

Liferay 7.4

New & Improved Feature Highlights

Liferay DXP 7.4 includes new features and improved capabilities to allow technical and non-technical users to work smarter and faster to create, launch, and maintain engaging digital experiences. This release is built around six key outcome-based themes:

- Optimizing digital experiences with data-driven insight
- Empowering practitioners to build rich digital experiences
- Creating a seamless B2B buying experience
- Enabling business users to compose digital experiences using low-code and no-code capabilities
- Reducing the cost and effort to launch and maintain digital experiences
- Using Liferay as the foundation in your interconnected enterprise landscape

Optimizing Digital Experiences with Data Driven Insight

A/B TESTING

Practitioners can now select any clickable element on a page, instead of just buttons and links, as the Click Target for an A/B test which provides far greater flexibility when testing different variants of pages.

CONTENT DASHBOARD

The Content Audit tool in the Content Dashboard features an improved user experience, allowing users to filter the content list by clicking on one category in the graph. The graph also now displays content which is only categorized to one of the vocabularies specified to make it easier to ensure that no content is missed. Users can also flip the axes with one click, and it is easier to select vocabularies to be audited.

The Content Dashboard now displays both Web Content and Documents, from all sites and Asset Libraries in the Liferay instance, and can be filtered by type of asset.

CONTENT PERFORMANCE

The Content Performance panel is now available in Content and Widget pages, as well as in Display Pages, while traffic acquisition data is now taken directly from Analytics Cloud, providing metrics for Organic and Paid search, social traffic and referrals, and offers a detailed view exposing referring URLs and domains.

As with the Content Dashboard, Content Performance is now available for both Web Content and Documents with associated Display Page Templates.

Empowering Practitioners to build rich Digital Experiences

ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT WIDGET

The new Account Management Widget removes the limitation of account management being an Administrator role: it can be deployed to any page on any site to allow business users to configure Accounts, Addresses, assigned Users, and associated Organizations, Groups and Roles.

ASSET LIBRARIES

Business users can now create Display Page Templates for Web Content and Document Types in Asset Libraries, further increasing the value of reusable content stored in Asset Libraries.

DISPLAY PAGES

Display pages can now be created for Categories, in addition to Web Content, Documents, and Blogs.

DOCUMENTS AND MEDIA

A new type of “document” allows users to add links to videos in YouTube, Vimeo, Facebook, and Twitch directly into Documents and Media and treat them as if they were native documents.

Document Filenames and Titles can now be managed independently. The title can easily be changed without impacting the filename or any links to it.

EXPERIENCES

Site builders have greater flexibility for experience creation by being able to duplicate existing experiences, and save experiences as drafts. Further to this

the default experience for a page can be replaced by any other experience created for it.

FRAGMENTS

Building and configuration site navigation has become much easier with this release with the new Dropdown and Menu Display fragments. The Dropdown fragment provides a drop zone, into which practitioners can deploy any fragment or widget, while the new Menu Display fragment provides a new way of displaying Navigation Menus. Coupled with the new Flex Row styling options for the Container, it is now possible to easily build mega menus and support sophisticated navigation menus.

NAVIGATION MENUS

Navigation Menus now provide the option to use Display Pages as items.

PAGE AUDIT

Using integration with Google PageSpeed, practitioners can audit pages for SEO optimization and Accessibility compliance

SEO

Practitioners can map multiple content fields to each SEO and Open Graph meta tag which are filled dynamically when the user accesses the content.

Additionally, they can ensure that SEO is not negatively impacted when sites are not fully translated into all languages by setting which hreflang meta tags should be generated for each page.

Create a Seamless B2B Buying Experience

ORDER TYPE PRICING & DISCOUNTS

Provides the ability for sellers to change Pricing and Discounts depending on the order conditions, for example because an order is marked as urgent vs. a stock order.

ORGANIZATION MANAGEMENT WIDGET

The Organization Management Widget provides a visual representation of the organization structure of accounts. This release includes a completely refactored widget that can be deployed to allow Sales Managers to manage their sales network, and for agents and account managers to get a view of their network and navigate their own accounts.

PRODUCT IMAGE OPTIMIZATION

Performance in e-commerce is critical to the success of storefront. One way to improve performance is to ensure that appropriately sized images are served for different devices. Product Image Optimization uses Liferay's existing Adaptive Media technology to meet this objective.

Enabling Business Users to Compose Digital Experiences Using Low-Code / No-Code Capabilities

ADAPTIVE MEDIA

Liferay will automatically present the most appropriate image size based on the viewport width for images displayed in Content and Display Pages. Automatic selection can be manually overridden by content authors if required. This is supported for all types of images including background images and images added as a fragment.

COLLECTION DISPLAY

The Collection Display Fragment now supports filtering, searching, and sorting, to provide end-users with the ability to focus on exactly what is important for them. At the same time, Pagination is now provided to improve performance and the overall user experience.

