

Looking for a
Drupal alternative
to Acquia?

Platform.sh

vs

Pantheon

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Like many organizations, you want a more modern platform to host and manage your Drupal sites.

If you have a healthy budget, those sites may be running with a traditional managed services provider like Acquia. Or you're running them on-prem. Whatever

the scenario, your team deserves a better cloud solution, so you're considering Platform.sh and Pantheon.

Today, more than 5,000 customers and 65,000 developers worldwide build and deploy their sites on Platform.sh.

What were the deciding factors in choosing Platform.sh over Pantheon?

We asked for the top 10 reasons.

(But like many awesome things, we got 11.)

Platform.sh
vs Pantheon

- 1** Platform.sh is built for Composer and Symfony, but doesn't leave your legacy Drupal behind
- 2** Platform.sh supports any Drupal version
- 3** All the services you need to run an ambitious digital experience with Drupal
- 4** Highly scalable, highly available
- 5** Drupal developers deserve tools for the way modern developers work
- 6** Deploy anytime
- 7** Real integrations with GitHub, Bitbucket, GitLab, and anything else
- 8** Platform.sh does Drupal best, at a lower cost
- 9** Platform.sh does more than Drupal
- 10** Platform.sh Drupal expertise, when you need it
- 11** Choice is good.
That's why Platform.sh is multicloud

Platform.sh is built for Composer and Symfony, but doesn't leave your legacy Drupal behind

1.

Modern Drupal 8 is built around two technologies that make developers' lives easier.



Composer

Composer simplifies dependency management for PHP applications, much like PIP for Python or NPM for Node.js. Unlike Pantheon, Platform.sh supports Composer natively.



Symfony

Symfony is the other technology at the heart of Drupal 8. As the 'cloud' powering Symfony Cloud and Magento Commerce, our Symfony expertise runs deep.

Platform.sh supports any Drupal version

Running Drupal 7? Or even Drupal 6? Drupal Multisite? You can run them on Platform.sh

alongside your Drupal 8 (and when it's available, Drupal 9) sites, with the same Git-driven

workflow, batteries-included approach to data services. Platform.sh also supports Drupal Multisite, multiple MySQL databases, and schemas on a single project.

On the flip side, Pantheon doesn't support Drupal Multisite or more than one MySQL database per project.



All the services you need to run an ambitious digital experience with Drupal

3.

Drupal has never existed in a technological vacuum. With Headless Drupal or decoupled

architectures becoming the norm, that's truer now than ever before. Platform.sh supports multiple runtimes—like PHP and Node.js—in the same project, so you can manage and deploy your sites as a single app.

Pantheon only allows Drupal and WordPress, so you'll need to find a separate host for your application's dependencies and manage the resulting complex deployment process yourself.

For your data, Platform.sh gives you simple access to those services and myriad others, with no extra cost or complexity.

Snap in PostgreSQL, Kafka, Elasticsearch, RabbitMQ, Network Storage, worker processes, and more, with just a few lines of a YAML file.

Pantheon provides the basics: MySQL, Redis, and Solr.

Highly scalable, highly available

4.

Platform.sh can provide 99.99% high-availability guarantees for mission-critical sites. That's less than five minutes of downtime a month, and an SLA of less than an hour for urgent tickets. Our approach to high availability isn't based strictly on caching; we've designed triple-redundant architecture to ensure even transactional sites are fault-tolerant.

Platform.sh can also scale up any site, as needed, when there is a surge of traffic—without downtime.



Drupal developers deserve tools for the way modern developers work

5.

Platform.sh has been based around Git from the very beginning. We think of it as our main API. It also

drives collaboration across teams between devs and stakeholders.

Need a new environment to work on a feature or to fix a bug?

It's as simple as:

```
git checkout -b new-idea
```

That's it.

One Git command, and in moments, Platform.sh clones your entire production app-data and all.

Pantheon has a feature that's similar in concept called MultiDev, available as an option on higher support plans—but there are critical differences.

