

# Backdrop LIVE Notes

## July 15-16, 2022

Link to this page: <https://events.backdropcms.org/notes-006>

Previous Events:

[Oct 2021](#)

[March 2022](#)

- This document is to capture notes from each discussion or presentation.
- The goal is to get at least a few sentences summarizing each discussion.
- Feel free to add new sessions as they are created.

## [Welcome to Backdrop LIVE](#)

Some things that people are interested in learning about:

- Marketing Backdrop
- Recipes
- Find out what other people are working on?

## [An Introduction to Backdrop CMS](#)

Attendance: 6

Put notes here

## [¿Cómo empezar con Backdrop? \(español\)](#)

Attendance: 2

Videos en español acerca de Backdrop (incluye un ejemplo de un “upgrade” de Drupal 7 a Backdrop):

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqksGN9-PGv0g3LoXi98FT6UgJ9HBE6gV>

## **Git out of here - a discussion on version management**

Attendance: 11

Put notes here

## **Marketing Backdrop CMS for large-scale, complex projects**

Attendance: 14

Put notes here

## **A Nonprofit Case Study - D7 Upgrade to Backdrop CMS with Paragraphs**

Attendance: 12

I (Tim Erickson) plan to record a version of this demo in the near future and share it. I'm excited about the work that we've done on this site with Paragraphs and look forward to sharing what we've learned and getting feedback from others.

## **Drupal 7 to Backdrop CMS upgrades for complex applications**

Attendance: 16

Put notes here

## **An Open Discussion with the Software Freedom Conservatory**

Attendance: 8-9

- Introduction to Software Freedom Conservancy video: [Introduction video](#)
- [Outreachy](#) and [Institute for Computing in Research](#)

- Find us on [Liberia.chat](#) IRC #conservancy and XMPP #[general@chat.sfconservancy.org](#) (I'm pono both places, please reach out!)
- Pono will be at [SCaLE](#) this year July 28th-31st
- [Vizio lawsuit](#)
- [GiveUpGitHub](#)

## [Solr, Lando, and Backdrop](#)

Attendance: 8

Put notes here

## [Intro to Layouts for Backdrop CMS](#)

Attendance: 9

- Biggest difference from Drupal (hard to grok)
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## [How to build a farmers market website with Backdrop CMS](#)

Attendance:

Put notes here

## [Backdrop Multisite](#)

Attendance: 6

- What are the benefits?
  - One copy of Backdrop core to update, instead of many
  - (Potentially) one copy of contrib to update, instead of many
    - Can have shared contrib in root directory, then site-specific contrib in site-specific directory
  - Decreased disk-space usage, due to shared resources (due to above)

- Decreased time doing updates (due to above)
  - Helpful organization of similar sites
- What are the considerations?
  - Will all these site owners agree on an update time (or even downtime) for all sites at once?
  - How will you manage billing for updates across multiple sites?
  - How will you manage feature requests from one site that may be advantageous to others (that have not asked specifically for it)? Who gets the feature? Who pays for the feature?
    - 'Feature' here seems to refer to contrib functionality, not configuration thereof. i.e. All sites can benefit from the fact that, say, Views Slideshow is available, but not all have to use it, and those that do can have it configured differently.
- What are the risks?
  - An attack on one site can threaten them all (have adequate protections in place)
  - A traffic spike on one site can slow down all the others (add a CDN or additional caching)
  - Accidentally breaking core will affect all sites (don't do dangerous things on the live sites)
- Differences between D7 + Backdrop:
  - Backdrop doesn't assume all sites are multisite (to make most sites faster)
  - "sites.php" file
    - Clarification on what the difference is...?
  - core directory structure changes
- When to use Multisite (Jen's opinion)
  - When all sites are very similar
 

As sub-sites begin to differentiate, you start to lose the technical advantage of running them all on the same core, due to the administrative overhead of managing the multi-site set-up (see below).
  - When all the sites are owned/operated by the same group/organization
    - This will make billing easier, as you don't need to divide billing for one maintenance task across two or more invoices.
    - This will also make updates easier as one group is more likely to agree on an update time (or even downtime) for all sites at once.
  - When each site has relatively low traffic
  - When each site has a relatively low # of authenticated users (< 100)
  - When each site has a reasonable amount of data in the database (1,000s of nodes, not 1,000,000s)
- How many sites are too many:
  - There's no technical limit - push to the max of your server (and then increase server capacity as needed)
  - There might be a comfort limit - how many eggs are you comfortable having in the same basket? How many can you update + QA at the same time?

- Optionally: build tools + processes to limit risk

## Entity Reference is now in core. What next?

Attendance: 8

<https://github.com/backdrop/backdrop-issues/issues/1301>

Immediate issues:

- Fix File->uri()
- Term Reference to Entity Reference
- Contrib legacy References to Entity Reference

API possibilities:

- `$node = $node->loadReference('field_related_posts');`
- `$author = $node->loadReference('author');`
- `$node->loadReference('bad_example');`
  
- `Entity::loadReference()`
- `Node::loadReference()` - handle author relationship
  
- `$nodes = $node->loadReferences('field_related_posts');`
- `$node->getValue('field_textfield');`
- D7/Backdrop:  
`node_load($node->field_reference[LANGUAGE_NONE][0]['referenced_etid'])`
- Drupal 8+: `$node->field_myreference->entity;`
  
- `Entity::loadReference('field_my_reference', $delta, $langcode);`
- `Entity->field_my_reference->entity (magic __get() method);`

Non-field relationships migrate?

