

A Drupal module fixes missing image **alt** **attributes** without development

Image Alt Fallback fills the gaps
automatically, configurable per
content type and field →

Missing alt attributes cost real Accessibility and SEO points

-6 / -8

Google Lighthouse subtracts up to **6 points** from the Accessibility audit and **8 points** from the SEO audit for a single missing alt attribute.

Screen readers and search engines both lose the image

- Screen readers **completely ignore** an image with no alt text, making the experience disruptive and confusing for blind users
- Missing alt text violates **WCAG Success Criterion 1.1.1: Non-text Content**
- Search engines cannot index what an image shows without it

A Drupal 9 to Drupal 11 migration left 12,000 images without proper alt text

A client's upgrade and content migration on a multilingual sports news blog surfaced around **12,000 missing or wrong image alt attributes**, found using the Screaming Frog tool.

Some images had no alt attribute at all. Others carried alt text in the wrong language, English text showing up on the `/es` version of the site.

12k

broken alt attributes

There was no way to find the pattern behind the failures

- Was the issue tied to a specific content type, like **Articles**?
- Was the wrong-language text caused by untranslated **Media** content?
- Drupal ships with **no default mechanism**, no view, no report, to identify images with problematic alt attributes
- The root cause sat at the migration source: on Drupal 9, some images never had an alt attribute to begin with

The long-term fix is alt text stored at the source

- The ideal solution is meaningful alt text stored directly on the **File or Media entity**
- Recent Drupal versions require the alt attribute by default, but older versions or other source systems may not, so migrations carry the legacy gap forward
- Gaps also appear day to day: an alt field left optional, by misconfiguration or as an explicit project requirement, or images that should be decorative
- Until the content is fixed at the source, a **safety net** can close the gap automatically →

Image Alt Fallback fills missing alt text automatically

Install and configure. **No development work required.**

The module acts in a `post_render` callback: no database changes, no Twig template changes.

Configure the fallback per content type and field

Set a **Global default behaviour** for the whole site: use the parent entity's label, or mark the image as decorative.

Override the default per field. Set `field_image` on **Articles** to the entity label, and a taxonomy's `field_image` to decorative.

The screenshot shows the 'Image Alt Fallback' configuration page in Drupal. At the top, there is a breadcrumb trail: Home > Administration > Configuration > Media. Below this is the page title 'Image Alt Fallback' with a star icon. A status message indicates that a shortcut has been deleted. The 'Default behavior' section shows a dropdown menu set to 'Entity label'. Below this, a note states that the fallback behavior is applied to fields configured as 'Default'. The 'Content' section is expanded, showing the 'Article' content type. Under 'Article', there are two 'Media Image (field_media_image)' fields. The first field has a dropdown menu open, showing options: 'None', 'Default (from global setting)', 'Entity label', and 'Role presentation'. The second field also has a dropdown menu set to 'None'. At the bottom of the configuration area is a 'Save configuration' button.

Editors can find problematic images without technical help

The module ships with a helper view that lets editors browse all media items, filter by alt status, empty or not empty, and by type.

It targets only images that currently have no alt attribute text defined.

Media alts ☆

Content

Blocks

Files

Media

Media Alts

Media name

Type

Published status

Language

Alt exists

Alt content

Filter

Thumbnail	Media name	Type	Author	Status	Updated	Operations
	ocean-wave-sunset.jpg Alt: Large ocean wave cresting at dusk under pink sunset clouds	Image	admin	Published	14 Jul 2026 - 10:26	Edit
	basketball-hoop-net.jpg Alt: Basketball falling through the net of an outdoor hoop on a tree-lined court	Image	admin	Published	14 Jul 2026 - 10:26	Edit
	sprinter-relay-race-start.jpg Alt: Sprinter with a relay baton crouched in starting blocks on a red athletics track	Image	admin	Published	14 Jul 2026 - 10:26	Edit
	womens-football-match.jpg Alt: Two female football players challenging for the ball in front of the goal during a match	Image	admin	Published	14 Jul 2026 - 10:26	Edit
	woman-barbell-overhead-press.jpg Alt: Woman lifting a loaded barbell overhead at a squat rack in a gym, seen from behind	Image	admin	Published	14 Jul 2026 - 10:26	Edit
	butterfly-stroke-swimmer.jpg Alt: Swimmer doing the butterfly stroke in the lane of a competition pool	Image	admin	Published	14 Jul 2026 - 10:26	Edit



Have thousands of images with missing alt text?

At **Metadrop** we built Image Alt Fallback after finding this exact gap on a real migration. Install it, configure it, done.

Follow us for more on Drupal and accessibility.



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