**Reading list for government policy people interested in digital**

A number of us that bridge the digital and policy communities in and around government have come together to talk about making government in the UK more effective by working together under the banner of '[one team government](http://oneteamgov.uk/)'.

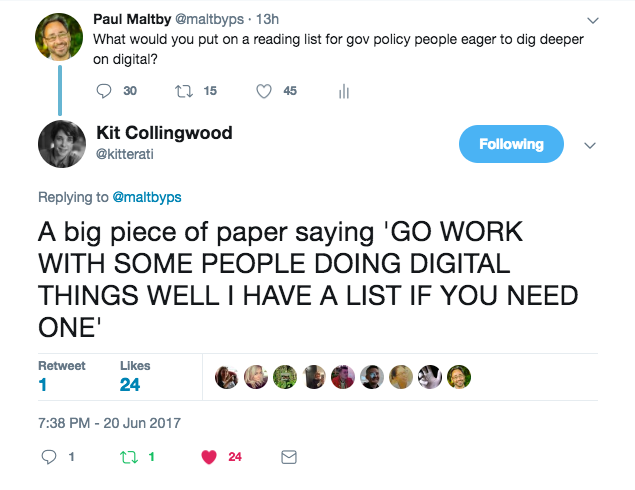
In public services ‘policy’ and ‘digital’ can at times feel like they are different universes, populated by colleagues with significantly different skillsets. But these worlds are colliding, and the working practices and underlying assumptions of both disciplines are likely to be challenged and probably significantly so in coming years. A new cadre of public service reformers are emerging who are rewriting the way in government works and are curious to learn more about each other’s roles. Glimpses of this way of working can be seen in [Policy Lab](https://openpolicy.blog.gov.uk/), and in teams from the [apprenticeships service](https://sfadigital.blog.gov.uk/2017/03/24/dont-bring-policy-and-delivery-closer-together-make-them-the-same-thing/) and elsewhere.

We are planning an (oversubscribed) [unconference](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/one-team-government-better-together-tickets-34402846841) on 29 June, but you can sign up to the waiting list as there will no doubt be other events. Our aim is to develop a longer term community and dialogue between the professions. Also watch the hashtag [#OneTeamGov](https://twitter.com/search?q=%23oneteamgov&src=typd).

Some of us who started off in the policy profession like to dig deeper and understand where all this started and how it has evolved, and based on my own experience I started to put together a short reading list for the event aimed at policy colleagues, with what I considered some of the important written pieces about the internet era:

* [The Agile Manifesto](https://www.agilealliance.org/agile101/the-agile-manifesto/), 2001
* [Government as a platform](http://chimera.labs.oreilly.com/books/1234000000774/ch02.html), [Tim O’Reilly](https://twitter.com/timoreilly), 2010
* [The Cathedral and the Bazaar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Cathedral_and_the_Bazaar), [Eric S. Raymond](https://twitter.com/esrtweet), 1997
* [Software is eating the world](https://vincentkeunen.files.wordpress.com/2011/12/marc-andreessen-on-why-software-is-eating-the-world.pdf), [Marc Andreessen](https://twitter.com/pmarca), 2011
* [New Power](https://hbr.org/2014/12/understanding-new-power), [Jeremy Heimans](https://twitter.com/jeremyheimans) and [Henry Timms](https://twitter.com/henrytimms), 2014
* [Government Digital Service design principles](https://www.gov.uk/design-principles), 2012
* [Government as a platform, or a platform for government? Which are we getting?](http://www.computerweekly.com/opinion/Government-as-a-platform-or-a-platform-for-government-Which-are-we-getting) and [What is government as a platform and how do we achieve it?](http://www.computerweekly.com/opinion/What-is-government-as-a-platform-and-how-do-we-achieve-it), both by [Mark Thompson](https://twitter.com/markthompson1), 2015
* [Definition of digital](https://twitter.com/tomskitomski/status/729974444794494976), by [Tom Loosemore](https://twitter.com/tomskitomski), 2016

Conscious that there was probably a lot I’d missed [I asked on Twitter](https://twitter.com/maltbyps/status/877228688009551873) for suggestions and, as is so often the case, the internet responded with some enthusiasm. And, fabulously and perhaps inevitably, it was pointed out that asking about a reading list for a community like digital was *so policy*.



