Why Upgrade To Silverstripe CMS 4

The key benefits for your organisation to upgrade to Silverstripe CMS 4

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As an essential part of your website's lifecycle, upgrading your content management system is a big decision. You want to make sure you are fully benefiting from a feature-rich, supported, and secure CMS. When you upgrade to Silverstripe CMS 4, you're making a significant improvement to your team's ability to create an outstanding digital experience for your users. Silverstripe CMS 4 is an intuitive, extensible CMS that is full of new features that make it faster, more secure, highly customisable, and easy-to-use for your content authors and developers.

**Product Features and Support**

Development Powerup

Product Experience

Product Features and Support

Modular content design with content blocks

Content blocks are a modern approach to building content in a modular way. By breaking up content pages into tailored blocks, content producers are given greater flexibility with the ability to craft user experiences around the types of content they are presenting. Using content blocks also reduces your upfront investment into template variations, while still allowing your developers to build sophisticated functionality. Silverstripe CMS 4 offers a commercially supported family of modules that delivers a powerful content block toolkit.
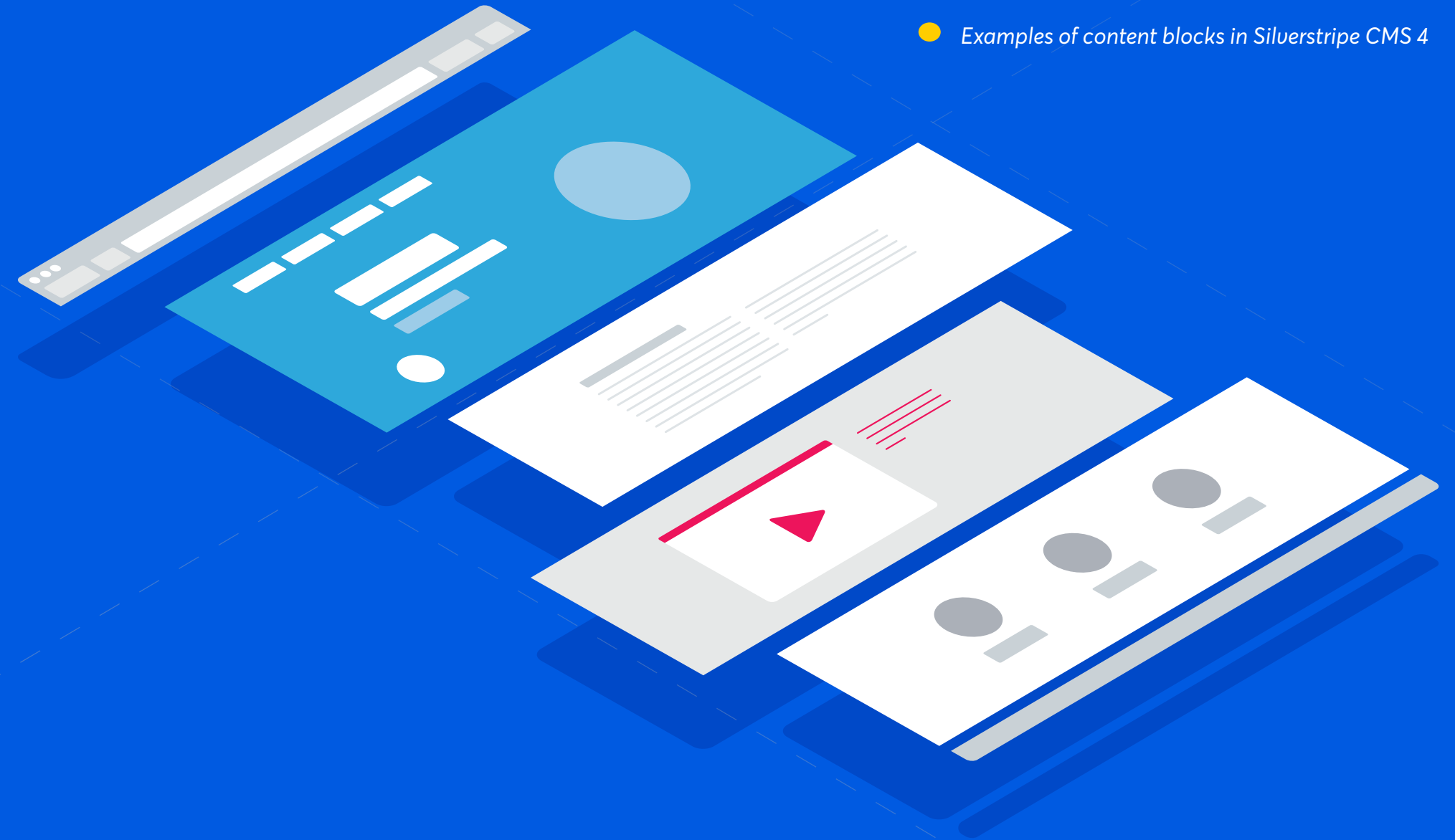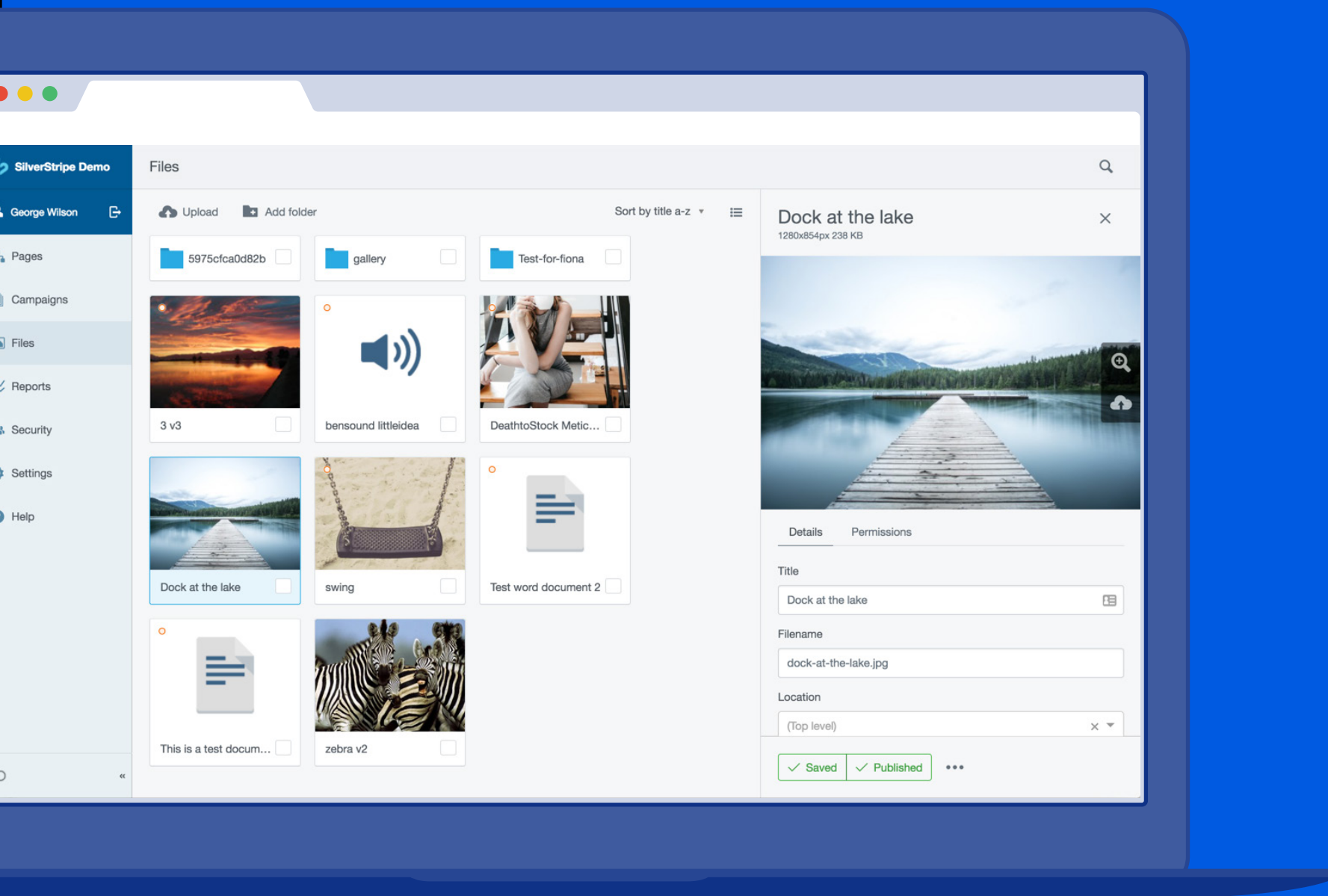
Files view

File and asset management

Built from the ground up, Silverstripe CMS 4 boasts a brand new user experience to make managing and maintaining files and images a breeze. Managing and locating your files within the CMS is now a lot easier, with a more visual experience of file thumbnails, and the addition of drag and drop functionality. Files are now versioned, meaning you can have a draft version of a file on a page without having to publish it instantly, giving you and your team time to improve a draft. The files area has its own bulk actions like move, publish, and archive. For more control over publishing mixed types of content, file publishing is integrated with the Campaign section.