With Platform.sh, you can have as many dev/stage/test environments as you need. Pantheon limits you to a maximum of 10.

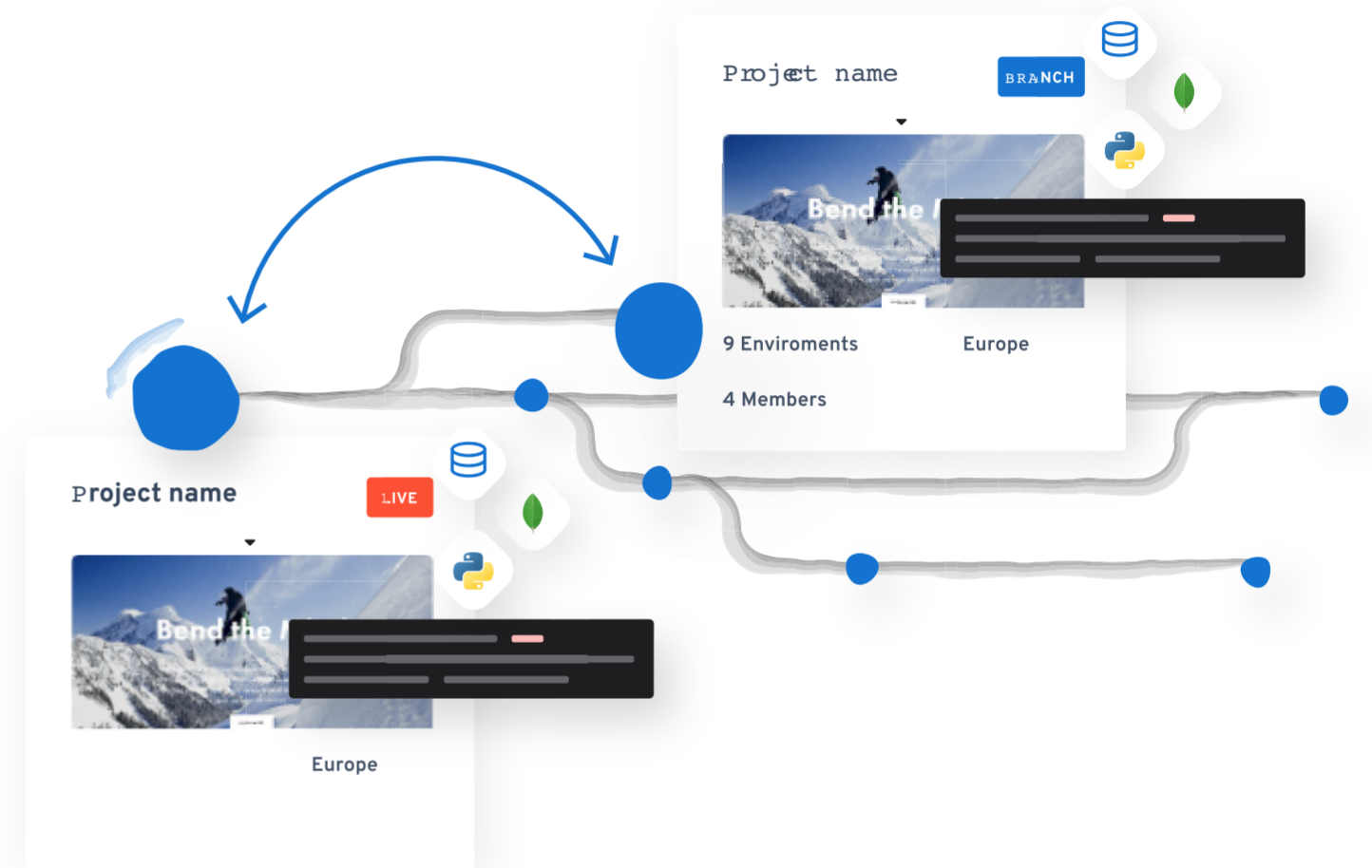
The Platform.sh workflow supports nested branches. This is great for teams, because it means you can group work by feature, team, or release. And you can push changes live from any branch. Each environment also has configurable access control for devs and viewers, and auto-generated (and free) SSL certificates.

