

ooo

Drupal CMS

Come for the code, stay for the community.

An introduction to Drupal and Drupal CMS · 2026



HELLO

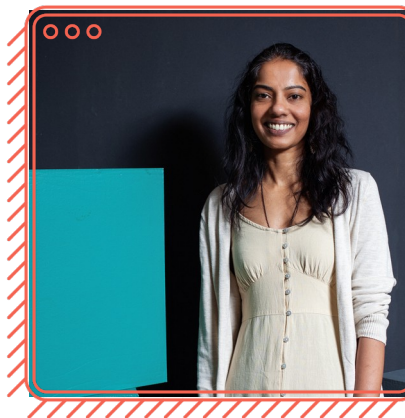
Meet your speakers



Nico Grienauer

Founder, acolono GmbH · Drupal
Austria board

- Drupal since 2006
- Founder of acolono GmbH
- CodeWeek EU ambassador
- Initiated the Open Minds - Open Source Award



Sinduri Guntupalli

Sr Developer Programs Engineer
· Dynatrace

- Started as Drupal Developer and worked as Product Manager
- Passionate about the Drupal community
- Women in Drupal 2025 Winner

THE BASICS

What is Drupal?

Open-source platform for building and running content-driven websites, from small sites to large enterprise systems.

- **A content management system**

Content teams publish and manage content through the admin UI, while developers model and extend the site in code.

- **A PHP framework**

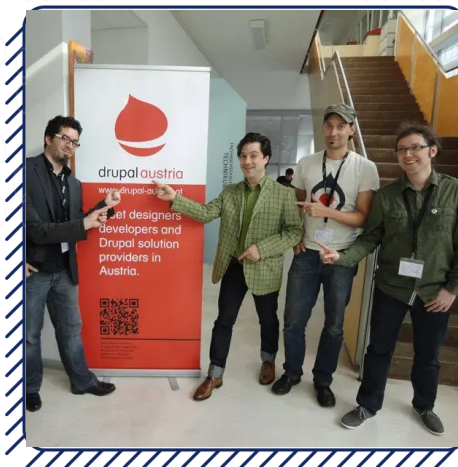
Built on Symfony components (HttpFoundation, EventDispatcher, DependencyInjection), with Composer for dependencies and Twig for templating.

- **Free and open source**

GPL-licensed, no licence fees. Open source since 2001, supported by the non-profit Drupal Association since 2006.

- **Proven at scale**

Runs government, university and enterprise sites, including European Commission, Lizzo and Doctors Without Borders



A SHORT HISTORY

25 years in 60 seconds

2001



Born in a dorm room

Dries Buytaert starts Drupal.
The name comes from the Dutch “druppel”, meaning drop.

2015



A modern stack

Drupal 8 rebuilds on
Symfony, Twig and
Composer.

Jan 2025



Drupal CMS 1.0

A ready-to-use product ships
on Drupal’s 24th birthday.

Jan 2026



Drupal CMS 2.0

Canvas, site templates and
AI land in the 25th-birthday
week.

DRUPAL TODAY

By the numbers, 2026

1.39M+

community members on
drupal.org

124K

users actively contributing

50,000+

contributed modules

100+

languages supported in core

\$4.91M

invested in Drupal in 2025

\$3.5B

annual partner ecosystem

Sources: drupal.org, W3Techs, BuiltWith and the Drupal Association 2025 Impact Report.

IN THE WILD

Who uses Drupal

A small sample who is currently running on Drupal.

Government & public sector

- Australian Government (GovCMS)
- European Commission
- London City Hall
- USA.gov
- Los Angeles Airport (LAX)

Education & research

- Stanford University
- Yale University
- Princeton University
- Duke University
- University College London

