



WordPress at CERN

A next-generation content management system

Web Team
Infrastructure Team

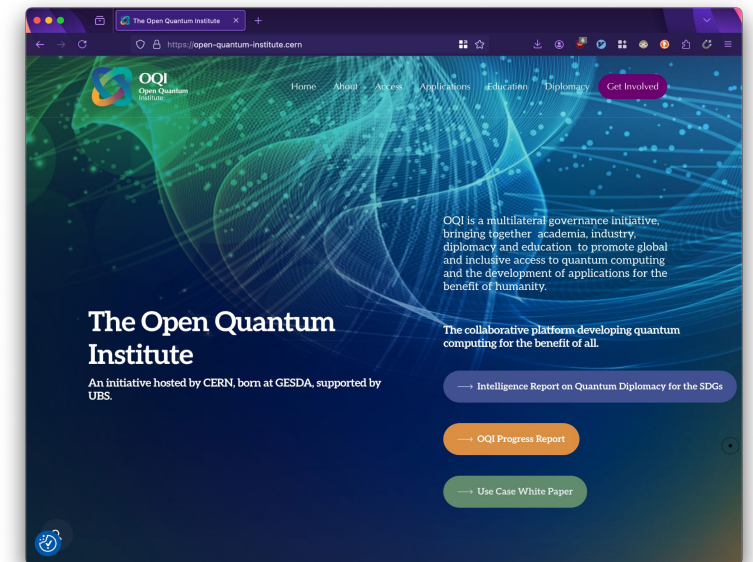
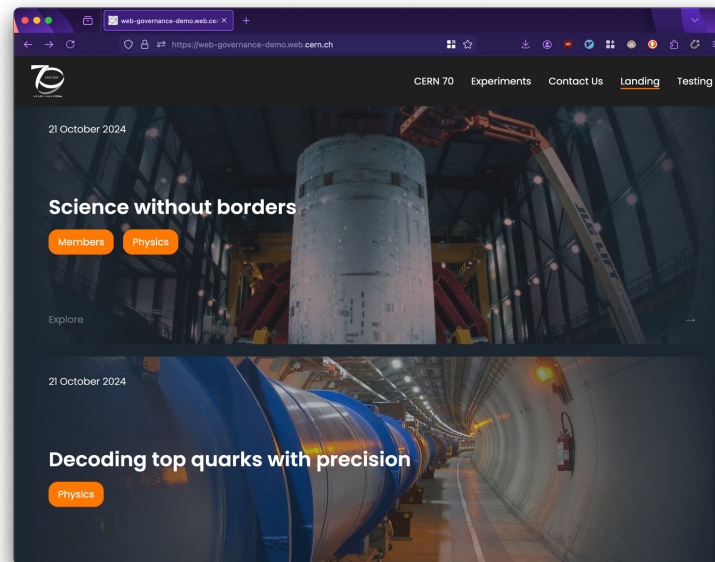
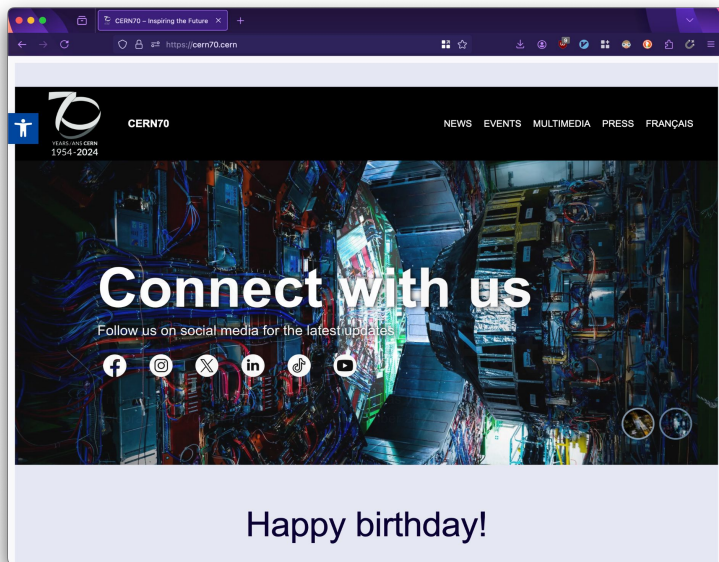
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Agenda

