



How to Eat an Elephant: Managing Incremental Migrations

Presentation Slides: <http://tiny.cc/govcon-elephant>

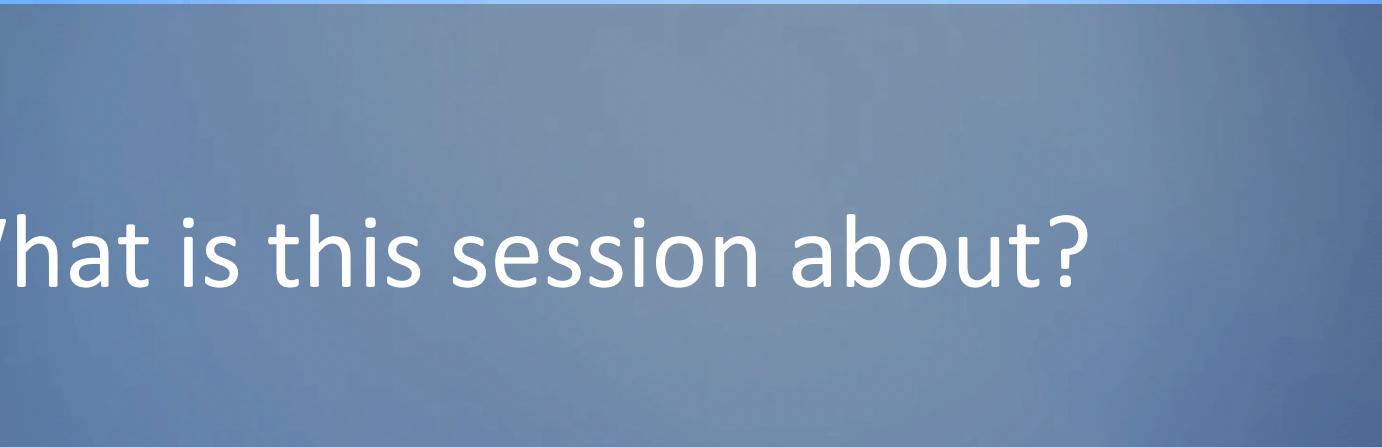
ABOUT

WHY

HOW

LESSONS

QUESTIONS



What is this session about?



This session is about...

- Unique aspects of incremental migrations
- Lessons learned from experience
- Focus on project management aspects
- Case study examples from Justice.gov



