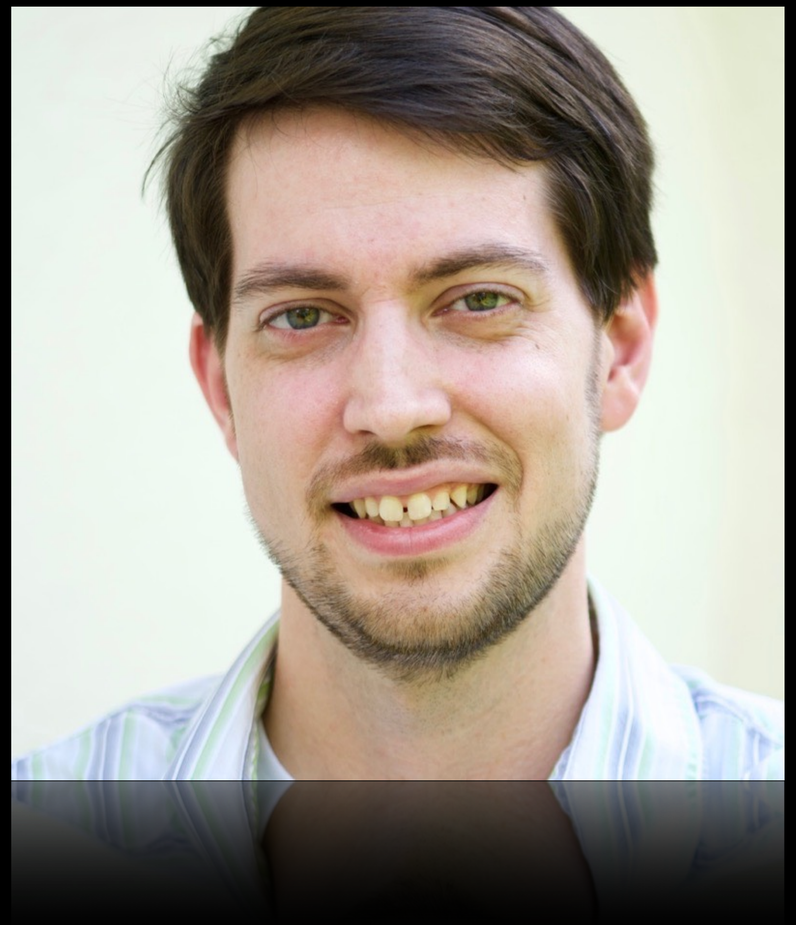
How I am migrating JeffGeerling.com from Drupal 7 to 8

"*It'll be easy,*" they said.

Jeff Geerling (@geerlingguy) at CMS Philly for the LOVE of the web - May 1, 2020

Hello, I'm Jeff Geerling
(a.k.a. geerlingguy)



"It'll be easy," they said.

"It'll be easy," they said.

Narrator: *It was not easy.*

Day 1

"We'll do it *live*!"

Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vu2NK5REvWM

Day 1

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Day 98

"We'll be done soon, I promise!"

Day 98

"We'll be done soon, I promise!"

A Little History

- c. 2004: Thingamablog
- c. 2009: Drupal 6
- c. 2011: Drupal 7 (migrated)
- c. 2018: Dark mode redesign
- 2020: Migrating to Drupal 8!