1. What is WordPress?
2. Why did we choose WordPress?
3. Where are we with development?
4. What is our roadmap?
5. What do I do today?
6. How I can request WordPress Lite?
7. Demo
8. FAQ

What is WordPress?

- WordPress is a content management system (CMS), just like Drupal
- User-friendly, intuitive, and requires no development experience
- It is open-source, which means anyone can use and modify it
- Strong ecosystem, widely used across all types of websites



Why did we choose WordPress? (1/5)

- 13 years ago, CERN officially adopted Drupal
- Back then, it was a good choice, but today we must ask: is it still the right choice?

Why did we choose WordPress? (2/5)

- 13 years ago, CERN officially adopted Drupal
- Back then, it was a good choice, but today we must ask: is it still the right choice?

Today:

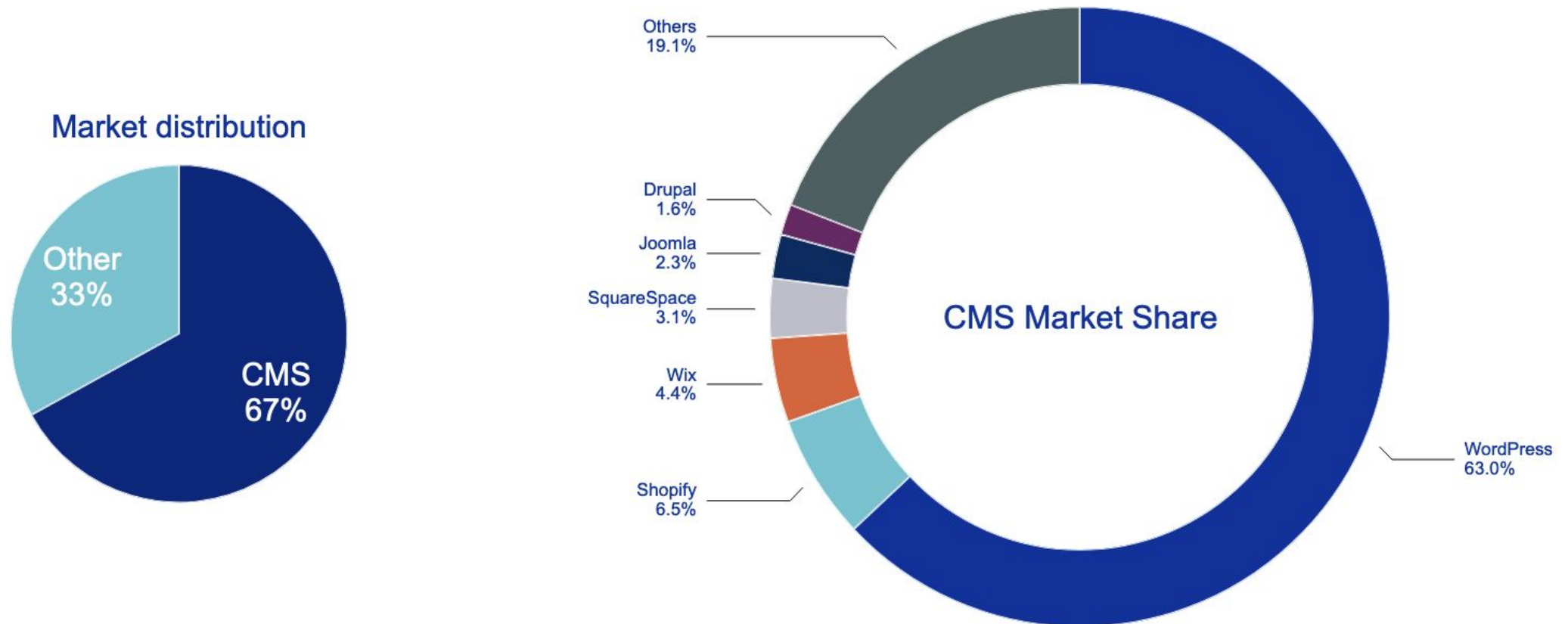
- Steep learning curve, difficult and time-consuming to do simple things
- Substantial work involved in maintaining status-quo (>8.4 FTEs in Drupal 8 to 9 migration)
- Dwindling ecosystem, increased stress on support, maintenance, and security work
- Websites have poor responsiveness and little-to-none accessibility
- We are plagued by issues beyond our control

