



a better kind of website development experience

September 28, 2012

IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ

Joomla 2.5 is here!

Joomla 1.5.XX versions are being phased out completely by Joomla.org software developers as of October 2012 and support for it and any extensions or modules will trickle to a halt within the next few months.

Once 1.5 is phased out in October no additional security patches, bug fixes or future development will take place. We highly recommend you upgrade to Joomla 2.5 as soon as possible to avoid any unexpected interruption in your website performance.

Unfortunately, beyond October 2012 we can no longer guarantee adequate support for Joomla 1.5 versions, as the developer tools typically available to us in that version will no longer be available.

When Open Source applications like Joomla reach the end of a major release, as with 1.5, it is essential to take action to migrate your site to the new version or the site will become vulnerable to a growing number of security threats that can compromise the website, information/data, and users, and your website will begin to function in subpar fashion.

- As of October 2012, no more security releases for Joomla 1.5 will be available. If a security issue is found in Joomla 1.5, it will not be patched. The longer 1.5 goes unsupported the more vulnerable your website will become. <http://docs.joomla.org/>
- Your site may use third-party software extensions or “plugins” (i.e. events modules, home page rotators, photo galleries, shopping carts). Most developers have already updated, tested and released their plugin's for Joomla 2.5. This means that for existing plugins that develop problems, no resolution may be available. Since plugins often contain large modifications to a site's code they also become prone to security vulnerabilities and should be updated to avoid unwanted risk or downtime.
- Adding new functionality to your website in the old 1.5 version will be more difficult and in some cases, impossible. We will no longer be able to make additional customizations or add functionality via plugins, extensions or modules. All new, supported and updated plugins will only be available under version 2.5.
- **THE GOOD NEWS:** Joomla is a great system, completely reworked and improved in 2.5. Your plugins will function better, load faster, and there are new security and access features all wrapped into an easier to use administrator interface. Progress is good news,

we know you will love 2.5 as much as we do! <http://www.joomlapolis.com/news/18249-joomla-25-and-life-cycle-guide>

Questions and Answers

If I upgrade to 2.5, will I have to continue having upgrades?

You don't have to upgrade – that is completely up to you. However, **the nature of Open Source platforms such as Joomla is to keep forward-momentum and continue evolving.** This move from 1.5 to 2.5 is considered a major upgrade as opposed to minor upgrades in between versions (such as from version 1.5.25 to 1.5.26) and for many reasons we recommend you put it under serious consideration.

The good news is, 2.5 will be fully supported for the next 18 months. We will continue to recommend upgrades to stable releases as to avoid any risks or threat to your site. Once you make the switch, the minor upgrades will be swift patches and updates (2.5.XX).

Is this upgrade difficult?

In a word, yes. We have done a lot of planning and testing in an effort to understand and become proficient in migrating 1.5.XX websites. The move from 1.5 to 2.5 will be addressed with caution and care. Our first step is to do a full back up of your website if it doesn't already exist, and proceed to cataloging extensions and plugins, then creating a test environment, installing the updates to both core and all plugins, test and address any technical issues that arise, before finally launching the site live in 2.5.

The update time will vary depending on the complexity of your site and the number of third-party extensions the site is using. Obviously, heavily-customized websites will require more time and more due diligence. Your current site will not experience down-time except during a 4-hour maintenance window in which we launch the new 2.5 version.

How much will this cost?

We will work with you to find the most cost-efficient way to upgrade your site and provide you with an upgrade analysis first, and then a custom estimate. The upgrade from 1.5.25/.26 to 2.5 is very straight forward; however, depending on the complexity and the number plugins you have installed it could take some time to upgrade and beta test.

What if I elect not to upgrade at this time?

We understand that our clients will need time to consider and budget for the upgrade to 2.5. Your system can remain in 1.5.XX beyond October; however, the longer you wait the more vulnerable the site will become. We will be unable to offer the same level of security or stability beyond October 2012 so we encourage a serious discussion of this move to Joomla 2.5

If you've been thinking about making major updates to the design or content of your existing website, now is the optimal time to discuss that. We may find it more advantageous to you to revamp in Joomla 2.5 instead of conducting an entire migration for a site that you want to make big changes to anyway.

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