

# Backdrop

A fork of Drupal

Khalid Baheyeldin  
<http://2bits.com>

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# About Khalid



- 30 years in software development and software consulting
- First computer: Sinclair ZX Spectrum
- Experience: Mainframe, UNIX
- Open Source: Linux, Web, PHP, MySQL, Drupal
- Full time open source developer, contributor and consultant





# About Khalid (cont'd)



- Drupal since 2003 (Drupal 4.1!)
- Core features as well as 37+ contrib modules
- Past Member of the **Advisory Board** of the **Drupal Association**
- Co-Founder of the **Waterloo Region Drupal Users Group**
- Drupal talks at DrupalCons, DrupalCamps, DUGs
- Google Summer of Code (2005 to 2010)
- Also, Ontario Linux Fest, KW LUG, Toronto LUG





# About 2bits.com, Inc.



- Founded in 1999 as a partnership, incorporated since 2007
- Drupal since 2003
- Specializes in Drupal scalability and performance
  - Site Performance Assessment
  - Hosting selection, provisioning, tuning and management
  - Custom Drupal module development
- Extensive in depth articles and testimonials at <http://2bits.com>





# 2bits.com, Inc. Clients



- International clients (USA, Canada, Europe, South America, China, ...)
  - Electronic Arts (EA)
  - Johns Hopkins University
  - Harvard University
  - Cornell University
  - University of Waterloo
  - Vodafone
  - Harper Collins Publishers
  - Lonely Planet
  - The White House (sort a ...)





# Need Help?



- If your site has any of these symptoms
  - Site slow?
  - Suffering outages?
  - High resource usage?
- Services
  - Site Performance Assessment
  - Hosting selection, installation, configuration, and optimization





# Agenda



- What is Backdrop CMS?
- Why was Backdrop CMS created?
- Who are the target users for Backdrop?
- How is it different from Drupal 7, and Drupal 8?
- What problem(s) does it try to solve?
- Pros and Cons of Backdrop
- What is the future of Backdrop?





# What is Backdrop?



- A fork of Drupal
- After Drupal 7.x, but before all changes of 8.x
- Has some Drupal 8.x features
- Created by long time Drupal contributors:
  - Jen Lampton
  - Nate Haug







# Why Backdrop?



- Reduce effort upgrading releases
  - Porting modules, and themes,
  - Waiting for contribs
- Less complexity
  - MySQL only, no PostgreSQL
  - No Symfony
- Closer to Drupal 7.x theming
- Drupal 8.x configuration management





# Why Backdrop?



- “Inner System Syndrome”
  - Getting larger with components, and more complex
  - Within the Linux universe: systemd
- Drupal is not there yet, but could be moving towards that





# Target Users



- Small organizations (as opposed to enterprise)
- Shared Hosting friendly





# Modules in Core



- Views
- Pathauto
- Token
- Admin Tool Bar





# Themes in Core



- Responsive Design out of the box





# Configuration Management **abits**

- Stored in the file system
- Hash for each site
- Usually under the 'files' directory, but can be configured in settings.php to some other location
- Staging and Active (Live)





# Directory Structure



- Inspired by early changes to Drupal 8.x
- '/core' directory for all of Backdrop
- Except for '/profiles'
- Your modules go to '/modules'
- Your themes go to '/themes'





# Layouts



- Columns and Regions on a page, to place content into
- Somewhat decouples layout (what goes where) from look and feel (color, font, ...)
- Four default layouts are provided
- '/layouts' directory for contributed or custom layouts







# Migrating to Backdrop



- Assumes you have a Drupal 7.x site
- You run update.php just like a major release upgrade
- Modules may or may not need work
- Generally works well





# Porting to Backdrop



- For the majority of modules it is surprisingly easy!
- Just add a single line to the .info file:
  - **backdrop = 1.x**
- That is it! Works as advertized!
- A few more complex modules may require some extra work





# Pros of Backdrop



- “If it ain't broke why fix it?”
- Less time to learn.
- Less time to migrate your modules





# Cons of Backdrop



- No Drush support yet
  - work in progress
- Multi-site
  - requires sites.php workaround
- API divergence from Drupal 8.x
  - but that is a given, and raison d'etre





# Future of Backdrop



- Will it gain momentum?
  - Most people would take a “wait and see” approach, to see where it goes
- Criteria for success:
  - “Does not die in a year or two”.





# Test Drive



Let us take it for a spin ...





# Resources



- Official Web Site
  - <https://backdropcms.org/>
- Source Code Repository
  - <https://github.com/backdrop/backdrop>
- Issue Tracker
  - <https://github.com/backdrop/backdrop-issues>





# Final Thoughts



- Open Source is about choice
- Choice enriches the ecosystem
- Forking does not have to mean mutually exclusive







# Questions?



Questions? Comments?

