

Cabinet Office

Matt Hobbs

Head of Frontend, Lead Frontend Developer Government Digital Service

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work at the

Government Dicital Servic

Why does frontend performance matter?

Who are GDS?



MacBook Air

Services:

- GOV.UK One Login
- GOV.UK Notify
- GOV.UK Pay
- GOV.UK Platform as a Service (PaaS)
- GOV.UK Forms
- GOV.UK Design System



COV.UK

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The best place to find government services and information Simpler, clearer, faster

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Be

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Lasting Power of Attorney

Business and self-employed Tools and guidance for businesses

Citizenship and living in the UK Voting, community participation, life in the UK, international projects

Crime, justice and the law Legal processes, courts and the police

A end transport include tax. POCT and enserg licences Education and learning

Includes student loans, admissions and apprenticeships

Employing people Includes pay, contracts and hering

Environment and countryside Includes flooding, recycling and wildlife

acBook Pro

Housing and book services

Money and has without and has been and

> Passaporths, travel, and toring annual includes: recearing prosperts and team annual to receiving

Visas and immigration

Wi orfking, yobs and pensions Includes indication and funding sight

695,000 pages, 25 ministerial departments

Source: GOV.UK Content Data (January 2023)



🗯 GOV.UK

<u>Home</u> > <u>Passports, travel and living abroad</u> > <u>Passports</u>

Renew or replace your adult passport

Contents

- <u>Overview</u>
- Renew
- <u>Replace a lost, stolen or damaged passport</u>

Renew

You must renew your passport before you can travel if either:

- your passport has expired
- you do not have enough time left on it

How much time you need on your passport depends on the country you're visiting. <u>Check the entry requirements of the country you want to travel to</u>.

Related content

Cancel a lost or stolen passport Getting your first adult passport Get a passport urgently Get a passport for your child Passport fees

🗯 GOV.UK

Part of <u>Report treasure, wreck material or archaeological finds</u>

Report treasure

You must <u>report treasure to the local coroner</u> within either:

- 14 days of first finding it
- 14 days of realising an item might be treasure, even if you've had it for longer

You only need to report items officially defined as treasure.

There's an unlimited fine or up to 3 months in prison for not reporting treasure.

You can get help reporting treasure to your local coroner in Wales by contacting the curators at the Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales.

National Museum Wales

Part of

Report treasure, wreck material or archaeological finds

Show all steps

Check if the item you've found is treasure or wreck

Show

Report treasure to the local coroner

Hide

Q

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Guidance **Keeping a pet pig or 'micropig'**

Home > Environment > Wildlife, animals, biodiversity and ecosystems

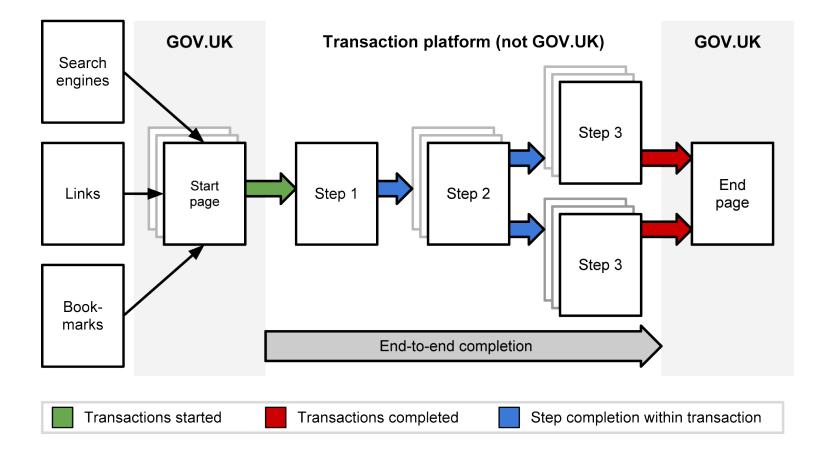
Find out how to register your land and animals, how to get a pig walking licence and what you can feed pet pigs.