Justice.gov Case Study: the Challenge

Migration Sources

- 80% Hand curated HTML
- Custom CMS
- RedDot CMS
- Wordpress
- PHP + DB

Migration Assets

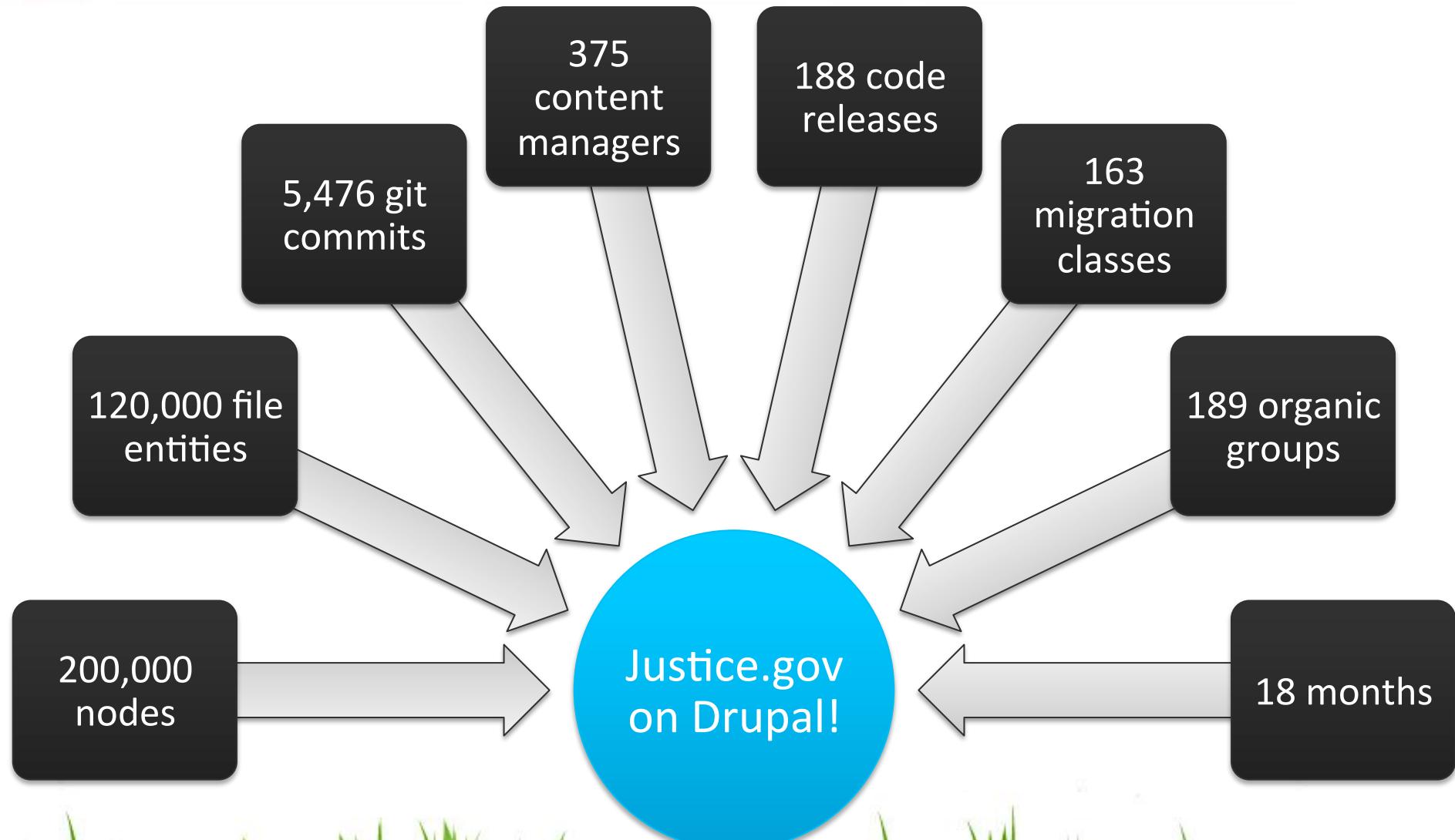
- 250k pages
- 200k PDFs
- Images
- Videos

Migration Stakeholders

- Content owned by 120 offices across DOJ
- Project managed by the OCIO

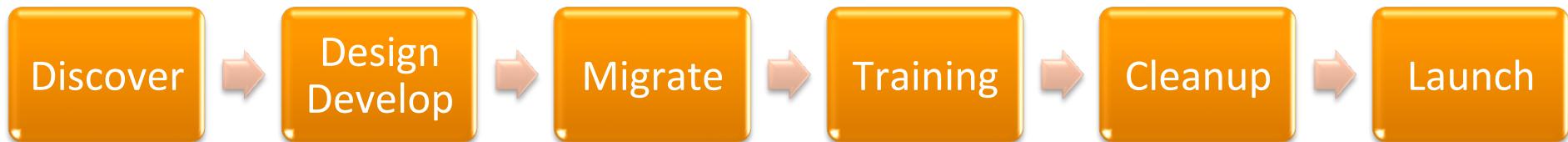


Justice.gov Case Study: the Results



Why would I consider
incremental migration?