Campaign area

As a brand new area of the CMS, the Campaign section allows content producers to orchestrate the creation of related content appearing across your website. You can create and group new content together to be released all at once. It is complete with access controls, allowing several people to work together seamlessly on a single campaign.

More secure

Cybersecurity risks are increasing. In the second quarter of FY19, CERT NZ received the highest number of reported incidents ever. These reported incidents included identified vulnerabilities such as weaknesses in software and online services that can be exploited to harm an organisation and its customers.

Silverstripe CMS is architected to safeguard your data; whether it be from malicious activity or inadvertent loss. Silverstripe CMS 4 offers robust security out-of-the-box, including using **GraphQL** to tighten your API integration points, supporting PHP7+, and having powerful caching controls.

Silverstripe releases updates every three months that are externally audited and penetration tested to align with the latest privacy legislation. Continuing to upgrade means security for your visitors' personal information, maintaining their trust throughout the process.

" *The first rule of cyber security is update your software.* "

— CIO Journal

GraphQL is the query language Silverstripe CMS 4 uses to control your API. This allows you to accurately define what data is transferred between integration points, giving you more control over the exposure of your data.

Development Powerup

New architecture options: Coupled, Decoupled, Headless

The flexibility of the new Silverstripe Framework and CMS empowers emerging architectures, like **Headless**, alongside more traditional website builds. Silverstripe CMS 4 is built for the future of the web, pairing its powerful interface with the separation of data from presentation, **powerful API integrations**, decoupled core modules, and asset management.

Product performance

Silverstripe CMS 4 helps to make managing large complex websites pain-free, with new approaches to multi-lingual support, caching control, and site-tree performance. This makes your website scale with growing user traffic, improving the user experience not only for your team but for your customers too.

Why Headless is valuable

Headless and Decoupled CMS provides greater opportunities for your teams, with greater vendor flexibility and content reach. Content is not locked to a single frontend, fundamentally changing how your organisation and your marketers engage with your audiences.

Why API integration is valuable

APIs allow you to integrate with best-of-breed tools to create your own digital experience stack that works for you and your business. This extends the features and capabilities available on your site, offering your team a greater user experience.

PHP is an open source server-side scripting language used to build websites.

Significant increase in website performance with PHP 7+

Built with PHP 7 in mind, Silverstripe CMS takes advantage of the significant performance improvements. Twice as fast as PHP 5, PHP 7 speeds up the CMS and dynamic pages while also being leaner, and offering better error handling with the new Engine Exceptions.

Better versioning and asset handling

Versioning pages is great for accountability and auditing, but traditionally, this functionality has been limited to Pages. Silverstripe CMS 4 significantly extends what can be versioned, allowing any data to have it's history recorded and accessible to content authors to edit and publish. You can now apply versioning functionality as you see fit, providing greater control, making for an easy and seamless editing experience when coupled with the campaign features. As almost everything can be restored to a previous state in its history, you'll never worry about losing data again!

