# Guide to Drupal Platform Features

When choosing what features to enable on a Drupal platform site, please use this reference to decide what your users truly need.

It is better to give your users just what they need, rather than enable options that make the Create Content menu cluttered and unnecessarily long. Particularly with users who are new to Drupal and have trepidations about using it, it is safer to not overwhelm them with features they will not use.

Also, enabling more features than you need does lead to performance strain on the site and Drupal server, and it creates potential sustainability issues that make maintenance and upgrades of the Drupal platform more problematic.

Note that features are very easy to enable after the site’s initial creation. So, if you don’t list Photo and Gallery in the initial web plan but want to add it two weeks later, don’t worry—it makes sense to add upon the functionality as you learn your user’s needs, rather than enable everything from the beginning.

## Features Available

BlogEnabling this creates both “Blog” and “Blog Post” as options in the Create Content menu. Use this if your user would like to blog directly within their Drupal site.

EventsEnabling this creates both “Event” and “Event Feed” as options in the Create Content menu. It allows an event feed to be imported. This feed can be seen either through an Event View page or an Events Calendar page, both of which are already available in the Drupal platform. The event feed automatically generates individual event items.

FAQEnabling this creates the “FAQ” option in the Create Content menu. These are individual FAQs that appear through an FAQ View feed. If you plan on creating FAQs on a page or landing page and are not using the view, **do not enable this option.**

File/Documents
Enabling this creates the “File” option in the Create Content menu. Use this if your user will need to add files with the following extensions: *txt doc jpg png gif pdf ppt xls docx pptx xlsx psd ico odt otp pot potx eps zip.* If you need a file extension support that is not on this list, please contact the web lab about this.

Forwarder
Enabling this option is **mandatory.** This is used in the main navigation as the holder for section names.

Gallery
Enabling this creates the “Gallery” option in the Create Content menu. Use this if your user will need to embed a photo gallery onto a page. If you wish to have a gallery, **you must also enable the Photos feature.**

Homepage
Enabling this option is **mandatory.** This is used to populate content onto the homepage.

Landing Page
Enabling this creates the “Landing Page” option in the Create Content menu. Use this if your user would like to have a banner image added to the top of a page.

Multimedia
Enabling this creates the “Multimedia” option in the Create Content menu. Use this if your user will need to embed video or audio content onto a page. Note that the user will need to find server space to host this multimedia content. If the user will be embedding code from a site like YouTube or Vimeo to display videos, **you do not need to enable the Multimedia feature.**

News
Enabling this creates the “News Item” option in the Create Content menu. Use this if your user will want to have News View page populated with news items, or if the homepage has an area for news items to be displayed.

Page
Enabling this option is **mandatory.** This is the most basic building block for creating new content on a Drupal site.

Photo
Enabling this creates the “Photo” option in the Create Content menu. **Enable this only if you have also enabled the Gallery feature.** This content type is **only** for adding slides into a photo gallery.

Podcast
Enabling this allows a podcast feed to be imported. This feed can be seen through a Podcast View page, which is already available in the Drupal platform. If the user currently does not have a place to host their podcasts, **do not have this option enabled.**

Polls
Enabling this creates the “Polls” option in the Create Content menu. Use this if your user will need to embed a poll onto a page.

Profile
Enabling this creates the “Profile” option in the Create Content menu. Use this if your user will want a collection of detailed profiles of staff, faculty, or other relevant people. These profiles would be accessible from a Profiles View page.

Program Finder
Enabling this creates the “Academic Program” option in the Create Content menu. Use this if your user will want to feature academic degrees, certificates, or other programs on their site. These programs would be accessible from a Programs View page.

Webform
Enabling this creates the “Webform” option in the Create Content menu. Use this if your user will want to add form pages to their site. These forms can be used to send an email message or to populate an Excel spreadsheet or comma-delimited file that is accessible from within the Drupal site.