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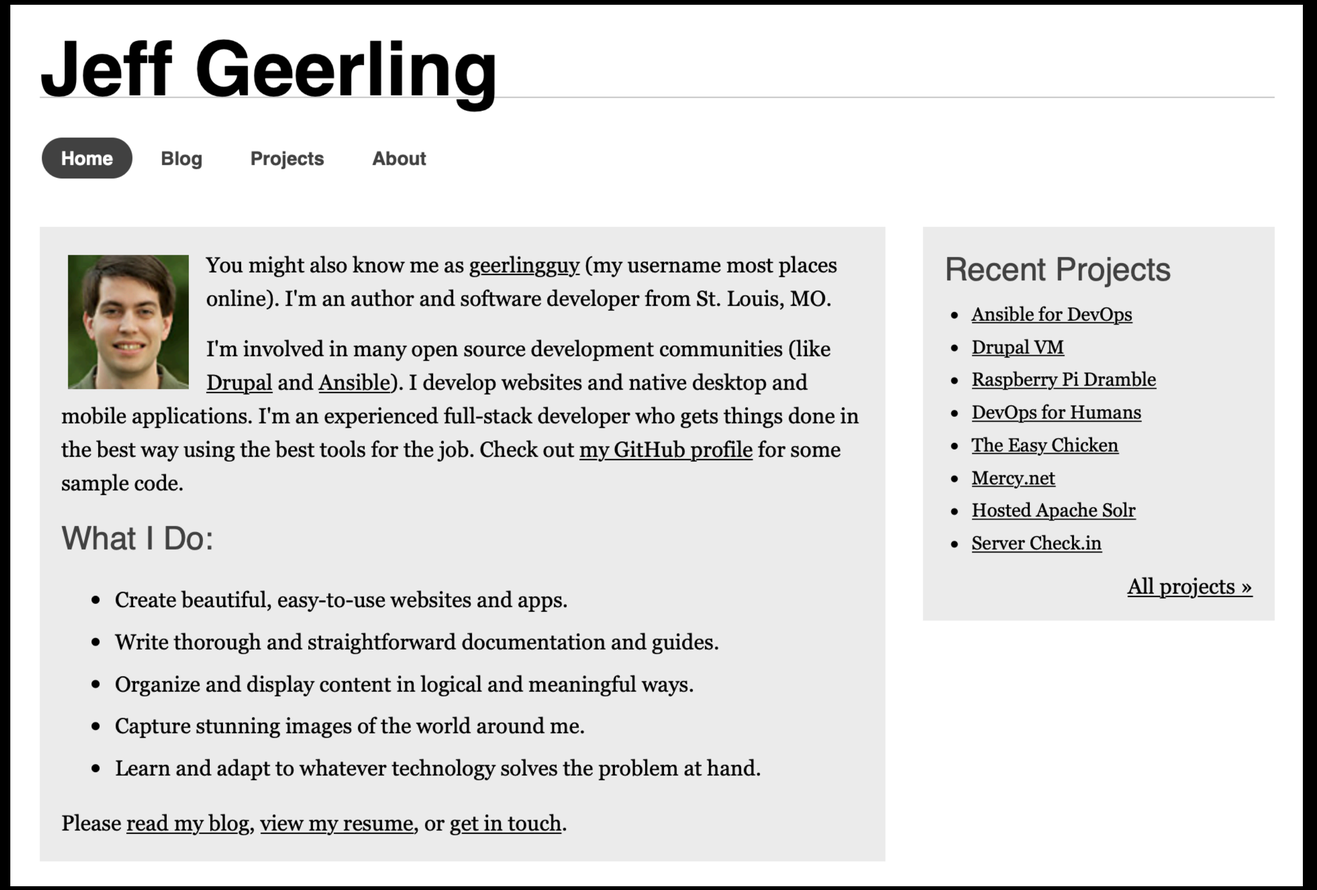