The suggestions I received are set out below, and I’ve roughly grouped them. I know some of these but many are new to me and I haven’t edited the list. This is also a great list of people to follow, if you don’t already.

**Digital**

* [What is code?](https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2015-paul-ford-what-is-code/) By Paul Ford, 2015. Via [Chris Thorpe](https://twitter.com/jaggeree)
* [An introduction to Wardley value chain mapping](http://blog.gardeviance.org/2015/02/an-introduction-to-wardley-value-chain.html?m=1), by [Simon Wardley](https://twitter.com/swardley). Via [Paul Downey](https://twitter.com/psd) and [Richard Pope](https://twitter.com/richardjpope)
* [We’re not leaving this bar until we’ve come up with such a great idea that I can’t sack you](https://storythings.com/we-re-not-leaving-this-bar-until-we-ve-come-up-with-such-a-great-idea-that-i-can-t-sack-you-b12ddfd53fa8), by [Tony Ageh](https://twitter.com/TonyAgeh), 2014. Via [Chris Thorpe](https://twitter.com/jaggeree)
* [Product Land](http://blog.memespring.co.uk/2015/09/14/product-land-part-3/), by [Richard Pope](https://twitter.com/richardjpope), 2015. Via [Rachel Coldicutt](https://twitter.com/rachelcoldicutt)
* [Being Digital](https://www.amazon.co.uk/d/Books/Being-Digital-Nicholas-Negroponte/0340649305), [Nicholas Negroponte](https://twitter.com/nnegroponte), 1996. Via [Michael Smethurst](about:blank)
* [Checklist manifesto](https://www.amazon.com/Checklist-Manifesto-How-Things-Right/dp/0312430000/ref=as_li_ss_tl?_encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=&linkCode=sl1&tag=learisgrow-20&linkId=cb0b12fe0a511c4b0ecea8d0482e2049) by [Atul gawande](https://twitter.com/Atul_Gawande), 2011. Via [Liam Maxwell](https://twitter.com/liammax)
* [The Phoenix Project](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Phoenix-Project-DevOps-Helping-Business-ebook/dp/B00AZRBLHO) by [Gene Kim](https://twitter.com/RealGeneKim), 2013. Via [Paul Downey](https://twitter.com/psd)
* [Rework](https://37signals.com/rework), by [Jason Fried](https://twitter.com/jasonfried) and David Heinemeier Hansson, 2010. Via [Paul Downey](https://twitter.com/psd)
* [Whiplash: How to Survive Our Faster Future](https://www.amazon.com/Whiplash-How-Survive-Faster-Future/dp/1455544590), by [Joi Ito](https://twitter.com/joi) and [Jeff Howe](https://twitter.com/crowdsourcing). Via [Nati Carfi](https://twitter.com/naticarfi)
* [How to make sense of any mess](http://www.howtomakesenseofanymess.com/) by [Abby Covert](https://twitter.com/Abby_the_IA) 2015. Via [Paul Downey](https://twitter.com/psd)
* [Subject To Change: Creating Great Products & Services for an Uncertain World](https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B0026OR3MQ/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1) by [Peter Merholz](https://twitter.com/peterme), 2008. Via [Nic Cary](https://twitter.com/geektwogeek)
* [Sweat the small stuff,](https://www.ted.com/talks/rory_sutherland_sweat_the_small_stuff) TED talk by [Rory Sutherland](https://twitter.com/rorysutherland), 2012. Via [Nic Cary](https://twitter.com/geektwogeek)
* [Homo Deus](https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B019CGXTP0/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1), by [Yuval Noah Harari](https://twitter.com/harari_yuval); Via [Stefan Webb](https://twitter.com/Stef_W)
* [Race Against The Machine: How the Digital Revolution is Accelerating Innovation, Driving Productivity, and Irreversibly Transforming Employment and the Economy](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Race-Against-Machine-Accelerating-Productivity-ebook/dp/B005WTR4ZI), by [Erik Brynjolfsson](https://twitter.com/erikbryn). Via [Matt Cain](https://twitter.com/mcaino)
* [Play Anything: The Pleasure of Limits, the Uses of Boredom, and the Secret of Games](https://www.amazon.com/Play-Anything-Pleasure-Limits-Boredom/dp/0465051723), by [Ian Bogost](https://twitter.com/ibogost). Via [Nati Carfi](https://twitter.com/naticarfi)

