

Development standards overview



Gwyn Jones - Lead Front End Developer

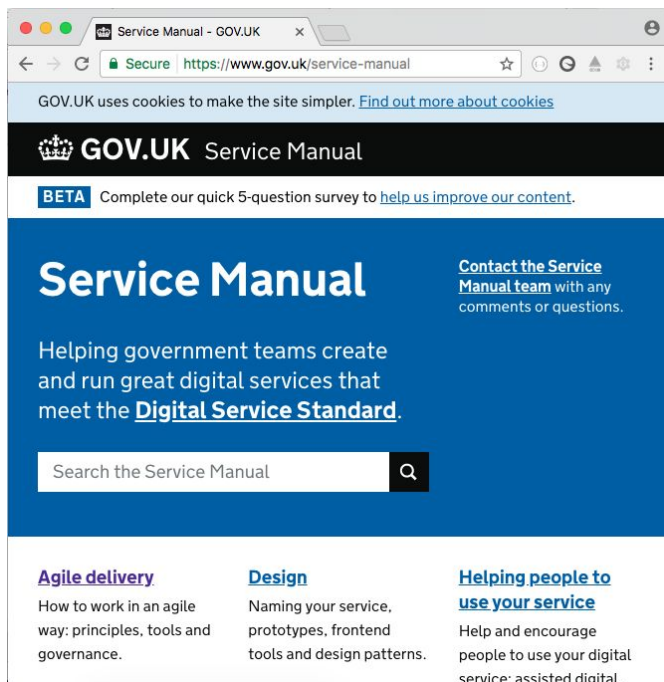
1. The Service Manual

Government Digital Service lead ‘Digital’ in Government

“The Government Digital Service (GDS) is part of the Cabinet Office. Our job is digital transformation of government. **We’re a centre of excellence in digital, technology and data, collaborating with departments to help them with their own transformation.** We work with them to build platforms, **standards**, and **digital services**. We always start with user needs. We are agile. We work to a set of Design Principles that guide us in everything we do. We believe in working openly, because making things open makes them better.”

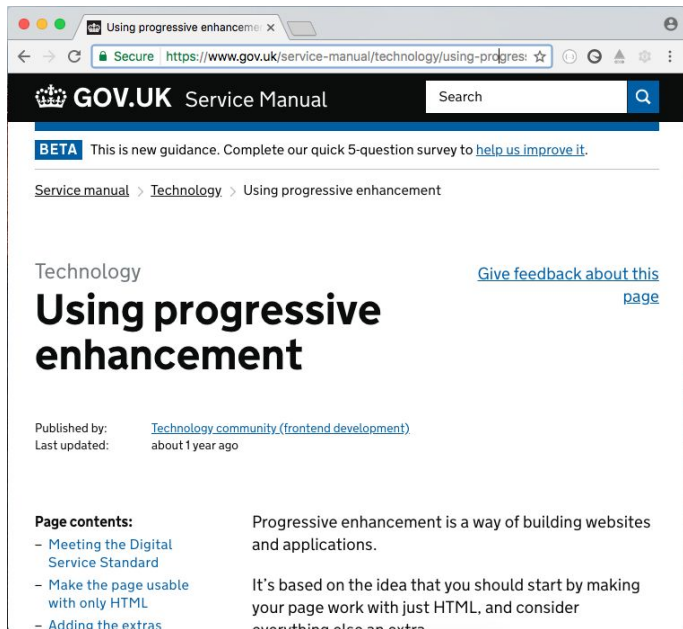
<https://gds.blog.gov.uk/about/>

GDS Service Manual



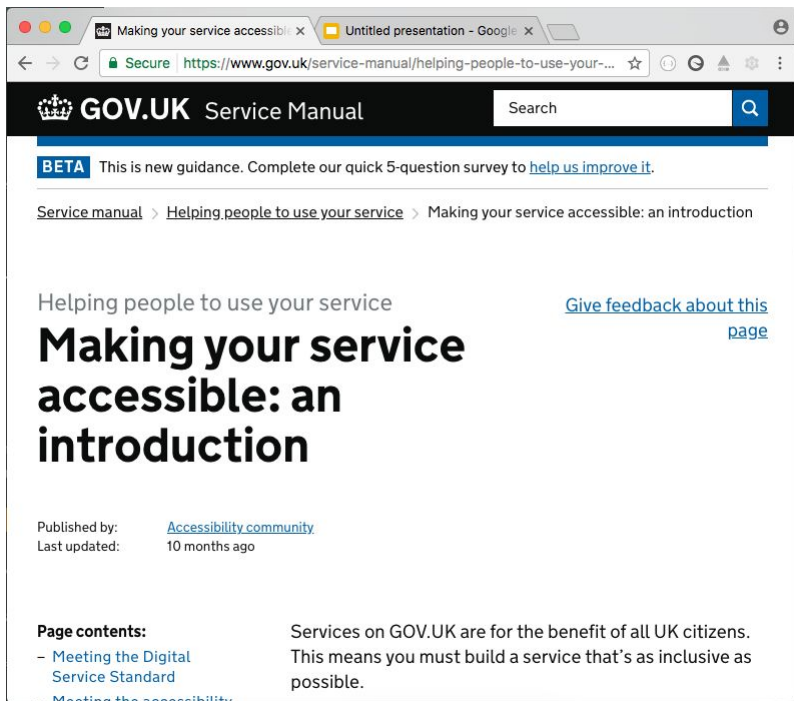
- Covers everything from User Research and Agile delivery to “Technology”
 - Software development processes, testing, hosting, protecting user information (and much more), including **Building Your Service: The Frontend**
 - Progressive enhancement
 - Accessibility
- The Service Manual team are keen to keep the manual relevant, can be contacted and will help
- **Developers should ensure they are familiar with relevant sections of the Service Manual**

