CERN Community Meeting
Drupal and WordPress

Agenda

- Update on Drupal

- Overview of the WordPress roadmap

    - Introduction to WordPress Lite

    - What to expect, when to expect it

- WordPress Lite Demo

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Update on Drupal (1/4)

Changes to PHP / Drupal timeline!

- Change in the life-cycle of PHP releases, extending security support for all releases by **one year**

- **Good news!**
  - **Gives us more time to focus on WordPress**
  - **No upgrades for the foreseeable future**

- We will monitor and reserve resources in case some upgrades still need to happen next year (PHP 8.1 EOL)

See: https://wiki.php.net/rfc/release_cycle_update

Web Governance Board April 26th 2024

Next Steps: Changes (1/2)

- **Drupal 10 will be supported until June 2026**
  - SERVICE CHANGE Block customisation on new Drupal websites; *planned from April 10*
  - SERVICE CHANGE 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
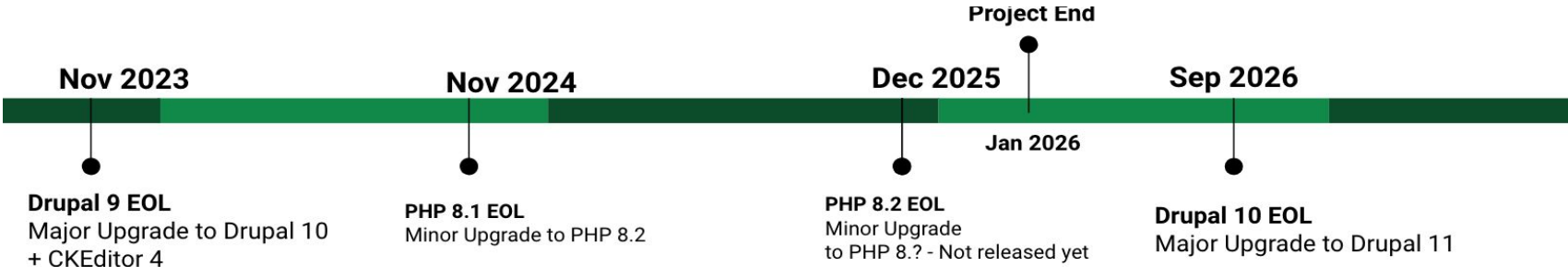- Service changes will ease the subsequent migration to WordPress

What can be done today?
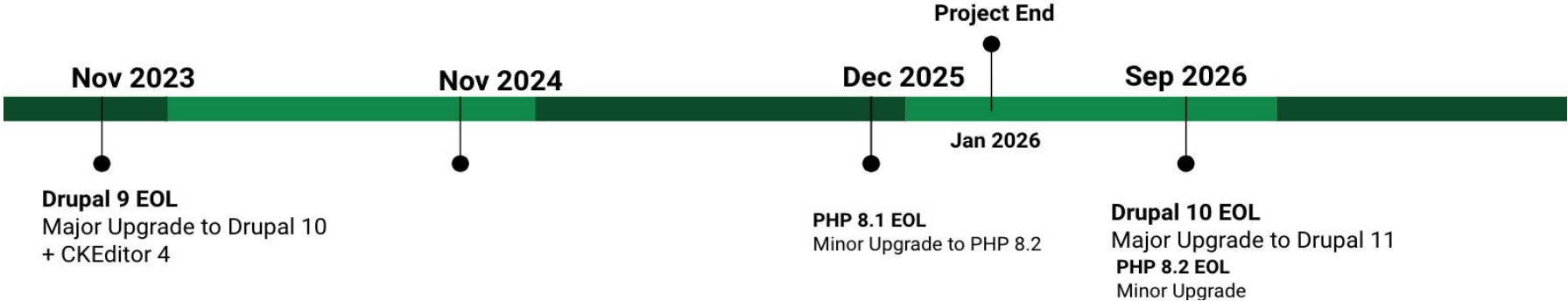
Assess and uninstall non-essential custom modules

Update on Drupal (2/4)