COLLECTION PROVIDERS

Collection Providers now support the ability to expose filtering configuration to page builders, site admins etc., so that the same Collection Provider can be reused for different scenarios. Additionally it is possible to develop Collection Providers for sub-types of objects - for example, to return all articles of a specific Web Content Structure.

FORMS

Two new field types have been added: Boolean and Search Location. Additional properties have also been added, like a Confirmation Field for Text Fields, Masks for Numeric Fields, Validation for Date Fields, and the ability to make fields Hidden from form submitters.

FRAGMENTS

Fragments can now be configured to be displayed or hidden for each available viewport, for example to hide certain information from mobile devices. Previously, this could only be achieved with a custom theme.

INFORMATION TEMPLATES

Note: In GA1 Information Templates must be activated by adding a .config file.

Creating freemarker templates for web content structures has been possible for many years. It is now possible to do the same thing for more types of information items like Blog Entries, Documents, Categories, and Assets.

LIFERAY OBJECTS

Liferay Objects is a new low-code approach to creating custom business objects through the UI. Non-developer users can define the data model (fields, data types) and optionally create custom layouts. Objects can have one-to-one or one-to-many relationships with any other object - including system objects like User.

Objects are deployed as administration Widgets scoped at the Site or Control Panel Level. Once defined, site admins can map Liferay forms onto an object - mapping each object field onto an appropriate Form Field so that end-users can add new object entries. Object entries can be presented in various ways - a Collection Provider is automatically generated for each object, allowing the object entries to be displayed as a collection - and in turn Display Pages can be created to display the detail of an individual object. New Headless APIs - which are browsable through the API Explorer - are created automatically, and object entries can be searched for like any other item.

Further to this, Objects are automatically integrated with other Liferay Frameworks like Workflow, Permissions, Asset so that they can be immediately used alongside any out of the box capabilities.

RELATED ITEMS PROVIDERS

Related Items provides the ability to display a list of items related to another item based on a wide range - Asset Entries with the same Category, Blog Entries with the same Category, Categories for an Item, and Related Assets. Related Items Providers can be selected using the Collection Display fragment where an item is already present - for example on a Display Page for an asset, within a Collection of Categories and so on.

SEARCH EXPERIENCES

Note: Coming Soon

Search Blueprints, a feature of the new Search Experiences application, enables search administrators to tweak Liferay's default search behaviour to build completely custom search algorithms using a no-code visual query builder. Each Blueprint consists of one or more elements which can boost results, hide results, and so on, and can allow the creation of personalized search results.

SITE NAVIGATION

It is now possible to create sophisticated navigation for sites that are content-heavy using a number of new capabilities together. Firstly, site-builders can create Display Pages for Categories. Secondly, Display Pages can be added as Navigation Menu items. Finally, the Dropdown fragment provides the ability for non-developers to build mega-menus without the need to develop a custom theme.

Reducing the Cost and Effort to Launch and Maintain Digital Experiences

ASSET LIBRARIES

Asset Libraries now support Staging to reduce the amount of effort and cost required to organize content where multiple sites require the same content but also require data isolation.

DOCUMENTS AND MEDIA

Documents can now have Expiration Dates set on them - similar to Web Content - to prevent them from being published, for example, due to a temporary license.

FORMS, WEB CONTENT, DOCUMENTS AND MEDIA

Forms, Web Content, and Documents and Media now share a common user experience for both definition of new Forms, Structures and Types as well as for authoring new entries.

ITEM SELECTOR

The Item Selector now supports creation of Folders for Documents and Media, to optimize the process where documents are uploaded directly during the content creation process.

JS DEPENDENCY DECLARATION

JS Developers can now create projects for a given Liferay version just by specifying the target platform, instead of declaring all JS dependencies one by one. This brings JS development into step with Java development.

LIFERAY ENTERPRISE SEARCH

Liferay Enterprise Search (LES) features are now bundled with DXP 7.4 and available to all DXP subscribers unsupported. In order to gain support, customers will require an active Liferay Enterprise Search subscription.

PUBLICATIONS

Users can now invite teammates to join a publication for viewing, editing, and publishing. Users can also collaborate by adding comments to publications.

SEARCH RE-INDEXING

System Administrators can now limit the scope of Reindex actions to selected Virtual instances

SITE TEMPLATES

- Performance and Flexibility of Site Template propagation has been improved with new features including:
- Partial Propagation exports only changed pages within the Site Template
- Propagation Exports are now cached on first propagation and then reused asynchronously for other sites as needed
- Propagation can be temporarily disabled while Template Changes are being made and then re-enabled when completed to update Sites

STAGING

Staging performance has been improved with additional System Level configuration options to control whether Parent pages of a published page are published along with it. Turning this option off is also beneficial where changes to Parent pages are not ready to be published.

Additionally, a System or Instance level configuration option has been added to control whether Asset Links are published or not when no content is selected. When disabled, the amount of data exported is reduced, improving performance.

