

# Drupal 8 Configuration System Basics



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# Objectives

- Understanding the basics of Drupal 8's Configuration System
- Comfort with common Drupal 8 configuration system workflows

**The first rule of the configuration system is to talk about the configuration system process.**

# Understanding the basics of Drupal 8's Configuration System

Two takeaways

# Understanding the basics of Drupal 8's Configuration System

1. Managing configuration is 75% process, 25% technical.

# Understanding the basics of Drupal 8's Configuration System

## 2. All or nothing.

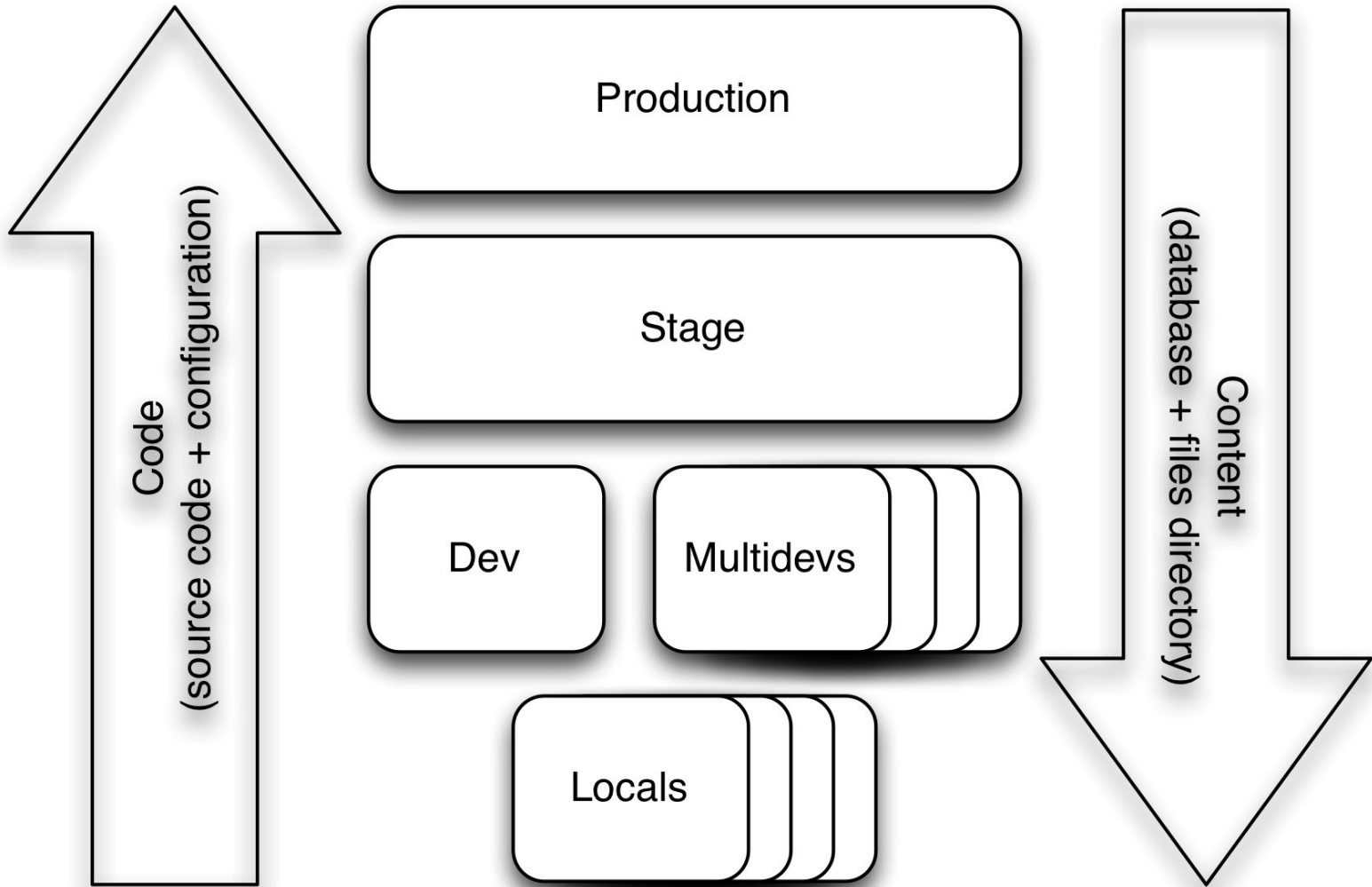
# Understanding the basics of Drupal 8's Configuration System