From: Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and Animal and Plant Health Agency Published 31 December 2014 Last updated 24 January 2023 — <u>See all updates</u>

Let emails about this page

Applies to England Guidance for Wales **Related content**

Pigs movement general licence



GDS

Our Users

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219

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Isers Fir

40-50 million user visits per month



80% of visits are from the United Kingdom



Chrome is the most popular browser

Browser		Acquisition		
		Users 🤊 🔸		
		39,350,918 % of Total: 100.00% (39,350,918)		
1.	Chrome	16,093,966 (40.82%)		
2.	Safari	15,839,456 (40.17%)		
3.	Edge	3,868,387 (9.81%)		
4.	Samsung Internet	1,987,240 (5.04%)		
5.	Firefox	495,334 (1.26%)		
6.	Android Webview	418,072 (1.06%)		
7.	Safari (in-app)	417,229 (1.06%)		
8.	Opera	106,007 (0.27%)		
9.	Amazon Silk	92,129 (0.23%)		
10.	Internet Explorer	54,201 (0.14%)		



Mobile is the most popular browsing device

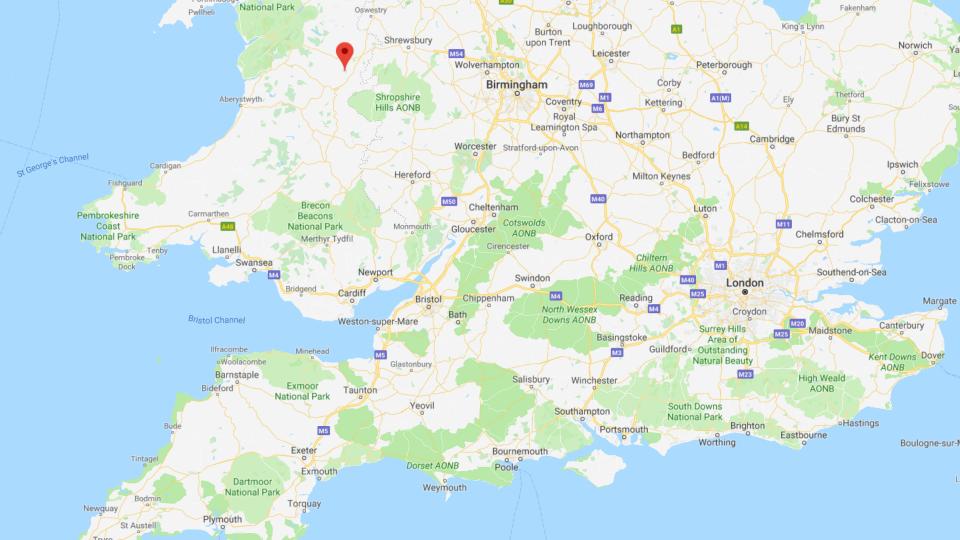


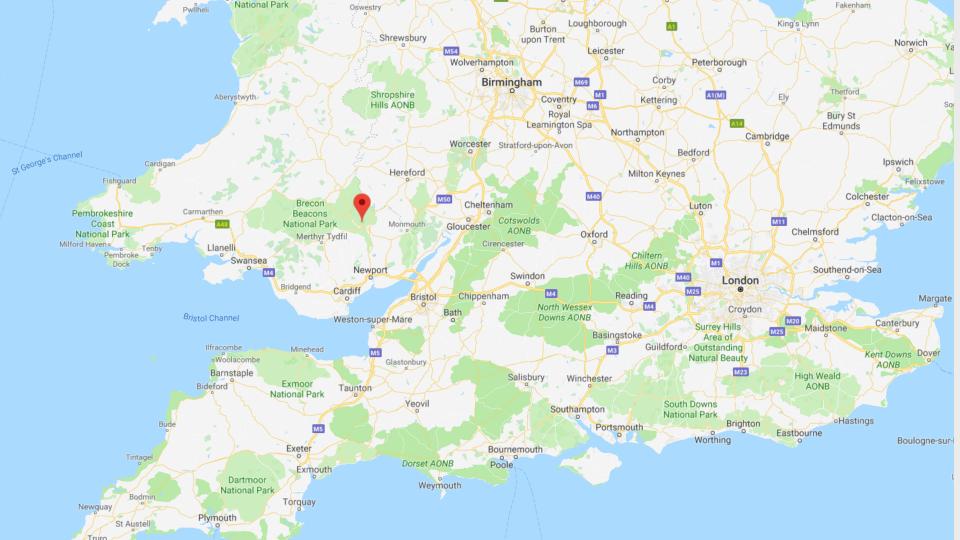
Demographics: ??

