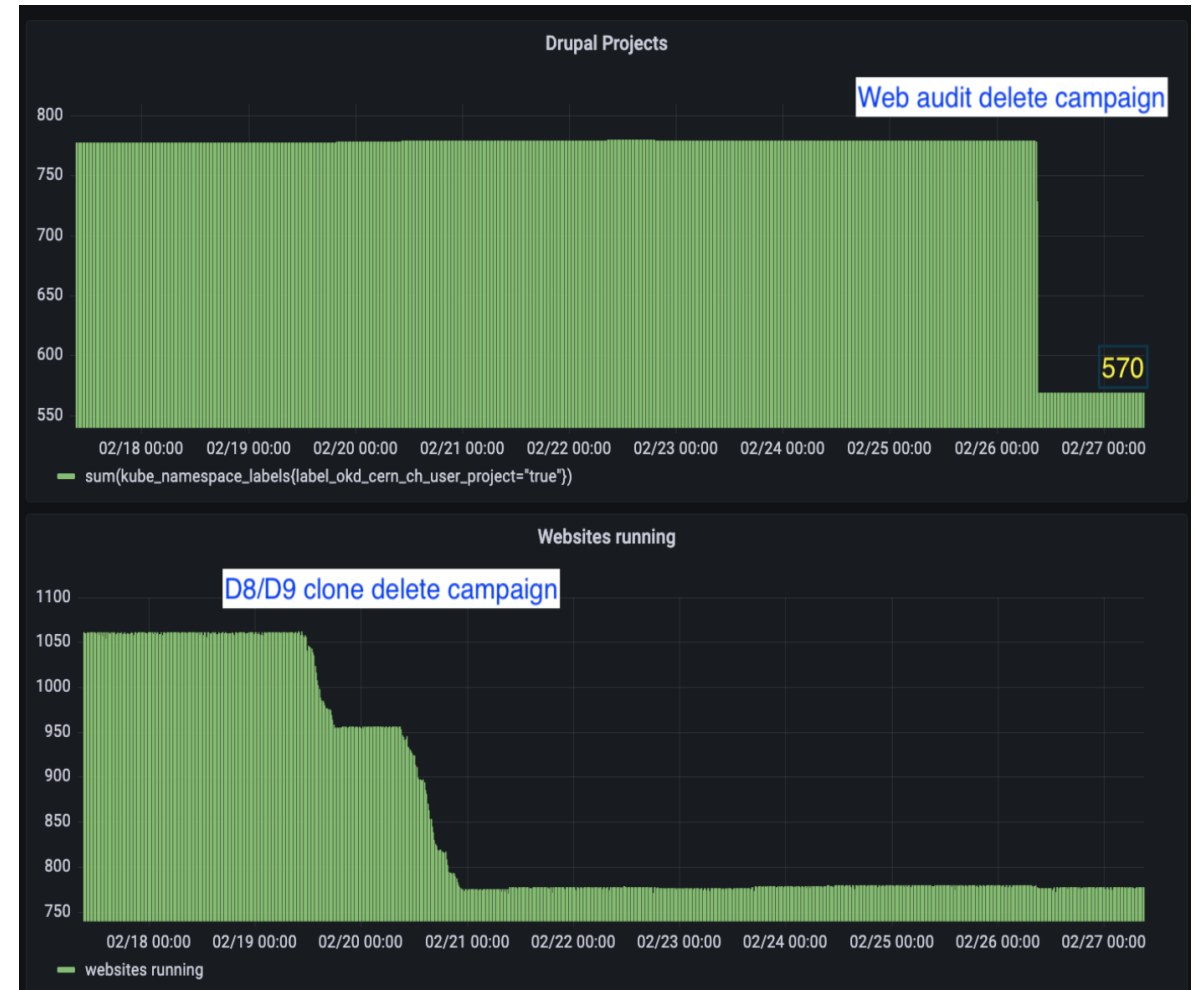
Status on Drupal 10 (2/7)

Additionally:

-  **All website clones behind the CERN SSO**
 - Improves security and strengthens CERN's digital identity
 - Avoids clones inadvertently showing up on search engines
- **Retired drupal-tools.web.cern.ch in favour of drupal.docs.cern.ch**

Status on Drupal 10 (3/7)