Pantheon lets you do parallel dev work, but requires those changes to be synchronized through a single test/staging environment.

Deploy anytime

6.

With Platform.sh, deploying to production is basically a Git merge, so your team is developing on a perfect clone—including all the components and data of your Headless Drupal site. You can be assured, then, that what worked in dev is going to work in production.

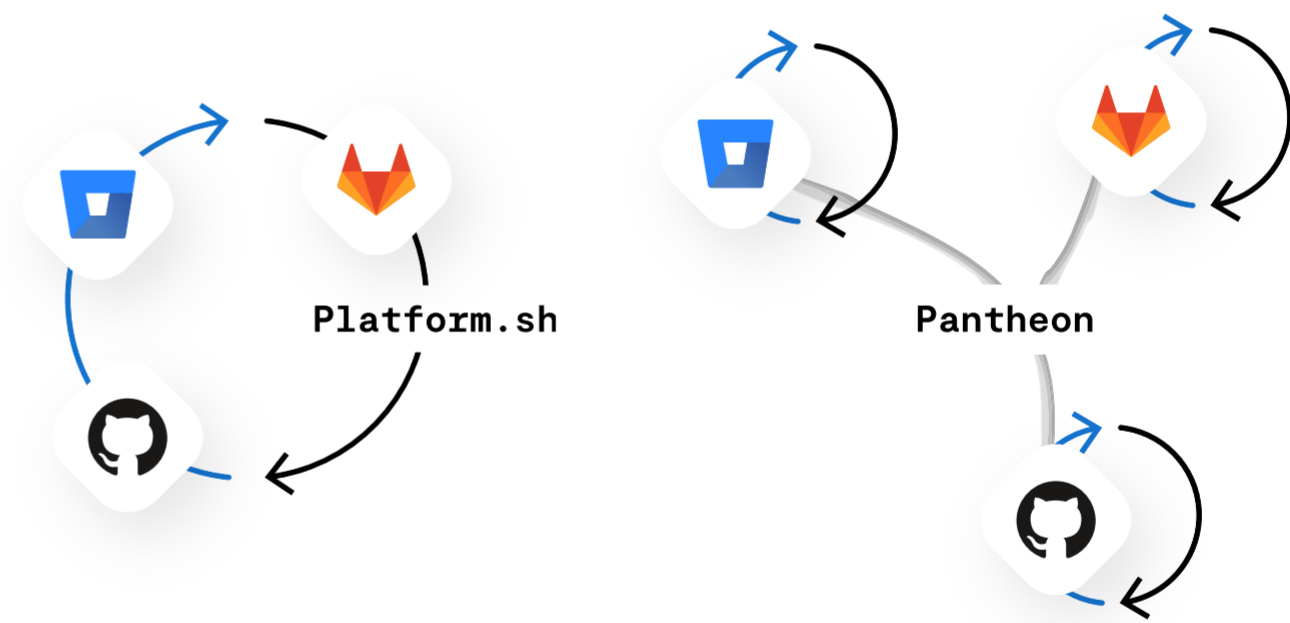


Real integrations with GitHub, Bitbucket, GitLab, and anything else

7.

Because Platform.sh has a robust API and supports custom webhooks, it's integrated with third-party tools you're probably already using, like GitLab, Bitbucket, and GitHub. Branches and pull requests created in those tools automatically generate (and clean up) environments in Platform.sh! That same API, coupled with our system of hooks and support for tools like Headless Chrome, gives you a robust continuous integration solution for Drupal and other technologies—again, at no extra cost.

With Pantheon, configuring a pull request driven workflow with GitLab, Bitbucket, or GitHub requires you to manually create environments and map them to individual branches in your code management tool.



The Platform.sh API isn't limited to managing your current Drupal projects. With just a few commands, you can create new projects across regions around the world.

Platform.sh does Drupal best, at a lower cost

8.

