



DrupalCon
NORTH AMERICA 2021
Government Summit

D7 & D8 End of Life (EOL)

What Does It Mean, What Are My Options?



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About Us



Michael Meyers
Tag1 Managing Director

- Sales, Marketing, & Partnerships
- Strategy & GTM Positioning
- CTO Top 50 Website
- VC Backed Founder w/ Exit



Jeremy Andrews
Tag1 Founding Partner/CEO

- Exec Oversight & Management
- Oversees All Infra & Dev
- Performance & Security Expert
- Load & Stress Test Expert





Tag1 - #2 All Time Drupal Contributor

1 of 2 Approved Providers for both D6 & D7 Extended Support (ES)

The New York Times



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What We'll Cover

Visit [Tag1.com/EOL](https://tag1.com/EOL) for More Details

- What Drupal “End of Life” (EOL) Means
- When It Happens, and How D7 and D8 Differ
- Why Widely Used Versions are Retired
- Practical Implications and Your Options
- What Drupal Vendor Extended Support (ES) Is
- Why ES only Covers D7, and Not D8
- How ES Operates, and What it Covers
- Send Questions to mmeyers@tag1.com





What is Drupal “End of Life”?

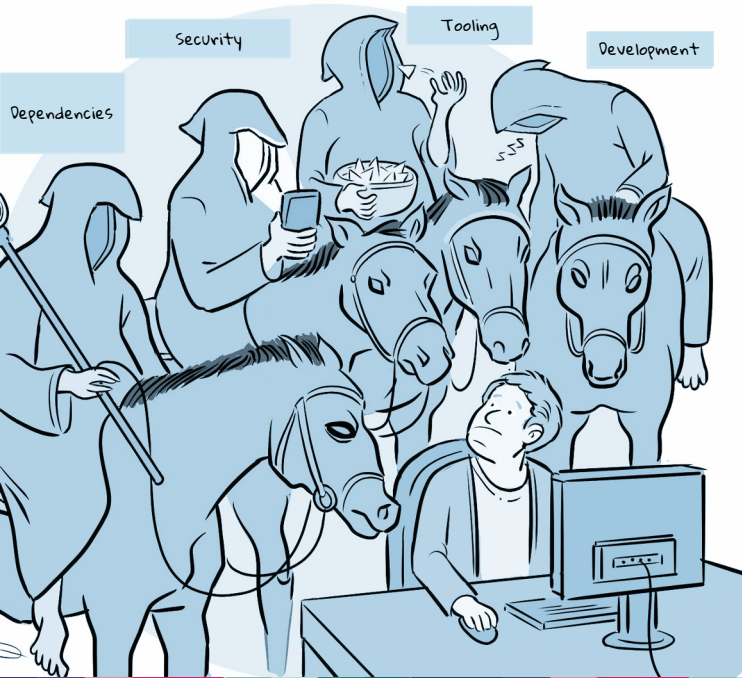
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End of Life

You Get What You Pay For....

The Four Horsemen of
Drupal End of Life



- **Development:** No Core Enhancements or Bug Fixes
- **Tooling:** Issue Queues Locked, Testing Infra Turned Off, etc.
- **Security:** No Security Advisories or Security Updates from Community
- **Dependencies:** - Versions of PHP, Symfony, etc. Going EOL

Don't Worry Extended Support Fixes This





When Do D7 & D8 Reach EOL?

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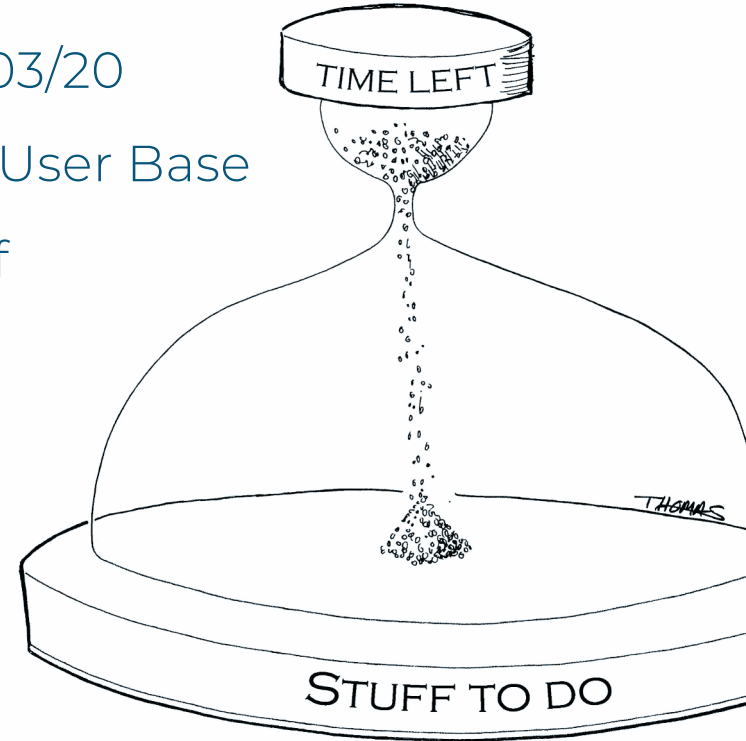