- We have finished clean-up campaigns for Drupal 8 and 9 clones
 - Streamline centralised operations and support
- **Completed and implemented recommendations from audit**
 - ~200 websites deleted;
 - 53 websites marked for static; work ongoing

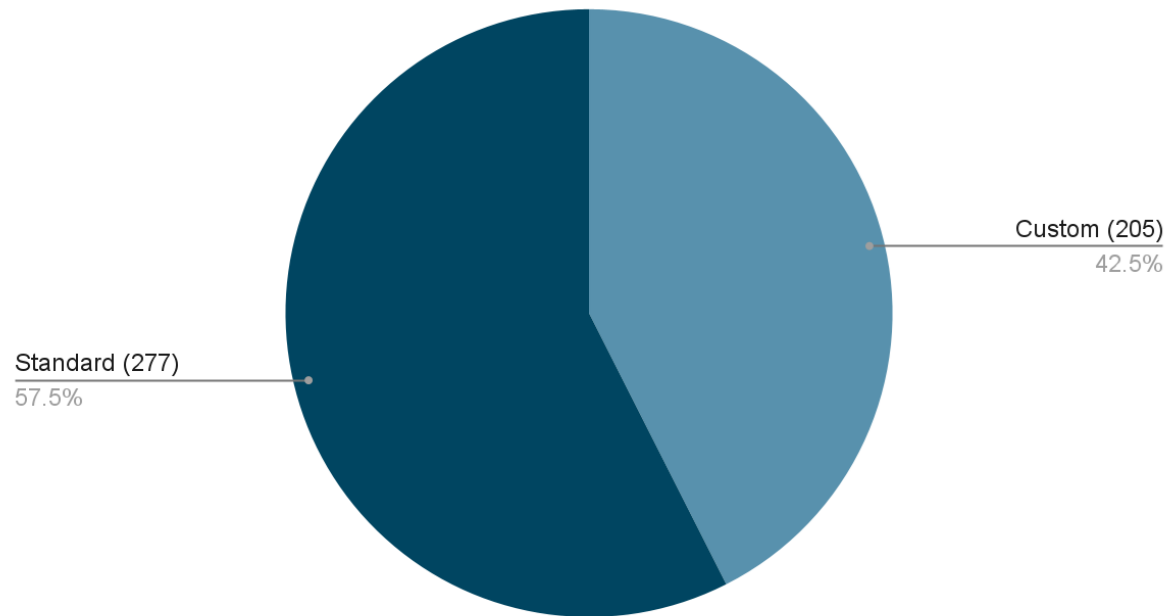


Status on Drupal 10 (4/7)

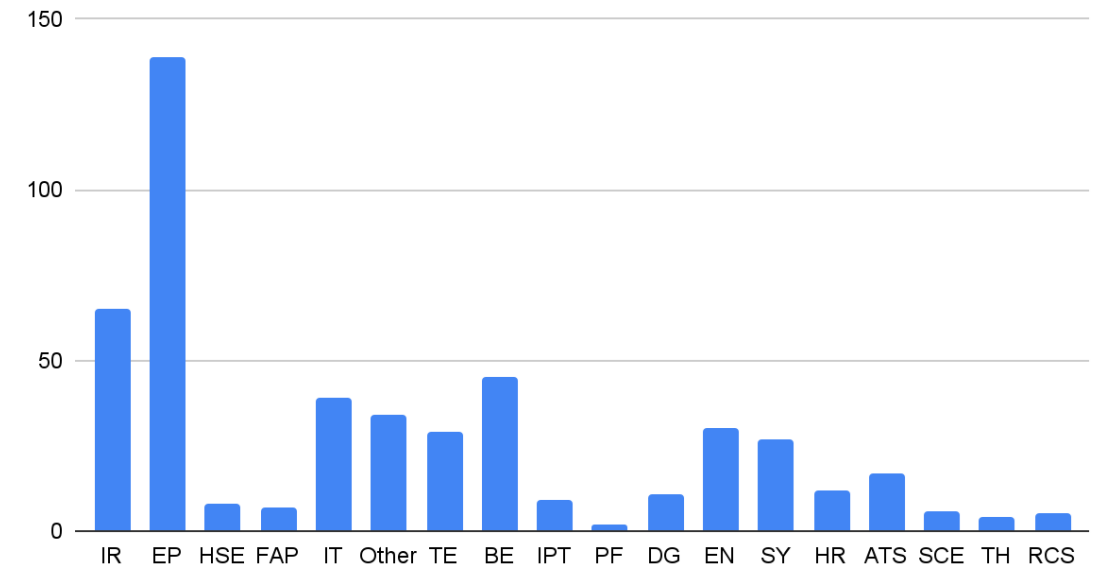
Customisation overview

~570 projects (Official, Personal, and Test instances)

