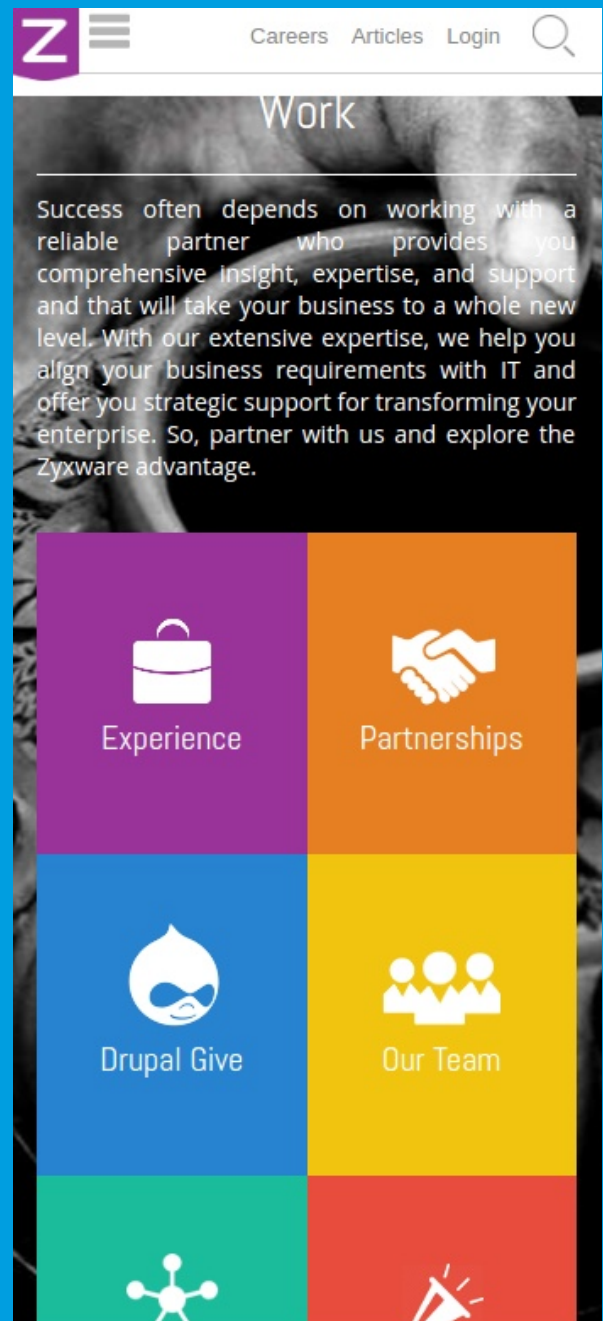




Migrating zyxware.com from
Drupal 6 to 7

www.zyxware.com is the official website of Zyxware Technologies. We are one among the leading contributors to Drupal in India. Apart from providing business solutions, business analysis and website development, Zyxware also promotes Free and Open Source Software by providing Free Software CDs online. Zyxware.com also has a massive archive of articles on a diverse range of topics such as Drupal development, Linux, Free Software and so on.

Zyxware.com was initially built on Drupal 5, which was then upgraded to Drupal 6. The theme used was a custom theme and was not responsive.



Important modules used:

Captcha	Jquery Update
reCaptcha	Mollom
CCK	Pathauto
Ckeditor	Search 404
Colorbox	Spam Blackhole
Context	Spamicide
Ctools	Ubercart
CDN	UUID
Features	Views
ImageCache	Views Slideshows
IMCE	Webform
ImageAPI	XML Sitemap
Jquery UI	

Apart from these, there were modules for integration of social networks, a few custom modules for payment and themes, and features with the exported contexts, content types, menu links, user permissions, user roles and views.

Goal

To upgrade the current Zyxware website from Drupal 6 to Drupal 7 with a new responsive custom theme and all the content intact.

Challenges

Upgrading the core code and database is a quick and effortless task. However, upgrading the contributed modules wasn't easy because many modules had dependencies on others that were either not updated to Drupal 7, discontinued, or moved to the core. Some of the core as well as contributed modules were patched for our convenience. These patches were to be reapplied if relevant. Along with migration, a custom, responsive theme using Bootstrap as base theme had to be completed to go along with the upgraded site.

