Drupal and Exponential

Moving a Drupal site to Exponential 6 and back - JSON:API, the Migrate API and Views Data Export, mapping content types, fields, taxonomy, media, paragraphs, users and path aliases, redirects, and the way back through…

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1. What Drupal can export

Drupal has no single "export the site" file. According to drupal.org:

Tool	What it gives you	Notes
JSON:API (core module)	every entity at `/jsonapi/{entity_type_id}/{bundle_id}[/{uuid}]`, media type `application/vnd.api+json`	read-only by default; at most 50 resources per request, follow the next link; a page can hold fewer items because of access checks
Migrate API (core `migrate`, `migrate_drupal`; Drush `migrate:*` commands)	a framework for moving content *into* Drupal; its source plugins read older Drupal databases	useful in the other direction (5)
Views Data Export (contributed module)	CSV, XLS, JSON or XML from any view, in batches	needs a sort on a unique id in batch mode
The database	everything, in Drupal's entity and field tables (`node_field_data`, `node__<field>` …)	reading it directly is possible but couples you to the schema version
`sites/default/files`	the managed files	copy it

JSON:API is the most practical source: it delivers each content type with its fields, relationships (taxonomy, media, authors) and the path alias, in a documented format, without writing Drupal code.

2. Mapping Drupal to Exponential

Drupal	Exponential 6
Content type (node bundle)	class
Field	attribute (text to `ezstring`/`eztext`, formatted text to `ezxmltext`, image to `ezimage` or a relation, entity reference to `ezobjectrelationlist`, list to `ezselection`, date to `ezdatetime`, link to `ezurl`)
Body (text with summary)	`body` and `intro` (`ezxmltext`), HTML converted
Paragraphs (contributed)	child objects of small classes, or Exponential Layouts blocks for landing pages
Taxonomy vocabulary and terms	folders, or `eztags` (hierarchy, synonyms)
Media entities and files	image/file/media objects below media folders
Menu (menu links)	the content tree and sort order
Block content	layout blocks, or objects shown by templates
Users, roles	user objects in groups; roles rebuilt. Drupal's password hashes are its own format; plan resets
Path alias (`/about-us`)	the node's URL alias, or a redirecting custom alias
Language and translations	translations of the same object
Revisions	not imported; the current revision becomes version 1
Webform submissions	archived; forms rebuilt with information collection
Metatag (contributed)	`xrowmetadata`

3. From Drupal to Exponential, step by step

1. **Inventory** content types and fields (Structure > Content types > Manage fields), vocabularies, media types, languages, contributed modules that store content (Paragraphs, Webform, Metatag, Redirect).
2. **Enable JSON:API** on a copy of the site, read-only (its default), and an account with read access to everything you migrate.
3. **Create the classes** and the tree in Exponential.
4. **Export**: a script pages through `/jsonapi/node/<bundle>` for each type (with `include=` for the relationships you need), then taxonomy, media, files and users, and writes JSON with remote ids such as `drupal-node-<uuid>`. Copy `sites/default/files`.
5. **Import** in dependency order: files and media, taxonomy, then nodes, then translations; relations resolved by remote id. xrowextract's importer with `--map`, or the script skeleton.

6. **Redirects** from the path aliases and the Redirect module's table (4).
7. Rebuild search and aliases, test, rehearse, cut over (checklist).

4. Addresses and redirects

- **Path aliases** (`path_alias` entities, exported with each node as its `path` field) become node aliases when the tree matches, or redirecting custom aliases otherwise.
- `/node/123`, the system path, is linked to as well: add an alias or a web-server redirect for every node id.
- **The Redirect module's** existing redirects: carry them over as aliases or web-server rules.
- `/taxonomy/term/45`: to the folder or tag view.
- **Language prefixes** (`/de/...`): Exponential siteaccesses per language, with aliases per translation.

5. From Exponential to Drupal

- Export with xrowextract (CSV/JSON per class with URL alias, remote id and attributes) and copy the storage (leaving Exponential).
- On the Drupal side, the **Migrate API** is the documented way in: write migrations whose source reads the xrowextract files (CSV or JSON source plugins come from contributed modules; check the one you choose), and run them with Drush (`migrate:import`, `migrate:rollback`, `migrate:status`; Drush 10.4 and later include these commands).
- XmlText becomes HTML (render or transform); the tree becomes menu links or taxonomy; aliases become path aliases.
- Users: resets.

6. Risks and checklist

Risk	Counter-measure
Paragraphs and nested entities	design child classes or layouts first; test the deepest nesting
50 items per JSON:API page	page the whole collection; count against the inventory
Access-filtered pages	export with an account that sees everything
`/node/<id>` links in text	resolve them to the new nodes in a second pass

- ☐ Content types, fields, vocabularies, media inventoried; mapping table written.
- ☐ JSON:API export complete (counts match); files copied.
- ☐ Import in dependency order with remote ids; translations attached to the same objects.
- ☐ Path aliases, `/node/<id>` and Redirect module entries redirected and tested.
- ☐ Metatag data in `xrowmetadata`; sitemap; analytics.

Sources

- JSON:API pagination: https://www.drupal.org/docs/core-modules-and-themes/core-modules/jsonapi-module/pagination
- JSON:API security considerations (read-only mode): https://www.drupal.org/docs/core-modules-and-themes/core-modules/jsonapi-module/security-considerations
- Upgrading with Drush (Migrate): https://www.drupal.org/docs/upgrading-drupal/upgrade-using-drush
- Views Data Export: https://www.drupal.org/project/views_data_export

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