Customisation in Official websites (482)



Official Drupal websites per department

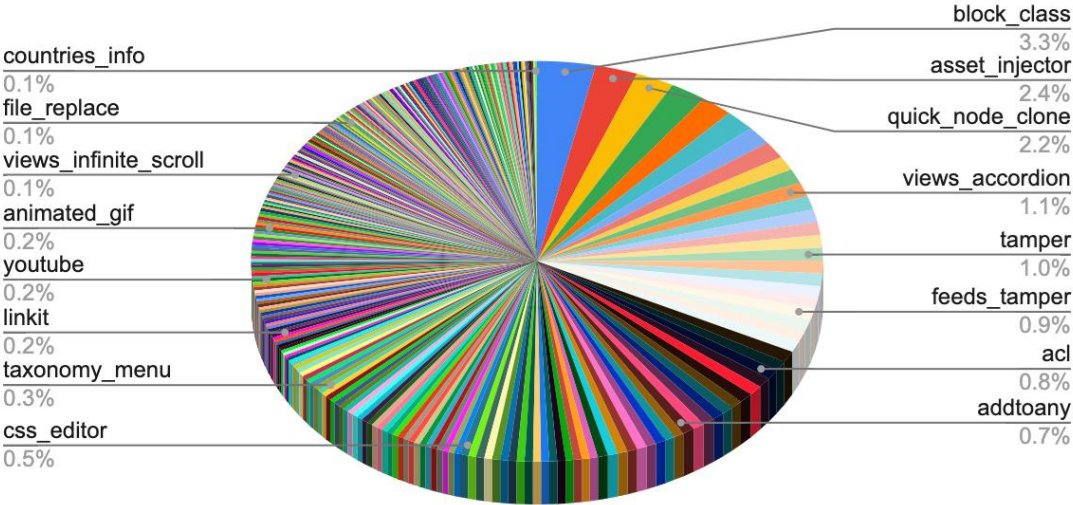


Status on Drupal 10 (5/7): Customisation

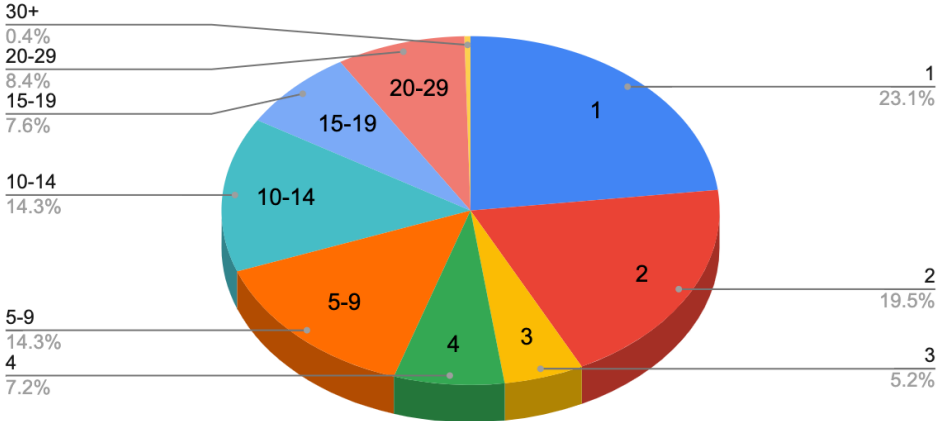
+360 unique custom modules

~900 custom modules spread over ~200 websites

Unique custom module distribution



Total of custom modules per customised website



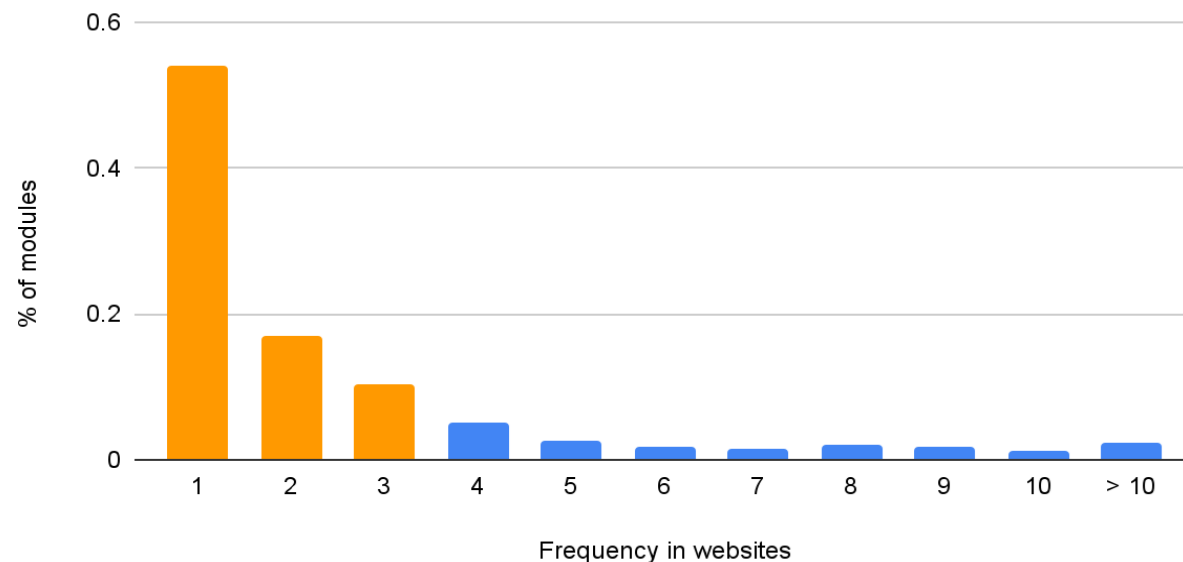
Status on Drupal 10 (6/7): Customisation