Why did we choose WordPress? (3/5)

Requirement	State					
	pre-Drupal	Drupal	WordPress	Wix	Squarespace	Joomla
clear URLs and structure						
avoid data duplication						
web accessibility			with plugin	partial	partial	
navigation (find correct resource)		partial	partial	partial	partial	partial
search (find correct resource faster)						
enforceable design guidelines		partial		restricted*	restricted*	partial
enforceable governance		partial	†	partial	partial	partial
easy content management system	N/A	partial				
easy to edit content by end-users		partial				partial
reduce maintenance work				managed	managed	
transparency of content and files	direct	invisible	partial	partial	partial	invisible
reasonable learning curve	shallow	steep	shallow	shallow	shallow	steep
integrate with SSO, CDS, Indico, ...				limited*	limited*	
healthy ecosystem	N/A	deterioating	healthy	healthy	healthy	deterioating

Why did we choose WordPress? (4/5)

Adopting the most used CMS allows us to provide a better level of service and support; it means faster updates and fixes due to taking advantage of a bigger and more active community



Why did we choose WordPress? (5/5)

WordPress shifts website owners from being web developers to content creators

— allowing you to focus on what matters: your content!

Example: Challenge with Managing Content in Drupal

Back to site

Manage

Shortcuts

pkatyaya

Dashboards

Content

Structure

Appearance

Extend

Configuration

People

Reports

Help

CERN Accelerating science

Signed in as: pkatyaya (Drupal)Sign outDirectory

Add content type ☆

[Home](#) » [admin](#) » [structure](#) » [types](#) » add

Individual content types can have different fields, behaviors, and permissions assigned to them.

Name *

PDF

Machine name: pdf [\[Edit\]](#)

The human-readable name for this content type, displayed on the *Content types* page.

Description

Displays on the *Content types* page.

Submission form settings

Title

Publishing options

Published, Promoted to front page, Create new revision

Language settings

Site's default language (English)

Display settings

Display author and date information

Menu settings

Scheduler

Title field label *

Title

Preview before submitting

☐ Disabled

☒ Optional

☐ Required

Explanation or submission guidelines

This text will be displayed at the top of the page when creating or editing content of this type.