Nonprofit, NGOs & health

- UNDP
- UNIDO
- Doctors Without Borders
- WWF Switzerland
- noyb

Enterprise & industry

- Nokia
- Mars
- Pfizer
- Lufthansa
- IBM

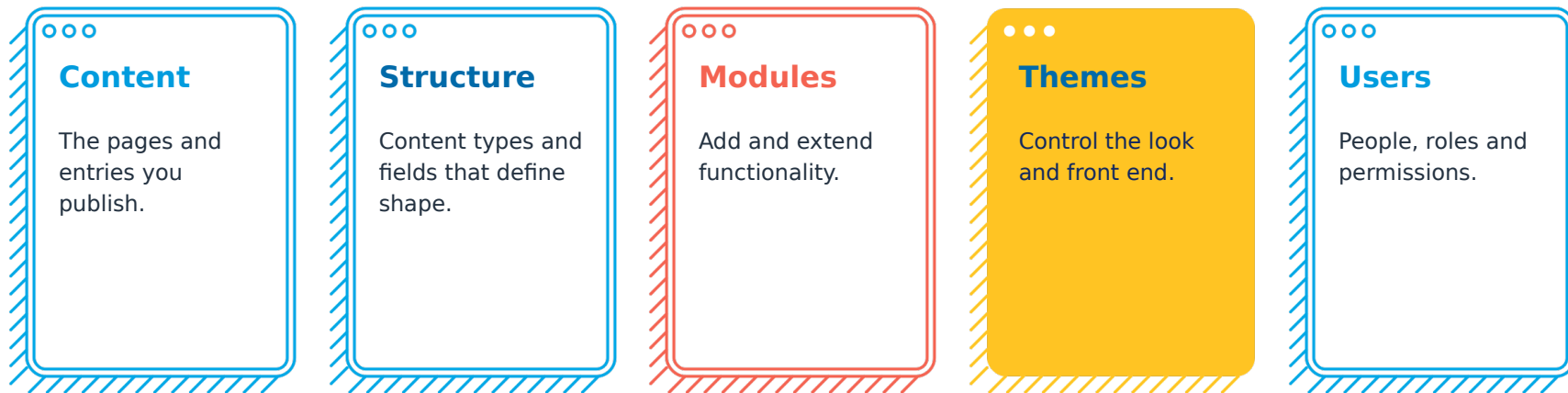
Music & entertainment

- Ed Sheeran
- Lizzo
- The Beatles
- The Oscars
- Warner Bros

1M+

websites run on Drupal
worldwide

The main parts of a Drupal site





01

What is Drupal CMS?

The free, ready-to-use product built on top of Drupal core.

THE WHY

Why Drupal CMS?



THE PROBLEM

Powerful, but hard to start.
Standing up a Drupal site once meant choosing 30+ modules, wiring configuration, and making dozens of decisions before publishing a single page.



THE AIM

Collapse all of that into one command. You get a vetted, preconfigured, stable-only site with smart defaults already in place, ready to grow.

Drupal core vs Drupal CMS



Drupal core

The framework

- Provides the building blocks
- Start from scratch and customize around your vision
- Make your own decisions around included features



Drupal CMS

The product

- A packaged starting point built on core
- Recipes, smart defaults to start quickly
- Enhanced user-experience to guide you through setup

“Core provides the framework, Drupal CMS provides the product.”

Pam Barone, Drupal CMS product lead, 2026

WHAT YOU GET

Out of the box

Vetted, preconfigured and stable. Every capability is ready to switch on.