Before

Project End

Nov 2023	Nov 2024	Dec 2025	Sep 2026

Jan 2026

Drupal 9 EOL
Major Upgrade to Drupal 10
+ CKEditor 4

PHP 8.1 EOL
Minor Upgrade to PHP 8.2

PHP 8.2 EOL
Minor Upgrade
to PHP 8.? - Not released yet

Drupal 10 EOL
Major Upgrade to Drupal 11

After

Project End

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Jan 2026

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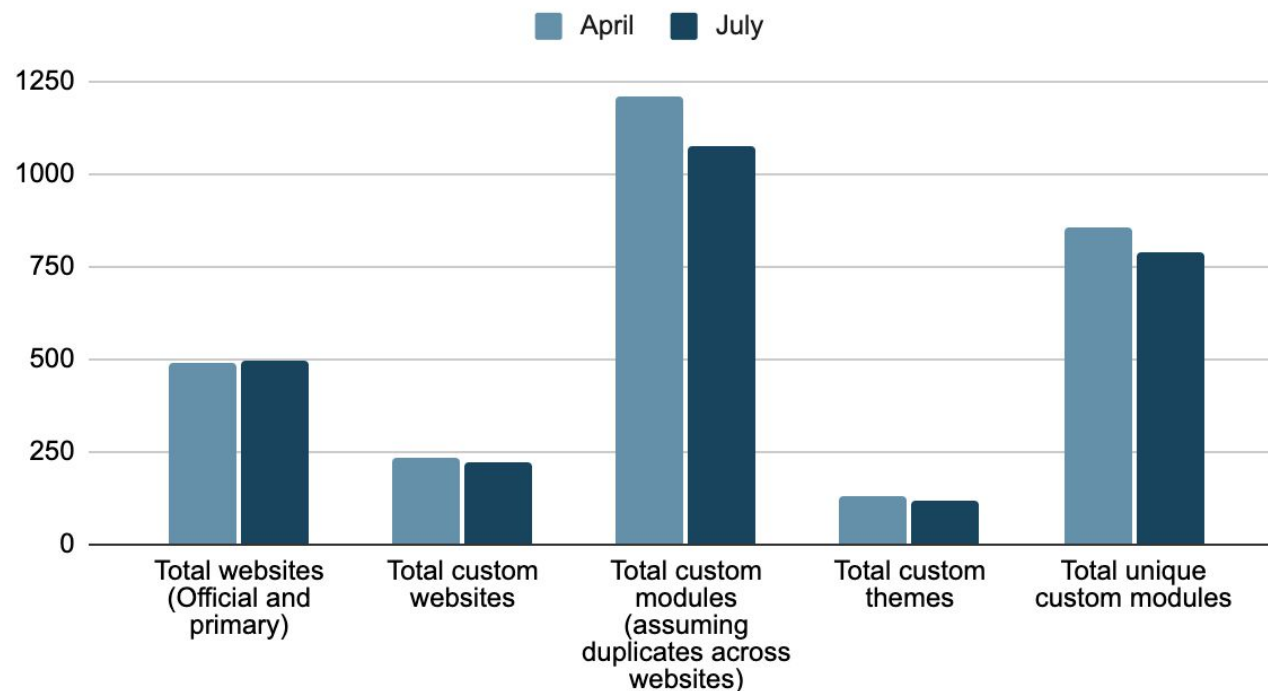Minor Upgrade

No changes to Drupal 10 lifecycle

See: Drupal 10 will be supported until the release of Drupal 12 in mid-late 2026
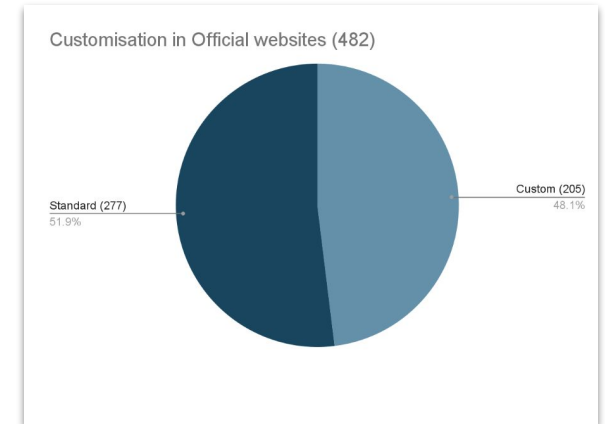
Update on Drupal (3/4)

In April, website owners were asked to remove non-essential customisations

- *Thank you* for your assistance and for reiterating our message!