- Node Author
- File References

Integration Points:

- Views integration: including entity reference already

- Layout integration: probably needs to be written
  - “Real Name” field access on node author

Migration:

- [https://backdropcms.org/project/entityreference\\_migration](https://backdropcms.org/project/entityreference_migration)
- Now supporting Taxonomy references!

## Contrib Lightning Talks

Attendance: 7

Put notes here

## Growing a healthy contrib community

Attendance: 12

- Need for improved search. Several people mentioned that they prefer to use Github to search for modules, because of limitations on BackdropCMS.org
- We could easily add experimental modules to BackdropCMS.org. The difficulty is how to handle project manager feed.
- There seems to be consensus that showing experimental projects in the project installer is ok, but that we should not allow users to install experimental project directly.
- Screenshots of themes never get updated.
- Screenshots for modules (are needed).
- What should the standard be for listing maintainers?

- Should we be doing more to create standards to help contrib maintainers decide when it is appropriate to release a contrib module?
- What does it mean to be a maintainer?
  - The primary responsibility is to be responsive to the security team.

For future discussion:

- What can we do to recruit more contrib maintainers?

## To bee or not to bee?

Attendance: 12

One barrier is lack of Bee as default in:

- Lando
- Docksal
- DDev

Can we ask them?

Known gaps:

- Updating core and modules
- Remote aliases
- For modules to be able to add commands:
  - Feeds import command
  - Backup and Migrate
  - List added by Jen to <https://github.com/backdrop-contrib/bee/issues/190>
- To be able to add custom site admin commands
- ~~Ability to write extensions – we think this ability is there – tested by John Romine in session~~

There was recognition that bee doesn't have to have all the same commands as Drush but that making it extensible so that people and modules can add commands would be great.

Suggestion that a table of contents in Readme could point to the wiki

## Backdrop for Beginners

Attendance: 4

Put notes here

## Should Backdrop CMS be Drupal Classic?

Attendance: 16

Drupal discussion: <https://www.drupal.org/project/ideas/issues/3238659>

Agenda:

- Discuss objectives of Drupal community
- Brainstorm potential effects of making Backdrop “Drupal Classic”

Thoughts:

- Similar to GNU/Linux situation
- Backdrop is not a drop-in replacement
- Continue to make D7-to-Backdrop upgrade easier

Possible Effect	Net Pro/Con/Neutral? (Backdrop)	Net Pro/Con/Neutral? (Drupal)
People expecting “Drupal classic” would be disappointed with Backdrop	con	con
Re-namespace everything back into “drupal_”?	Huge con	neutral
Need to build/maintain “full” compatibility with Drupal 7 (core)	neutral/pro	pro
Need to build/maintain a simpler upgrade path from Drupal 7 (contrib, too)	pro	neutral
Update Backdrop Generator tag to “Drupal Classic”, adding to Drupal usage total	neutral/con	pro
Increased collaboration between Drupal community and Backdrop community	pro	pro
Increased development/core committer activity on D7	neutral/pro	pro
More maintenance on contrib projects for Backdrop than Drupal 7	neutral	
Make D7 to Backdrop upgrade seamless/easier/drop-in	neutral/pro	pro
Loss of identity for the Backdrop community	con	pro
Some people have switched to Backdrop for other reasons than D7 EOL: e.g. community, tools, leadership, and do NOT want to be using Drupal. These people could be alienated.	con	neutral/pro
Potentially increased funding from sponsors interested in “Drupal Classic”	pro	neutral/con



Leadership might need to be restructured and/or relinquish control to D.A. and Dries	Huge con	neutral/con
Change of audience, bringing in drupal people who are not aligned with Backdrop's goals	con	neutral/pro
Dilute the marketing message of both Drupal (Enterprise) and Backdrop (Not Enterprise)	con	con
Might need to move project to gitLab / under Drupal umbrella	Huge con	neutral/con
Potential Drupal marketing to Drupal 7 audience (doesn't know about B yet)	Huge pro	neutral/con?
Drupal Classic / Backdrop should/would be able to use existing D7 themes/modules/profiles	pro	neutral/pro?

## [The Business of Backdrop](#)

Attendance: 8-12

[Notes from previous meeting.](#)

- How can individual businesses better engage with developers and pay them to port modules or contribute new features to core?
- Of late, we have been focused on the idea of a bounty program. Next steps might be to help test some bounties, by identifying and testing tools and processes.
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## [Recipes - How to use them and how to create them.](#)

Attendance: 13

- Is "recipes" the wrong name?
- What is a recipe? (difference from module)
- Coming soon: <https://github.com/backdrop-contrib/recipes> (for installing w/o modules)

## Closing Session

Attendance: 10

- Backdrop LIVE fatigue? Maybe not.
  - Some folks were a bit fatigued with Backdrop LIVE, until it started - then they got energized.
- The mechanics are working pretty smoothly
- It was bit smaller, but the content and discussions were good.
- Didn't have anything new to talk about.
- Bee Command Line Tool looks very good
- Entity Reference
- Would have liked more beginner stuff - more workshoppy
- Backdrop is tightly bound to Drupal 7, is that a good thing.
- We had backdrop for the absolute beginner, what about the intermediate.