- **Recipes**

Apply whole features in one step

- **Project Browser**

Find and install modules in-app

- **Automatic Updates**

Safer, hands-off maintenance

- **Marketing launchpad**

Ready-to-use content types and intelligent workflows

- **SEO & analytics**

Built in, not bolted on later

- **Privacy & consent**

Cookie and consent tooling included

- **Media library**

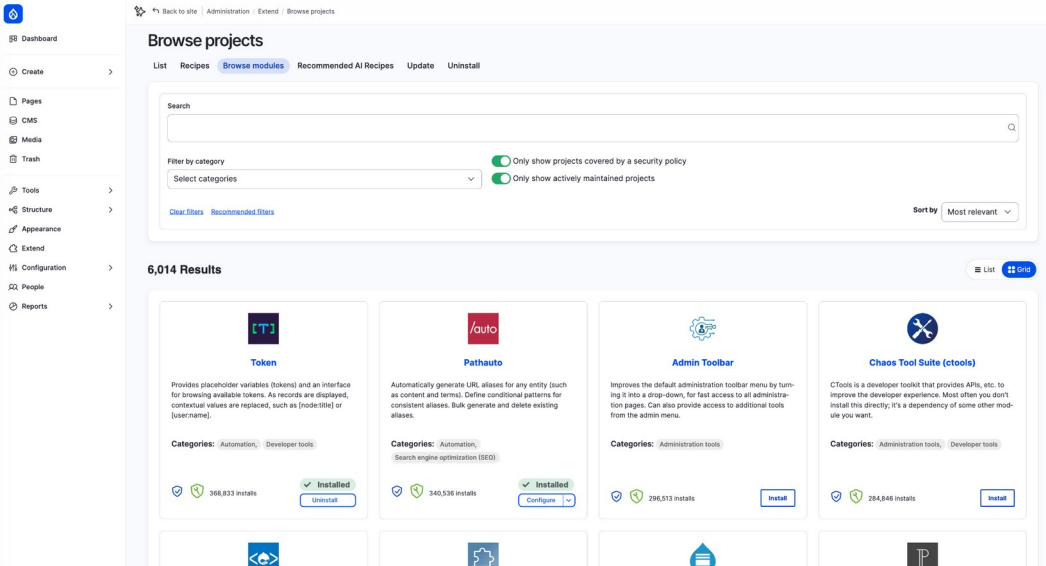
Reusable, structured media handling

- **Granular permissions**

Fine-grained role-based access

- **AGENTS.md + DDEV**

Ready for AI tools and local dev

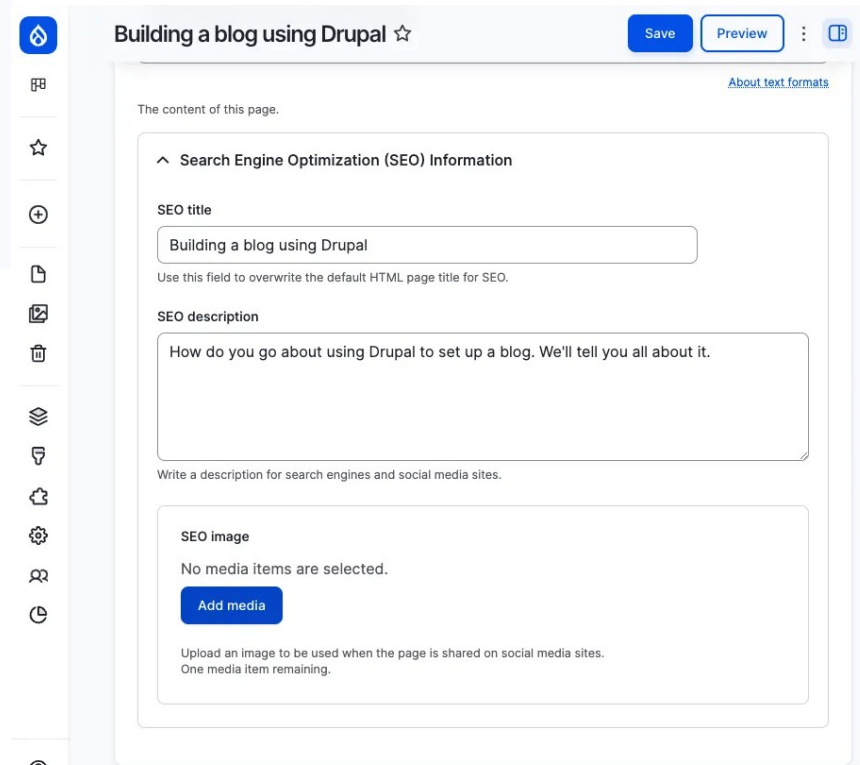


Project Browser

Project Browser: find and install modules from inside Drupal, by category and security coverage, one click.

SEO & analytics

Set the page title, description and social-share image, per page.



Core strengths developers rely on

- **Multilingual core**

100+ languages with full translation workflows, built in, not an add-on.

- **Strong security record**

A dedicated security team and a coordinated disclosure process.

- **Accessibility focus**

Aims to meet WCAG guidelines out of the box.

- **Fast by default**

Built-in caching, with a major throughput jump in core 11.3.

- **Structured content**

Model any content type with typed fields, then reuse it anywhere.

- **Configuration in code**

Export site config to YAML files for version control and clean deploys.

- **API-first**

JSON:API and REST make decoupled and headless front ends first-class.



02

What's new in Drupal CMS

Two releases one year apart, and what they unlocked.

JANUARY 2025

Drupal CMS 1.0

A proof of concept, built in roughly eight months for the 24th birthday.

- **Recipes**

Prebuilt feature packages: add SEO, events or a blog in one step.

- **Early AI agents**

A first take on assembling sites with AI assistance.

- **Privacy & trust**

Consent management, automatic updates and security defaults.

- **Smart defaults**

Structured content types, media handling, search and analytics.



JANUARY 2026

Drupal CMS 2.0

The real leap, rebuilt around Drupal Canvas for the 25th-birthday week.

- **Drupal Canvas**

A new visual page builder, now the default editing experience.

- **Site templates**

Start from a designed, use-case-specific site, not a blank slate.

