

Upgrading from Drupal 5 to Drupal 6

1. Create backup of site files and database
2. Put site in maintenance mode
3. (Highly Recommended) Use Apache to redirect to maintenance HTML file
4. Check log list to verify no issues prior to upgrade
5. Check status report to verify all core and contributed modules as well as Drupal core are at most recent versions
6. Uninstall update_status module and delete folder
7. Make note of all settings, and turn off all but core required modules
8. Turn off all custom and contributed themes; set a Drupal theme as default
9. Turn off caching for the site
10. Delete all Drupal 5 core files and folders except /sites and any custom directories or files (e.g. /files)
11. Upload new Drupal 6 core files
12. Run update.php and note any errors
13. Check log for errors
14. Turn on core optional modules and re-run update.php
15. Read update.txt, upgrade.txt, or readme.txt for a contributed module
16. Delete old Drupal 5 module folders
17. Upload new module files
18. Run update.php and check log for errors
19. Repeat steps 15-19 for each contributed module
20. Update Drupal 6 themes

Resources

- Converting 5.x Themes to 6.x: <http://drupal.org/node/132442>
- Converting 5.x Modules to 6.x: <http://drupal.org/node/114774>