Wide-ranging and sparse distribution of custom modules usage

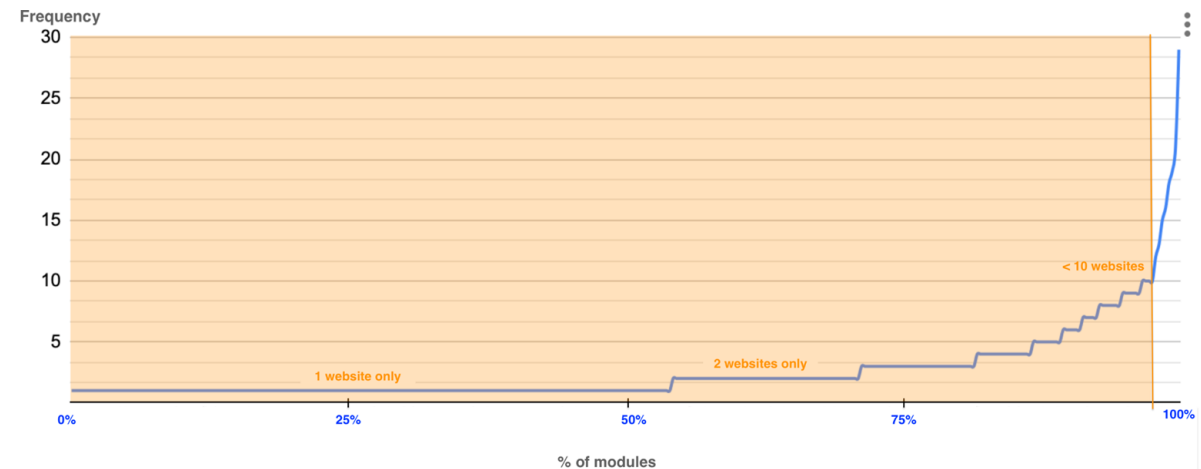
Recommendation to evaluate and remove customisation where possible

Custom module frequency in official websites

80% of modules seen in less than 3 websites



97% of custom modules are in less than 10 websites; remaining 3 % still have low frequency, with the most used module only seen in < 30 websites



Status on Drupal 10 (7/7)