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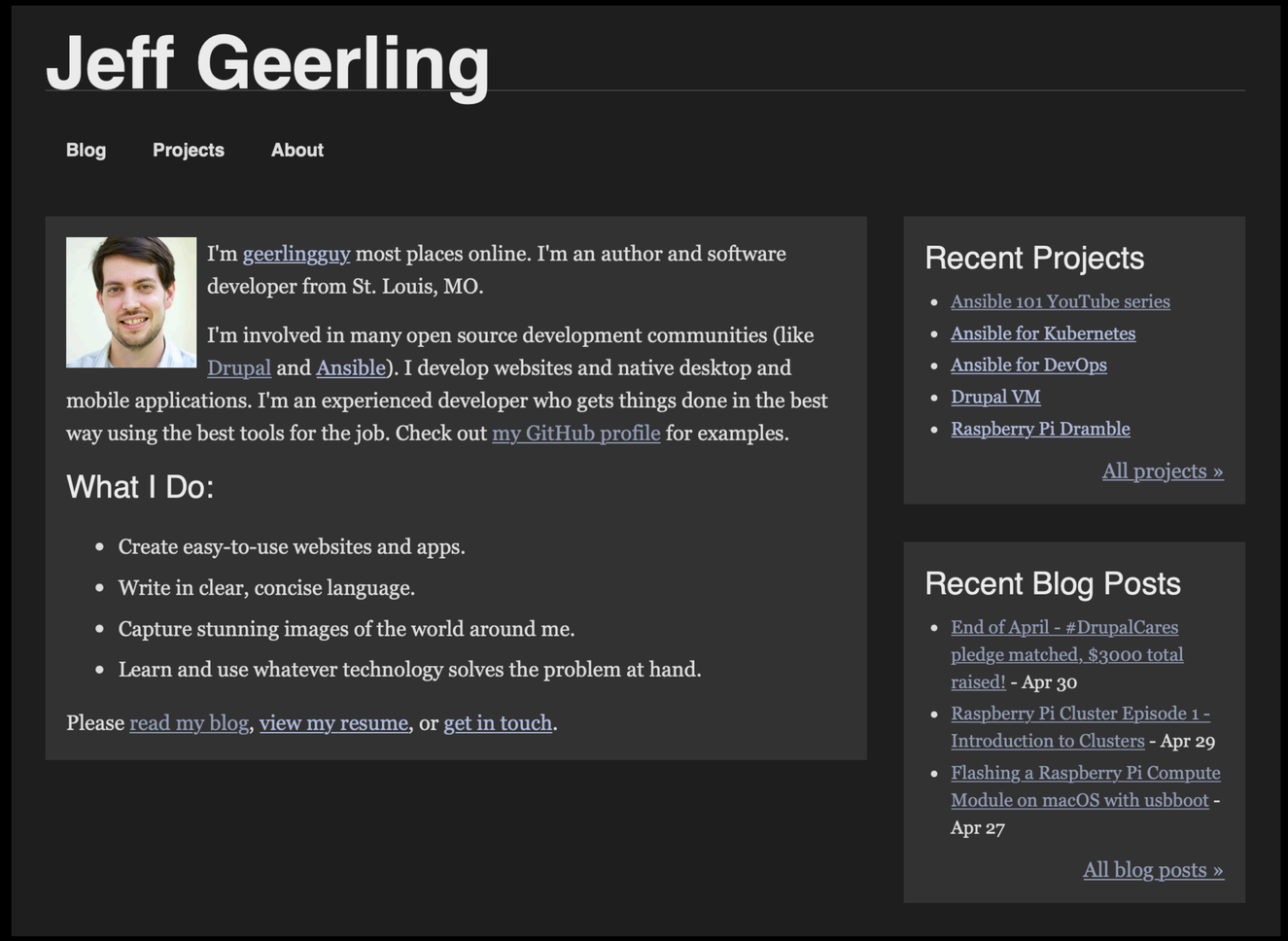

Migration Goals

- Preserve all content
- 'Lift and shift' (limit scope creep, no redesign!)
- Preserve all URLs, redirects, SEO optimizations
- Be able to reinstall site at any point during the migration
- Use modern goodies like:
  - GitHub Actions for CI
  - Composer

Total time:
98 days (abs) ≈ **30 hours**

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(so far...)

Highlights

1

Configuration Management made re-installation and changes easy.

2

`migrate-upgrade` *mostly* did everything as if by magic.

3

Almost all my D7 modules were available in D8.

3

Almost all my D7 modules were available in D8.

(let the "Upgrade Status" module help!)

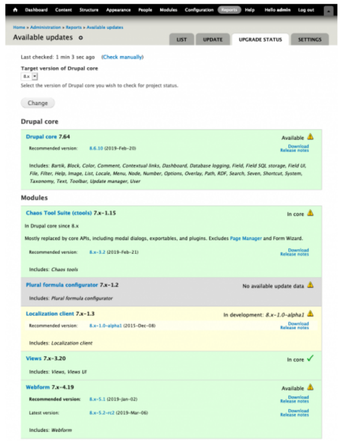
Upgrade Status

View | Version control | Automated testing

By sun on *31 May 2008*, updated *28 January 2020*

67

Drupal 7 and earlier

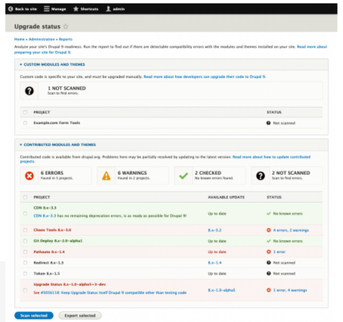


This module checks the list of projects you have installed and shows their availability for newer versions of Drupal core, which can be one of the following:

- **Available**: A stable release of this project is available.
- **In development**: A development release of this project is available, which can be installed for testing purposes.
- **Not ported yet**: There are no releases available for this project.
- **Replaced by**: A list of other modules that have superseded this one.

For each module, the report will show you notes about upgrading the project, as well as a link to download the new version.

Drupal 8 and later



This module scans the code of the contributed and custom projects you have installed, and reports on any deprecated code that must be replaced before the next major version. Available project updates are also suggested to keep your site up to date as project will resolve deprecation errors over time.