- Next phase focusing on security, "audit" and follow-up with the support from CSO
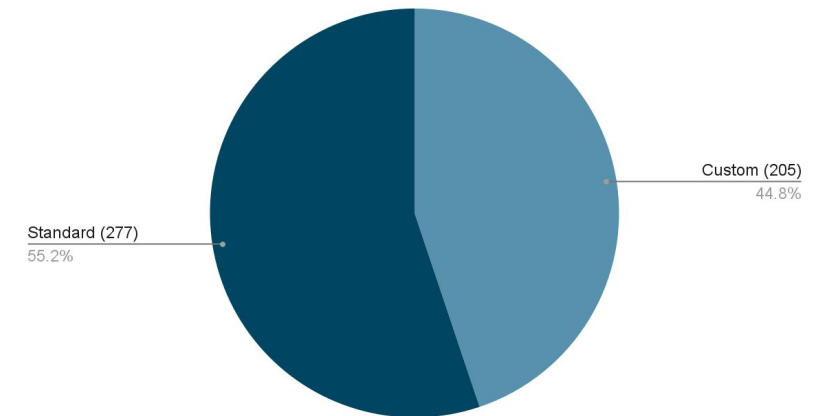

Customisation update (July)

Customisation in Official websites (482)

Standard (277) 51.9%

Custom (205) 48.1%

Customisation in Official websites (July)

Standard (277) 55.2%

Custom (205) 44.8%

# Update on Drupal (4/4)

In summary

- Drupal 10 will **continue** to be supported until its decommission at CERN (Feb 2026)
    - Security patches will be pushed at similar pace as today
    - We will group remaining releases as much as possible to reduce work
    - Ultimately, service is in maintenance mode: **no new features**
- On the current infrastructure, **no customisation allowed on new websites**

The best thing a Drupal website owner can do today is to

ensure conformance with the CERN Drupal Distribution by removing non-essential custom modules

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- Update on Drupal

- **Overview of the WordPress roadmap**

  - Introduction to WordPress Lite

  - What to expect, when to expect it

- WordPress Lite Demo

WordPress Roadmap (1/2)
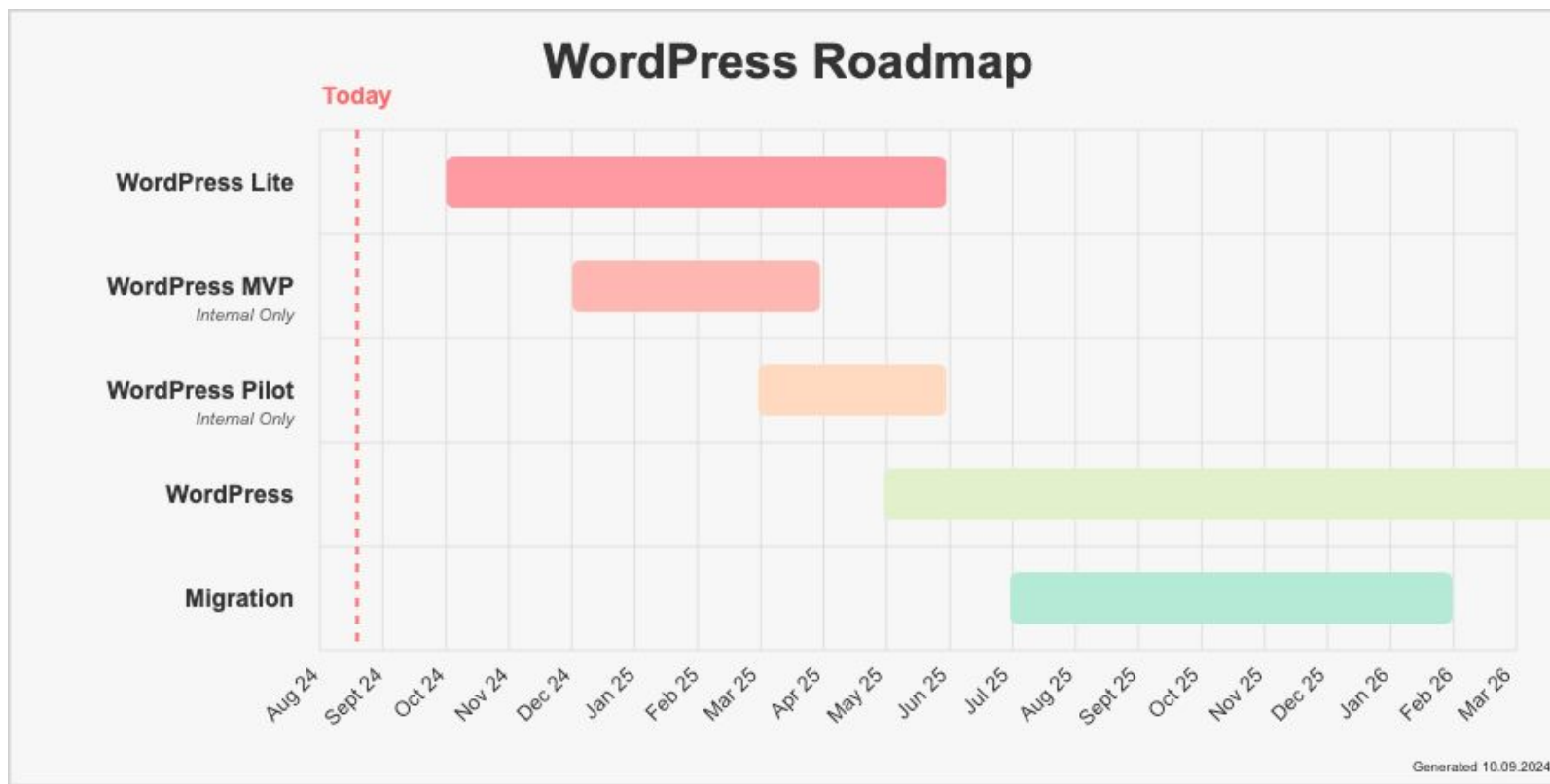
WordPress Roadmap (2/2)

