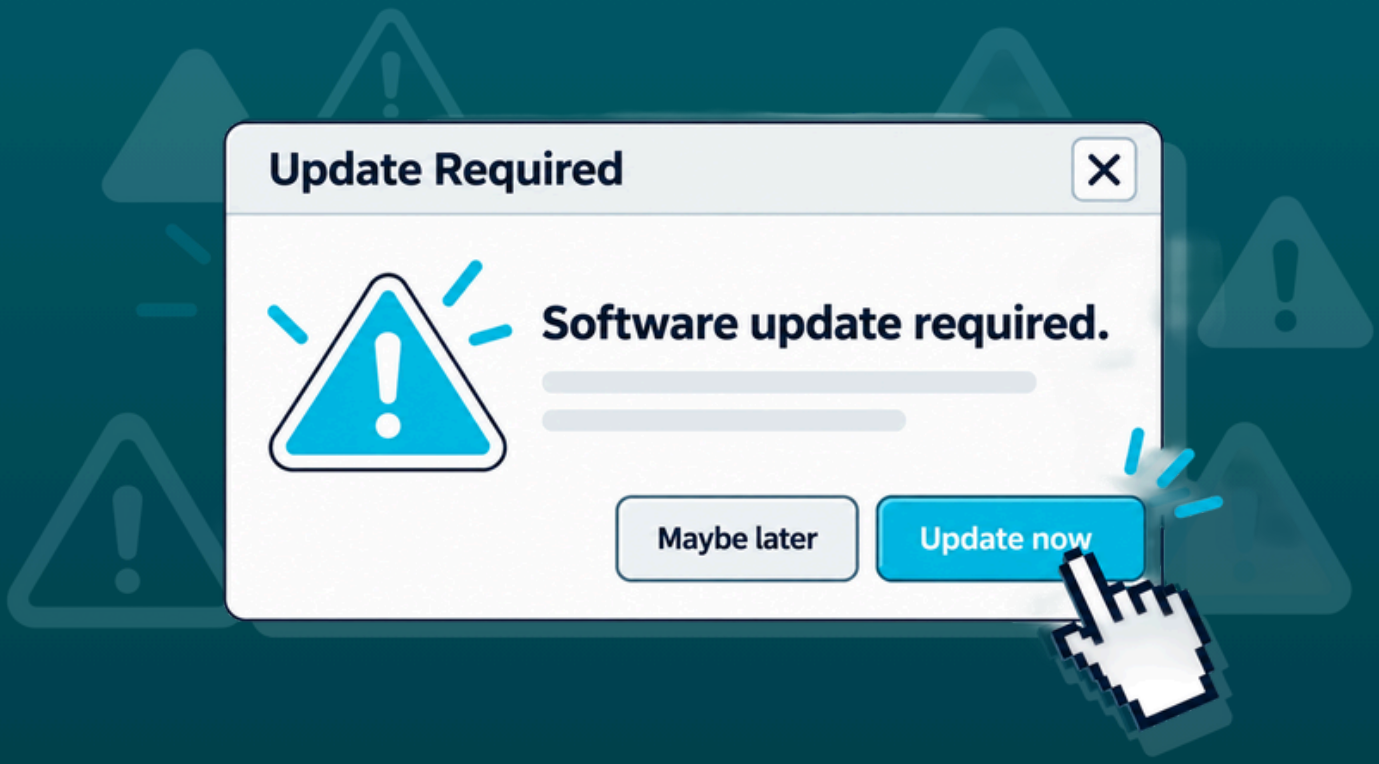
LINK DIGITAL

Is your open data portal due for an upgrade?



Take our 12-question CKAN upgrade quiz for data portal owners.

Is your open data portal due for an upgrade?

CKAN 2.12 is the last release in the 2.x series. It is also the bridge to CKAN 3.0. If your portal sits a version or two behind, now is a good time to find out how far and what it would take to close the gap.

Answer each question below by putting a tick in the box for yes or a cross for no. A tick means you are covered. Count your ticks and see what your score means.

Core maintenance and version safety

- [ ] Do you know which CKAN version your portal runs, and is it still within active community security support?
- [ ] Have you applied a security patch, core upgrade or Python dependency update to your portal in the last six months?
- [ ] Are all your portal's custom and community extensions catalogued, maintained and verified as compatible with CKAN 2.12?

Performance, interoperability and data quality

- [ ] Do you know which CKAN version your portal runs, and is it still within active community security support?
- [ ] Do your datasets have complete metadata (titles, descriptions, licences, contacts) and publish in standard formats like the latest Data Catalog Vocabulary for automated harvesting?

Compliance, security and disaster recovery

- [ ] Does your data portal meet the accessibility standards applicable to your organisation, such as WCAG 2.1 or 2.2?
- [ ] Is your CKAN installation running a supported version with all applicable security updates applied?
- [ ] Does your portal have automated, tested backups, continuous uptime monitoring and a verified recovery process?

Support, operations and procurement

- [ ] Do you know who hosts and supports your portal?
- [ ] Does the service agreement covering the hosting and support of your portal include upgrades as well as break-fix support?
- [ ] Does your team have the in-house capacity and CKAN expertise to carry out a major-version migration safely?
- [ ] Do you have a clear funding and procurement pathway to upgrade your portal to CKAN 2.12?

What does your score mean?

0 to 4 ticks **Act now.**

Your portal is carrying real risk and this is likely to increase over time. Ageing software versions, unpatched code and untested recovery will compound. We suggest you book a portal review, get a clear picture of the jump to 2.12, and line up a delivery window

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5 to 8 ticks **Start planning.**

Your portal has a solid tech foundation but there are gaps worth closing. Review your extensions and dependencies, confirm your upgrade requirements, and establish a funding and procurement pathway. A little maintenance and preparation now will keep your portal in good shape and ensure that the eventual upgrade is manageable.

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5 to 8 ticks **Keep monitoring.**

You have many of the foundations in place to keep your portal running well. Check your current CKAN version, review your extensions and dependencies, and assess the path to CKAN 2.12. As the bridge to CKAN 3.0, 2.12 offers a practical starting point for planning ahead. Revisit this checklist every six months to keep your upgrade plans on track.

Why upgrade to CKAN 2.12?

- **Files are handled as first-class entities, which improves how large and complex datasets are managed**
- **A faster DataStore and richer APIs support the integrations you rely on**
- **Scheduled background jobs reduce manual maintenance**
- **The new Midnight Blue interface is opt-in in 2.12, with improved accessibility and HTMX-powered updates. It becomes the default in CKAN 3.0**
- **2.12 resolves multiple security advisories in the CKAN core. If you run 2.10 or 2.11, patch your current series first, then plan the move**

Want a hand?

Not exactly sure where you landed or want to discuss your situation more? Link Digital can run a quick review of your portal, including all the topics covered above. We can give you a plain-English view of what is needed and what it might involve.

Get in touch

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