When is Drupal 7 EOL?

A Stay of Execution

- D7 Was To Go EOL When D9 Released 6/03/20
- Extended to November 2021 Given Large User Base
- Extended Again to Provide Covid-19 Relief

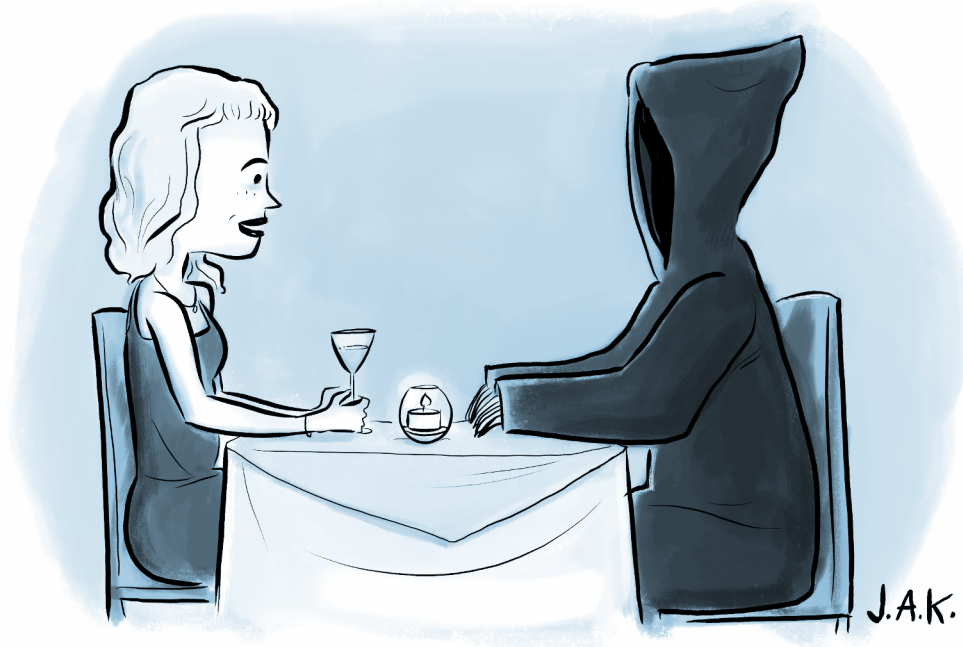
D7 EOL is November 2022





When is Drupal 8 EOL?

The Times, They Are A-Changin



"So, is this a date with destiny?"

- EOL Policy Changed As of D8
- D8 Has Dependencies Going EOL
- D9 Upgrade Path is Relatively Easy

**Drupal 8 Was and Still Is Going EOL
November 2021**



Why Are Heavily Used Versions EOL'd?