Due to third party PHP library dependencies, the module needs to be installed with Composer.

```
$ composer install --dev
$ composer require 'drupal/upgrade_status:^2.0'
```

If you have an existing Drupal 8 site that does not use Composer, this may be a good time to make the move. Composer is a tool to download and manage the different dependencies a Drupal site has, making sure that all their requirements are met.

Maintainers for Upgrade Status

Gábor Hojtsy - 158 commits
last: 1 day ago, first: 1 year ago

herczogzoltan - 65 commits
last: 11 months ago, first: 1 year ago

colan - 19 commits
last: 1 year ago, first: 1 year ago

webchick - 49 commits
last: 1 year ago, first: 6 years ago

xjm - 16 commits
last: 4 years ago, first: 4 years ago

View all committers
View commits

Issues for Upgrade Status

To avoid duplicates, please search before submitting a new issue.

Search

Advanced search

All issues

68 open, 1 RTBC, 212 total

Bug report

25 open, 86 total

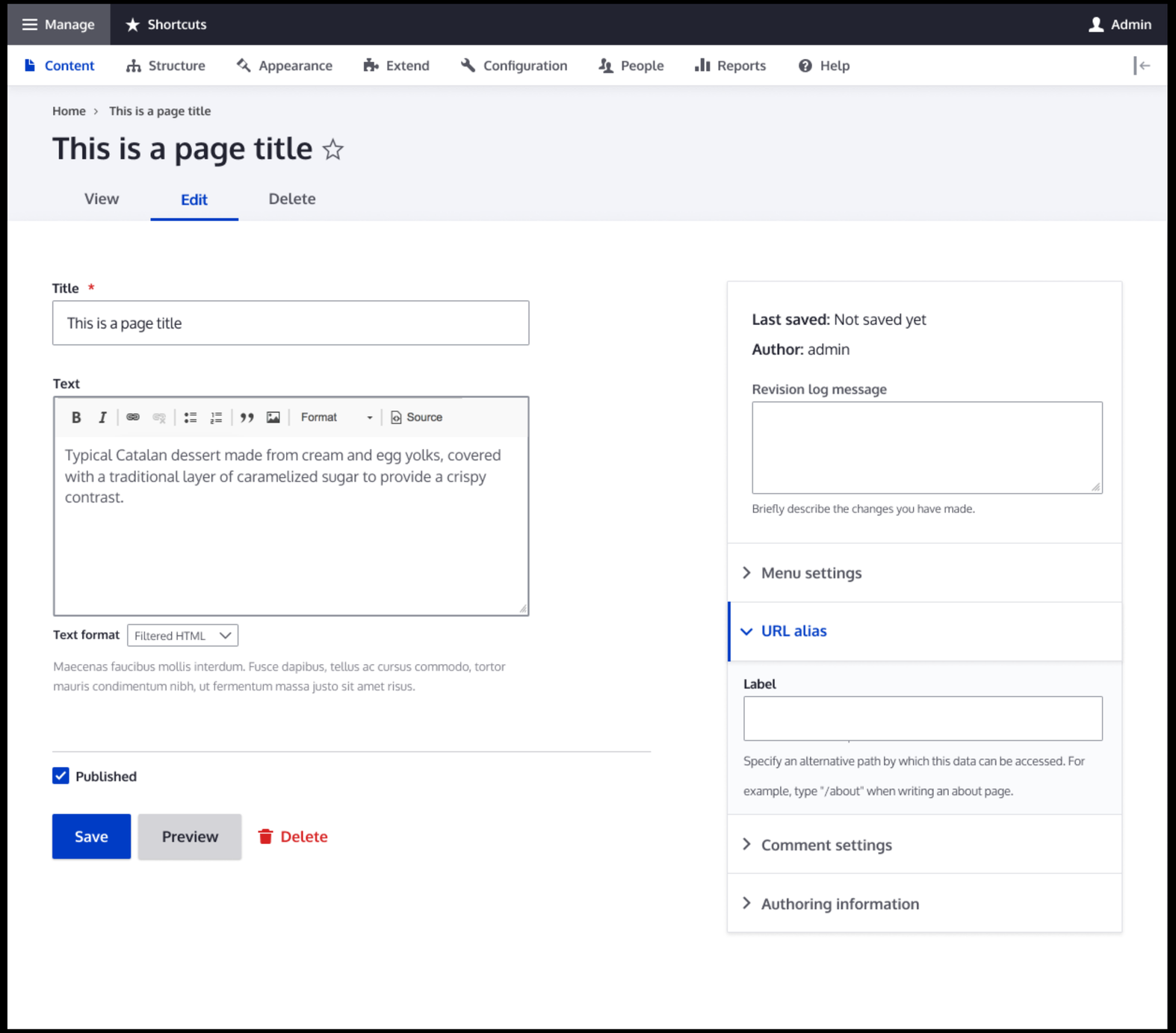
Statistics

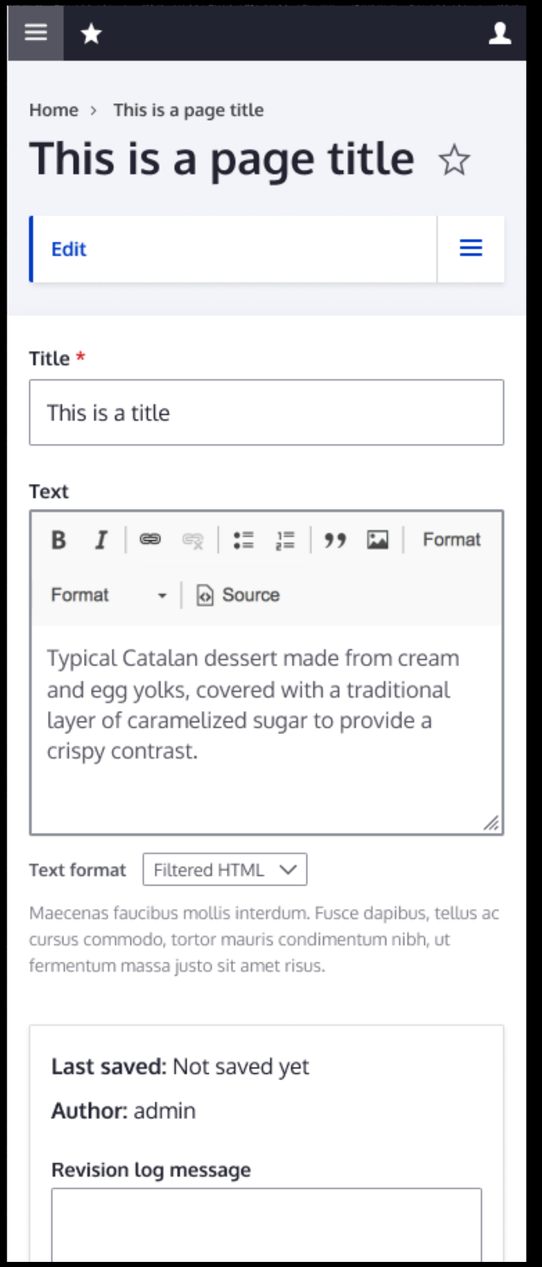
4

Site building in D8 is *SO* much better.

5

Claro admin theme rocks.


Manage
Shortcuts
Admin
Content
Structure
Appearance
Extend
Configuration
People
Reports
Help
Home
This is a page title
This is a page title
View
Edit
Delete
Title *