- Initially Drupal 10 was scheduled to be completed in **two phases**
 - The first phase having been completed in Q4 2023
 - The second phase to be completed by Q2 2024 with CKEditor 4 to CKEditor 5
 - The second phase would have meant substantial work on all existing content
- We are pleased to announce that the **second phase is cancelled**
 - CKEditor (the company) now provides *CKEditor 4 LTS*
 - Drop-in replacement of the current CKEditor 4; no need to migrate to CKEditor 5
 - Our colleagues in Procurement are working with CKEditor to finalise matters

Web Governance

Aligning and modernising CERN's web presence



Web Governance at CERN (1/2)

Recap:

- Over the past decade, websites have been freely created
- Resulted in a proliferation of websites, many heavily customised
 - Worsens Drupal's already steep learning curve for new colleagues
 - Drains substantial resources and time across the Organization
 - Complicates day-to-day operations, confounding maintenance
- We devised and proposed a Web Governance Structure to the ED

Received final approval in July 2023

Web Governance at CERN (2/2)

Tier 1: CERN Web Governance Board

Mandate: Ensure alignment of CERN's web presence with the organisational strategy
Members: Director for International Relations, IT Head of Department, Sector Representatives, and co-chairs of the CERN Web Presence Committee

- Charlotte Warakaulle (IR, co-chair)
- Enrica Maria Porcari (IT, co-chair),
- Eugenia Hatziangeli (ATS)
- Joel Closier (RCS)
- Caroline Laignel (FHR)

Tier 2: CERN Web Presence Committee

Mandate: Ensure alignment of CERN's web presence with the communications strategy and with existing web & IT technology
Members: IR-ECO Head of Media and Digital Communications, IR-ECO Web Manager, IR-ECO Digital Editor, Head of IT-PW-WA, and Infrastructure Team Manager

- Eric Grancher (IT, co-chair)
- Arnaud Marsollier (IR, co-chair)
- Joachim Valdemar Yde (IR)
- Aleksandra Wardzinska (IT)
- + Computer Security

Departmental Web Representatives

Mandated by Heads of Department to provide support for the implementation of the web governance

See all Web Representatives at <https://drupal.docs.cern.ch/web-governance>

CERN's Web Presence

A review of CERN's choice of Content Management System (CMS) today



CERN's CMS (1/6)

At the core of our web presence is our content management system:

Is Drupal still the right choice for CERN?

CERN's CMS (2/6)

Is Drupal still the right choice for CERN?

- We have a proliferation of websites; many with heavy customisation
- **Increasingly difficult and expensive** to keep online
 - Frequent, intrusive updates and large-scale migrations
 - Drupal 10 just finished; no backwards compatibility; bi-weekly releases; PHP 8.2 + Drupal 11*
 - Dwindling and increasingly fragmented Drupal ecosystem
 - Unsustainable pressure on resources across the Organization
 - >= 8.4 FTE for Drupal 9; lots of time on Drupal 10; day-to-day operations on top*
- **Drupal does not meet our requirements**, unlikely to meaningfully improve

CERN's CMS (3/6)

Is Drupal still the right choice for CERN?

- We evaluated the following content management systems:
 - a. WordPress (used by 63% of websites with content management systems);
 - b. Wix (5.9%);
 - c. Squarespace (3.0%); and
 - d. Joomla (2.6%)
- All alternatives are *more popular* than Drupal (used by just 1.8%)

The Future of CERN's Web Presence: <https://codimd.web.cern.ch/s/GQJJY5zVc#>
CERN's Online Presence: An Evaluation of WCMS: <https://codimd.web.cern.ch/s/0vGLgq87N#%usage-source>: https://w3techs.com/technologies/overview/content_management

CERN's CMS (4/6)

Requirement	State					
	pre-Drupal	Drupal	WordPress	Wix	Squarespace	Joomla
clear URLs and structure						
avoid data duplication						
web accessibility			with plugin	partial	partial	
navigation (find correct resource)		partial	partial	partial	partial	partial
search (find correct resource faster)						
enforceable design guidelines		partial		restricted*	restricted*	partial
enforceable governance		partial	†	partial	partial	partial
easy content management system	N/A	partial				
easy to edit content by end-users		partial				partial
reduce maintenance work				managed	managed	
transparency of content and files	direct	invisible	partial	partial	partial	invisible
reasonable learning curve	shallow	steep	shallow	shallow	shallow	steep
integrate with SSO, CDS, Indico, ...				limited*	limited*	
healthy ecosystem	N/A	deterioating	healthy	healthy	healthy	deterioating

