

DRUPAL 7 to 8 UPGRADE

Digital Team
City of Boston

Overview:

Jantcu successfully led the comprehensive upgrade of the City of Boston's boston.gov website from Drupal 7 to Drupal 8, delivering a modern, scalable, and user-focused digital platform. The project involved a complete rebuild of the site, a complex data migration, and the implementation of advanced features to enhance functionality, accessibility, and user experience for Boston's residents and city staff.



Project Scope and Objectives:

The City of Boston required a robust, future-ready website to serve its diverse audience, including citizens, businesses, and government employees. Jantcu's primary objectives were to:

- Transition boston.gov from Drupal 7 to Drupal 8, leveraging the platform's advanced capabilities.
- Execute seamless data migration of existing content and assets.
- Implement sophisticated features like paragraph components, content revisions, workbench moderation, and Single Sign-On (SSO) via Simple SAML.
- Ensure compliance with accessibility standards (WCAG 2.1) and government security requirements.

Key Challenges and Solutions:

- Complete Rebuild: The shift from Drupal 7 to Drupal 8 required a ground-up rebuild due to architectural differences. Jantcu designed a modern, modular site structure, optimizing performance and maintainability while preserving the site's familiar look and feel for users.
- Data Migrations: Migrating thousands of content items, including pages,

articles, and media assets, posed significant complexity. Jantcu developed custom migration scripts to map and transfer data accurately, ensuring no loss of critical information or functionality.

- Paragraph Components: To enhance content flexibility, Jantcu implemented Drupal 8's paragraph module, enabling editors to create dynamic, reusable content blocks. This allowed for rich, structured layouts while maintaining ease of use for non-technical staff.
- Content Revisions and Workbench Moderation: The site required robust content management workflows to support multiple contributors and approval processes. Jantcu configured Drupal 8's content revision system and integrated Workbench Moderation, enabling draft creation, revision tracking, and multi-stage approval workflows tailored to the City's editorial needs.
- SSO via Simple SAML: To streamline user access for city employees, Jantcu implemented Single Sign-On using Simple SAML, integrating boston.gov with the City's existing identity management system. This ensured secure, seamless authentication while meeting strict government security standards.

Outcomes:

- Enhanced User Experience: The rebuilt boston.gov offers a responsive, accessible, and intuitive interface, improving engagement for citizens and stakeholders.
- Streamlined Content Management: Paragraph components and workbench moderation empowered City staff to manage content efficiently with flexible layouts and robust workflows.
- Secure and Scalable Platform: The Drupal 8 architecture, combined with SSO integration, provided a secure, future-proof foundation for ongoing enhancements.
- Successful Data Migration: All content and assets were migrated without disruption, preserving the site's historical data and functionality.

Jantcu's Impact:

Jantcu's expertise in Drupal development, data migration, and government-focused solutions ensured the successful transformation of boston.gov into a modern, efficient, and secure platform. By addressing complex technical challenges and

prioritizing user needs, Jantcu delivered a digital experience that strengthens the City of Boston's connection with its community.

To commemorate Jantcu's work, the City of Boston set up a redirect for the URL <https://boston.gov/Jantcu> that goes to the Digital Team's webpage.

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