Service Manual on Progressive enhancement



- A way of building websites and applications which reflects the resilience of the component technologies
- The approach and its benefits is nicely described by Jeremy Keith here <https://vimeo.com/166790296>

Service Manual - Accessibility



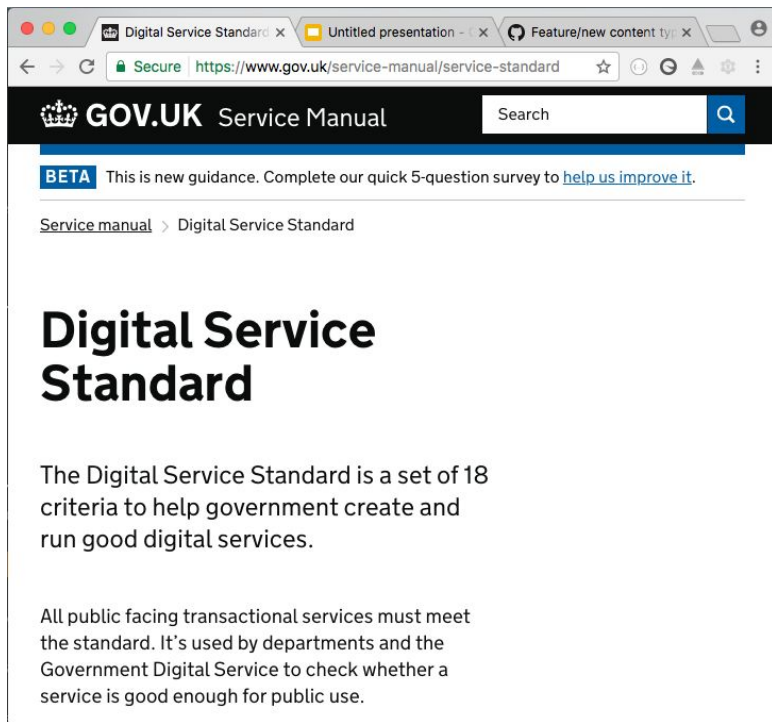
Read the section on **Accessibility** in the Service Manual

A few **key points**:

- It can be a challenge but is achievable
- It's not a bolt-on at the end of the process - but part of every technical and design decision

2. Digital by Default Service Standard

Digital Service Standard



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://www.gov.uk/service-manual/service-standard>. The page header includes the GOV.UK logo and a search bar. A blue banner indicates that the guidance is in BETA and encourages users to complete a survey. The main heading is 'Digital Service Standard'. The introductory text states that the standard consists of 18 criteria to help government create and run good digital services. A note specifies that all public-facing transactional services must meet the standard, which is used by departments and the Government Digital Service to check service quality for public use.

GOV.UK Service Manual

Search

BETA This is new guidance. Complete our quick 5-question survey to [help us improve it](#).

[Service manual](#) > Digital Service Standard

Digital Service Standard

The Digital Service Standard is a set of 18 criteria to help government create and run good digital services.

All public facing transactional services must meet the standard. It's used by departments and the Government Digital Service to check whether a service is good enough for public use.

- 18 criteria to help government create and run good digital services
- Formal assessment: ½ day at GDS with GDS panel (Discovery has passed a Service Standard Assessment)