The most cost-effective host for your Drupal applications, Platform.sh was incubated as a tool to run high-volume Drupal commerce applications, which means the traffic is primarily “authenticated pageviews.” They’re difficult to cache and have to be served by Drupal directly, instead of a caching layer (including Content Delivery Networks [CDNs]). Therefore, our pricing model is based on capacity (in memory and CPU) to serve requests.

Platform.sh includes CDN with our Enterprise solutions, and a caching layer (either via Varnish or our own cache system) is provided for all Platform.sh projects.

In sharp contrast, Pantheon charges for every pageview and visit you serve. Why? Because they include a single CDN with every project, and that CDN provider’s cost model has to be accounted for. If you have a great month of traffic, you’re potentially looking at a larger invoice based on pageviews and visits.

Here's a quick example

Pantheon's Medium tier allows you up to 250,000 pages served per month—whether they're served via CDN or not—at a Preferred price of \$225/month.

On the other hand, the Platform.sh Professional Medium tier can serve 500,000 pageviews per month, uncached, at a price of \$135/month. If your app is cacheable, you can serve far more, and we won't charge you extra.

	Monthly cost (Medium plans)	Pages served
Platform.sh	\$135	500,000
Pantheon	\$225	250,000

Need a CDN? We can provide one, but you also have the choice to use the caching options that work best for your applications and budget.

Do you need to run tests, compile Sass, use Node.js-based tools as part of your build? Platform.sh handles all of that natively, too, rather than charging you more. In addition to your Pantheon hosting costs, you'll have to account for using tools like CircleCI at \$50/month or Codeship at \$75/month (at minimum).

Platform.sh does more than Drupal









9.

Across organizations, it's rare for a single CMS to be adopted universally. There are many reasons for this: developer expertise, budget, and even internal politics. Supporting many languages and frameworks is good for us, and good for our customers.

Real freedom comes from having a platform that can grow and shift with you as your needs evolve.

Platform.sh isn't exclusive to Drupal by design. Instead, we let you run Drupal alongside your Node.js/Javascript app, Java, Python, and more at no extra cost. You can combine the front end and back end of your app in the same project, deployed automatically by us across our secure, containerized grid.

With Platform.sh, you can use the best solution for every site you build and manage. WordPress? Our PHP support is peerless. Static Site Generators (SSGs)? Check out our examples with Hugo, Jekyll, and Gatsby. Java? Run CMS apps like Brightspot, or OSS stacks like Spring MVC and MongoDB.

								
Platform.sh	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pantheon	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗

Pantheon is limited to WordPress and Drupal.