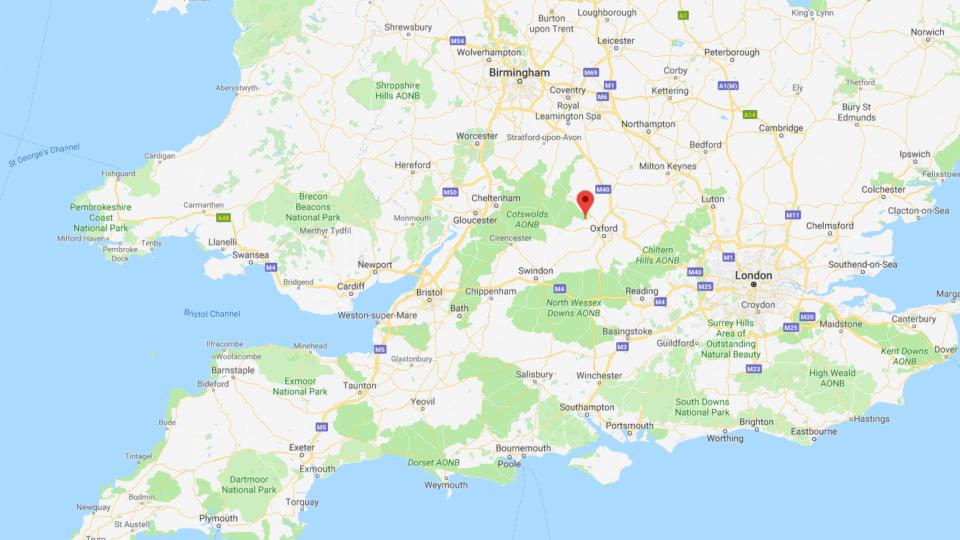
Source: ONS Principal projection data (2023)



User Stories







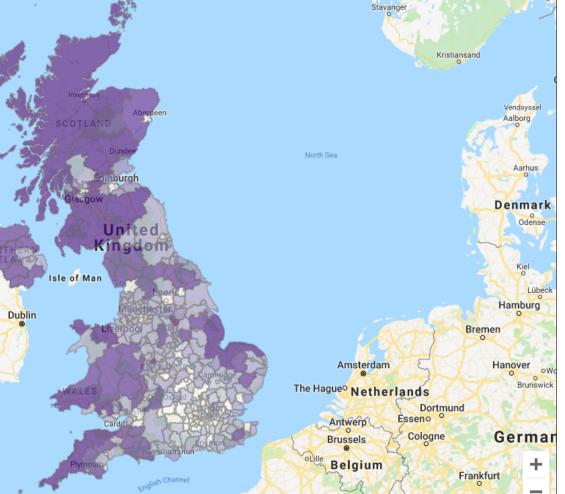


Galway

Limerick

Cork





_

Source: The Tech Partnership



Jump to postcode ...

ap Layers

) Region) Local Authority) Combined Authority

Retail Centres

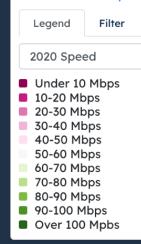
) Place Names) Map details) Urban / Buildings



Broadband Speed Ultrafast (UFBB) Availability

The average wired bro download speeds for la addresses (residential business), and estimat proportion with access (300Mb/s+) service.

Data story: The UK's B hotspots and notspots Download the data Download PDF report



200 km





London -





How people living in d parts of Great Britain with the Internet.