A recipe is set of modules that are pre-installed as your standard set-up.
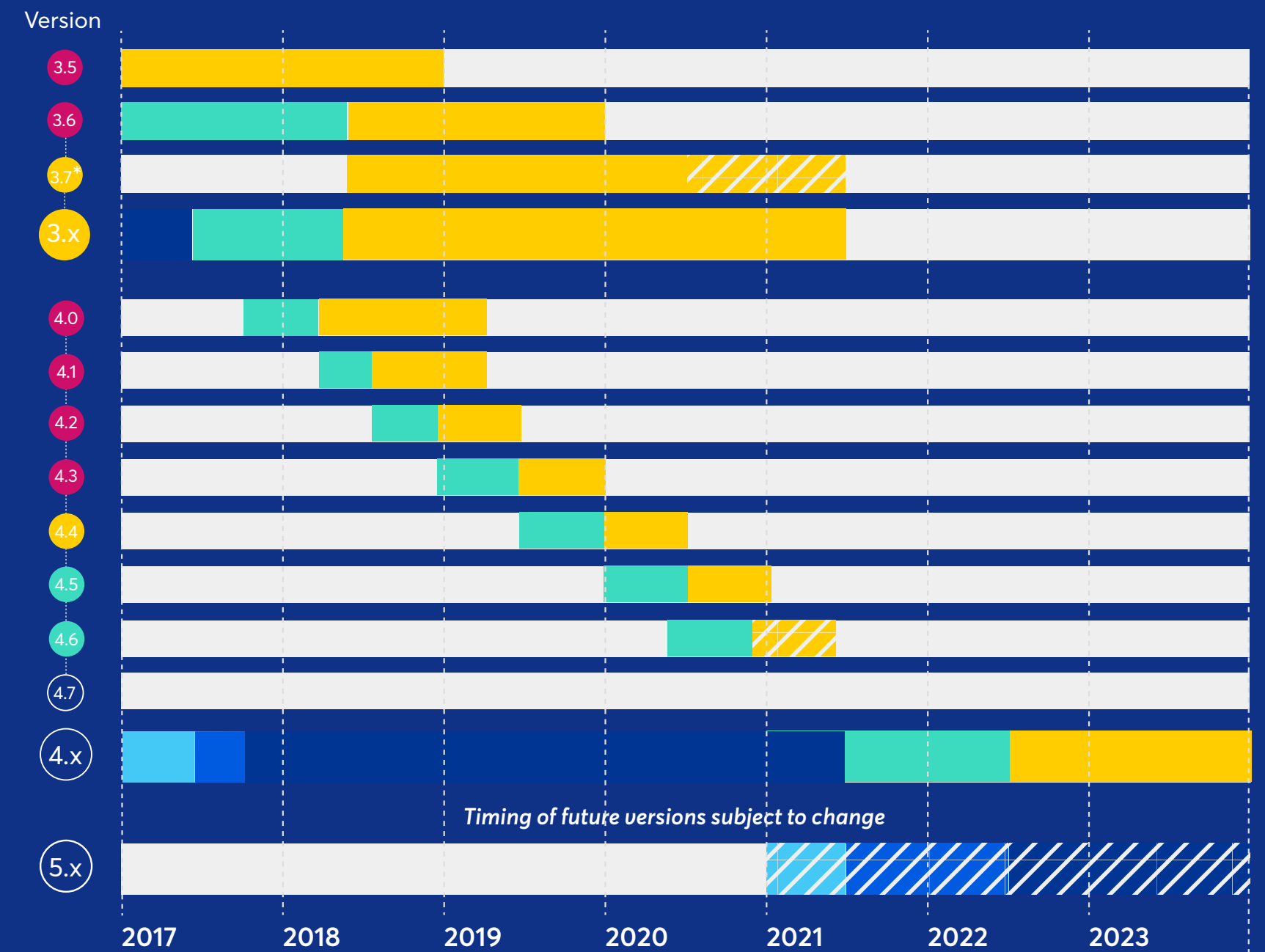
New recipe structure

We have moved away from the monolithic module packaging concept, towards a more granular approach. The new structure allows you to set up your modules differently. Now, Silverstripe CMS 4 allows for more flexibility when you choose modules and module bundles to build your website. This allows developers to selectively add bundles of functionality that are more appropriate for your site's needs. It reduces your site's codebase, alleviating maintenance and upgrade burdens.

Active development and long-term stability

Silverstripe CMS 4 is actively improved by a community of dedicated global contributors adding new features and improvements every month.

Silverstripe has committed to full support for the 4.x release line until late 2020, with security fixes through to the end of 2022. You can expect continuous improvement to your Silverstripe CMS 4 project for years to come, with new features, bug fixes, and security patches for the technology powering your website.

Version

3.5
3.6
3.7*
3.x
4.0
4.1
4.2
4.3
4.4
4.5
4.6
4.7
4.x
5.x

Timing of future versions subject to change

2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023

● In alpha ● In beta ● Active development[1] ● Full support[2] ● Limited support[3]
▨ To be confirmed ● End of life

* Subsequent releases may be created to facilitate security and critical fixes.
[1] New features, APIs and enhancements to be applied in the next release
[2] Non-critical bugfixes and all security fixes
[3] Critical bugfixes and critical security fixes

● *Silverstripe CMS 4 support timeline*

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Product experience

Content fluidity

All your content can now be managed in one central location while being pushed across multiple channels, as the frontend platforms are connected to your site via APIs. This simplifies content management across multiple channels, while streamlining the process for your content authors.

A modern and responsive user interface

We've done a lot of tidying up visually for the CMS interface. Ultimately, it's about keeping things simple, clean, and easy-to-use. The main sections of the CMS are now responsive. Reviewing and publishing content on different screen sizes is now simpler for content teams who aren't at a desktop.