- **AI Dashboard**

Centralized, user-friendly interface for managing all AI-powered functionality

- **Faster core**

Core 11.3 adds 26–33% throughput, the biggest jump in a decade.

- **Still iterating**

2.1 adds one-command export, premium templates and a new installer.



Title *

Suggest A Title

Body ([Edit summary](#))

B

I



Augmentors



Paragraph



Source

Drupal is a popular content management system (CMS) known for its flexibility, scalability, and robust features. Several factors contribute to its popularity:

1. **Open Source:** Drupal is an open-source CMS, which means it's freely available for anyone to use, modify, and distribute. This open nature fosters a strong community of developers and contributors, leading to continuous improvement and innovation.
2. **Modularity and Extensibility:** Drupal's modular architecture allows users to customize their websites with various modules and themes. You can add functionality, such as e-commerce, social networking, SEO optimization, and more, by simply installing and configuring modules.
3. **Scalability:** Drupal is suitable for both small personal blogs and large, complex websites serving millions of visitors. Its

AI in the editor: a Suggest A Title button and Augmentor tools draft and expand content in the body.

ONE YEAR ON

The project keeps growing

Drupal CMS 1.0 · January 2025

300+

contributors

2,000+

commits

+40%

core activity

60+

launch parties

Across the project · 2025

29,823

improvements

9,300

Drupal CMS trials

114

certified partners

4.2M

new visitors



Source: Drupal Association 2025 Impact Report.

SPOTLIGHT

Drupal Canvas

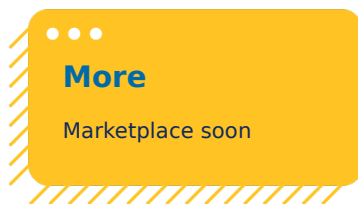
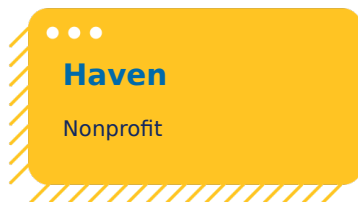
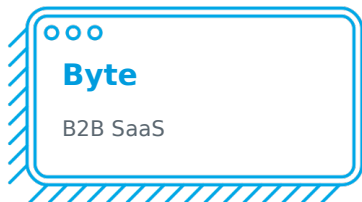
Drupal's new visual editor, and the default in CMS 2.0. Replaces existing Layout Builder and Paragraphs, now with true in-place editing.

- **Visual, in-place editing**
Build and see the page at the same time, no separate preview.
- **Component-based**
Assemble pages from reusable building blocks.
- **Standards underneath**
Single-directory components keep blocks portable.
- **Front-end freedom**
Works with Twig today and decoupled front ends over time.
- **Translation next**
Multilingual Canvas editing arrives this quarter.



START DESIGNED, NOT BLANK

Site templates



- **Fast to build**
Pick a template and get layouts plus default content already in place.
- **Free and premium**
Free templates ship with core; premium support arrived in 2.1.
- **Growing library**
More designed templates landing with each release.

Recipes and integrations

- **What a recipe is**

A composable package of modules, configuration and content, applied in one step.

- **Real time saved**

A Mailchimp setup that took over an hour now takes about two minutes.

- **Full capability, ready-made**

A blog or events recipe adds the content types, fields, views and config in one step.

- **One-time by design**

Recipes set things up, then step aside. No lock-in, fully upgradeable.

- **Built on a broad catalogue**

Recipes draw on thousands of contributed modules that already support Drupal 11.

What a recipe bundles

```
modules
+ configuration
+ starter content

→ applied in one step
```

Built for AI, kept open

- **AI page building**

Describe what you want and let agents help assemble pages.

- **Context Control Center**

Define brand voice, audiences and rules the AI must follow.

- **Humans in the loop**

AI proposes, people approve. You stay in control.

- **AGENTS.md by default**

Every new project ships ready for AI coding tools.

- **MCP support**

Model Context Protocol connects Drupal to Claude and other models.

- **Community funded**

\$1.5M+ in cash and in-kind, plus 50+ contributors (23+ full-time-equivalent), across 28 organisations.

**We are moving fast.
Every Week new things to explore.**

**Here only a glimpse of the last
developments in this area:**

Kanban Board for *General Project* ☆

Back to site | Edit Project

+ View Backlog + Projects + Add epic + Add task

✓ Status message
The epic [Generate a content type and field type](#) has been updated.