Save and manage fields

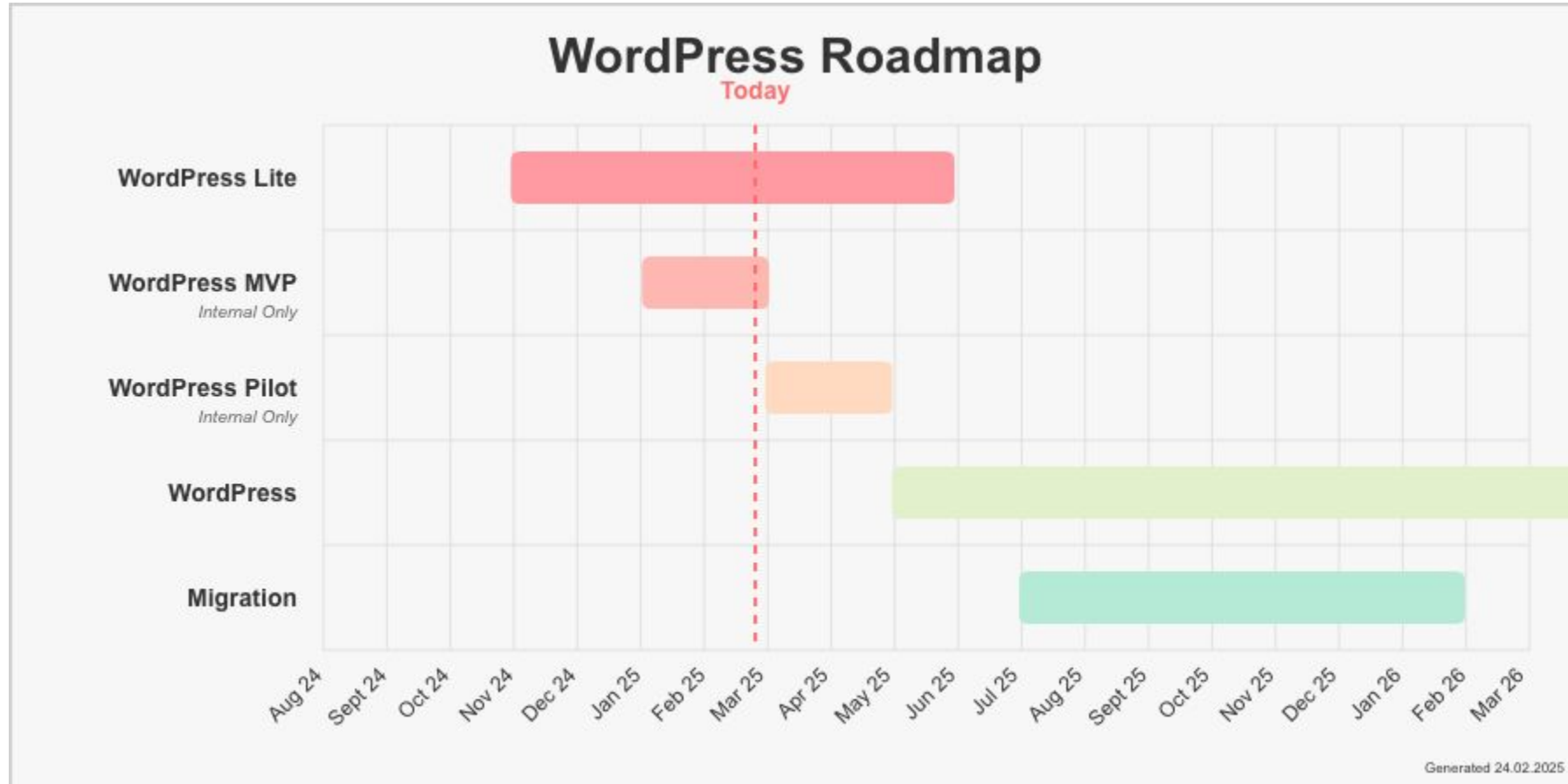
Save

Where are we?

- WordPress is in **active development** — joint effort between **IR and IT**
- WordPress Lite, a lightweight version, has been available since **October '24**
 - Includes a CERN WordPress theme and core functionality such as
 - headings, paragraphs, quotes, lists, tables, videos, images, galleries
 - interactive elements such as action buttons, sliders, CDS and Indico
 - post filtering by tag and/or category, social media integration
 - countdown widgets, and more...

WordPress Lite is your opportunity to start experimenting with WordPress

What is our roadmap? (1/3)



What is our roadmap? (2/3)

Overarching goals:

- Users will be content creators, not developers
- Updates, security patches, and tweaks all managed centrally: no action on users

We rely on you to help us shape WordPress at CERN!

