

CASE STUDY

Automated Migration from TYPO3 to Drupal at Erasmus University



Problem

The content management system that ran the old website was obsolete, and so the content had to be migrated to a more secure environment (based on Drupal)

Solution

Mapping of the structure and content types from the source system (TYPO3) to Drupal, followed by the automatic migration of web pages and media files while retaining links and relationships.

Result

Technical realisation of new website based on Drupal and content migrated within the deadline.

In April 2017, Erasmus University Rotterdam kicked off a project with the ambitious goal of migrating content from the old website to a new website in Drupal. “The software that supported our site, TYPO3, had reached the limits of its capability,” explains Hans Pleysier, the project manager. “We had to choose between an upgrade and an entirely new platform. We opted for the latter. The project had to be fast-tracked because of security issues which meant we had until December to complete it. That was as little as nine months.”

● 1-to-1 migration from TYPO3 to Drupal

The team started by drawing up a project initiation document that set out exactly what Erasmus expected from its new platform, and how the migration from TYPO3 to Drupal should be approached. Stefan Groen, from Marketing and Communication, the department ultimately responsible for the content migration, picks up the story. “The initiation document recommended that not only the technical implementation but also the content migration be carried out manually, and in phases. Because of time pressures and the complexity of running two websites simultaneously during a migration, we looked for another solution. And found one.”

"We were very happy with Xillio's help and expertise. Without these we'd never have been able to bring our project to such a successful and timely conclusion."

Stefan Groen, Channel Manager

The rationale of the project was a 1-to-1 migration of the TYPO3 content to Drupal. But not until the organization had orchestrated a massive clear-out of 80,000 web pages

● Mapping of content types

"With the remaining set of some 20,000 web pages we did a mapping of the different content types," says Groen. "This would form the basis of the eventual migration. However, we needed help; the mapping between the two systems was rather complex. In TYPO3, the pages are stored in folders – unstructured, in other words – whereas Drupal is based on a more robust structure and uses metadata."

Xillio assisted Erasmus University with the mapping process, during which the teams also weighed whether and how the metadata could be seamlessly migrated to Drupal based on details stored in TYPO3. The project partners also looked at how the files – the old media files in particular – should land in Drupal. Xillio transformed the mapping and migration rules into migration scripts, and using the Xillio TYPO3 and Drupal connectors for data export and import these mapping and migration rules were applied and executed.

● Finishing touches

Erasmus University also wanted to improve the content of the website, so following the migration it appointed a 30-strong editorial team who with the involvement of every branch of the organization reviewed and where necessary improved the transferred web pages. "To give you an example, we used input from Xillio to adapt a number of illustrations that looked rather too low-res in the new design. We also changed some summary lists," says Groen.

According to Pleysier, the co-operation with Xillio was a decisive factor in the timely completion of the project. "The sheer number of web pages we wanted to migrate within our tight deadline would have been impossible without automation. Without the help of Xillio, we'd have had to hire a battalion of editors to shift our content manually. That would have been impractical to say the least."

Groen echoes this. "We were very happy with Xillio's help and expertise. Without these, and our cheerful mutual co-operation, we'd never have been able to bring our project to such a successful and timely conclusion."

About Xillio

These days, your organization needs to be agile to stay relevant. The same goes for your enterprise content. But where to start? The more complex your enterprise content, the more daunting it seems to take the leap.

That's where we come in. With over 20 years of experience, Xillio is your trusted partner for managing complex, high-volume content migrations within the Microsoft ecosystem. From metadata transformation to link redirection, our experts ensure your move to Microsoft 365 is smooth, compliant, and future-proof.

