

Site Migration Checklist: from Drupal 7 to Drupal 8

Pay attention to security

Establish who will be responsible for ongoing security updates and design a security plan, in order to avoid the risk of being hacked

Set down your website backup procedures

Take a back-up of your website

Start your migration process by making a local copy of your current website

Install the fresh new site

Download the latest version of Drupal 8 from drupal.org: Drupal 8.7

Install Drupal 8 along with the dependencies with Composer and setup a local Drupal 8 website as a destination website for the migration process

Verify that modules are in core

Ensure Migrate, Migrate Drupal, and Migrate Drupal UI modules are enabled on your Drupal 8 site: check it in the **'Extend'** tab of your website and be sure all those modules are in the core

Upgrade your website

Go to your website and append its address with /upgrade (www.<yourwebsitename>.com/upgrade), then follow the instructions and click on the **'Continue'** button

After clicking **'Continue'**, a screen comes up and asks you for the website credentials, database location and other details

Need some more help with your site migration?

Visit www.icon-worldwide.com or contact us at office@icon-worldwide.com

Start the migration process

If the database credentials are correct, the upgrade review page will appear on the Migrate UI, showing you the upgrade status summary for all the old site's installed modules:

Now, carefully review the modules that won't be upgraded, by clicking on the **'Perform Upgrade'** button, but don't proceed without first installing any missing Drupal 8 module

If an accidental conflicting ID is detected, solve it: if there is any, a warning about will be shown

Once the process is finished, you are directed to the site's frontpage, with messages that summarize the results

At this point, the rule is just one: testing! Test each feature and web page, to be sure everything runs smoothly

Determine pages and content's structure

Now, decide which content you want to migrate, in terms of both web pages and old blog articles

Pay attention to pictures and video, by deciding which ones you want to keep or replace, and checking if they are rightly optimized

Establish theme and design

Rebuild your site's theme and decide if you want to keep the existing appearance in terms of colors, layout, spacing, and so forth. Even if upgrading to Drupal 8 requires rebuilding your website's theme, it doesn't mean that you have to change up the appearance if you've already designed a cutting-edge site that you love. Otherwise, if you've been considering a redesign, this is the right moment to move forward with it

Go mobile-friendly: follow all the responsive best practices in terms of SEO and design principles, to make sure your site runs powerfully on any kind of device

Undertake some main SEO steps

Create SEO-friendly and descriptive page URLs and use the needed canonical tags

Use meta tags for your written content, as well as ALT texts and titles for images

Set the XML sitemap and robots.txt properly

Check any possible broken link and try to preserve the site internal linking

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