

Drupal Media Initiative

Digital Asset Management integration offer

The Media entity and Entity browser modules are the standard modules to store and work with digital assets in Drupal 9. As the initiator and maintainer, MD Systems will develop a quality assured best-of-breed integration at a reasonable price.

- from 9600 CHF
- Prototype within 2 weeks

Basic Integration

A basic Drupal 9 integration can be made available by MD Systems in about 2 weeks after starting development, given that the digital asset management (DAM) API and demo accounts with full access are set up, ready and fully documented.

The basic integration is a full package to a first minimum release into the Drupal 9 media ecosystem. Any Drupal site with the plugin installed will be able to browse digital assets stored in the DAM system and attach them to the web content. The implementation of the plugin will follow all coding standards of common drupal.org projects and will be well documented. All processes will be tested and quality assured.

After a first prototype (first week), MD Systems will present the work to the customer, provide a test environment and help the customer to start using the integration. The customer will then test on its own to report final issues and prepare a final version for release.

The project will be released on drupal.org where the customer has independent unlimited access to maintain it or assign maintenance to any third party. MD Systems will only update the code base in consent with the service provider and only publish well quality assured releases. A test driven development process is established as long as the DAM API allows it.

Task	Effort (days)
Specifications, Management	1
Basic implementation (support for images, text search, assets are fetched into Drupal)	3
Documentation, Support Customer	1
Final QA, Release	1
Total	6

The hourly base rate is 200 CHF with a first 10% off for assignments >10 days.

Selection of advanced options

Feature	Effort (days)
Digital assets usage tracking	1
Complete documentation	2
Additional filter (folders, tags, categories, ...)	1 (each)
Remote file delivery	3
Video assets support	2
Additional asset types support (additional to video)	1 (each)
API Mocking for tests purposes	1
REST integration without an existing PHP library	2
Efforts if the API changes during implementation	2
Upload files	1

The estimates only apply if ordered combined with the basic integration.

Other advanced options like personalised users, fetching all most recent assets, crop style mapping, responsive image support, proximity search, metadata mapping etc. can be offered separately on request.

Advanced features require support by the DAM API. An additional effort of ~2 days is needed if DAM API reference documentation is incomplete or missing.

Digital assets usage tracking

Many DAM systems offer usage tracking of assets they manage. This functionality is heavily relied on data provided by systems that integrate with the DAM system. We can make sure that all data that DAM needs will be delivered from Drupal.

Complete documentation

Documentation is extremely important. Most users rely on it when evaluating solutions and when integrating them into their websites. We can provide a full documentation for the plugin, including general overview and step by step configuration and usage instructions. Everything will be enriched with a substantial amount of visual aids. Documentation will be released as part of the official Drupal 9 media guide.

Additional filters

DAM systems can often manage tens or hundreds thousands of assets. With this amounts of content it becomes crucial to be able to search through the assets efficiently. We can add additional filters to the browsing interface utilizing possibilities that DAM API offers. We will put special attention to the user experience aspect and work with the client to find the best solution for every type of filter.

Remote file delivery

By default we download assets from DAM and store them in Drupal CMS, which means that delivery works through it too. In enterprise DAM systems we can often see delivery components. In that case DAM act as a content delivery network (CDN). It can make sure that assets are transformed (resized, cropped, transcoded, ...) to a form that works best for a specific use-case.

We can implement full support for remote delivery through Media entity. In that case we never download any assets from the DAM. Instead we just store the reference, which allows us to work with it internally in Drupal and present it transparently to the users.

This method circumvents the Drupal Image Style stack and thus the DAM needs to offer image derivatives that fit the web image styles and features like cropping.

Video and other asset types support

Additional to images we can provide support for any other asset type, including videos. We can provide full video integration that will cover metadata, thumbnails, and playback.

Additionally we can provide support for any other asset type. We will adapt the implementation to the nature of a specific type and find the best integration solution for it.

API mocking for test purposes

We are dedicated to deliver high-quality software to our clients. This includes test coverage of all code that we write. Testing integrations that require API endpoint communication can be slow and unreliable since the tests rely on the speed, availability and stability of the endpoint.

REST integration without a PHP library

We usually rely on the provided PHP libraries to communicate with the API endpoint. Lack of the library noticeably improves complexity of the integration, which needs to be taken into the consideration.

Efforts if the API changes during implementation

When implementing the integration we need to be able to rely on the stability of the API endpoint structure and specification. Changes to those increase the complexity, which need to be accounted for.

About Drupal 9 media ecosystem

Drupal 9 media ecosystem was started in 2014 by a group of people from different parts of the Drupal community. Their main goal was to unify fragmented solutions and join forces to build a standard solution. MD Systems has been involved with it since the beginning.

The media ecosystem consists of many Drupal 9 plugins (contributed modules). Every module solves its specific problem and they can be combined to provide fully functional media solutions.

Media ecosystem modules are seeing some great adoption and some of them are already in the group of most used Drupal 9 modules. Solutions that the media ecosystem provides are already accepted as the standard way of handling media in Drupal 9.

Solutions like Entity browser, Entity embed, File entity and Media entity are first class citizens in many distributions (NP8, Lightning, Thunder, ...).

Variants in collaboration and maintenance

MD Systems does not claim any rights in any modules that are part of the ecosystem or any integrations implemented for customers. While being highly open for major improvements, MD Systems is responsible to maintain a stable base system. Some integrations are fully implemented and maintained by MD Systems in relation with the services providers, while others decided to start on their own or maintain the integration module with their own team after MD Systems did the base work.

Making advanced features possible

With the much more advanced framework Drupal 9 and the cleaned base ecosystem, MD Systems is confident to be able to work on advanced features with higher speed and efficiency.

As one of the most active and experienced contributors to Drupal 9 worldwide, MD Systems is the preferred provider to push the ecosystem forward with innovation and deliver advanced ready to use solutions.

Dedicated to the community

MD Systems, being one of the top Drupal contributors, is fully dedicated to open source. We feel strong responsibility to the community and contribute to it as part of our daily routine. One of the most important and challenging aspects of almost every open source project is ensuring sustainable maintenance and development. Solving this problem is one of our biggest priorities.

We will dedicate 20% of the time of any DAM integration project towards core media ecosystem work. MD Systems will have the leading role in the development decisions and will try to prioritize the suggestions of the client as much as possible. Client will be attributed in the related drupal.org issues and patches. This will give them visibility and establish them as a responsible community member.