- **WordPress Lite** (October 2024): A lightweight version of WordPress offering an initial set of plugins and the first version of our official CERN WordPress theme running on the existing `app-catalogue` infrastructure. This offering will provide a simple and accessible way for website owners to familiarise themselves with WordPress.

- *WordPress MVP (December 2024): Internal version of the WordPress infrastructure available to the Web Team for development*

- *WordPress Pilot (March 2025): Internal version of the WordPress infrastructure available to the Web Team for development*

- **WordPress** (May 2025): WordPress becomes generally available to everyone at CERN

- **Migration** (July 2025): We begin automated migrations from Drupal to WordPress

Can be shared; https://wordpress.docs.cern.ch/ for more information

WordPress Lite (1/2)

- It is a preview of what is to come

  - Will include initial set of Gutenberg-blocks, initial CERN WordPress theme

  - Expect changes and updates to the WordPress Lite offering in the months to come

- It is **your chance** to help shape the WordPress experience at CERN

- Will be open to all and we hope to facilitate as much feedback as possible

- If you need a WordPress website now, WordPress Lite is the answer

- WordPress Lite is **not meant** for high-visibility or .cern websites

  - Will not use central services (e.g. DBoD)

WordPress Lite (2/2)

- **Disclaimer:** WordPress Lite is **not the final** solution and **will be decommissioned**

  - Once central WordPress is available (May 2025), WordPress Lite websites must migrate

  - If your website conforms, we will handle it automatically without any action needed

- **Existing WordPress websites** will co-exist with WordPress Lite

  - You will benefit from everything WordPress Lite offers, but we will not overwrite existing customisation

  - Your responsibility to remove existing customisation in order to conform with WordPress Lite

- As soon as Lite in released (October 2024), existing WordPress users are encouraged to adapt their websites to use only the plugins centrally provided