Typical site migration project



Reference: <http://www.acquia.com/blog/taking-migrations-madness-gladness>

Typical site migration project doesn't always work



- Feature re-engineering process potentially leads to endless discovery phase
- Imbalance of training needs and resources
- Expectation of significant migration cleanup
- Benefits of agile approach: quick wins, stakeholder engagement, risk mitigation



Good candidates for incremental migration

- Not planning a major visual redesign
- Decentralized management of a large site
- Many website content managers and few project team resources
- Website can be divided into logical sections



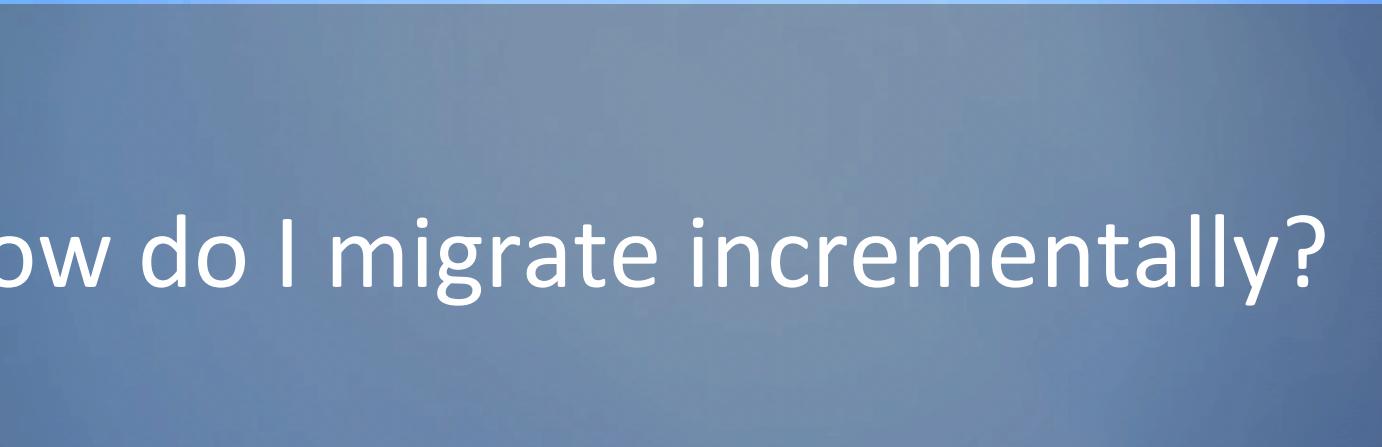
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How do I migrate incrementally?



Determine the migration sequence

Schedule ← Sequence ← Dependencies

Big picture: discovery meetings, follow-up meetings

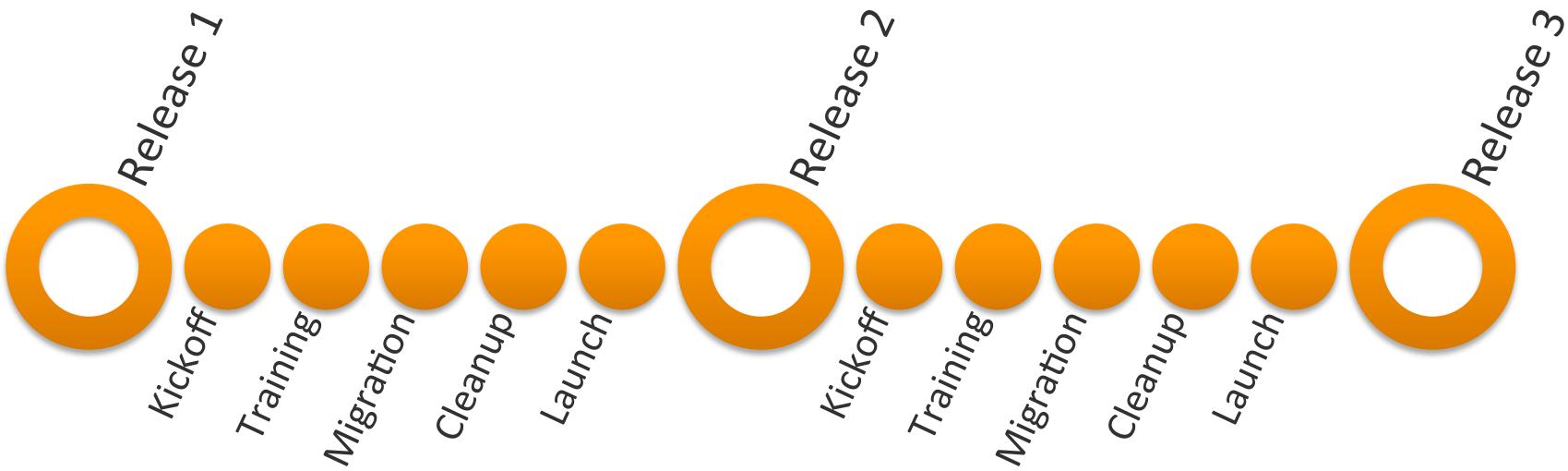
Quick wins: visible change to energize stakeholders