**Government digital**

* [Policy Making in a Digital Age](https://t.co/CjDowtifBU), [Jennifer Pahlka](https://twitter.com/pahlkadot). Via [Honey Dacanay](https://twitter.com/honeygolightly)
* [Can you recognise the million pound chair?](https://www.mysociety.org/2012/06/19/can-you-recognize-the-million-pound-chair/) by [Tom Steinberg](https://twitter.com/steiny), 2012. Via [Richard Pope](https://twitter.com/richardjpope)
* [Digital government: not complicated, just hard](https://t.co/yPmHzO4hCX), YouTube video by [Tom Loosemore](https://twitter.com/tomskitomski). [Via Richard Barton](https://twitter.com/CIOPortfolio)
* [How Boston’s tech squad saved the city from its annual moving day nightmare](https://www.wired.com/2015/12/how-bostons-tech-squad-saved-the-city-from-its-annual-moving-day-nightmare/), by [Susan Crawford](https://twitter.com/scrawford), 2015. Via [Andrew Schrock](https://twitter.com/aschrock)
* [Boiling Frogs](https://t.co/aT8vTTZDtK), [GCHQ](https://twitter.com/GCHQ). Via [Ross Ferguson](https://twitter.com/rossferg)
* [Tim O’Reilly on the Code Red Time magazine article by Steve Brill.](https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/20140325160616-16553--they-have-no-use-for-someone-who-looks-and-dresses-like-me) Via [Honey Dacanay](https://twitter.com/honeygolightly)
* [The Responsive City: Engaging Communities Through Data-Smart Governance](http://eu.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-1118910907.html) [Stephen Goldsmith](https://twitter.com/GoldsmithOnGov) and [Susan Crawford](https://twitter.com/scrawford), 2014. Via [Andrew Schrock](https://twitter.com/aschrock)
* [Delivering on digital](http://www.deliveringondigital.com/) by [William Eggers](https://twitter.com/wdeggers), 2016. Via [Matt Cain](https://twitter.com/mcaino)
* [Improving the Management of Digital Government,](https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/publications/improving-management-digital-government) by [Institute for Government](https://twitter.com/instituteforgov), 2016. Via [Eoin McFadden](https://twitter.com/EoinMcFadden)
* [Making a success of Digital Government](https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/publications/making-success-digital-government), by [Institute for Government,](https://twitter.com/instituteforgov) 2016. Via [David Durant](https://twitter.com/cholten99)
* [Top digital policy developments in 2016: A year in review](https://www.diplomacy.edu/blog/report-top-digital-policy-developments-2016-year-review), by [DiploFoundation](https://twitter.com/DiplomacyEdu). Via [Andrew Toft](https://twitter.com/iamtoft)
* [Strategic reading for people changing government](http://strategicreading.uk/), blog by [Stefan Czerniawski](https://twitter.com/pubstrat)
* [Five for Friday](https://da.vebrig.gs/category/links/), blog by [Dave Briggs](https://twitter.com/davebriggs)
* [Rise of the Robots: Technology and the threat of mass unemployment](https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B01DRYIS4K/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1), by [Martin Ford](https://twitter.com/MFordFuture); Via [Stefan Webb](https://twitter.com/Stef_W)
* [The Code Book: a secret history of codes and codebreaking](https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B003VWDOK2/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1) by [Simon Singh](https://twitter.com/SLSingh), 2010. Via [Paul Downey](https://twitter.com/psd)
* [1984](https://t.co/8nQcEYVGxI), by George Orwell, 1949. Via [Hendrik Grothuis](https://twitter.com/HendrikG)