  - We will be in touch with owners on how to achieve this

WordPress Goals
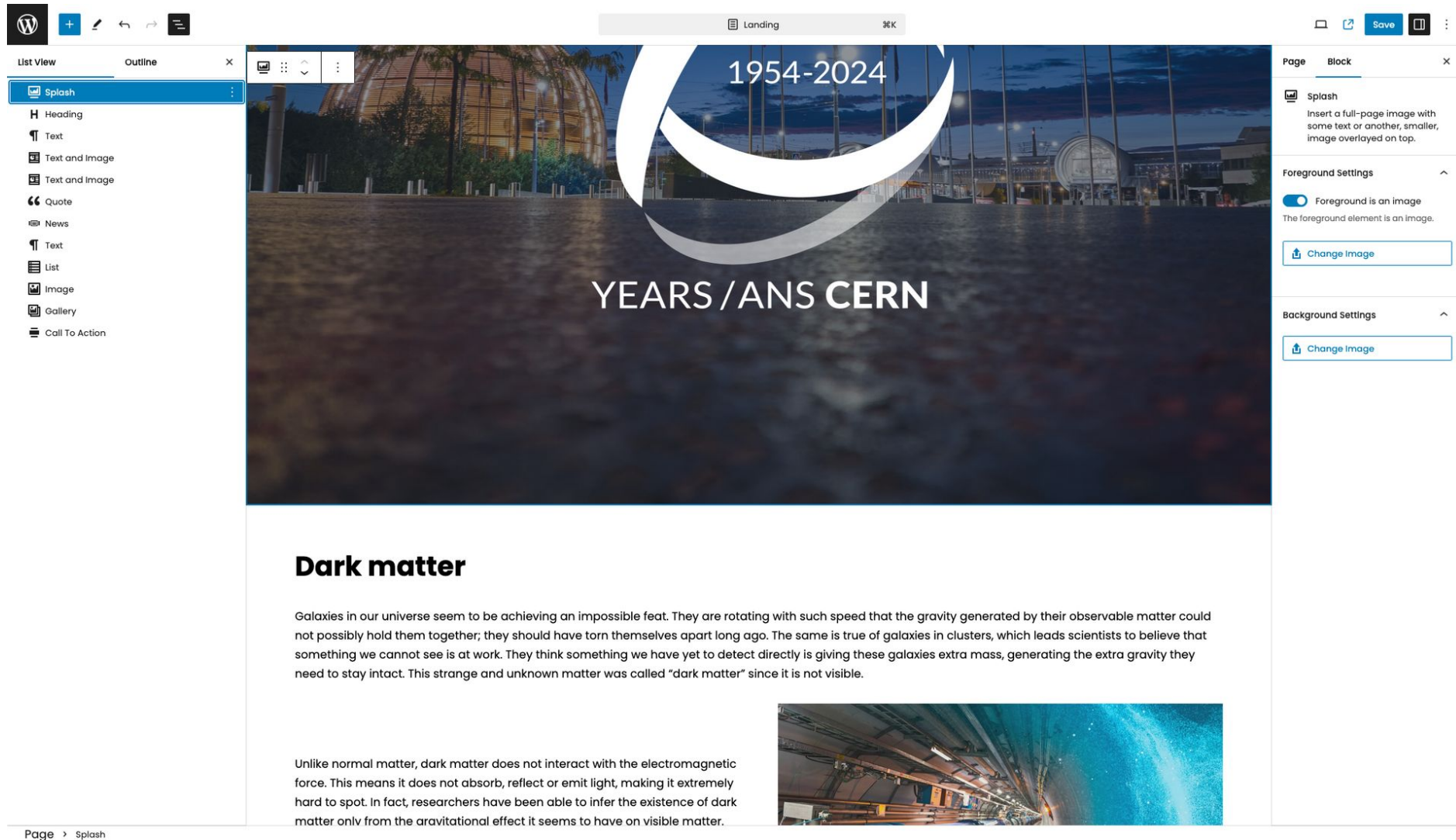
- Working in parallel with external resources, we have extracted and analysed Drupal websites

- We want to **streamline**, **simplify**, and take the opportunity to **remove unused elements**, analysing

  - **1073** custom Drupal modules

  - **738** custom Drupal content types

  - **644** custom roles and **1705** permissions

- We focus exclusively on what is actually being used (i.e. published content and recently edited)

- Not necessary to map Drupal *modules* with WordPress *plugins* 1:1

- Instead, focus on mapping Drupal *content types* to WordPress content

Instead of migrating more than a decade of customisation, poor habits and implementations,

how can we reduce complexity and ease WordPress adoption?