Data story: The Great geography of Internet engagement

Download the data

Download PDF report

Legend

Filter

- e-Cultural Creators
- e-Professionals
- e-Veterans
- Youthful Urban Frin
- e-Rational Utilitaria
- e-Mainstream
- Passive and Uncom Users
- Digital Seniors
- Settled Offline Com
- e-Withdrawn

200 km

e-Rational Utilitarians

Within rural areas, the most common group is the "e-Rational Utilitarians". These residents more prevalently use the Internet for service applications such as e-banking and online shopping, rather than entertainment and communication. This may be as a result of these areas having constrained Internet speeds which limits use of those websites or services requiring faster connections.

CDRC - The Great British geography of Internet use and engagement (2018)





London -





How people living in d parts of Great Britain with the Internet.

Data story: The Great geography of Internet engagement

Download the data

Download PDF report

Legend

Filter

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Environment and countryside Includes flooding, recycling and wildlife

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Visas and immigration

Wi orfking, yobs and pensions Includes indication and funding sight

User Devices

~9,000 mobile devices listed



~16,000 mobile device & operating system version combinations



Top 10 mobile devices

		Acquisition		
N	lobile Device Info 🕜	Users 🕐 🚽		
		25,536,505 % of Total: 64.89% (39,350,918)		
1.	Apple iPhone	14,307,176 (56.48%)		
2.	Apple iPad	513,656 (2.03%)		
3.	Samsung SM-G991B Galaxy S21 5G	434,893 (1.72%)		
4.	Samsung SM-S908B Galaxy S22 Ultra	291,963 (1.15%)		
5.	Samsung SM-S901B Galaxy S22	278,748 (1.10%)		
6.	Samsung SM-A528B Galaxy A52s 5G	238,442 (0.94%)		
7.	Samsung SM-G973F Galaxy S10	233,638 (0.92%)		
8.	Samsung SM-G998B Galaxy S21 Ultra 5G	214,968 (0.85%)		
9.	Samsung SM-A125F Galaxy A12	191,786 (0.76%)		
10.	Samsung SM-G960F Galaxy S9	178,102 (0.70%)		



Not all users can afford high-end devices



Definition

- 1. device is no longer supported by the manufacturer
- 2. default browser isn't an "evergreen" browser

A	В	С	D	E	F
Mobile Device Branding	Mobile Device Model	Mobile Device Info	Operating System Version	Users	Mobile Device Marketing
Apple	iPhone	Apple iPhone	12.0.1	4,922,638	(not set)
Apple	iPhone	Apple iPhone	12	2,177,496	(not set)
Apple	iPhone	Apple iPhone	11.4.1	1,923,384	(not set)
Apple	iPad	Apple iPad	12.0.1	795,495	(not set)
Samsung	SM-G950F	Samsung SM-G950F Galaxy S8	8.0.0	666,107	Galaxy S8
Apple	iPhone	Apple iPhone	12.1	621,490	(not set)
Apple	iPhone	Apple iPhone	11.4	474,255	(not set)
Apple	iPad	Apple iPad	9.3.5	448,296	(not set)
Apple	iPad	Apple iPad	11.4.1	405,302	(not set)
Samsung	SM-G930F	Samsung SM-G930F Galaxy S7	8.0.0	394,756	Galaxy S7
Apple	iPhone	Apple iPhone	11.3	381,574	(not set)
Samsung	SM-G935F	Samsung SM-G935F Galaxy S7 Edge	8.0.0	347,199	Galaxy S7 Edge
Samsung	SM-G960F	Samsung SM-G960F Galaxy S9	8.0.0	334,219	Galaxy S9
Apple	iPad	Apple iPad	12	320,125	(not set)
Apple	iPhone	Apple iPhone	10.3.3	317,488	(not set)
Apple	iPad	Apple iPad	10.3.3	293,253	(not set)
Microsoft	Windows RT Tablet	Microsoft Windows RT Tablet	10	288,487	(not set)
Samsung	SM-G920F	Samsung SM-G920F Galaxy S6	7	243,769	Galaxy S6
Samsung	SM-G955F	Samsung SM-G955F Galaxy S8+	8.0.0	210,003	Galaxy S8+
Samsung	SM-J320FN	Samsung SM-J320FN Galaxy J3 Duos	5.1.1	194,792	Galaxy J3 Duos
Samsung	SM-A520F	Samsung SM-A520F Galaxy A5 (2017)	8.0.0	193,373	Galaxy A5 (2017)
Apple	iPhone	Apple iPhone	11.2.6	172,484	(not set)
Samsung	SM-G965F	Samsung SM-G965F Galaxy S9+	8.0.0	161,837	Galaxy S9+
		Computer CM CODEE Colour CC			



