

Upgrading to CWP. 2.0



The second major release for the official
web platform of the NZ Government



CWP 2.0 is here

Highlights from the latest Common Web Platform major release.

Firstly, we want to thank you for being here on this journey with us. The creation and adoption of the Common Web Platform has seen over 60 government agencies launch more than 230 sites since 2013.

With this new release, CWP takes advantage of the latest and greatest features from the recent SilverStripe 4 release. CWP 2.0 brings a new look and feel to the CMS with major redesigns in key areas used by content editors. And for your technical teams, a simplified approach to recipes and maintaining your websites code.



How do I plan my CWP 2.0 upgrade?

YOUR QUICK START CHECKLIST

- 1.** Evaluate the security risks of not upgrading.
- 2.** Consider the benefits of upgrading.
- 3.** Assess the complexity of your website. If you are on CWP 1.9, use Site Summariser (available mid July 2018) to assess which modules you have.
- 4.** Get a quote for upgrading if you are not using your in-house dev team.
- 5.** Set your budget in January 2019.
- 6.** Schedule an upgrade with your in-house team or vendor of choice.
- 7.** Your in-house dev team or your vendor will run a practice deployment and test it and then go through UAT testing and bug fixes. Tests should be at a code level and at a user level.
- 8.** Deploy CWP 2.0!

New features in CWP 2.0

Modern and responsive user interface

Still the intuitive CMS that users love, CWP 2.0 is visually cleaner and simpler to use. The main sections of the CMS are now responsive. Reviewing and publishing content on different screen sizes is now simpler for content teams who aren't at a desktop. The WYSIWYG has been upgraded to TinyMCE 4 allowing better accessibility, powerful table editing, and a theme that's much lighter on the eye.

Better versioning and asset handling

Versioning can be applied more consistently to all of your content, not just pages. Authors can publish files alongside pages. The file management area has been built from the ground up with a new intuitive interface.

Flexible content and data architecture

CWP 2.0 moves towards a more decoupled approach to publishing content, allowing headless CMS applications with the introduction of new APIs. This allows your publishable content to be easily separated from the front end, allowing flexibility in presentation across different devices, channels and apps. Developers have more tooling options, designers have greater flexibility in tailoring views and communications specialists can better utilise the content they create.

Content blocks

Improving the productivity of content authors, we've introduced the concept of content blocks into the CMS. Through the creation of rearrangeable, highly customisable content blocks, teams can now meet the most sophisticated content designs.

Updated themes

In addition to the updated Wātea theme, CWP 2.0 also has the updated CWP Starter theme to help government agencies get their sites up and running quickly. The CWP Starter theme is a developer focused highly accessible Bootstrap 3 theme that is suited for sites that require more customisation and design.

New recipe structure

With CWP 2.0, we have moved towards a more granular approach to structuring recipes. This allows developers to selectively add bundles of functionality more in line with a site's needs. This reduces the site's code base while alleviating maintenance and upgrade burdens.

Talk to your developer or vendor of choice about upgrading to CWP 2.0 today!

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What's the difference between an upgrade and a refresh?

A: An upgrade involves moving from one major version of a CMS to another. A refresh is a project that includes rethinking your website and how it achieves its goals. You can do both of these things at the same time, or just simply upgrade to CWP 2.0 and call it a day.

Q: What could go wrong during an upgrade?

A: If the complexity of your website is greater than anticipated, the upgrade process may take longer. An upgrade will always be possible, it's just a matter of more time.

Q: Why should I upgrade?

A: It's the responsible thing to do for security reasons plus you'll get the latest features. Being on the latest version means your site will continue to be supported. Participating agencies have agreed to stay on supported versions, largely for security reasons. Upgrading to CWP 2.0 is like upgrading the software on your phone - it's a short term inconvenience for a longer term gain.

Upgrading to CWP 2.0 unlocks a number of features and benefits including:

- Headless capabilities with API driven content
- Improved UI design and responsive CMS views
- New themes
- Content Blocks
- Campaign publishing functionality
- Improved file management
- Asset versioning
- Continuous security improvements

Q: What's the support cycle for 1.X?

A: 1.X will be supported until the end of January 2020.

Q: What will happen to CWP after 2020?

A: The Lead Agency Agreement between DIA and SilverStripe will expire in September 2020. DIA has kicked off a Digital Experience Project where they are going to be working with agencies and suppliers to co-design the next iteration of CWP. Your agency will be contacted and given an opportunity to be involved with the roadmap and participate in a series of workshops. Agencies will be offered the option to continue with SilverStripe and SilverStripe are committed to providing a SilverStripe platform for sites based on CWP 2.0 post-2020.

Q: How long will an upgrade to CWP 2.0 take?

A: It depends on the complexity of your website, upgrades range from several developer-days to developer-weeks.

Q: How much will an upgrade to CWP 2.0 cost?

A: Contact vendors on the Web Services Panel (WSP) or your vendor of choice for an estimate that is sufficiently accurate for your budgeting purposes.

Q: How complex is my website when it comes to upgrading to CWP 2.0?

	Low complexity	Medium complexity	High complexity	Very high complexity
Degree of code customisation	Little to no custom code	Low to moderate amount of custom code	Moderate to high amount of custom code	Highly customised code base and complex integrations
Modules	Using Wātea theme	Some well maintained open source modules	Modules that haven't been open sourced	
Recipe	Using a standard 'recipe'		Using a modified 'recipe'	Using a unique 'recipe'

Q: What modules am I using?

A: If you are on CWP 1.9, use Site Summariser (available mid July 2018) to assess which modules you have. If you are not planning on upgrading to CWP 1.9, then you can raise a Service Desk ticket to request an assessment of your modules (you will need to provide access to your code base to have your site assessed).

Q: Who can do my upgrade for me?

A: Any development team familiar with SilverStripe development should be able to perform an upgrade. We'll shortly be placing a list of vendors on cwp.govt.nz. We're hearing from them that they are experienced with SilverStripe upgrades and they have capacity to do CWP 2.0 upgrades. Many of them are WSP.

Q: Do you have documentation for my developers?

A: SilverStripe sure does. Here's a comment we received last week on the quality of our developer documentation.

"I have been building/upgrading a few sites lately and I have to say the current documentation (Lessons and Developer Docs) is amazing. Almost every question I have is answered in there. The days of swearing and struggling to find the answer to seemingly obvious issues are gone. I'd recommend SilverStripe to new developers based solely on the quality of the support documentation. OK, maybe there are more reasons than just that..."

CWP. 2.0

100%

