

Migrating from Drupal to Backdrop



Todd Tomlinson

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There are so many people to thank for making this book possible, including dozens of very special people who had a huge influence on my life and my desire to write. This book is dedicated to them.

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About the Author



Todd Tomlinson is the senior enterprise Drupal architect and senior Drupal developer at Danaher Corporation, a \$22 billion high-tech manufacturing company. Todd's focus over the past 20 years has been on designing, developing, deploying, and supporting complex web solutions for public- and private-sector clients all around the world. He has been using Drupal as the primary platform for creating beautiful and feature-rich sites since Drupal 4. Todd is also the author of *Beginning Drupal 7* (Apress), *Pro Drupal 7 Development* (Apress), and *Beginning Drupal 8* (Apress).

Prior to joining Danaher, Todd was the vice president of ServerLogic's national Drupal consulting practice and senior director of eBusiness Strategic Services for Oracle Corporation, where he helped Oracle's largest clients develop their strategic plans for leveraging the Web as a core component of their business. He was also the former vice president of Internet solutions for Claremont Technology Group, the vice president and CTO of Emerald Solutions, a senior enterprise Drupal architect at Unicon, the managing director for CNF Ventures, and a senior manager with Andersen Consulting/Accenture.

Todd has a BS in computer science, an MBA, and a PhD (ABD).

Todd's passion for Drupal is evident in his obsession with evangelizing the platform and his enthusiasm when speaking with clients about the possibilities of what they can accomplish using Drupal. If you want to see someone light up, stop him on the street and ask him, "What is Drupal, and what can it do for me?"

About the Technical Reviewer



Eric Goldman is a technical project manager for a Open Source software development consultancy in Gilbert, AZ. He holds a BS in managerial economics from the University of Massachusetts and has been involved in the IT industry for 25+ years. He has worked for various companies such as BBN, American Express, and Charles Schwab. He has held project manager, web developer/admin, consultant, and director of IT roles. Eric has been part of the Web since its early day; he discovered Drupal three years ago and has been immersing himself in all its glory ever since. He is currently working on updating/upgrading a nonprofit Land Trust Site to Backdrop.

When not at work, Eric likes to spend time with his family, goes camping, is an avid reader, and is pursuing his newest hobby, photographing the night skies.

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Introduction

In its relatively short life, Drupal has had a tremendous impact on the landscape of the Internet. As a web content management system (CMS), Drupal has enabled the creation of feature- and content-rich web sites for organizations large and small. With the release of Drupal 8 and the shift in focus toward large-scale enterprise solutions and the re-platforming of Drupal on Symfony, small to medium-sized organizations are faced with choosing one of the following:

- Bite the bullet and build or acquire the skills necessary to fully embrace Drupal 8
- Stay on Drupal 6 or 7, knowing that they will be unsupported in the future
- Migrate to another CMS
- Leverage their investment in Drupal 7 by moving to Backdrop, a “cousin” of Drupal that utilizes the same underlying architecture as Drupal 7

This book will help those who are faced with the decision on which direction to take and demonstrates the relative simplicity of moving from Drupal 7 to Backdrop. I’ll walk you through the process of porting modules, themes, and page layouts. I’ll also demonstrate the differences in the administrative interfaces and show where to find and how to install Backdrop core, contributed modules, and themes. I’ll also cover how to contribute to the Backdrop community.

Like with all open source projects, Backdrop is constantly evolving. Check the Backdrop web site, <http://backdropcms.org>, for the latest information on the platform, as well as the errata for this book posted on Apress.com.