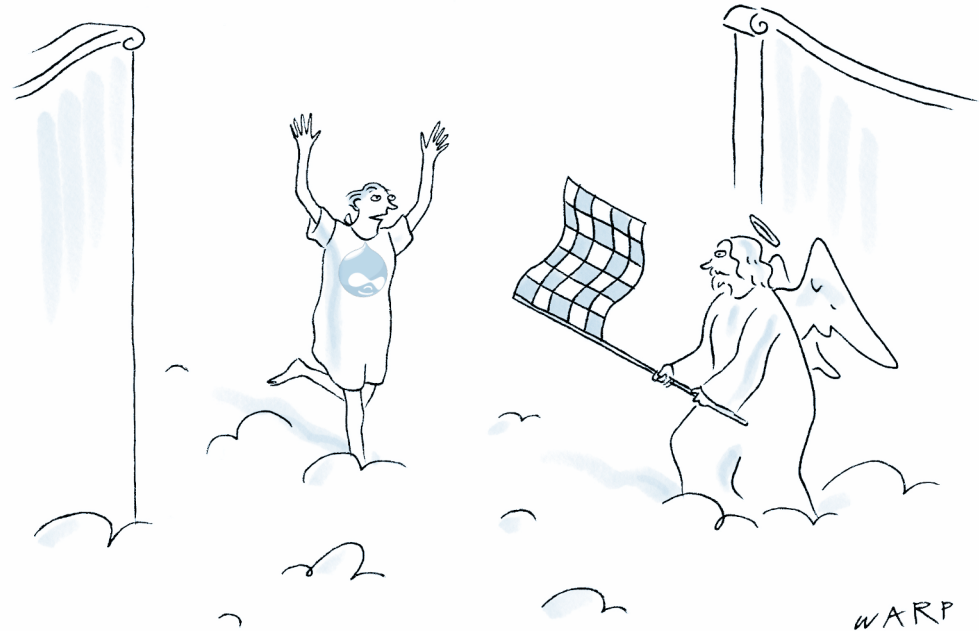
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It's Not You, It's Me

Why EOL D7, the Most Widely Used Version of Drupal?

- **Legacy:** D7 is 10+ Years Old & Will be 12+ By EOL in Nov. 2022
- **Bandwidth:** Can't Support D7 & D8 and Build D9 & D10...
- **Interest:** Devs Don't Want to Focus on 10+ Year Old Tech
- **Innovation:** Is What's Best for Drupal the Software



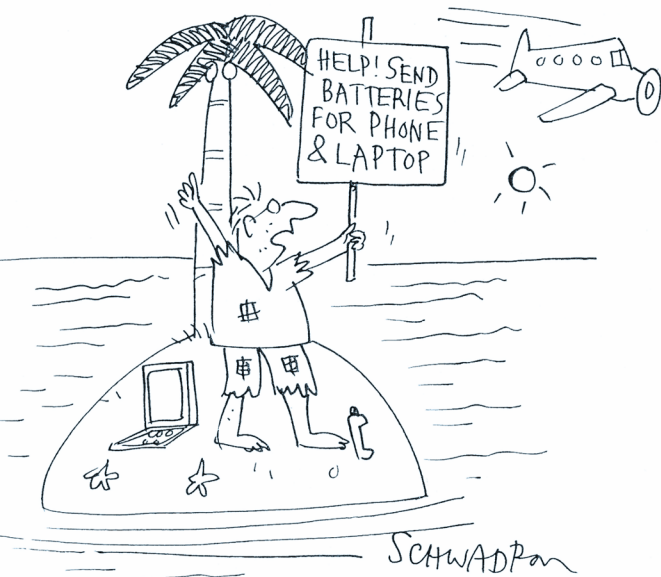


Getting Off The Island

With D8 The Rules For Assigning Version Numbers Changed (D9 is D8)

- D8 Built on Symfony, Twig, Guzzle, etc.
- Dependencies Go EOL Too
- So We Upgrade Drupal To Support New Versions
- Drupal Adopted Semantic Versioning & Upgrading Forces Major Releases (D8 -> D9)

Prior to D8, “Major Release” Meant an Entirely New Drupal. Now It’s More a Numbering Convention





What Are My Options?

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If I'm on D7, What Are My Options?

High Cost

- Do Nothing (Please Don't Do This)
- Migrate to D9
- Migrate to Another Product/Solution

Low Cost

- Shutdown or Archive The Website
- Go Static
- Continue to Run D7 for Years Through D7 Extended Support (D7ES)





Extended Support is Not a New Thing

Proven Model First Introduced 5~ Years Ago When D6 Went EOL

- Two Companies Currently Provide D6 Extended Support (ES)
- A Proven Model, 5 Yrs After EOL Organizations Still Rely on D6 ES
- Vendors are Still Very Committed to Offering D6 ES
- If There is Enough Demand & It Can Be Done, It Will Be Provided



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What is D7 Vendor Extended Support? (D7 ES)