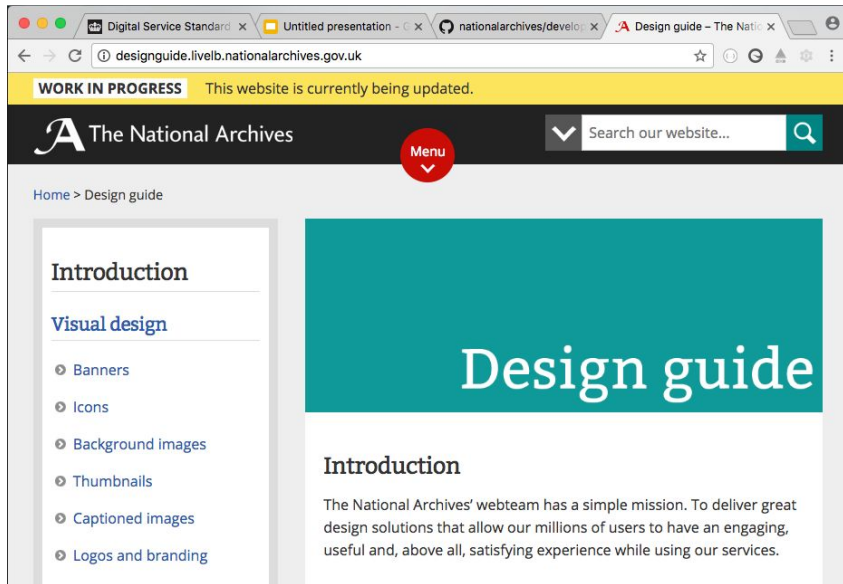
3. TNA standards

TNA Development Guide overview

Peer review checklist representing the high-level checks to ensure sites, applications and features have been:

1. **Designed** in accordance with The National Archives' design patterns
 - a. As represented in the **TNA Design Guide**
2. **Developed** to meet the standards
 - a. As set out in the **GDS Service Manual** and the **TNA Development Guide**
3. **Tested** for accessibility and compatibility with supported operating systems and browsers

The National Archives Design Guide

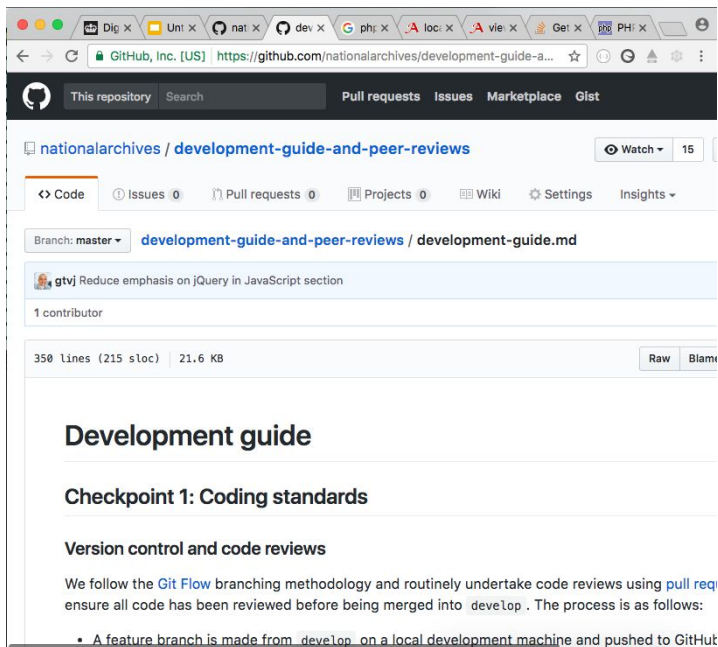


A 'living' document we update to reflect emerging patterns. It covers:

- Visual design
- Images
- Layouts
- Forms

... and much more

The National Archives Development Guide



- A ‘living’ guide - open for contributions via Pull Request. 159 revisions to date
 - We’d like to see more relating to the C# / .NET world - please contribute
- Builds upon (extends) the guidance provided by GDS
- Checkpoint process framed around Progressive Enhancement
- Accessibility a consideration at every stage

The Development Guide checkpoints

1. Checkpoint 1: Coding Standards

- Version control and code reviews (GitHub and Pull Requests); Architectural considerations (ROCA); WordPress coding style for PHP; Testing

2. Checkpoint 2: We meet needs using HTML

- General HTML principles; HTML5 syntax style; outlines and semantics; order; forms; tables; SVGs; images; ARIA;

3. Checkpoint 3: Enhance with CSS

- General principles; user focus; SASS; formatting; print CSS

4. Checkpoint 4: Enhance with JavaScript

- General principles; DOM abstraction strategies; form validation

5. Checkpoint 5: Pre-release checks

- WCAG 2.0 compliant at AA; testing across browsers, devices and contexts;

Useful links

- GDS Service Manual <https://www.gov.uk/service-manual>
- GDS Digital Service Standard
<https://www.gov.uk/service-manual/service-standard>
- TNA Development Guide
 - Overview <https://github.com/nationalarchives/development-guide-and-peer-reviews>
 - Peer review checklist
<https://github.com/nationalarchives/development-guide-and-peer-reviews/blob/master/peer-review-checklist.md>
 - Design Guide <http://designguide.livelb.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>
 - Development Guide
<https://github.com/nationalarchives/development-guide-and-peer-reviews/blob/master/development-guide.md>