**Design**

* [Designing Delivery](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Designing-Delivery-Rethinking-Digital-Service/dp/1491949880), by [Jeff Sussna](https://twitter.com/jeffsussna), 2015. Via [Matt Edgar](https://twitter.com/mattedgar)
* [We need new patterns](https://projectsbyif.com/ideas/we-need-new-patterns), by [Sarah Gold](https://twitter.com/sarahtgold). Via [Richard Pope](https://twitter.com/richardjpope)
* [Leading Public Design](https://policypress.co.uk/leading-public-design), by [Christian Bason](https://twitter.com/christianbason). Via [Matt Edgar](https://twitter.com/mattedgar)
* [Most of government is mostly service design most of the time. Discuss](https://blog.mattedgar.com/2015/05/12/most-of-government-is-mostly-service-design-most-of-the-time-discuss/), by [Matt Edgar](https://twitter.com/mattedgar). Via [Honey Dacanay](https://twitter.com/honeygolightly)
* [The Actual Problem to be Solved](https://t.co/OWsrahvsry), 2017, by [Kate Tarling](https://twitter.com/kateldn) and [Ayesha Moarif](https://twitter.com/ayeshamoarif). Via [Olivia Neal](https://twitter.com/LivNeal)
* [The Needs of Government](https://t.co/eCkUKC244w), by [Ben Holliday](https://twitter.com/BenHolliday). Via [Paul Smith](https://twitter.com/paulmsmith)
* [I fought the law and the users won](https://gds.blog.gov.uk/2014/06/20/i-fought-the-law-and-the-users-won-delivering-online-voter-registration/), by [Peter Herlihy](https://gds.blog.gov.uk/author/peter-herlihy/). Via [Joe Lanman](https://twitter.com/joelanman)
* [Citizen interactive design](https://www.dropbox.com/s/j3harzawy6o2ic0/Cliff%20Lampe%20-%20Citizen%20Interaction%20Design-%20Teaching%20HCI%20Through%20Service%20%282016%29.pdf?dl=0) by [Cliff Lampe](https://twitter.com/clifflampe), 2016. Via [Andrew Schrock](https://twitter.com/aschrock)

**Leadership**

* [What a digital organisation looks like](https://medium.com/doteveryone/what-a-digital-organisation-looks-like-82426a210ab8), 2017, by [Janet Hughes](https://twitter.com/JanetHughes). Via [Claire-Marie Foulquier-Gazagnes](https://twitter.com/_cmfg)
* [Digital is something you are](https://t.co/Ci1Y0yLb12), by [Giles Turnbull](https://twitter.com/gilest). Via [Chris Thorpe](https://twitter.com/jaggeree)
* [Digital leadership: changing your whole approach, not just doing better digital projects](https://doteveryone.org.uk/blog/2017/02/being-an-effective-leader-in-a-digital-age-is-abou/#sthash.dQA3ytCY.dpuf) by [Janet Hughes](https://twitter.com/JanetHughes), 2017. Via [Richard Pope](https://twitter.com/richardjpope)
* [What if boldness were an explicit value of the civil service](https://medium.com/public-innovators-network/what-if-boldness-were-an-explicit-value-of-the-civil-service-3df6a3d2d008), by [Janet Hughes](https://twitter.com/JanetHughes), 2016. Via [Giles Turnbull](https://twitter.com/gilest)
* [Leadership on the Line](http://hbswk.hbs.edu/archive/2952.html) by [Ronald Heifetz](https://twitter.com/RonHeifetz) and [Marty Linsky](https://twitter.com/martylinsky). Via [Matt Cain](https://twitter.com/mcaino)
* [The mythical man month](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Mythical_Man-Month) by Fred Brooks, 1975. Via [Steve O’Connor](https://twitter.com/OOconnors)