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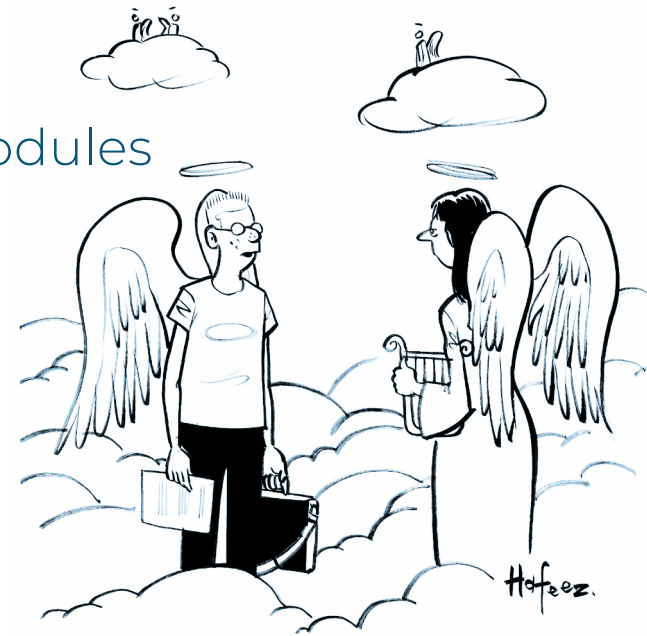
Drupal 7 Vendor Extended Support (D7ES)

All Approved D7 ES Vendors Must Offer the Following Services

- Tested Security Patches for Drupal 7 Core
- Tested Security Patches for Specific Contrib Modules
- Commit to Providing D7 ES for 3 Years

ANY & ALL Patches Must Be Open Sourced

Not Limited to D7ES! Includes Any Enhancements, All of Contrib, etc.



"I do tech support for the cloud."



Why Pay for D7 ES?

If All the Patches are Open Source, Why Should I Pay for Support?

- You Do Not Have To Pay for D7 ES
- If You Don't Support Vendors, They Won't Offer Support
- Support is Generally Inexpensive and Approachable for Any Org
- Vendors Will Offer Enhanced Services You May Need or Want



Vendors Can (and Will) Provide More

Beyond the Minimum Each Vendor Can Provide Additional Services

- Monitor Your Site, Alert You to Updates, Apply Them With/For You
- Bug Fixes, Feature Enhancements to D7 Core and ALL of Contrib
- Bespoke Work on Proprietary Code, Databases & Infrastructure
- Upgrading Legacy Drupal To Supported PHP Versions
- Dashboards & Other Tooling
- Not Just End Users - Agencies Benefit from Vendor Partnerships

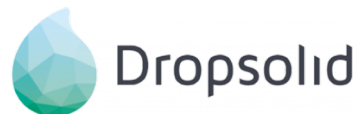
If There is Enough Demand or Funding, Vendors Will Provide It!



Who Can Provide D7 ES?

How Can I Trust My D7 Site Will Remain Secure?

- Official Vendors Are Vetted & Publicly Listed
- Qualifications Ensure Expertise and Commitment
- At Least 1 Active Resource on the Drupal Security Team
- Indepth Participation in Drupal Core Development
- Active Participation in the D7 ES Program





How Does D7ES Work in Practice?

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How does D7 ES Work?

The Basic D7 ES Offering Will Likely Follow the Proven D6 ES Model

- Vendors Will Have Their Own Public Code Repos
- Vendors Have Their Own Conventions & Version Numbering
- Vendor Updates are Not Compatible, But You Can Switch
- Vendors Choose How To Deliver Updates
- No Set Release Schedule
- You Must Be on the Final EOL Release to Apply D7 ES Patches



D7 ES Must Follow Security Policies

Vendors Must Follow Established Security Team Rules & Procedures

- No Communication Outside Sec. Team Prior to Public Release
- Updates can't be sent to you before official release
- ES Release Are At or Near Official Releases