- A Drupal database stores two types of data
  - Content
  - Configuration



# Understanding the basics of Drupal 8's Configuration System

- Ideally, developers should be defining and testing configuration on local, and pushing up through
  - Dev
  - Test
  - Live

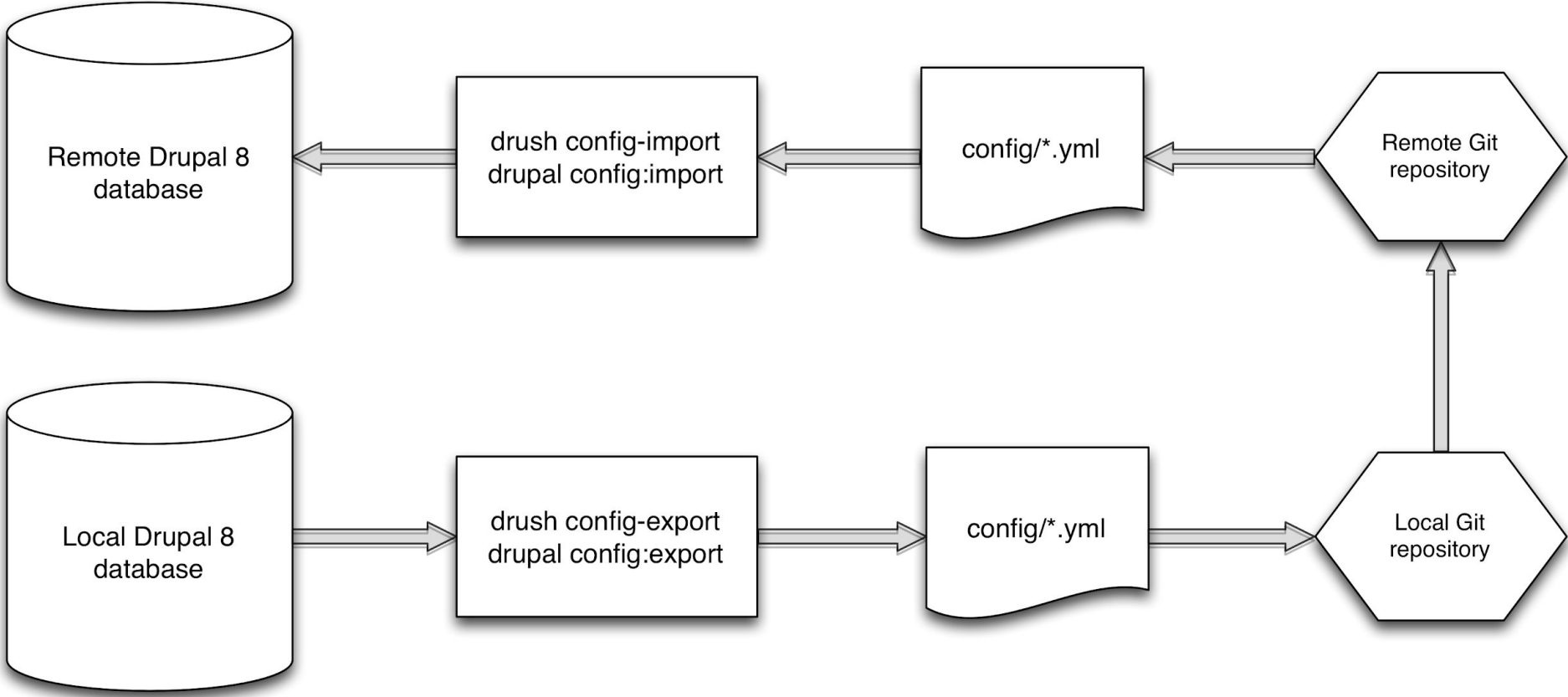


# Understanding the basics of Drupal 8's Configuration System

- With the configuration in the database, if we copy a local database up to Live to move configuration, we will likely overwrite content.
  - It is not practical to move a subset of database tables to move configuration.

