

Updating the Core Software



- [Goal](#)
 - [Site prerequisites](#)
 - [Steps](#)
 - [Expand your understanding](#)
 - [Related concepts](#)
 - [Videos](#)
 - [Additional resources](#)
-

Goal

Update the core software, either through the administrative interface or by using Drush.

Site prerequisites

- If you want to use Drush, Drush must be installed. See [Concept: Additional Tools](#).
- If your site is live, you should test this process in a development environment before running it on your production site. See [Making a Development Site](#).

Steps

1. Make a complete backup of your site. Refer to [Concept: Data Backups](#).
2. Open *settings.php* (*/sites/default/settings.php*) in any plain text editor. Find the line with the `$settings['update_free_access']` variable. By default, it is set to "FALSE" due to security reasons. Change the setting to "TRUE":

```
$settings['update_free_access'] = TRUE;
```

3. Disable any caching technique (memcache, varnish, and so on) your application might be using.
4. Put your site in maintenance mode. See [Enabling and Disabling Maintenance Mode](#).
5. If you are using Composer to manage dependencies, skip the next six steps, and instead see [Using Composer to Download and Update Files](#) for instructions on downloading updated files. Continue with the *update.php* step.
6. Download the tar.gz or zip file archive for the latest version of Drupal core for the branch you are currently using (such as 8.x or 9.x) from [Drupal.org Drupal Core Downloads](#). See [Preparing to Install](#) for more details on how to find the latest version.
7. Upload the archive file to your web hosting server.
8. Extract the archive file to a temporary directory on your server (should be outside the directory where the site is hosted). Your hosting control panel's file manager should provide a way to extract the files. Or, if you have terminal access to your hosting server (running Linux), you can use a command like:

```
tar -xzf drupal-8.3.2.tar.gz
```

9. In your site hosting directory, delete the *core* and *vendor* directories, and all files that are not in a subdirectory, including *.htaccess*, *composer.json*, and *autoload.php*. Don't delete custom and customized files because you may end up losing the custom functionality stored in them.
10. Copy the *core* and *vendor* directories and the non-custom/non-customized files that you deleted in the preceding step from the temporary directory to your site directory.
11. Run the *update.php* script using either of the following:
 - Visit <http://www.example.com/update.php> in your browser (where *www.example.com* is your site's URL). Click *Continue* in the first screen to run the updates and successfully complete the script.
 - Run the following Drush command: `drush updatedb`
12. If you get any error or warning, re-run the *update.php* script again till all the updates have been completed successfully.
13. Open *settings.php* (*/sites/default/settings.php*) in a text editor. Find the line with the *\$settings['update_free_access']* variable and update it to "FALSE":

```
$settings['update_free_access'] = FALSE;
```

14. Click *Administration pages* to return to the administration section of your site.
15. Take your site out of maintenance mode. See [Enabling and Disabling Maintenance Mode](#).
16. Clear the cache. See [Clearing the Cache](#).
17. Re-enable any caching technique you disabled at Step 3.
18. You should have the updated version running. You can verify the current version of your software by checking the *Status report* (see [Concept: Status Report](#)).

Expand your understanding

- [Concept: Additional Tools](#)
- [Making a Development Site](#)
- [Concept: Data Backups](#)

Related concepts

[Concept: Status Report](#)

Videos

[Updating the Core Software](#)

Additional resources

- ["Drupal Core Downloads" page on *Drupal.org*](#)
- ["Registry Rebuild" page on *Drupal.org*](#)
- The file `/core/UPDATE.txt` within your installation.

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