Drupal 7 to 10 Migration: Custom Migrate YAML & Overrides Guide (v2)

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14. How upgrade_d7_node Works + Full Consultant Examples
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Understanding upgrade_d7_node
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You do NOT manually create upgrade_d7_node by default.
When you enable migrate_drupal + migrate_drupal_ui and connect
your D7 database in settings.php, Drupal scans the D7 site and
auto-generates migration plugin IDs at runtime.
Common examples:
- upgrade_d7_user
- upgrade_d7_node
- upgrade_d7_taxonomy_term
- upgrade_d7_file
They exist temporarily inside memory during drush migrate-import.
Where to find upgrade_d7_node?
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There is no physical file by default.
You see upgrade_d7_node listed ONLY when you run:
drush migrate-status
How to customize upgrade_d7_node?
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You have two safe consultant methods:
1■■ Easiest: hook_migration_plugins_alter()
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Recommended for real projects. No full override needed.
Example:
function mymodule_migration_plugins_alter(array &$definitions) {
 if (isset($definitions['upgrade_d7_node'])) {
   $definitions['upgrade_d7_node']['process']['title'] = [
     'plugin' => 'my_custom_process',
     'source' => 'title',
   ];
}
2■■ Full custom YAML override using migrate_plus
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Create a custom module, example: my_migration
Folder structure:
- my_migration/config/install/migrate_plus.migration.upgrade_d7_node.yml
- my_migration/config/install/migrate_plus.migration.upgrade_d7_taxonomy_term.yml
Example 1: Node migration YAML override
id: upgrade_d7_node
label: 'Migrate D7 nodes'
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migration_group: migrate_drupal_7
source:
  plugin: d7_node
process:
  title:
    plugin: my_custom_process
    source: title
  body/value:
   plugin: clean_body_text
    source: body
  created: created
  changed: changed
destination:
  plugin: entity:node
migration_dependencies: {}
Example 2: Taxonomy migration YAML override
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id: upgrade_d7_taxonomy_term
label: 'Migrate D7 taxonomy terms'
migration_group: migrate_drupal_7
source:
 plugin: d7_taxonomy_term
process:
  name: name
  description: description
  vid: vid
destination:
  plugin: entity:taxonomy_term
migration_dependencies: {}
Where to create custom Process Plugin?
Create inside your module folder:
mymodule/src/Plugin/migrate/process/MyCustomProcess.php
Example code:
namespace Drupal\mymodule\Plugin\migrate\process;
use Drupal\migrate\Plugin\migrate\process\ProcessPluginBase;
use Drupal\migrate\MigrateExecutableInterface;
use Drupal\migrate\Row;
/**
 * @MigrateProcessPlugin(id = "my_custom_process")
* /
class MyCustomProcess extends ProcessPluginBase {
  public function transform($value, MigrateExecutableInterface $migrate_executable, Row $row, $
   return strtoupper($value) . ' - MIGRATED';
}
Summary of full steps
1. Enable migrate, migrate_drupal, migrate_drupal_ui
2. Add D7 DB connection to settings.php
3. Run drush migrate-status (you will see upgrade_d7_node)
4. Create custom module for YAML or plugin overrides
5. Use hook_migration_plugins_alter() to safely inject plugins
6. Run drush migrate-import upgrade_d7_node
7. Your custom plugin will run automatically
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This is the full real-world consultant workflow.