A faster CMS experience

The purpose of Silverstripe CMS is to empower you to create great content for your users. Key sections of the CMS have been completely rebuilt using ReactJS, meaning faster screen loads and cleaner interactions with CMS features.
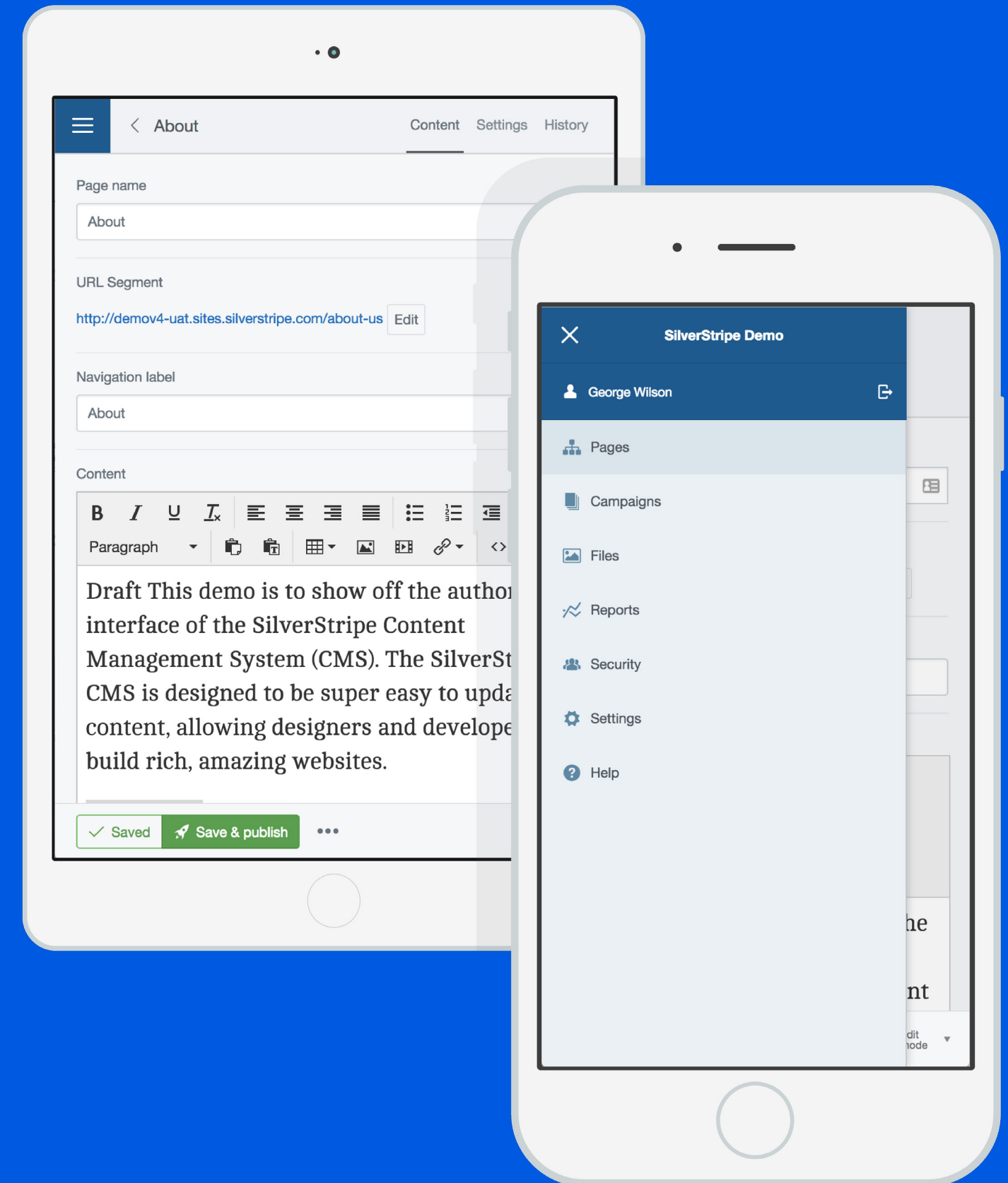
Rethink your site strategy

By upgrading your site, you'll receive access to a range of new features—this is a good time to think about improving your content and site strategies too.

Talk with our trusted experts to learn more about upgrading to Silverstripe CMS 4 and how you can elevate your website.

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Silverstripe