Project
General Project ▾ Filter

Blocked

Add extracted fields to 'Restaurant' content type

1

AI Agent

Generate a content type and field type

Ready To Do

In Progress

Generate a content type and field type

Extract information from restaurants.pdf

0

AI Agent

Generate a content type and field type

Review

Done

Create 'Restaurant' content type

1

admin

Generate a content type and field type

AI agents on a task board: they generate content types and extract data from a PDF, moving work across the board.

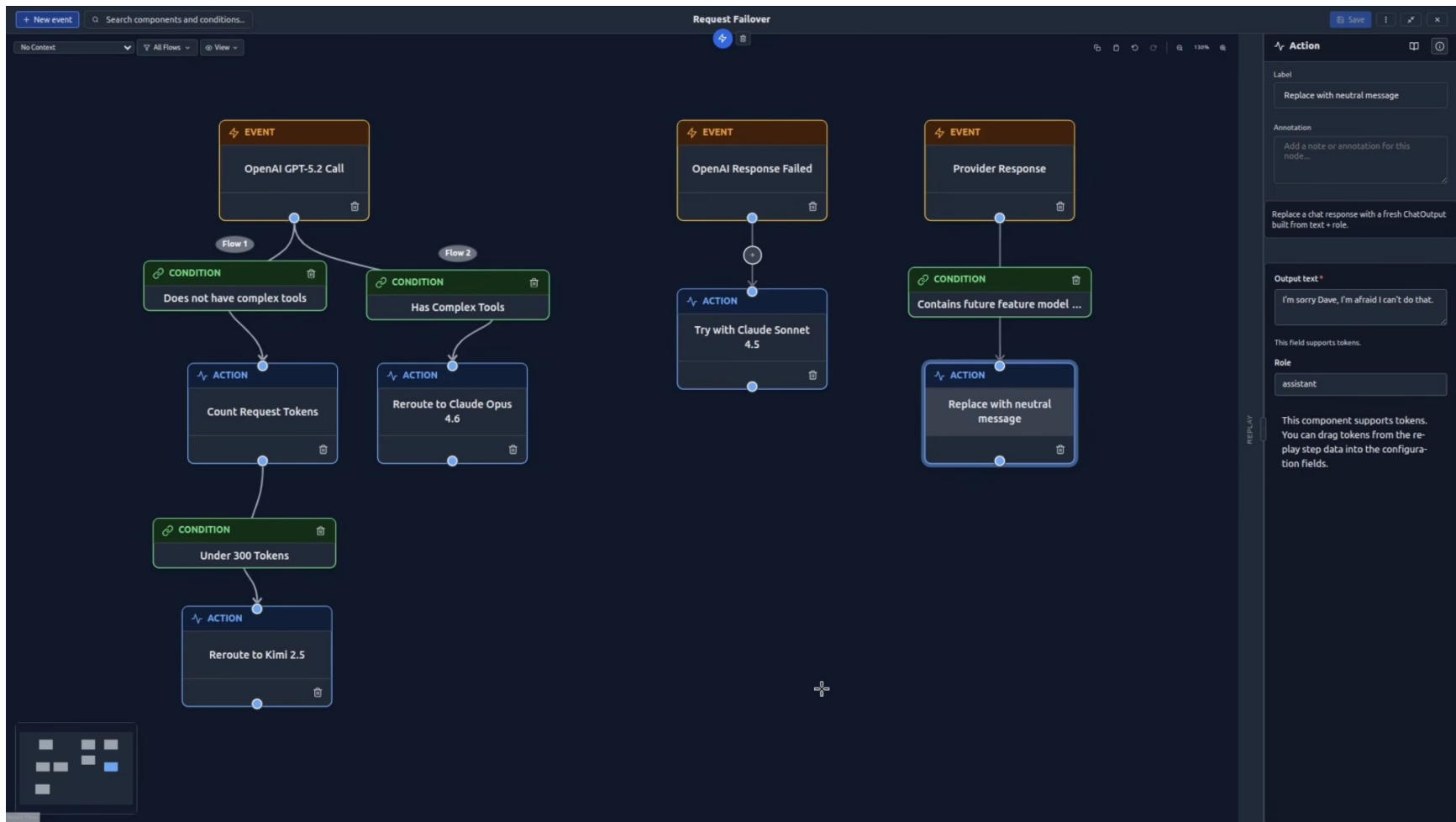
```
marcus@marcus-14Z90P-G-AA79G: ~/Documents/Projects/drupal11-test
marcus@marcus-14Z90P-G-AA79G:~/Documents/Projects/drupal11-test$ npx skills add https://git.drupalcode.org/project/ai/-/tree/1.4.x/.agents

SKILLS

| skills
|
| Source: https://git.drupalcode.org/project/ai.git @ 1.4.x (.agents)
|
| Repository cloned
|
| Found 6 skills
|
| Select skills to install (space to toggle)
|
| Installation cancelled

marcus@marcus-14Z90P-G-AA79G:~/Documents/Projects/drupal11-test$ ^C
marcus@marcus-14Z90P-G-AA79G:~/Documents/Projects/drupal11-test$ ddev drush generate | grep "ai:"
plugin:ai:automator-type (ai-automator-type) Generates an AI Automator Type plugin
plugin:ai:field-widget-action (ai-field-widget-action) Generates a Field Widget Action plugin
plugin:ai:guardrail (ai-guardrail) Generates an AI Guardrail plugin.
plugin:ai:provider (ai-provider) Generates an AI Provider plugin
marcus@marcus-14Z90P-G-AA79G:~/Documents/Projects/drupal11-test$
```

