

Weeknotes Friday 26 September

- Map component for prototype kit
- Efficient land registration
- Gov mission
- Bookmarks - refer back to these

Map component for gov.uk prototype kit

I'm not a coder! Well I am, but not as a professional. I can do a bit in a few languages, I understand the basics, I can make things. I can Google things. I can ask AI now to assist. I reckon I understand enough to Google and prompt.

Making a component that anyone can npm install and use in the gov prototype kit is something I wanted to do for a while.

Maps - I'd like to be able, and colleagues, be able to copy and paste nunjucks macro code from our design system into a page in the kit and a map appears when they run it. That's beyond my current coding ability.

What's the simplest form of that - an image of a map with alt text. MVP component.

Work my way up to that ..

Experiment 1. Gov prototype kit tutorial for a plugin. Follow that, make a map page - just text. Works. But is a whole page, no image, not a component. Could probably extend it to include an image?

Experiment 2. With chatGPT help, make a macro in the prototype kit I'm using to test the experiments. It requires an image from assets/images (public/images). I can use the macro in any page and it works. Amazing. But needs to be in the same app as the rest of the proto. I want to npm install in any proto and get it.

Experiment 3. With chatGPT help...

Got a separate thing, supposedly like govuk front end, but prototype app can't see it. Stuck.

Efficient land registration

London in-person meeting. Trepidation to attend as 2 weeks ago picked up cold/COVID? in London for work. Still getting over that.

Great meeting. Service design, Product and Business architecture reviewing the work done on what the future could be like. 2030 and beyond. Map for processing house sales

(transfer and charge - ie new owner with mortgage), and principles for future - working out capabilities the organisation needs.

Nothing I've been active in creating, other than contributing for a day to the proposed principles.

Outcomes of the day:

- We all have very similar vision.
- The different maps/artifacts are closer than it appears
- We understand each others roles better
- The vision is a shared thing, we all need to hold and communicate
- We should meet regularly to continue work - when and what and how to be determined
- How do we bring this more to life for others
- Need a shared language - I suspect this won't be easy
- Need different zoom levels on this strategy - this is too high for most people in the 'delivery' space

Things I've been talking about, trying to illustrate, make conceptual screens/assets for, other people have independently had very similar thoughts and ideas. So we're all really on the same page.

Conceptual services I've been mocking up/leading others to do - are ideas in this area. So that's going to be useful.

Gov mission work

Progress with outlining and directing design work for what 'consuming' the information looks like.

Suggested to the team we have some 'sprint' goals to guide work/provide focus.

Write these in the past tense - i.e. it's done when...

We've shared with the minister what 'publish' looks like.

Everyone seemed happy to go along with that as an approach to get us more organised.

More work done on the 'data model'. Everyone needs this to be able to understand what the legislation means in practice as we work out how to implement it.

That's the other sprint goal I suggested - shared v1 of the data model.

Sprint goals in the past tense are the best way I've ever worked in. For me, as work is about communicating, to at least each other in the team, but usually wider, and often involves

others outside the team to agree. I think the goals are good to start with or include words like:

- Shared
- Socialised
- Agreed
- Shown

And to make them achievable, include words like, draft or version 1, or initial.

It 'forces' working together and keeping the scope focused and achievable.

Design wise we currently think it is hard to work out how to make a UI for people submitting the information. The model is full of many to many relationships - so there will be a lot of, Add another.

Working together on the model is being led by data architecture, and will also help other technical architects, legal, business analysis. So it's a key item for us all - one of the gnarly things to work out / riskiest assumption.

It's also helped us think more about finding answers for secure by design, where we are at on this right now. We want to bake secure by design and service standards into the way we work - which is a big change for nearly all of the team.

I've organised an alpha review (external, as we don't do internal) for mid-ish November. Date to be confirmed.

Bookmarks

Articles and nuggets to return to.

[Frankie Roberto's weeknotes included notes about prototype kit training](#), which I found useful for thinking about what I'm planning for this autumn - training content designers to use the kit.

[Annotations in design documentation for accessibility](#), by Craig Abbott. I think all of our designers will find this useful. I'll have a think about how we all do something to level up our documentation in delivery teams. Just sharing the link won't be enough.

Simple, 'obvious' (to me) advice published in the [Government Service Manual for using AI in services](#). Good simple. Good obvious. Very important to have it there. I've started (not got far) an AI strategy for User Centred Design, and I can anchor it to this. I learnt about this courtesy of [Joe Lanman](#).

[What if being bold was an explicit civil service value](#). By Janet Hughes. Looked this up this week, to remind me and look for words I wanted to use in describing and holding the space for people to experiment.