This is a page title
Text
Format
Source
Typical Catalan dessert made from cream and egg yolks, covered with a traditional layer of caramelized sugar to provide a crispy contrast.
Text format
Filtered HTML
Maecenas faucibus mollis interdum. Fusce dapibus, tellus ac cursus commodo, tortor mauris condimentum nibh, ut fermentum massa justo sit amet risus.
Published
Save
Preview
Delete
Last saved: Not saved yet
Author: admin
Revision log message
Briefly describe the changes you have made.
Menu settings
URL alias
Label
Specify an alternative path by which this data can be accessed. For example, type "/about" when writing an about page.
Comment settings
Authoring information


Home
This is a page title
This is a page title
Edit
Title *
This is a title
Text
Format
Format
Source
Typical Catalan dessert made from cream and egg yolks, covered with a traditional layer of caramelized sugar to provide a crispy contrast.
Text format
Filtered HTML
Maecenas faucibus mollis interdum. Fusce dapibus, tellus ac cursus commodo, tortor mauris condimentum nibh, ut fermentum massa justo sit amet risus.
Last saved: Not saved yet
Author: admin
Revision log message

Disappointments

1

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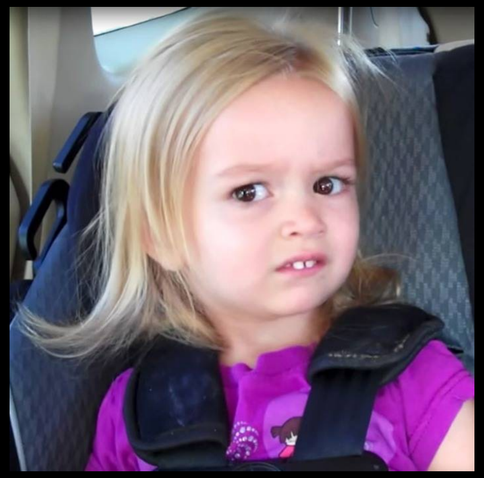

2

Many migration issues are hard to debug.