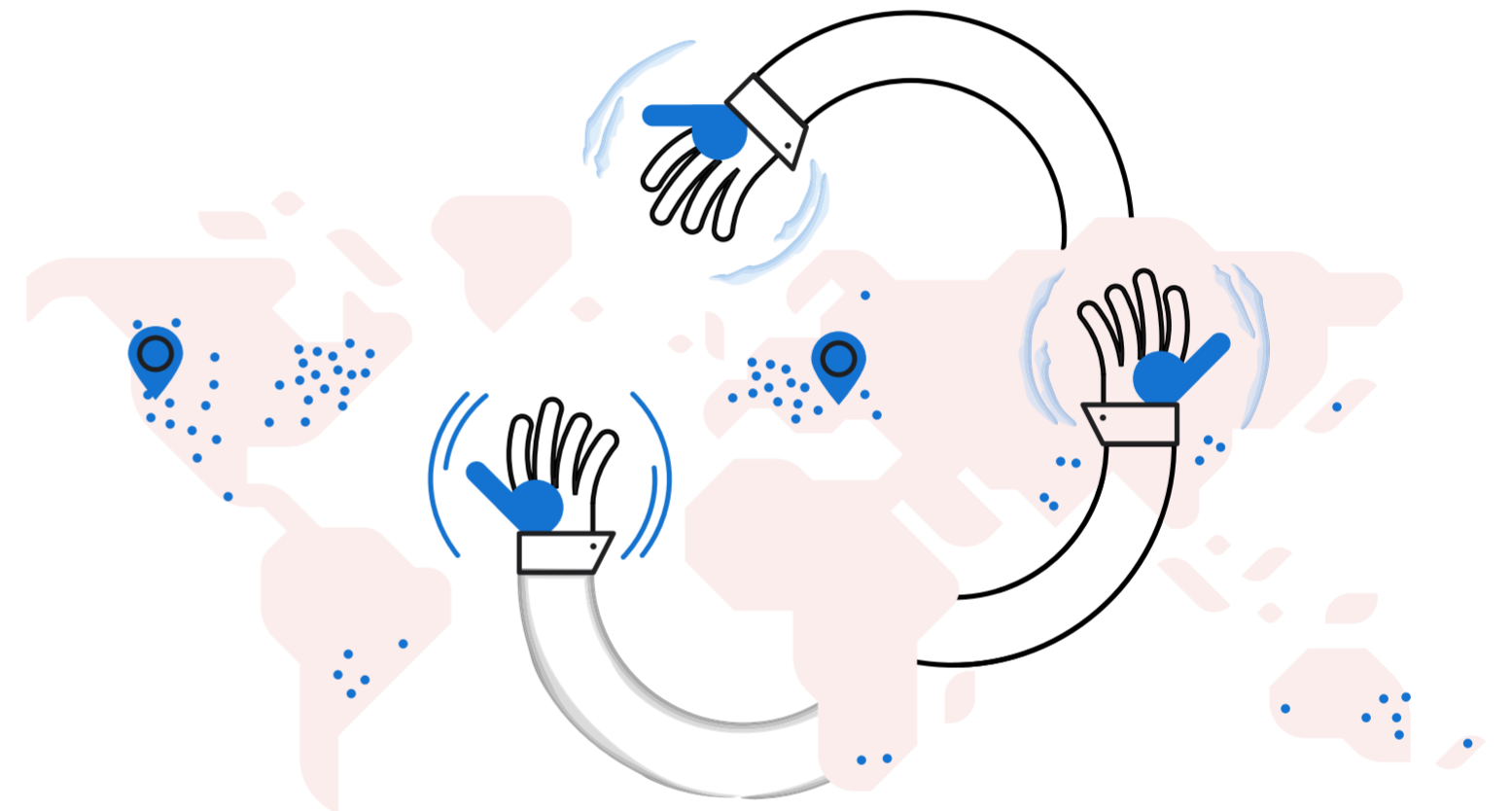
Platform.sh Drupal expertise, when you need it

10.

Selecting the right platform for scalability is important, but sometimes your team may run into challenges. For that, we have a global team of support engineers spanning North America, South America, Europe, Africa, Oceania, and Asia.

Need hands-on support to keep your Drupal projects patched and secure?

Platform.sh does that, too. Just ask us about Application Support.



Choice is good. That's why Platform.sh is multcloud

11.

Choosing which Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS) provider to use can be a gamble, and once your die is cast, it's hard to switch. The same can be true of your hosting or PaaS provider. That's why most hosting providers like Pantheon work with only a single IaaS partner (in Pantheon's case, that's Google).

Instead, Platform.sh makes it easy to use the IaaS provider that works best for your business, whether your choice is based on data locality for compliance, getting your application as close to your end users as possible, or simply preference. We can run your applications in the US, Canada, Australia, Ireland, Germany, and France.

Platform.sh works with four IaaS partners—Amazon Web Services, Google Cloud Platform, Microsoft Azure, and Orange—to give you the most choices and global reach. And you can run the same code across all four of these platforms without making any changes.

Need a custom location? Let's talk.

We take security and compliance seriously. For some countries and companies, that means hosting locally too. Not only are we SOC 2-certified, we're compliant with the CASL in Canada, and Germany's BDSG and strict data locality and access rules.

Chat with our team now.
Or try out Platform.sh
for free.

Power. Simplicity. Freedom.

The best tools are the ones that fade into the background and let you get on with your work. Find out how we can help your organization *focus, faster.*