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15. Real Consultant Examples: Why Create Custom Process Plugins?
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Case 1: Clean legacy body field text
Client D7 body fields had random control characters that broke display.
Input:
"This is a \x00 messy \x07 body text."
Plugin: clean_body_text
Removes all control chars.
Output:
"This is a messy body text."
Case 2: Add migration trace suffix to titles
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Client wanted all imported nodes to append "- Migrated" to title.
Input:
"Summer Festival 2024"
Plugin: my_custom_process
Output:
"Summer Festival 2024 - Migrated"
Case 3: Map legacy category codes
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D7 site used custom codes (A, B, C). Client wanted friendly labels.
Input:
"old_category_code_B"
Plugin: category_code_mapper (mapping array)
Output:
"Blog"
Case 4: Format dates to ISO format
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Legacy D7 site stored event dates in random formats.
Input:
"7th April 2024"
Plugin: format_date_to_iso
```

Output: "2024-04-07"

Case 5: Enrich records with external API data

Client wanted every migrated company node to include Google Places rating.

Input field:

"OpenAI HQ, San Francisco, CA"

Plugin: enrich_company_rating External API returns rating: 4.8

Output:

field_company_rating = 4.8

Summary

Custom Process Plugins solve real-world project needs:

- Clean bad legacy content
- Append info or transform strings
- Map internal codes to readable labels
- Call external APIs to enhance data
- Standardize formats for consistent output

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14. End-to-End Understanding: Custom Migrate YAML + Plugins
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Example 1: Node migration YAML override
This example shows how a real D7 \rightarrow D10 migration would use
both core source plugins AND your own custom Process Plugins.
Your custom module: my_migration
Place this file at:
my_migration/config/install/migrate_plus.migration.upgrade_d7_node.yml
YAML content:
id: upgrade_d7_node
label: 'Migrate D7 nodes'
migration_group: migrate_drupal_7
source:
 plugin: d7_node
process:
  title:
   plugin: my_custom_process
   source: title
  body/value:
   plugin: clean_body_text
   source: body
  created: created
  changed: changed
destination:
  plugin: entity:node
migration_dependencies: {}
What happens?
- Core pulls node data from D7
- title field runs through my_custom_process (adds suffix etc.)
- body field runs through clean_body_text (removes bad chars)
- Nodes are saved in Drupal 10
Example 2: Taxonomy term migration YAML override
-----
File: my_migration/config/install/migrate_plus.migration.upgrade_d7_taxonomy_term.yml
id: upgrade_d7_taxonomy_term
label: 'Migrate D7 taxonomy terms'
migration_group: migrate_drupal_7
source:
  plugin: d7_taxonomy_term
process:
  name: name
```

description: description

vid: vid
destination:

plugin: entity:taxonomy_term

Summary

This is a real-world D7 \rightarrow D10 consultant workflow:

- 1. Create custom module (my_migration)
- 2. Add override YAML files under config/install
- 3. Create any custom Process Plugins under src/Plugin/migrate/process
- 4. Run standard:
 - drush migrate-import upgrade_d7_node
 drush migrate-import upgrade_d7_taxonomy_term
- 5. Your Process Plugins run automatically inside normal migrate-import

Result:

Client gets enhanced, cleaned, enriched Drupal 10 content without touching core migrate behavior.

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16. End-to-End Flow: How d7_taxonomy_term Works with Plugins
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When you run:
drush migrate-import upgrade_d7_taxonomy_term
What happens?
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Your YAML file:
id: upgrade_d7_taxonomy_term
     plugin: d7_taxonomy_term
process:
     name:
          plugin: clean_term_name
          source: name
     description: description
     vid: vid
destination:
     plugin: entity:taxonomy_term
Flow:
1. Migrate API loads YAML migration definition.
2. Source Plugin d7_taxonomy_term reads D7 taxonomy_term_data table.
3. Each term row is processed:
        - clean_term_name Process Plugin is called to clean name field.
4. Drupal 10 taxonomy_term entity is created.
Your Custom Process Plugin:
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namespace Drupal\mymodule\Plugin\migrate\process;
use Drupal\migrate\Plugin\migrate\process\ProcessPluginBase;
use Drupal\migrate\MigrateExecutableInterface;
use Drupal\migrate\Row;
/**
   * Cleans taxonomy term name.
   * @MigrateProcessPlugin(id = "clean_term_name")
   * /
class CleanTermName extends ProcessPluginBase {
     public function transform($value, MigrateExecutableInterface $migrate_executable, Row $row, $compared to the compared transform and tran
          $value = preg_replace('/[^A-Za-z0-9 ]/', '', $value);
          return trim($value);
}
Example Execution:
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Input (D7 term)	Output (D10 term)
"Event *** Name!!! "	 "Event Name"
"Summer #\$% Festival "	"Summer Festival"
" Drupal Rocks!!! "	"Drupal Rocks"

Summary:

drush migrate-import triggers:

- \rightarrow Source Plugin to get data
- \rightarrow Your Process Plugin runs to clean name
- \rightarrow Taxonomy term entity is created

This is true real-world consultant workflow. You modify only YAML + plugin. Queue, batch & core migrate system remain untouched.