Web Representatives are doing tremendous work, but everyone is encouraged to share their thoughts: wordpress-feedback@cern.ch (or via [Mattermost](#))

What is our roadmap? (3/3)

Overarching goals:

- Customisations allowed only for well-justified cases and with explicit approval from the Web Governance Board
 - to be managed centrally: more transparency
 - needs commitment of human power to maintain codebase of customisations throughout the website life; and to coordinate and ensure timely updates and upgrades

I have a Drupal website



1. Prepare your website

- * remove customisation
- * check and verify existing content

2. Wait for automated migration

- * done centrally, no action on you

3. Validate preview of WordPress site

- * choose when to make the switch and retire the Drupal

I need a new website



If you know Drupal and need it now

- * proceed with Drupal normally

If you know Drupal but can wait

- * await general WordPress release

If you do not know Drupal

- * await general WordPress release
- * request a WordPress Lite website
- * *if static website, use Gitlab Pages*

**Drupal will continue to be maintained through 2025
and will be decommissioned in early 2026**

Would you like to remake your Drupal site in WordPress?

If you don't want to wait for an automated migration, and would rather take the opportunity to remake your website in WordPress:

- Let us Know your preference
- We will guide you through the best option available.



await general WordPress release



Request a WP lite Site

Become a WP Lite Collaborator

In case you want to remake your site with WP Lite, join us and become a collaborator.



Feedback meetings

Regular feedback meetings to analyse how the development is going and what problems you may have encountered in the process.



Suggestions to features

Feedback collections:
Is useful for the cern community? If yes we will convert your suggestions to features and develop them.



Release of the new features

You will always have the latest version of WP Lite with new features and improvements.

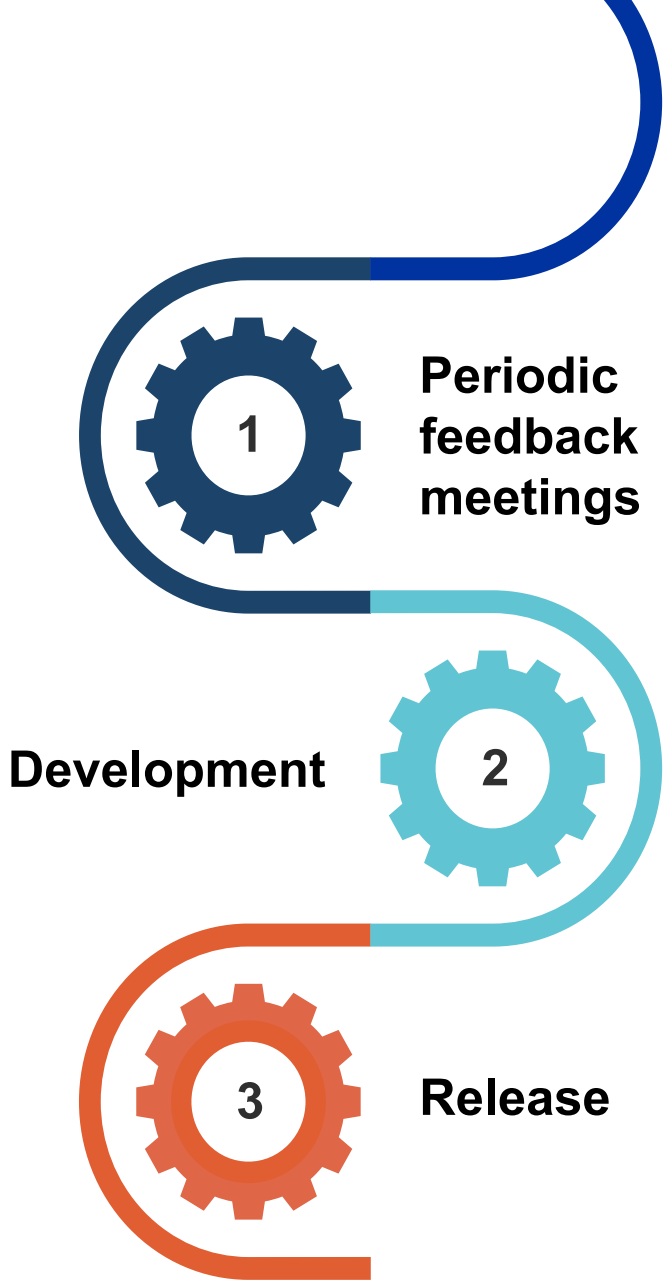


Resources must be provided to actively rebuilding the site.