Related content: data flows, common migration sources

Organizational needs: deadlines, high traffic periods



Establish a repeatable process for onboarding



- ROT analysis (redundant, outdated, trivial)
- Stakeholder communications
- Flexibility

Establish a reverse proxy layer or CDN

www.example.com/section1 → legacy website IP address

www.example.com/section2 → new Drupal website IP address

Create a reverse proxy layer with Apache or Varnish configs

Content delivery network (CDN) enables this IP routing, plus performance and security benefits. Additional cost.



Reference: <https://www.acquia.com/blog/dont-wait-migrate-drupal-continuous-migration>

Add new content without modifying existing content

	Deploy to Production	Migrate to Production
How it works	Migrate to staging environment. Content cleanup in staging. Deploy from staging to prod. Go-live by changing proxy rules.	Migrate to prod environment. Content cleanup in prod. Go-live by changing proxy rules.
Pros	Content cleanup “safer” in stage.	Less complexity.
Cons	Must patch Deploy to integrate with some contributed modules.	
Justice.gov Experience	Tried it and gave up.	Did it 150 times.



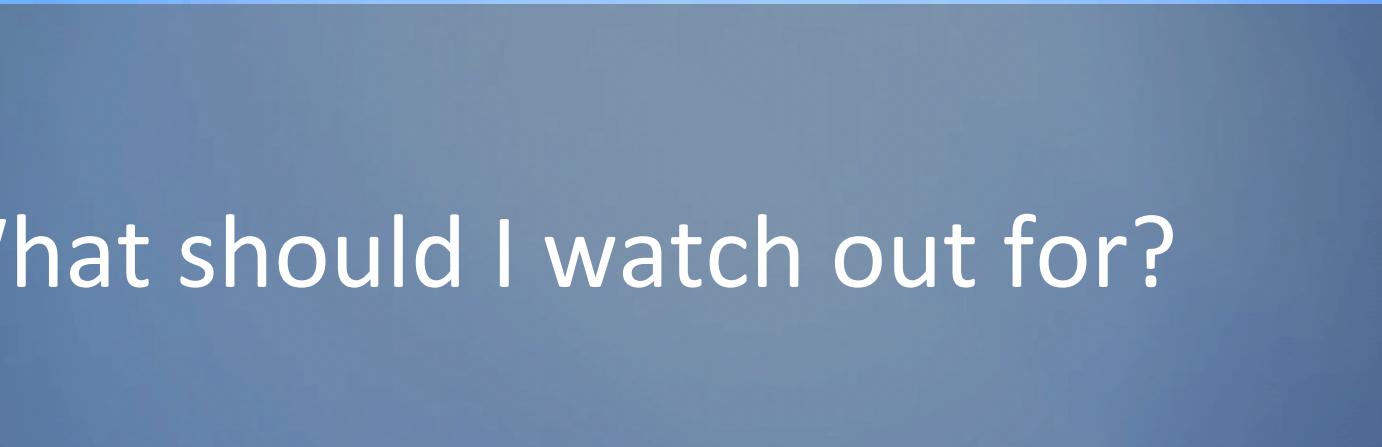
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What should I watch out for?