The Future of CERN's Web Presence: <https://codimd.web.cern.ch/s/GQJJY5zVc#>

CERN's CMS (4/6)

Requirement	State					
	pre-Drupal	Drupal	WordPress	Wix	Squarespace	Joomla
clear URLs and structure						
avoid data duplication						
web accessibility			with plugin	partial	partial	
navigation (find correct resource)		partial	partial	partial	partial	partial
search (find correct resource faster)						
enforceable design guidelines		partial		restricted*	restricted*	partial
enforceable governance		partial	†	partial	partial	partial
easy content management system	N/A	partial				
easy to edit content by end-users		partial				partial
reduce maintenance work				managed	managed	
transparency of content and files	direct	invisible	partial	partial	partial	invisible
reasonable learning curve	shallow	steep	shallow	shallow	shallow	steep
integrate with SSO, CDS, Indico, ...				limited*	limited*	
healthy ecosystem	N/A	deterioating	healthy	healthy	healthy	deterioating

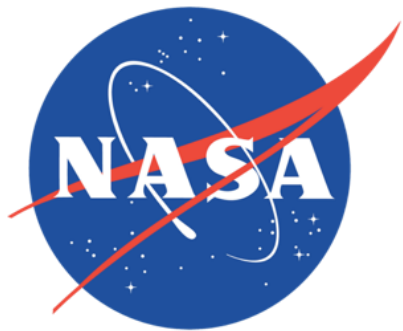
The Future of CERN's Web Presence: <https://codimd.web.cern.ch/s/GQJJY5zVc#>

CERN's CMS (5/6)

- WordPress is an **open-source content management system**
- Originally developed in 2003, **WordPress now powers 43% of the Internet**
 - 63% of websites utilising a content management system; Drupal does just 1.8%
- Central to WordPress is its emphasis on usability, extensibility, performance, and security
- Already used across many organisations, governments, and large enterprises

CERN's CMS (5/6)

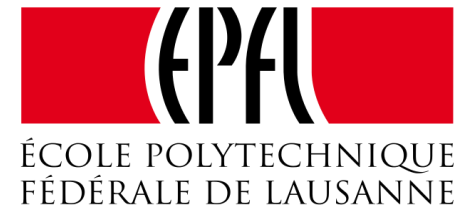
- WordPress is an **open-source content management system**
- Originally developed in 2003, **WordPress now powers 43% of the Internet**
 - 63% of websites utilising a content management system; Drupal does just 1.8%
- Central to WordPress is its emphasis on usability, extensibility, performance, and security
- Already used across many organisations, governments, and large enterprises



EMBL-EBI



BBC



... and many others!

CERN's CMS (6/6)

WordPress will allow CERN to

- address the shortcomings of Drupal
- tap into a modern and very active ecosystem
- shift end-users from being web developers to content creators
- programatically enforce governance (all from design to writing guidelines)
- achieve accessibility (WCAG's AA-rating) and mobile-first responsiveness
- heavily reduce maintenance work behind-the-scenes; focus on value creation

The Future of CERN's Web Presence: <https://codimd.web.cern.ch/s/GQJJY5zVc#>

CERN's Online Presence: An Evaluation of WCMS: <https://codimd.web.cern.ch/s/0vGLgq87N#>

WCAG AA conformance guidelines at <https://www.w3.org/WAI/WCAG2AA-Conformance>

Web Governance Board Decisions

A summary of the decisions reached by the Web Governance Board



Web Governance Decisions (1/2)

The Web Governance Board has approved

1. WordPress as CERN's future Content Management System

- Shift web owners from being developers to content creators
- Minimise maintenance and free resources for development
- Modernise CERN's web presence, ensure accessibility

2. Drupal Service to be decommissioned

- WordPress will be the only centrally supported CMS solution at CERN (long-term)
- Uniformise CERN's web presence, focus resources on one infrastructure
- We know some websites are deeply integrated with Drupal; we will be in touch!