# Understanding the basics of Drupal 8's Configuration System

- Drupal 8's configuration system provides a mechanism to export configuration from the database into code (.yml files).
  - Use Git to move between environments.



# Understanding the basics of Drupal 8's Configuration System

- Syncing config needs to be part of your development process
  - We're used to using "git add/commit/push".
  - We need to add "drush config-export".

# Understanding the basics of Drupal 8's Configuration System

- Syncing config needs to be part of your development process
  - We're used to using "git pull".
  - We need to add "drush config-import".

# Understanding the basics of Drupal 8's Configuration System

- The location of the exported configuration files is typically called the "sync" directory.
  - Configured in settings.php file.



# Understanding the basics of Drupal 8's Configuration System

- Configuration files have lots of interdependencies.
  - A standard Drupal install has over 170 configuration files.
  - Not recommended to export/import subsets.
  - All or nothing.

**Comfort with common Drupal 8 configuration  
system workflows.**

**Live demonstration!**


# Understanding the basics of Drupal 8's Configuration System

- The "Configuration Synchronization" page
  - Warning text
  - X new - will be added on config import
  - X changed - will be changed on config import
  - X removed - will be removed on config import

# Synchronize

[Synchronize](#)[Import](#)[Export](#)

[Home](#) » [Administration](#) » [Configuration](#) » [Development](#)

 The following items in your active configuration have changes since the last import that may be lost on the next import.

- block.block.block
- block.block.block\_1


## 2 new

NAME	OPERATIONS
	<a href="#">View differences</a>
	<a href="#">View differences</a>

## 169 changed

NAME	OPERATIONS
	<a href="#">View differences</a>
core.extension	<a href="#">View differences</a>

## 25 removed

NAME	OPERATIONS
views.view.redirect_404	<a href="#">View differences</a>
	<a href="#">View differences</a>

**Comfort with common Drupal 8 configuration  
system workflows.**

**Rubber, meet road.**

# Comfort with common Drupal 8 configuration system workflows.

- Exercise 1: Initial site configuration export, review of /config/ files and "config" table.
- Exercise 2: Review repercussions of "Import all" config command on local environment.

# Comfort with common Drupal 8 configuration system workflows.

- Exercise 3: Exporting configuration from a local environment, moving, and importing to a remote environment
- Exercise 4: Make a minor configuration change on remote and local environments, move local config to remote environment

# Comfort with common Drupal 8 configuration system workflows.

- Exercise 5: Make a major configuration change on remote and local environments, move local config to remote environment
- Exercise 6: Make a major configuration change on local and a minor configuration change on a remote, move local config to remote environment



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- Exercise 7: Use the Configuration Split module to prevent config from going to remote environments
- Exercise 8: How to handle configuration changes on multiple environments that we want to keep

# Comfort with common Drupal 8 configuration system workflows.

- Exercise 9: Using the Configuration Read-only mode module to prevent configuration changes on Pantheon Dev or any other environment.

**Comfort with common Drupal 8 configuration  
system workflows.**

**Tips and Tricks**

# Comfort with common Drupal 8 configuration system workflows.

- Tips and Tricks #1
  - When possible, use the Configuration Read-only mode on the live environment.
  - It's like training wheels for using the D8 configuration system.

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- Tips and Tricks #2
  - When configuration changes are made to a remote environment, review, export, and commit them to the repository as soon as possible.

# Comfort with common Drupal 8 configuration system workflows.

- Tips and Tricks #3
  - Before working in a local environment, ensure your local configuration is up-to-date and in-sync.

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- Tips and Tricks #4
  - When working with multiple branches in a local environment
    - Be sure to export and commit configuration prior to changing branches.
    - Be sure to import configuration immediately after changing branches.

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- Tips and Tricks #5
  - When writing a commit message for a commit that includes updated configuration, it is a good idea to include the word "config" somewhere to let others know that they should probably do a "config import".



# Comfort with common Drupal 8 configuration system workflows.

- Tips and Tricks #6
  - In most cases, the yellow warning text on the "Configuration synchronization" page is less-than-helpful. It is probably best to ignore and focus on the "changed", "removed", and "new" sections below it.