**Politics and Digital**

* [National Digital Conference keynote speech](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/national-digital-conference-2015-keynote-speech), by [Matt Hancock MP](https://twitter.com/MattHancock). Via [Peter Wells](https://twitter.com/peterkwells)
* [There's a revolution out there - and Labour must be part of it](http://www.newstatesman.com/politics/staggers/2016/06/theres-revolution-out-there-and-labour-must-be-part-it), by [Chi Onwurah MP](https://twitter.com/ChiOnwurah), 2016. Via [Peter Wells](https://twitter.com/peterkwells)
* [My vision for a smarter state](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-minister-my-vision-for-a-smarter-state), by [David Cameron](https://twitter.com/David_Cameron), 2015. Via [Peter Wells](https://twitter.com/peterkwells)
* [The righteous mind: why good people are divided by politics and religion](https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B0076O2VMI/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1), by [Jonathan Haidt](https://twitter.com/JonHaidt). Via [Represent](https://twitter.com/RepresentLive)
* [The dictator's handbook: why bad behaviour is almost always good politics](https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B06XBY3XJV/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1), by Bruce Bueno de Mesquita. Via [Represent](https://twitter.com/RepresentLive)
* [The New Urban Crisis: How Our Cities Are Increasing Inequality, Deepening Segregation, and Failing the Middle Class – and What We Can Do About It](https://www.amazon.com/New-Urban-Crisis-Segregation-Class/dp/0465079741/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1494855529&sr=8-1&keywords=The+New+Urban+Crisis%3A+How+Our+Cities+Are+Increasing+Inequality%2C+Deepening+Segregation%2C+and+Failing+the+Middle+Class--and+What+We+Can+Do+About+It), by [Richard Florida](https://twitter.com/Richard_Florida). Via [Nati Carfi](https://twitter.com/naticarfi)

**Data**

* [One year on from the general election what does the data landscape look like?](https://t.co/Ky6WuTyb4A), by [Ellen Broad](https://twitter.com/ellenbroad). Via [Sam Smith](https://twitter.com/smithsam)
* [A manifesto for data literacy](https://t.co/ShizPFVrFk) by [Matt Locke](https://twitter.com/matlock). Via [Chris Thorpe](https://twitter.com/jaggeree)
* [Weapons of Math Destruction: How Big Data Increases Inequality and Threatens Democracy](http://www.amazon.com/Weapons-Math-Destruction-Increases-Inequality/dp/0553418815/ref=as_li_bk_tl/?tag=fastcomp08-20&linkId=1b4b27aed6d9b945e3b43f2c9347a24d&linkCode=ktl), by [Cathy O’Neil](https://twitter.com/mathbabedotorg). Via [Nati Carfi](https://twitter.com/naticarfi)
* [Data and Goliath: The Hidden Battles to Collect Your Data and Control Your World](https://www.amazon.com/Data-Goliath-Battles-Collect-Control/dp/039335217X), by [Bruce Schneier](https://twitter.com/schneierblog). Via [Nati Carfi](https://twitter.com/naticarfi)

**Government**

* [The Whitehall Effect: How Whitehall Became the Enemy of Great Public Services - and What We Can Do About it](https://www.amazon.co.uk/d/cka/Whitehall-Effect-Became-Enemy-Great-Public-Services/1909470457), by John Seddon. Via [John Peart](https://twitter.com/johnpeart) and [Matt Cain](https://twitter.com/mcaino)
* [The Blunders of our Governments](https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B00MY8S5MQ/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1), by Anthony King. Via [Stefan Czerniawski](https://twitter.com/pubstrat)
* [Whitehall](https://www.amazon.co.uk/d/Books/Whitehall-Peter-Hennessy/0712667555), by Peter Hennessy; Via [Stefan Webb](https://twitter.com/Stef_W)
* [The Defence of the realm: the authorised history of MI5](https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B007IO1WQC/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1), by Christopher Andrew. Via [Stefan Webb](https://twitter.com/Stef_W)
* [The Naked Diplomat](https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B013L2LPVG/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?_encoding=UTF8&btkr=1), by [Tom Fletcher](https://twitter.com/TFletcher). Via [Jen Persson](https://twitter.com/TheABB)
* [In defence of politics](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Defence-Politics-Continuum-Impacts/dp/0826487513), by Bernard Crick. Via [Stefan Webb](https://twitter.com/Stef_W)

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