WordPress Lite

Collaborations summary

Site	Dept	External company involved	Status
Openlab	IT-FTI		Completed ✓
NextGenTriggers	IT-FTI	-	On going ⌚
Ats-news	ATS-DO	-	Completed ✓
Kt-report-2024	IPT-KT	Eversis	Completed ✓
Staff-association	IR-ECO	-	On going ⌚
Mechlab	EN-MME	-	On going ⌚



WordPress Lite Eligibility



WordPress Lite is in active development

1. Not designed for `.cern` and high load/traffic websites
2. Not allowed for personal websites
3. The migration will be automated - if no customisations are present
4. Web Representative approval needed (via Service-Now)

In general, allowed for justified use-cases who plan to actively develop their sites

WordPress Lite Request

1. Check if you match the eligibility criteria [here](#)
2. Open a ticket by following this [link](#) providing:
 - a. Website URL
 - b. Responsible e-group
 - c. Justification for need of a WordPress Lite website
3. **Your Web Representative will approve or reject the request**

FAQ (WordPress Lite)

Q1: Who can access WordPress Lite?

WordPress Lite is open for everyone after authorisation by your Web Representative. However, due to WordPress Lite being experimental, no high-traffic or .cern websites.

Q2: What happens once WordPress Lite closes?

All WordPress Lite websites will automatically be migrated to the official WordPress production environment. No action will be necessary and more information will follow.

Q3: Can I move my Drupal website to WordPress Lite?

You can, but it has to be done manually for now.

FAQ (WordPress Lite)

Q4: I want to hire an external company to design/develop my website, can I?

Please include the Web Team and the Infrastructure Team in the early phases.

- We will help with the technical requirements such as maintenance, integrations, deployments etc...
- Any customisation must be explicitly authorised by the Web Governance Board
- All development must commence directly on the CERN infrastructure

FAQ (Drupal to WordPress)

Q5: What happens to my Drupal website?

All Drupal websites which conform to the central distribution will automatically be migrated.

Q6: What about my customised Drupal website?

You can prepare your website for migration to WordPress by stripping away customisation. The Web Team is available to assist and give guidance. We encourage you to start sooner rather than later to ensure you have enough time.

Q7: What happens to Drupal at CERN?

Drupal will continue to be supported through 2025. We will decommission it in early 2026.

What you can do with WordPress Lite?
Let's look at the demo in video together!



What have you done with WP Lite

Let's look a few examples of your creativity

- <https://openlab-wp.web.cern.ch>
- <https://report2024-kt.web.cern.ch/>

What does NOT come with WordPress Lite

1. Custom plugins

Explain to us your use case:
if it is useful to the CERN Community,
we will implement and support it

2. Custom roles

More than 8000 unique roles in Drupal

- Maintenance mess
- Redundant set of permissions
- Null Naming conventions

BY DEFAULT

- Accessibility
- Responsiveness
- Security
- Maintenance
- Best practices

OBJECTIVE

**allowing you to
focus on what
matters: your
content!**

Additional Resources

Drupal to WordPress Community Meeting (26/9): <https://indico.cern.ch/event/1457632/>

WordPress information: <https://wordpress.docs.cern.ch>

Web Team contact information: web-team@cern.ch

WordPress contact information: wordpress-feedback@cern.ch

We know this is a massive change, and we are working very hard to ensure that the transition will be as smooth as possible: we are here to support you and your team throughout the entire process!



home.cern