

Drupal 10 Interview Preparation – Composer Update vs Composer Install

Q1: What is the difference between composer install and composer update in Drupal 10 projects?

In Drupal 10 projects, Composer is used to manage core, contributed modules, and third-party dependencies.

Understanding the difference between 'composer install' and 'composer update' is critical for deployment and maintenance.

1. composer install:

- Installs dependencies listed in composer.lock file.
- Does NOT check for newer versions.
- Ensures exact versions are installed as locked.
- Used in production and CI/CD environments.
- Guarantees consistency across environments.

2. composer update:

- Reads composer.json file.
- Checks for newer versions based on version constraints.
- Updates dependencies and rewrites composer.lock file.
- Used mainly in development environment.
- Can introduce new versions and potential breaking changes.

3. Impact on Drupal Projects:

- composer install ensures stable deployment.
- composer update is used when upgrading Drupal core, modules, or libraries.

4. Best Practice:

- Run composer update locally.
- Test changes thoroughly.
- Commit updated composer.lock.
- Run composer install on production servers.

In summary, 'composer install' ensures consistent and repeatable builds, while 'composer update' is used to upgrade dependencies and modify the lock file.