WCMS 3 Alpha Tester Q&A

The following are questions posted by the WCMS 3 Alpha testers addressing common observations and concerns. The answers are provided by our WCMS Web Development team.

Q: Can I add additional people to our migration schedule?

A: Yes, absolutely. As several have already done, you can request new members via this channel [migration Teams channel], or directly to Andrea Jennings.

Q: You said you would be scheduling a meeting with me. Should I wait until then to make updates?

A: To manage the Training and Support team's time effectively, instead of Training and Support booking meetings with everyone immediately, we ask that you book time (via Andrea Jennings) once you've had a chance to review your initial schedule to talk about any questions you have. This is done to manage the Training and Support team's time effectively. If you have a relatively simple schedule and feel comfortable referring to the documentation that has been/will continue to be posted, feel free to forego a meeting now. However, please know that we are available at any point through the process.

Q: Sites are spaced a week apart on the schedule. Is that how long it should take to migrate a site?

A: Unfortunately, we do not know how long it will take to migrate a site. There are two main variables: the migration scripts/size and complexity of your site, and how much time you want or can spend reviewing your site.

One week was chosen as a somewhat arbitrary starting point. Once you have had time to assess your draft schedule, we would expect you to want to make at least some changes initially, and perhaps later in the process as well.

Q: Are you going to automatically publish my sites live based on the schedule?

A: We will never publish a site live that has not been approved for publication by the point-of-contact. The schedules we have shared are a starting point to help your own planning. The dates on the schedule indicate the day we will migrate a site to the Pantheon dev environment with no implication of when it will be published live. We suggest that once a site migrates, within reason you take time shortly thereafter to review, remediate as needed, and approve to publish live. Please not that part of the process is per your own individual discretion.

Q: Will our forms migrate to the new WCMS?

A: Webforms (forms, results, and associated files) will be part of the migration.

Q: Will authenticated forms be available at launch?

A: Authenticated forms will not be available at launch as we need to get ADFS authentication working for site logins first. However, anonymous forms will be live with more options than they had in WCMS 2.

Q: Has the width of the main content area been finalized yet for WCMS 3?

A: It is not finalized to the point where you should start designing pixel-exact graphics (though with responsive, you have to remember that these will not always display at the full size anyway), but each section can have one of four possible widths:

- narrow contained width (~496px) - approximately equal to WCMS 2 "standard" page width at desktop sizes (will get narrower as needed at narrower widths)
- wide contained width (~753px) - approximately equal to WCMS 2 "wide" page width at desktop sizes (will get narrower as needed at narrower widths)
- extra-wide contained width (~1200px) - slightly larger than the full width of a WCMS 2 page, including the left-hand navigation, at desktop sizes (will get narrower as needed at narrower widths)
- full width (pixel width not applicable) - 100% of the site visitor's browser width, whatever that may be (at desktop sizes, this extends to the edges of the browser, while the contained width sections max out and have margins)

Q: Can anyone confirm if "News" and "Events" still can be automatically displayed on the home page of each website in WCMS 3?

A: Even in WCMS 2, if you don't promote anything to the home page, nothing will appear. WCMS 3 adds the ability to remove that block or configure certain content types not to appear. In WCMS 3, this is the "multi-type list" block that is added by default to the home page.

Q: Also wondering if we will be able to use the single page theme within a FDSU site (so that it isn't a separate URL)?

A: It is our intent that there are no more separate themes in WCMS 3. All the functionality from all the themes will be available on all sites.

Q: Is it possible to move an entire section (all of its blocks) up or down a page, or do you have to create a comparable section and move each of the blocks individually? (currently customizing My Dashboard)

A: It looks like Drupal does not provide the functionality to move sections around, so you would have to create a section and move blocks. Depending on what you are trying to do, it may be easier to "move" other sections down than "move" the intended section up.

Q: I seem to recall that you had to create sidebars separately and attach them, but I don't see that functionality anymore.

A: Both functionalities should be there (sidebars and site footers). If they aren't in your content type list on your dashboard, try overriding the dashboard and configuring the content

management menu (the block with the content types, etc.) - there has been a bug that new items weren't automatically added to the list until you did this step.

Q: Will there be padding added to columns in the template so that images and text do not run into each other?

A: Probably!

Q: Is there a way to have a 2-column layout inside a copy block?

A: No, you have to do it from the other direction - add a 2-column section, and place copy blocks in both columns.

Q: Only the latest version of published items will be migrated, correct? i.e., drafts and archived items will not be migrated?

A: Yes, technically "the latest published version" - things in other states will not be migrated, even if they are newer than the published version.

Q: Are all news and events (again, assuming only the latest version of published items) being migrated, or just those from a specific period - say, the last year?

A: That is the intent at this time - if you do not want older things to migrate, you should unpublish them.

Q: Would uploaded images be migrated as is and remain available at their current URLs?

A: Uploaded images will be migrated as is but are likely to have different URLs. Migrated content will be updated to use the correct URLs.