On the command line: Drupal adds AI skills and scaffolds AI plugins like automators, guardrails and providers.



Visual automation: an events-conditions-actions flow routes AI requests between providers and handles failures.

Momentum among developers

Early signs from the first months after Drupal CMS 2.0.

- **Drupal 7 has retired**

Small agencies are adopting Drupal CMS instead of maintaining old starter kits. Drupal 7 ended its 14-year life in January 2025, with extended support still available via contributors and paid channels.

- **Crossing back over**

Developers are bringing WordPress projects back onto the platform.

- **Strong AI-agent fit**

A 2026 field test ranked Drupal third overall for AI-agent capability fit.

- **Real migrations**

A large US university is moving 300 WordPress sites onto Drupal CMS.



ROADMAP

What's next

Jun 2026

Drupal 11.4 ships, with PHP attribute routing, faster bootstrap and Brotli.

This quarter

Multilingual editing arrives in Drupal Canvas.

AI · 2026

AI roadmap names eight new capabilities, including page generation, context governance and background agents.

Sep-Oct 2026

Template marketplace opens around DrupalCon Rotterdam, targeting 100+ templates.

Dec 2026

Drupal 10 reaches end of life; sites must move to 11.

Late 2026

Drupal 12 ships in the second half of the year.

2028

Drupal 13 planned for the mid-to-late part of the year.

GO DEEPER

Want a longer demo?

Full walkthroughs of building a site with Drupal CMS.

- youtube.com/watch?v=P1ifYk7KiaA
- youtube.com/watch?v=Dcut6oQ4_4c
- youtube.com/watch?v=0dvt6hpIRbE
- youtube.com/watch?v=5spg1NiME6I
- youtube.com/@DrupalAssociation





03

Try it yourself

Three ways to get a Drupal site running in minutes.

GET STARTED TODAY

Three ways in

- **In the browser**

drupalforge.org gives you a free, preconfigured trial site in seconds, no install.

- **Locally with DDEV**

ddev composer create-project drupal/recommended-project, then
ddev launch.

- **The launcher app**

A single download runs Drupal locally with no command line.

LOCAL COMMUNITY

Drupal Austria

Local meetups, talks and contribution days. Come and say hi.

- **Join the community**

An active local chapter that welcomes every experience level.

- **Events we help organize**

DrupalCon, Drupal Developer Days, the Splash Awards and more.

- **Meetups & contribution days**

Monthly gatherings in Vienna, plus open work sessions | meetup.com/drupal-austria/

- **LocalGov Drupal Austria**

A free, open-source publishing platform built by and for municipalities, now in Austria.



Scan to join

drupal-austria.at



RESOURCES

Everything in one place

● Try it

drupalforge.org

[DDEV quickstart](#)

[Launcher app](#)

● Drupal community

[Contributor Guide](#)

[Case studies](#)

drupical.com

● Learn

[Drupal CMS User Guide](#)

webwash.net

Drupalize.Me

[Drupal Planet](#)

● Drupal Austria

drupal-austria.at

localgovdrupal.at

meetup.com/drupal-austria

● Watch demos

youtube.com/@DrupalAssociation

youtu.be/P1ifYk7KiaA

youtu.be/Dcut6oQ4_4c

youtu.be/0dvt6hplRbE

youtu.be/5spg1NiME6I



Thank you