PRACTICUM FAQ (DRAFT – FOR INPUT)

Question	Answer
What are the goals of the practicum?	The main goal of the practicum is to provide you with an opportunity to experience and demonstrate what you have learned through the program as either a Premium or Solutions Leaders participant. You will do so by prototyping solutions to real-life problems, using a design thinking approach and Agile techniques, with support from coaches and facilitators. In addition to solidifying your learning and generating concrete solutions, we also hope to create a community of Digital Leaders and Practitioners who will spread their new knowledge, skills and digital mindset across government.
What are my learning objectives?	By the end of the practicum, everyone should be able to: - test assumptions - define a workable problem - apply Agile project management techniques - use data to inform decisions - prototype a solution with users - tell a compelling story around a solution More specific learning objectives have also been identified for each stream, based on expected role within the team. **DESIGN** By the end of the practicum, participants should be able to: - Facilitate the ideation and idea selection process - Help a team achieve inclusive and accessible design - Guide the choice of methods for testing the usability of a prototyped solution **AI & MACHINE LEARNING**

(add objectives)

DATA

By the end of the practicum, participants should be able to:
- Establish baseline data
- Validate initial hypothesis through data collection

SOLUTIONS LEADERS

By the end of the practicum, participants should be able to:
- Scope a problem
- Lead the development of a proof of concept, including key metrics
- Facilitate planning and prototyping through an Agile process
- Articulate change management needs
- Lead the demonstration of a prototype

Are we expected to come up with a fully developed solution?

No. You are however expected to present a plan on how the solution could be developed and implemented as part of your presentation.

What will be my role, as a learner?

If you are a Solutions Leader, you are expected to guide your team towards a desirable (from a user perspective), feasible and viable solution to a real-life problem or challenge. You will provide directions to your team, and be available for decision-making. You will also present iterations of your solution to other teams and panels throughout the practicum. If you are a Practitioner (Premium tier), you will be expected to "do" the work needed to bring the solution to life. The learning objectives for each stream give a more precise idea of what is expected in terms of role and responsibilities.

What type of support will we get?

Leaders - and teams in general - will be assigned an Agile coach. Design, data, AI/ML, and DevOps practitioners will also be available to help teams validate problems, brainstorm ideas, select ideas for prototyping, and prototype and test solutions. Technical assistants will be available to resolve technical issues, and the practicum coordinator will be available to help leaders and teams solve other types of problems.

How will solutions be accessed?

Solutions will be assessed twice: in the middle of the practicum, and at the end, on the last day or Demo Day. We are developing assessment criteria that will be communicated to you during the orientation session that will be held the week before the practicum. The same criteria will be communicated and used by panel members who will assess your solutions. We haven't yet identified who will be part of the two panels (mid and end of the practicum), but they will likely be a mix of practitioners and executives.

Will there be a "winner"?

The assumption is that you will all win from this unique, hands-on experience. Team awards may be given based on predetermined categories. However, no decision has been taken yet in that regard. You have suggestions? Let us know!

How will I be assessed on an individual level?

Individual assessment for the beta cohort will be self-based, and linked to learning objectives. It means you will have to fill out a self-assessment survey at the beginning of the practicum, and another at the end that will give you - and us! - a measure of *how much* and *what* you have learned during the practicum. The self-assessment surveys will be available on line. More to follow.

Will I get some type of certification?

For the beta version of the practicum, you will get a completion certificate based on participation. Attendance will be monitored. For future iterations of the practicum, we are exploring the concept of badges and more formal certification. Once we know more about how certification will work in the future, you will be informed on what you need to do to qualify.

What happens if I can't participate during the entire practicum?

Let us know as soon as you can, and we will see what we can do. Participation throughout the 14 days is in general mandatory, but we know that some participants, for valid reasons, may not be able to attend on certain days. Because this is a beta, we need to explore different scenarios and think of solutions, ahead of time if possible. Thank you for letting us know.

How will I get my completion certificate if I can't attend Demo Day?

We can certainly arrange for your to get you completion certificate even if you can't be there on Demo Day. However, we would appreciate if you would let us know in advance.

When are the groups formed?

The groups will be formed at the end of Day 3 or at the beginning of Day 4 of the practicum.

How are the groups formed?

Once the solutions to be prototyped have been selected, you decide where your contribution would add most value. Can't decide what group to join? Don't worry! We can help you find a group that would benefit from your knowledge and skills. Please note that you may be asked to contribute to more than one team.

How many people in a group?

In addition to the Solutions Leader, 4 to 6 people can make up a group. You may need to switch group some days to replace absentees, or work with more than one group if your expertise is unique and required for more than one solution.

Will all Premium streams be represented in each group?

Potentially, but not necessarily. Group composition will vary based on the solution being prototyped and the type of expertise it requires. However, there will be at least one designer assigned to each group.

How many groups will there be in total?

Number of groups will not exceed 14, the number of Solutions Leaders currently enrolled in the program. However, as the practicum progresses, it is possible that some groups will merge and work on an integrated solution addressing two or more of the original problems submitted by Solutions Leaders.

Can two groups work on the same problem?	Yes. Two groups can work on the same problem, and develop a different solution.
Can I participate virtually?	Not for the first 4 days, but potentially afterwards. Once the groups are formed, team members decide on how they want to organize. Some groups may decide to work on site every day to take full advantage of the coaching and expert resources, while other teams may decide on a mix of on site and virtual participation.
What happens to the prototyped solutions after the practicum?	What happens to them is up to the executive sponsor. Some prototypes may go into full development and implementation within the sponsoring department or agency, while others may be put to tender or remain as potential solutions for the future.
Will we be kept informed of what happens with solutions that were prototyped during the practicum?	Yes, that's the intent. We haven't yet fully figured out how, so we are open to suggestions!