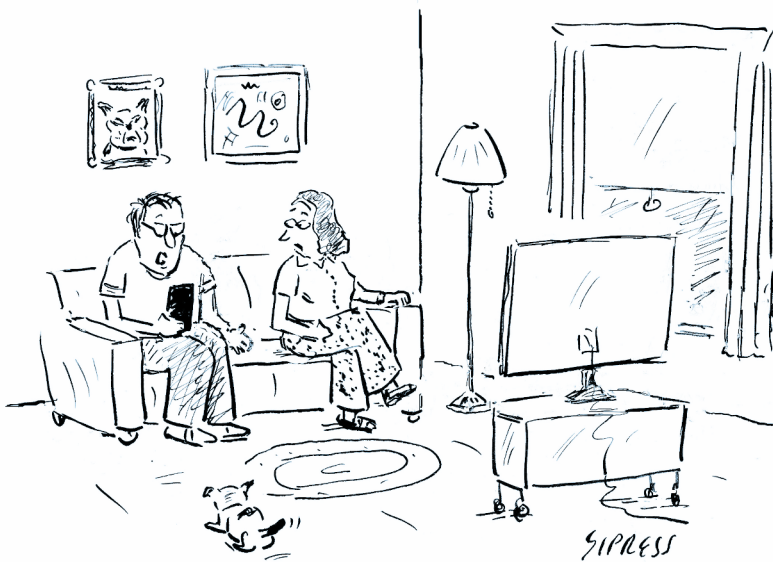
Really?!? No D8
Vendor Extended
Support?!?

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But Surely Some People Will Stay on D8?

What Can Organizations That Remain on D8 Do?



- There Will Be No Officially Sanctioned or Approved D8 ES
- Vendors Would Need to Be Experts In D8 & ALL The Dependencies as Well
- Impractical to Upgrade D8 to Support Newer Versions of Dependencies

Do Not Hope or Plan On D8 ES Being Provided. Upgrade to D9 Now, it's Easy!

"It says it's sick and tired of telling me to update my software, and if I don't do it right now it's going to explode."



Conclusion

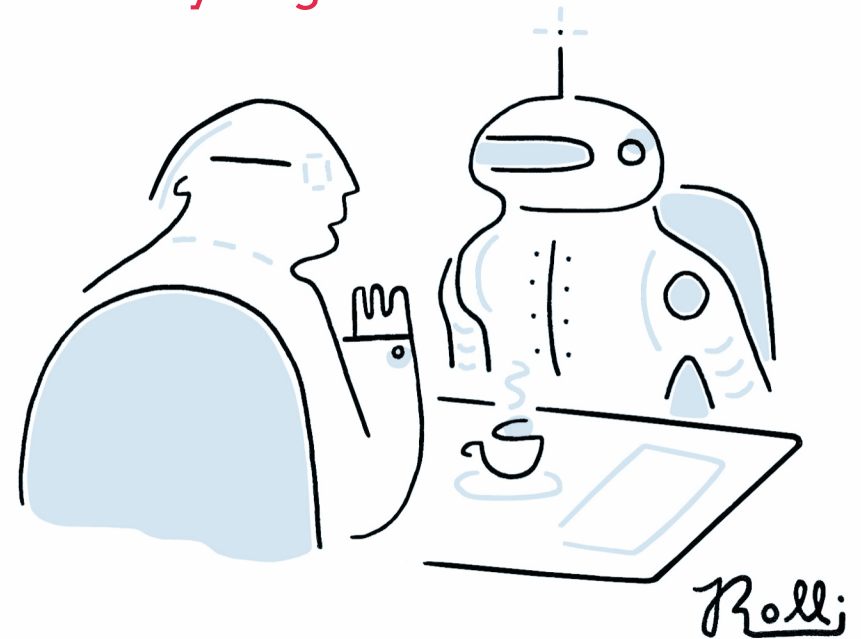
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D7 Is A Great and Very Stable Platform

It Will Continue to Meet Their Needs of Many Organizations

- I'd Guestimate 500k+ Sites Will Continue To Use D7 After EOL
- Strong Demand for D7 ES Will Create Vibrant D7 ES Ecosystem
- Expect To Be Able To Run D7 For At Least 5-7 Years Post EOL
- Migrate If and When It Makes Business Sense To Do So



"Where do you see yourself in five updates?"

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Don't Let D8 EOL Scare You, D9 is D8

Major Versions Now Numbers, Not New Platforms, & Upgrades Easy

- If You Keep Up With Minor Releases
Upgrading To D9 (and D10) is Easy
- Drupal 10 To Be Released June 2022.

From Drupal 8 on, The Drupal Upgrade
Process Should be Easier & The Need for
ES Will Be Much Less



"People tend to take the news better when I bring Princess Cupcake."

#Tag1TeamTalks and Blogs

Send Questions To - MMeyers@Tag1.com



Drupal Extended
Support
Tag1.com/EOL



Real-Time
Collaboration
Tag1.com/Yjs



Performance &
Scalability
Tag1.com/Goose

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