Web Governance Decisions (2/2)

The Web Governance Board has approved

3. Govern customisation with approved modules and templates

- Avoid recreating our current situation with Drupal
- Ensure clean process for security, updates, data privacy, and maintenance
- No support for customisation per website on WordPress;
 - custom plugins or modules need to be centrally approved

4. WordPress infrastructure to be developed in-house

- Benefit from existing hardware and infrastructure
- Leverages in-house expertise, allowing efficient integration and greater compliance

Next Steps

Moving from Drupal to WordPress

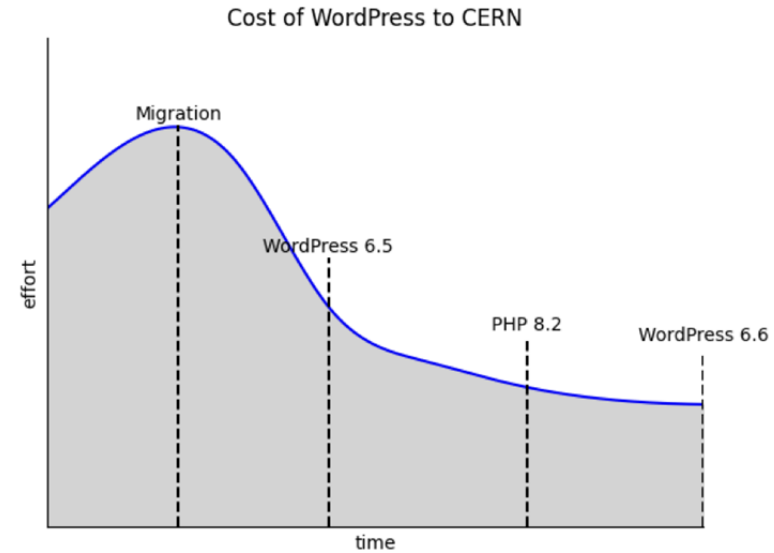
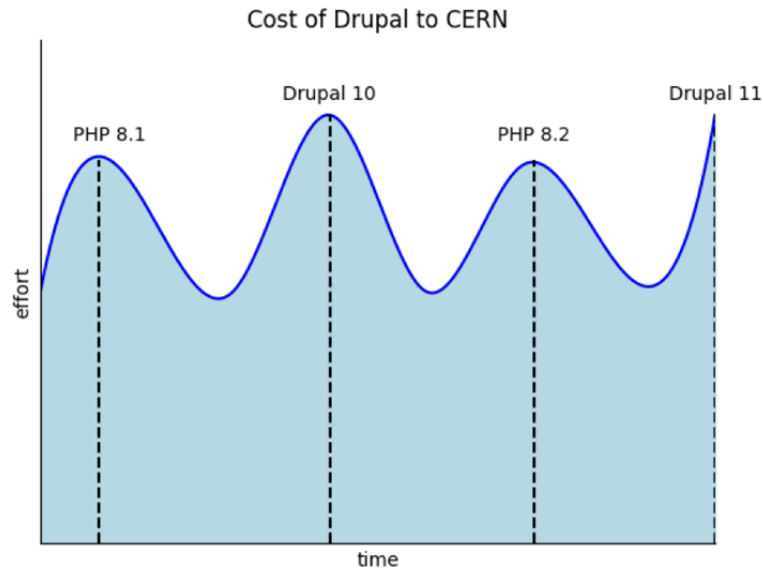
Next Steps: Workload (1/2)

This is a significant task which is going to require time and resources

Next Steps: Workload (1/2)

This is a significant task which is going to require time and resources

... but unlike Drupal, it is a one-time investment





Strictly for illustrative purposes

Next Steps: Workload (2/2)

- Overview and resource request presented to ED March 5th; well-received
 - Will go through CERN's Medium-Term Plan (June 2024)
- We estimate the adoption of WordPress to require two years
- **We want the migration to WordPress to be as smooth as possible**
 - **Websites conforming to the CERN Drupal Distribution will be automatically migrated**
 - **Workload will be similar to a standard Drupal migration**
- Natural deadline with Drupal 10 reaching end-of-life in **June 2026**

We have already started preparatory work

Next Steps: Changes (1/2)

- **Drupal 10 will be supported until June 2026**
 -  Block customisation on new Drupal websites; *planned from April 10*
 -  Block additional customisation on all WordPress websites; *from April 10*

If any additional functionality is required, users should open a ticket

- The Drupal infrastructure will transition to maintenance mode, freeing resources
- Service changes will ease the subsequent migration to WordPress

What can be done today?