Content review and cleanup can cause delays

1. Set accurate expectations for content cleanup
2. Define migration acceptance criteria in advance
3. Define the process for prioritizing bugs
4. Prepare project champions to unblock you when the time comes

Reference: <http://www.acquia.com/blog/10-tips-streamline-migration-review>

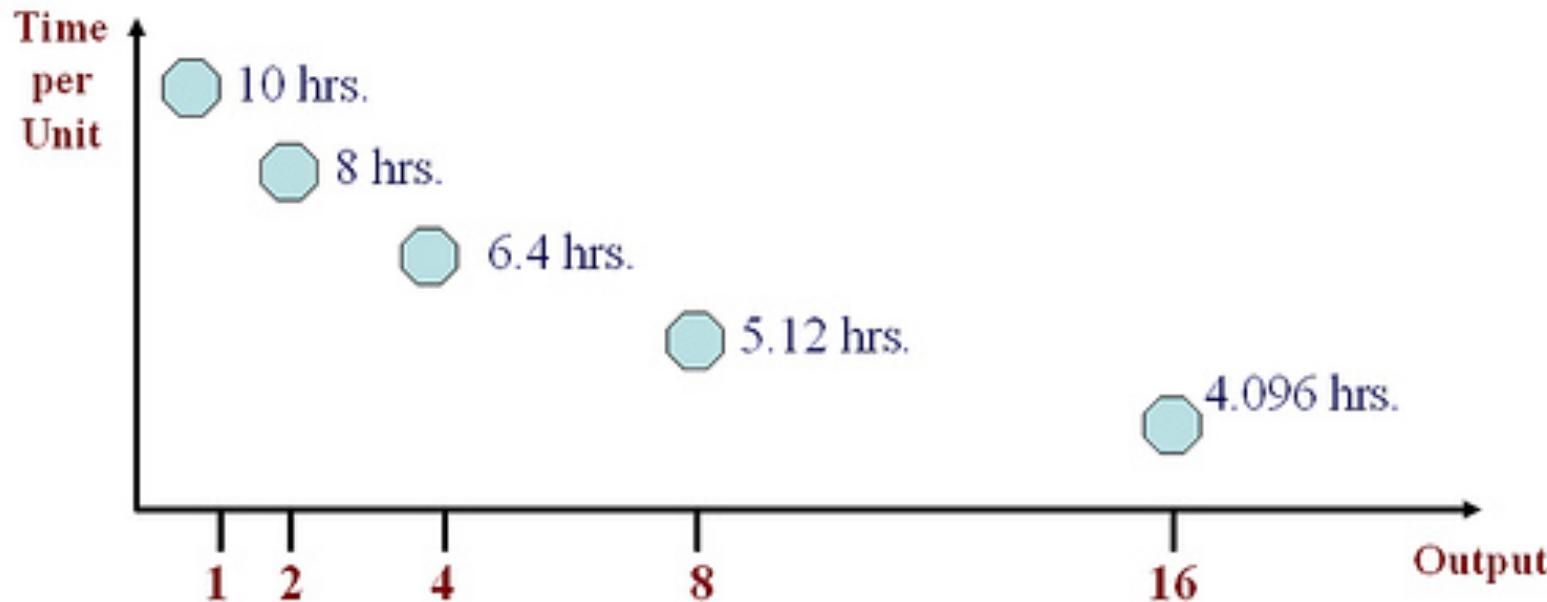
A decorative graphic at the bottom of the slide featuring a dense field of green grass, rendered in a stylized, slightly blurred manner.

Many artifacts can be slight variations of a template

- Kickoff meeting handouts
- Training materials and curriculum
- Tickets in the PM tracking software
- Base migration classes + extension classes for each site section and content type



Effects of the experience curve are real



Reasons for the effect: labor efficiency, standardization, specialization, methods improvements, optimizing the resource mix, network effects, shared experience effects

Sync pace of development, content, and stakeholder work



Incremental migration allows for client enablement

Give a man a fish, feed him for
a day. Teach a man to fish,
feed him for a lifetime.

- Lao Tzu



The Athletic Mindset

Questions?

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