

Upgrading to Drupal 6.x from 5.x

Plan for the Upgrade and Prepare the Site

Important: Test all update and upgrade steps on a development server first!

- Determine the feasibility of the site upgrade** by installing the Update Status¹ and Upgrade Status² modules on your site. Then, visit Administer, Logs, Available Updates, Upgrade Status. Use the “Module inventory” worksheet to help you with this step.
 - ✓ = Module is ported to Drupal 6 and is stable.
 - ⚠ = Module is under development, but available for use. You need to determine on a case-by-case basis the feasibility of using a module in this state.
 - ✗ = Module is not available, in any form, for Drupal 6. You need to determine how necessary the module is to your site and, if it is vital, investigate options for having it upgraded.
- Upgrade custom modules and themes.** If your site contains any custom modules or themes, they need to be upgraded to Drupal 6.x following guides found on Drupal.org^{3,4}.
- If a site upgrade is possible, **update your site with the latest Drupal 5.x core and module releases.** A report to help you do this can be found at Administer, Logs, Available updates. Updating Drupal 5.x core and contributed modules protects against failed 6.x upgrades.
- Address any remaining issues with the site,** reported at Administer, Logs, Status report.
- Document your upgrade plan.** Every site requires site-specific steps during an upgrade. Write these steps down somewhere handy, along with the “Module inventory” worksheet.

Immediately Prior to the Upgrade

- Backup the current site code and database.** This will allow you to quickly restore the functional Drupal 5 site should something go wrong during the upgrade process. Instructions for this process can be found on Drupal.org⁵. Keep this backup

handy, as you will need to access some data from it during the upgrade process.

- Download the latest version of Drupal 6.x core, and the latest Drupal 6.x-compatible version of all required modules and themes** to your workstation. Do not upload these files to the server yet.
- Login to Drupal as the “root” user.** This is the first user created for the site. If you have forgotten the root user’s credentials, its profile is accessible at <http://example.com/user/1>.
- Put the site into maintenance mode** at Administer, Site configuration, Site maintenance.
- Set the site theme to a core-provided theme** (e.g. Garland or Bluemarine) at Administer, Site building, Themes.
- Disable all contributed modules** at Administer, Site building, Modules. Modules listed in the “Core” rollouts can remain enabled.

Upgrade Drupal Core

- Remove Drupal 5.x.** On the server, rename the folder containing the Drupal 5.x installation (e.g. `current_name-backup`). If this is not possible, delete all files from the folder containing Drupal 5.x except for the folder `files` and the file `sites/default/settings.php`.
- Extract the Drupal 6.x archive and **upload the contents to the installation folder.** **Important:** When uploading files to the server, don’t forget the `.htaccess` file, located in the Drupal root folder.
- If you renamed the Drupal 5.x folder in the prior step, move the files folder and the file `sites/default/settings.php` into the new Drupal 6.x installation directory.
- If any modifications were made on the Drupal 5.x site to files such as `.htaccess`, `robots.txt`, or

`settings.php`, update the new files with the corresponding changes.

- Run `update.php`** by visiting <http://example.com/update.php>

Upgrade Contributed Modules and Themes

- Extract, upload, and enable the new contributed modules** to your site’s modules folder.
- Extract and upload any new themes** to your site’s themes folder.
- Run `update.php` again** to allow all contributed modules to upgrade their module-specific data and settings.

Clear the Cache and Test Functionality

- Clear the Drupal cache** at Administer, Site configuration, Performance. Select “Clear cached data” at the bottom of the page.
- Check the status report and address any reported issues** at Administer, Reports, Status Report.
- Step through the attached **Review Checklist** to ensure the site remains functional.

Go Live

- Take the site out of maintenance mode** at Administer, Site configuration, Site maintenance.

Referenced URLs:

1. http://drupal.org/project/update_status
2. http://drupal.org/project/upgrade_status
3. <http://drupal.org/node/114774>
4. <http://drupal.org/node/132442>
5. <http://drupal.org/upgrade/backing-up-the-db>