Assess and uninstall non-essential custom modules

Next Steps: Changes (2/2)

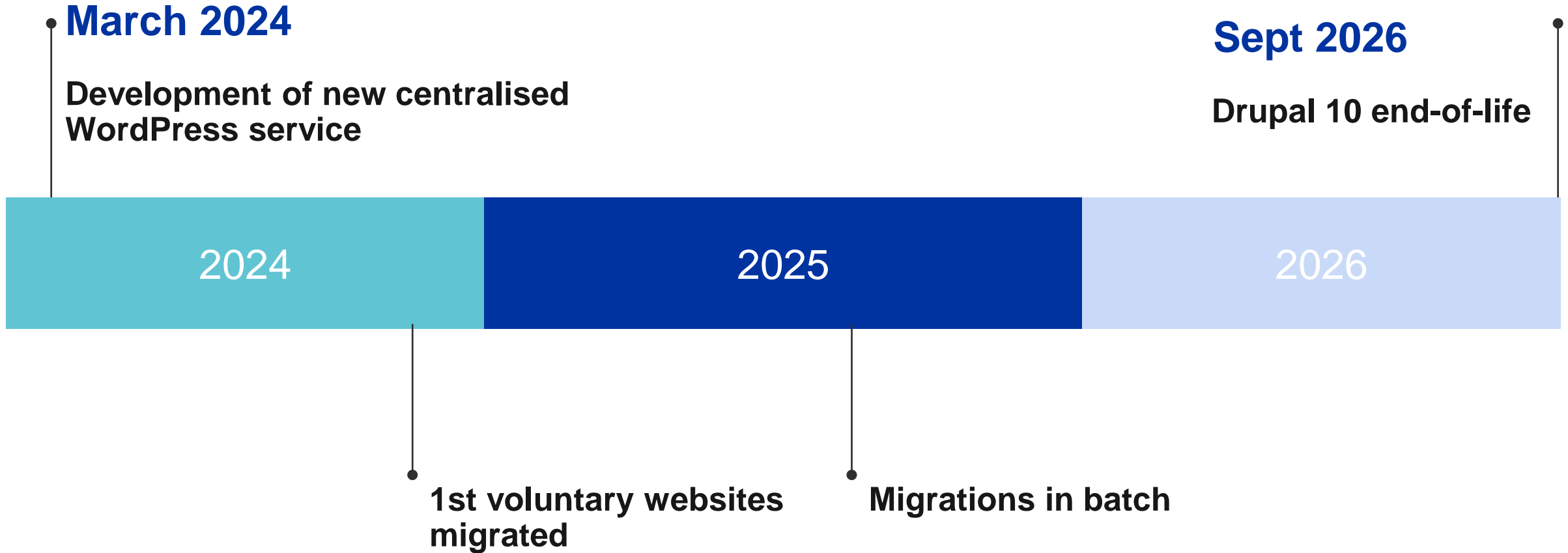
- Currently, WordPress is available via `app-catalogue` as self-service
- We understand if you would like to try WordPress, but it has **limited support**:
 - **If at all avoidable, please refrain from creating a new WordPress website**
 - If you need a new *dynamic* website and are experienced in Drupal, **use Drupal**
 - If you need a new *static* website, consider using Gitlab Pages with Jekyll

If you are in doubt, please submit a ticket!

See more under <https://wordpress.docs.cern.ch>

Timeline

This timeline is preliminary and subject to change, given the need for additional resources



Key Takeaways

Moving from Drupal to WordPress

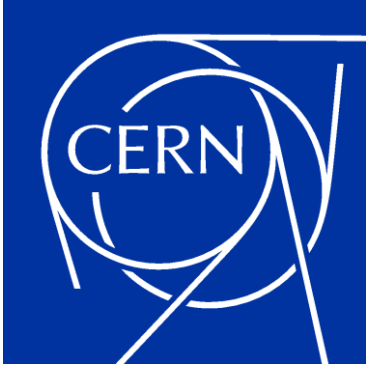
Key Takeaways

- **Evaluate custom modules installed, uninstall if possible**
- Additional communication will happen as soon as possible
- Everyone will have time to prepare and hire resources if needed
- Migration expected to last approximately two years
 - first voluntary websites migrated within the first year;
 - batch migrations within second year
- WordPress beginners training will soon be available on LMS
 - specific training will follow once we have an infrastructure in place

Spread the message: Do not attempt a migration to WordPress on your own!

Thank you all, for the input and support over this long process.

Questions?



home.cern