THEME ARCHITECTURE

Page load performance has been improved by reducing the CSS footprint loaded for each page. Further to this, Admin-only interfaces are no longer changed by theme changes, making it easier for developers to build custom themes.

TRANSLATION

Page authors can now translate the inline content of Content Pages. Further to this, Content Pages and Web Content Articles can now be automatically translated using the ML-based Google Cloud Translation service. A new Translation Processes tool has been added to make it easier to track progress of translations - e.g. where Workflow has been enabled for Translations and usability changes have been made to the language selector UI.

VIDEO AND AUDIO PREVIEW

Xuggler, an open source library used to generate audio and video previews has been deprecated and has been replaced by ffmpeg.

WYSIWYG EDITOR

A new balloon editor has been created using native CKEditor features, to replace the removed Alloy Editor. This also provides some UX improvements over its predecessor.

Leverage Liferay as the Foundation in Your Interconnected Enterprise Landscape

ACCOUNTS

Previously only available with Liferay Commerce, Accounts are now available to all users to provide attentive, individualized customer service in a B2B setting for both Commerce and non-Commerce scenarios. Administrators can model the Companies, Employees, and their responsibilities to facilitate interactions between these entities (such as purchasing of goods and services), and to document relevant information to support these interactions (Tax ID, Billing and Shipping Addresses, Personnel structures, etc.)

AUDIT

A new System Property has been provided to enable Audit information to be included in system logs - providing the ability to determine which request or instance this audit output belongs to. Additionally, developers can use the browser Network tool to view the x-request-id in the response header to cross match with the audit output to have a full view of the request life cycle.

CLICK-TO-CHAT

It is now possible to configure Liferay to integrate with a number of popular Click-to-Chat platforms. Once enabled, Liferay site users can chat with representatives at their own convenience. Providers supported for this release are: Chatwoot, Crisp, Hubspot, JivoChat, LiveChat, LivePerson, Smartsupp, Tawk.to, Tidio, and Zendesk. A subscription from a Provider is required to use this feature - check the provider's documentation for details.

DOCUSIGN INTEGRATION

It is now possible to configure Liferay to integrate with DocuSign to add Electronic Signature processes within Liferay. Once configured, Liferay users can send Digital Signature Envelopes with documents to DocuSign from Documents & Media and can view previously sent Digital Signature Envelopes to see the status and download signed documents. Administrators can also view the Digital Signature module in the Control Panel. A separate subscription with DocuSign is required.

HEADLESS APIS

New RESTful web services have been provided for:

- Managing Users, User Groups, Organizations, Roles, and Accounts, along with the ability to assign Roles to Users and configure permissions for Roles.
- Accessing Pages, including all Fragments added to those pages, and Page Experiences.

New endpoints have been added to:

- Show language selectors along with the active languages of sites and asset libraries. These can also be used to help identify to users which languages are available for content creation.
- Manage the permissions of content, documents, and other entities through custom apps, or automate the changes of permissions for any given role at scale.
- Retrieve not only the latest approved version of a structured content, but all versions, including drafts and those pending approval. These endpoints are designed to be used in custom content administration apps.
- Create structured contents as drafts.

MULTI-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION

Multi-factor Authentication (MFA) has been extended with support for FIDO2 devices to enable users to easily authenticate to online services in both mobile and desktop environments using Fingerprint Readers or Cameras in their devices, or with dedicated FIDO2 Security Keys.

OAuth 2 ADMINISTRATION

Registered OAuth 2 applications can now be configured as Trusted Applications to avoid the manual authorization process while obtaining a token. With the new “Remember Device” feature, Administrators can configure whether they want users to allow their devices to be remembered with manual authorization flows. Both features are useful, for example, for pure JS based single page applications (SPAs) that execute features from registered OAuth 2 applications.

OAuth 2 Administration also now provides the ability to revoke all existing authorizations of a registered OAuth 2 application with a single click.

OPENID CONNECT

It is now possible to configure OpenID Connect requests to go through a proxy via System Properties.

Additionally, Token Refresh has been enhanced to ensure that access tokens are refreshed before they expire.

REMOTE APPS

Remote Apps now allow registering remote JS files as Web Components. Once registered, a new Widget is provided to render the JS Apps as Custom Elements. This deployment-free mechanism allows frontend development to be decoupled from Liferay, while providing access to Liferay APIs, pages, etc. via the JS Client SDK.

SAML

The SAML Attribute Mapping user experience now makes it easier to model the scope & tracking of identifiers used for matching Service Provider (SP) users. For example, changing the “emailAddress” of the user on the Identity Provider (IDP) side is easily managed with the new UX. For existing users the new behaviour is only applied if and when required, ensuring backwards compatibility. Additionally, the SAML Connector is now bundled with DXP and patched through Updates to reduce maintenance effort for Administrators.

What's Next

Learn more about how Liferay can help your business take the next step in your digital strategy. Request a demo from one of our team members at liferay.com/request-a-demo.