Website owners should become content creators

WordPress

WordPress Training

WordPress Lite will come with

- Recommended LMS training course via Udemy

- Initial user documentation

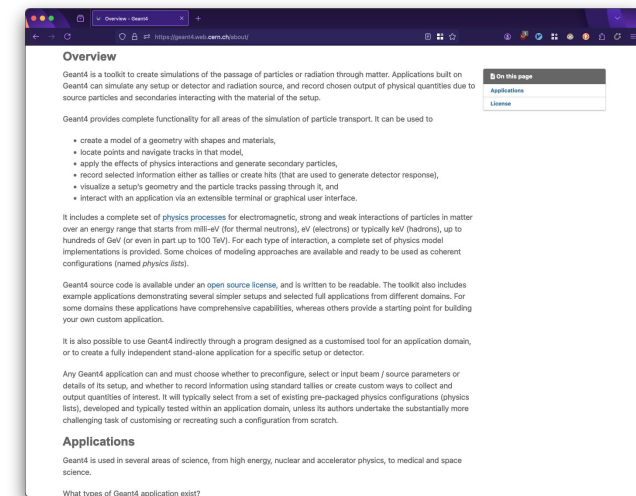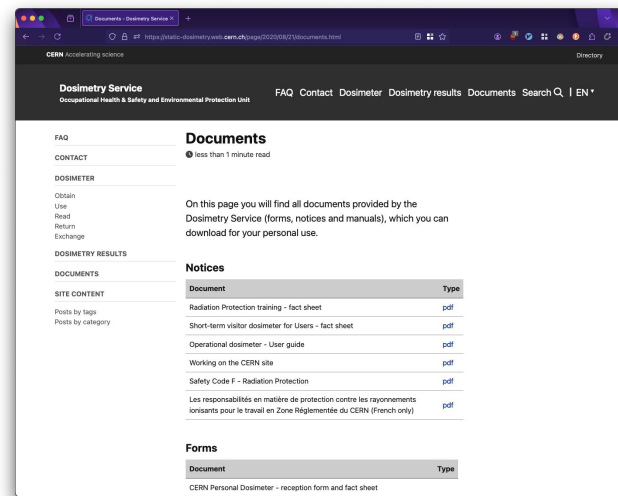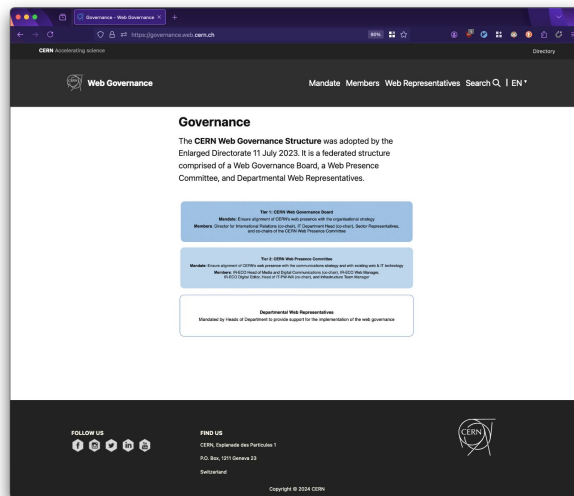Additionally, for the final version of WordPress

- Dedicated training videos for common use-cases

- Complete user documentation

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- Recap of Web Governance Board meetings

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- **WordPress Lite Demo**

WordPress Alternative

- If you do not need a content management system, Gitlab Pages is an option

- Web Team can assist with automated migration from Drupal to Gitlab Pages

- We are working with the first selection of websites to refine and tweak the process

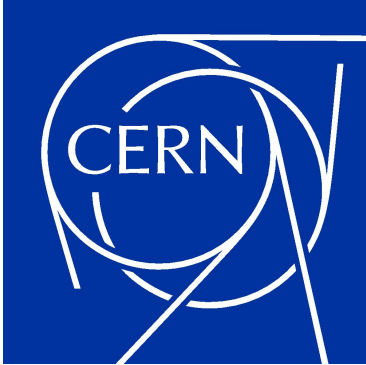- Will become available at the same time as WordPress Lite

Summary

- **WordPress Lite released in October**

  - FAQ: https://wordpress.docs.cern.ch/roadmap/ and

    https://drupal.docs.cern.ch/roadmap-wordpress

- Gitlab Pages automated migration alternative also available in October

- Drupal will continue to be supported at CERN until its decommission in February 2026

- Best thing to do with a Drupal website to remove customisation

- Next Community Meeting will be before EOY; share development progress

Any and all questions, suggestions, and general feedback about WordPress?

Please get in touch via wordpress-feedback@cern.ch

home.cern