Reason to migrate to Drupal 7

Zyxware Technologies, a leading contributor to Drupal from India, has contributed many modules and themes to Drupal 7. Staying with Drupal 6 meant limitations from a design perspective as well. Theming has been made simpler in Drupal 7. Our website is a prime source for articles related to Drupal development, linux, bash and other open source topics, and so zyxware.com is a usually a high traffic website. We couldn't showcase the new features of Drupal, or even our own contributed modules to the developers viewing zyxware.com .

Making our custom theme responsive was a pain as well.



Furthermore, new contributions were focussed mainly on Drupal 7, Drupal 6 contributions were dwindling, and finally, Drupal end of life had already been announced!

The solution to this was to migrate the site to Drupal 7 with a new responsive custom theme.

Major changes in Drupal 7

Better image handling in core itself. Imagecache, Imagefield and Image API in general has been integrated in the core.

Custom fields with CCK is now a core functionality.

Views module has been included in core itself.

Test framework for automated testing.

Improved file handling.

Theming has been relatively simplified.

Outcome

A responsive multi-domain website with over 3000 articles.



Z Careers Articles Login

ZYXWARE

Reliability Ensured,
Smiles Maximized.

ACQUIQ VOLACCI

Give your business a powerful edge

Zyxware Technologies is a global IT solutions provider with significant expertise in Drupal web applications. Zyxware also offers you an array of services including web application development and IT infrastructure solutions that enhances the productivity of our clients by making your critical business operations faster and cost-effective. One of the largest, exclusive Drupal solution providers in the country, Zyxware has vast experience in Drupal development and have contributed several modules to cater to the processes to ensure that your web platform that is secure, effective, and scalable.

Read More

GET A FREE QUOTE

Drupal core provides scripts to migrate the website to Drupal 7 and a contributed module (migrate) to [migrate](#) custom content types created by [CCK](#) - so the upgrade path is already defined. We faced difficulties while updating contributed modules. Some contributed modules were abandoned in Drupal 6 itself. We had to identify the alternatives to these modules in Drupal 7 and substitute them. Also, updating all the modules at one go did not seem to work, as some modules could only be updated if its dependencies were updated first. We worked around this by updating the contributed modules by grouping them into several batches.

Using the domain modules, different content are being displayed for the different domains. (www.zyxware.com, www.zyxware.com.au).

A short description of the steps followed for migration:

1. Collect Data

Prior to migration, an important thing that you need to consider is to "know the website". Collect as much data as possible, like how many modules (custom or contrib), what is it used for, is it available in Drupal 7, if not any alternatives for it, whether patches were created and so on. This will be useful later when the site has been migrated and to check for missing modules. [Detailed article for this step here.](#)

2. Drupal 6 core and contrib minor version upgrade

This may seem irrelevant, but is absolutely necessary as the minor versions may have database changes which may be reflected in major upgrade. (Minor upgrade example : 6.11 to 6.19 and major upgrade example : 6.19 to 7.34). [Detailed article for this step here.](#)

3. Drupal 6 core update to Drupal 7

This is probably the part that will crash your site, so proceed with extreme caution! Firstly, you have to disable all non core modules. After this, overwrite core with current stable version of Drupal 7 and update. The time taken to update will depend on the database size. [Detailed article for this step here.](#)

4. Drupal 6 contrib modules update to Drupal 7

After the core update, the site will definitely malfunction as expected. As long as it isn't WSOD, you're fine! Ignore it and move forward with the

migration process. Download all the contrib modules and overwrite the existing modules and update. This is a time-consuming process. [Detailed article for this step here.](#)

5. Update custom modules to Drupal 7

If your website has any custom modules necessary for the functioning of this website, then refer the change log and update the custom code. [Detailed article for this step here.](#)

6. Re-apply all relevant patches

Using the hacked module, we can find out whether any modules have patches. If these patches are relevant in the new modules as well, apply the patches here as well. The patches which have relevance with respect to security must be re-applied usually in index.php, robots.txt and so on.

7. Updating installed features

Safe practice is to always create and test views or types locally and then export these features to the live site or a dev site, if you have one. If you have a lot of features, re-creating them would be the best option.