Jeff Geerling
@geerlingguy

Just spent an hour chasing down a lingering migration issue prepping for Episode 8 of Drupal 7 to Drupal 8 migration series on YouTube (issue link: github.com/geerlingguy/je…).

(a thread)

Getting 'Field discovery failed for Drupal core version 7.' when migrating · I...
Full message: [notice] Field discovery failed for Drupal core version 7. Did this site have the CCK or Field module installed? Error: No database ...
github.com

3:50 AM · Mar 31, 2020 · Tweetbot for Mac

2 Retweets **5** Likes

Jeff Geerling @geerlingguy · Mar 31
Replying to @geerlingguy
After digging through the bowels of the Internet for "No database connection configured for source plugin d7_field_instance", and only finding like 2 semi-relevant links besides my own site... and about to give up and go to bed...

I found a tweet from @DelishCreative (cont'd)

1

Jeff Geerling @geerlingguy · Mar 31
It sounds like she had run through the exact same issues I did—endless debugging and having no clue where this mysterious message was coming from.

And I agree exactly with her first statement in the thread: "So much WTF."

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A lot of the Drupal 7 to Drupal 8 migration process has been like that. I know the migrate-in-core initiative is officially "Mission Accomplished" — and I don't downplay the achievements they've made with such an incredible task.

But upgrading Drupal 6/7 to 8 is *hard*.

1

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@geerlingguy
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Trending in United States
#FireChrisHayes
26.7K Tweets

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Jeff Geerling @geerlingguy · Mar 31

Anyways, here's the link to the thread mentioned earlier: twitter.com/DelishCreative…

In the end, somewhere in the bowels of Drupal's migrate modules, there must be a hardcoded instance of the database key "migrate". (cont'd)

> **Jeni Tehan** @DelishCreative · Jan 30
>
> There I was just working on my migrations when boom, they all disappeared. Logs now say they're malformed, "No database connection configured for source plugin d7_field_instance" and I'm not using that plugin anywhere. Fresh installs not helping. So much WTF.
>
> Show this thread

1

Jeff Geerling @geerlingguy · Mar 31

Because after an hour tonight (and a few hours other nights) tearing out my hair debugging rabbit holes in Migrate, I finally found what @DelishCreative did:

The moral of the story kids: Don't name your migration DB group anything other than "migrate".

I had called it `drupal7`

1 6

Jeff Geerling @geerlingguy · Mar 31

Anyways, I guess in the end, thank you @DelishCreative for posting this to Twitter, and preserving my sanity. You rock!

And Drupal 8 rocks—or it *will* rock once I get done with this migration project! 😜

1 2

Catholic dad and husband, author, developer, maker. Sometimes called "an inflammatory enigma". #stl #drupal #ansible #k8s #raspberrypi #mac #crohns

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#ThankYouEpicGames
4,624 Tweets

Politics · Trending
Joe Biden is Joe Biden
164K Tweets

Celebrities · Trending
Tropic Thunder
31.8K Tweets

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3

Theme upgrade is practically a rewrite.

3

Theme upgrade is practically a rewrite.

(but Twig is awesome!)

4

Local development environments are still not easy.

4

Local development environments are still not easy.

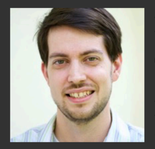
(I say that as the maintainer of Drupal VM)

Where am I today?

www.jeffgeerling.com

Jeff Geerling

Blog Projects About



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I'm involved in many open source development communities (like Drupal and Ansible). I develop websites and native desktop and mobile applications. I'm an experienced developer who gets things done in the best way using the best tools for the job. Check out my GitHub profile for examples.

What I Do:

- Create easy-to-use websites and apps.
- Write in clear, concise language.
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Please read my blog, view my resume, or get in touch.

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Jeff Geerling

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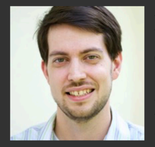

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  Apr 27

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How can I follow along?

4

Learn from my mistakes!

jeffgeerling.com/d8-migrate

4

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(and subscribe to my YouTube channel!)

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