

The

Sustainable Drupal Manifesto

Staying sane in a complex world



Who are you?



Brian Gallagher - brian@drupalcoach.com - drupal.org/u/diamondsea

- Programming since 1981
 - Consulting since 1982
 - Online/BBS since 1983
 - On Internet since 1991
 - Drupaling since 2009
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- Markets: Small/Medium/Enterprise Business, Fortune 50, Startups, Universities, Local/State/Federal Government



What is “Sustainable Drupal” ?

Sustainable Drupal is our approach to developing systems that are:

- Affordable
- Maintainable
- Quick to Develop
- Easy to Improve
- Require the minimum technical knowledge possible (saving \$\$\$)
- Are designed to be updated by site builders (instead of developers)
- Backend is focused on the Site Builder experience (Drupal’s “Sweet Spot”)

Who doesn't need Sustainable Drupal?

You may not need Sustainable Drupal if you have:

- Large budget
- Plenty of time
- Great developers, designers and site builders
- A client who knows exactly what they need
- Requirements that differ from Drupal's standard behaviours
- A burning desire for vendor lock-in

Who wants Sustainable Drupal?

You may want to practice Sustainable Drupal if you have:

- Tight timelines
- Smaller budgets
- Developers and designers who are new(ish) to Drupal 8+
- A client with uncertain requirements (most Agile projects)
- A client open to tweaking processes to match Drupal's default behaviors
- A site you can more easily hand off to others to maintain and enhance


Benefits of Sustainable Drupal

Cheaper, Faster, Easier to build, maintain and enhance sites, so:

- More clients can afford it
- More D8 sites get created
- More developers, designers and site builders use it
- Easier to hire people capable of maintaining and enhancing it
- Drupal popularity increases
- More demand for Drupal sites
- Profit !

So what is it?

Simple guidelines to keep you from going down the custom development rat-hole.

A man dressed as Santa Claus, with a long white beard and a red hat, stands in a dark, rocky cave. He is wearing a grey, textured jacket over a red robe and a striped sash. He is holding a large, dark, rectangular object, possibly a book or a tablet, in front of him. The cave walls are dark and textured, and the lighting is dim, creating a somber atmosphere.

The lord Jehovah has given unto you these fifteen...

Priorities

Good - Fast - Cheap

Pick Any Two

Use Core

It does more than you think.

Already in Drupal 8.6 Core

- Aggregator (import RSS feeds)
- BigPipe (faster page loads)
- Book (Structured content)
- CKEditor (WYSIWYG editor)
- Contact (forms)
- Content Translation (I18N)
- Dates, DateTime Range (fields)
- Forum (threaded discussions)
- History (Highlight new content)
- Inline Form Errors (better error msgs)
- Media (rich content)
- Quick Edit (in-place editing)
- RDF (add content metadata)
- REST (APIs)
- Responsive Image (image breakpoints)
- Shortcut (toolbar quick links)
- Telephone (fields)
- Testing (run automated tests)
- Token (value replacements)
- Tour (tooltip site guides)
- Twig (templating system)
- Views (Reporting, block/page creation)
- Workflows (moderation states)
- ... and many more

Experimental Modules in Drupal 8.6 Core

- Content moderation module (allow for draft, review, archive states)
- Experimental Requirements Test
- Experimental Test
- Migrate module (importing general data into Drupal)
- Migrate Drupal module (import data from Drupal 6/7 sites)
- Migrate Drupal UI module (UI for Migrate)
- Place Blocks module (allow Place Blocks to be done from anywhere)
- Settings Tray module (add sidebar to front-end to allow in-place changes)
- Trash module (recoverable deleted data, like Recycle Bin/Trash Can)
- Workspace module (stage groups of content for potential publishing)
- Migrate Drupal Multilingual (for multilingual Drupal 6/7 imports)

Use Contrib

You probably don't actually need something custom.

You just want it.

Popular Drupal 8 Contributed Modules

- Admin Toolbar (better menu toolbar)
- Backup and Migrate (sched backups)
- Components (Twig namespaces)
- Devel (developer tools)
- Field Group (add tabs, accordions, ...)
- Display Suite (better field displays)
- LinkIt (internal link finding widget)
- Metatag (page metadata)
- Panels / CTools / Page Manager
- Paragraphs (structured field data)
- Pathauto (better URL aliases)
- Redirect (better redirect options)
- Search API (faceted search)
- View Unpublished (content reviewing)
- Simple Sitemap (XML sitemaps for SEO)
- Webform (custom forms)
- Module Filter (better admin UI)
- Permissions Filter (better admin UI)
- Honeypot (block form spam)
- Views Bulk Operations (batch changes)
- Transliteration (clean up filenames, ...)
- Bootstrap, Zurb (themes)
- Block Class, Menu Class (theming)
- Better Exposed Filters (improves Views)
- Views Data Export (CSV, XML, RSS, ...)
- Taxonomy Manager (better term UI)

Design for Site Builders!

Drupal's Sweet Spot

(yes, even for D8!)

UI > Code

If it will ever need to be changed

Make a UI for it

No Black Magic!

Don't Be Evil

Value > Cost ?

Is it worth it?

Complex = \$\$\$

Simple is Cheaper

Make Self-Documenting Systems

Explain Black Magic in the Admin UI

Friendly Formatting

Make reusable formats

and then use them

Display Things, not Pieces

Show rendered nodes with Display Modes, not Views of fields

(except for tables)

Style Things, Not Places

Style based on WHAT it is, not WHERE it is

Classes are your friends

Try

Distributions

(and Install Profiles)

They already do what you want

(most of it, anyway)

Popular D8 Distributions / Install Profiles

- Lightning (Acquia base distro)
 - Varbase (preconfigured base install)
 - Brianstorm Profile (based on Brainstorm theme)
 - Commerce (eCommerce install profile)
 - Contenta (content-based API & CMS)
 - Druppio (small business theme site)
 - Reservoir (decoupled/headless CMS)
 - Opigno LMS (Learning Management System)
 - Open Social (build communities)
 - OpenChurch (churches and ministries)
 - Panopoly (visual site building system)
 - Thunder (professional publishing)
 - LISSA Kickstart (real-time messaging for second-screen/kiosk applications)
 - Vardoc (knowledgebase, a wiki system, and a documentation management system)
- Flashy Demonstration Site in Core:
- Umami (a demo install profile - not for production use!)

Custom :-)

When All Else Fails

PHP != Drupal

The RIGHT Developer is Cheaper

(even if more \$/hr)

Build Tools, Not Solutions

Developers should create tools

that allow site builders to solve their own problem

UI = Good Guy

or Good Girl or Good Non-Binary (“Guy” rhymed)

Admin Pages for ALL Config Options

Now \$\$\$ < Later \$\$\$

Technical Debt Charges Interest

Patch \$\$\$\$ < Custom \$\$\$\$

It's cheaper
to use existing working code
than to write it from scratch
(and you get community benefits)

Patch \$\$\$ < Maintenance \$\$\$

Get your code into the main code

and they maintain it for you

Maintenance \$\$\$ < Fixing \$\$\$

Maintenance Not Optional

Fixing Not Cheap

Code Review is Good

Friends Don't Let Friends Code Bad

Join Drupal Security List

Really. Do it now.

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Log in to your Drupal.org account

Go to [your user profile page](#)

subscribe to the security newsletter on the *Edit » My newsletters* tab.

Are we there yet?

There are still a few issues that will need work:

- More Great Themes
- Composer Core/Module updates
- Automatic Updates
- Showing overridden UI settings
- Identifying Black Magic

Luckily there are initiatives or issues working to address these... Eventually.

Developers & Designers: Please join in and help!

Thanks!

Contact:

Brian Gallagher

brian@drupalcoach.com

www.example.com

[@drupalcoach](#)

Drupal.org: [diamondsea](#)



Questions?