Mobile device long-tail

Top 3 devices omitted for better scaling



Device





3.3 million user visits on "legacy" devices

Source: GOV.UK Google Analytics (12 January 2023 - 11 February 2023)



6% of all user visits or 10% of mobile user visits

Source: GOV.UK Google Analytics (12 January 2023 - 11 February 2023)



Top 10 legacy devices

Legacy Mobile Device	OS Version	Users
Apple iPad	9.3.5	286,850
Apple iPad	10.3.3	220,197
Samsung SM-G920F Galaxy S6	7	182,633
Samsung SM-J320FN Galaxy J3 Duos	5.1.1	144,563
Apple iPhone	10.3.3	130,019
Samsung SM-G925F Galaxy S6 Edge	7	85,625
Samsung SM-J510FN Galaxy J5 (2016)	7.1.1	70,448
Sony G3311 Xperia L1	7	62,859
Samsung SM-G900F Galaxy S5	6.0.1	61,594
Microsoft Windows RT Tablet	8.1	56,788

Source: GOV.UK Google Analytics (12 January 2023 - 11 February 2023)

"Legacy" iPad usage has fallen by 32% in 10 months.

Source: GOV.UK Google Analytics (January 22 vs February 2023), iPads on iOS 9.3.5 & iOS 10.3.3

iPad 2 vs Microsoft Corporation Surface Go

Geekbench Scores				
	iPad 2	Microsoft Corporation Surface Go		
Single-Core Score	342	1865		
Multi-Core Score	589	3343		
	Geekbench 4.2.2	Geekbench 4.4.1 Tryout		

Source: Geekbench 4 (https://browser.geekbench.com/v4/cpu/compare/14581700?baseline=14594636)

	iPad		iPhone			
	iPad (2nd generation)	iPad Pro (11-inch)	Times more powerful	iPhone 5c	iPhone 8 Plus	Times more powerful
Single-core	342	2,271	15	771	8,528	12
Multi-core	589	8187	32	1,267	21,082	17

Source: Geekbench 4 Browser (January 2023)

"Modern" devices

"There is a growing gap between what a high-end device can handle and what a middle to low-end device can handle."

Source: Tim Kadlec - The Ethics of Web Performance



Mid to low-end device performance

	Alcatel 1x (2018)	Pixel 2 (2017)	Times more powerful
Single-core	584	1,813	4
Multi-core	1,517	6,310	5

Source: Geekbench 4 Browser (January 2023)

Identify and test on low spec devices



User connections

UK average broadband speed in 2019: 22.37 Mbps

Source: Worldwide broadband speed league 2019



'Not-spots' in London reported as low as 0.26 Mbps

Source: London Digital Connectivity Report 2017



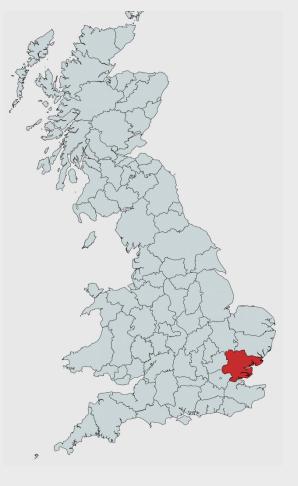
8% of indoor spaces in the UK have no mobile data coverage

Source: Ofcom Connected Nations Report - January 2019



"I still have to walk around my Essex garden trying to obtain a phone line [signal] let alone 5G."

Source: BBC 5G: EE launches UK's next-generation mobile network - 30 May 2019





"It would be nice if the Highlands of Scotland, and other 'not spots' were targeted first - so that we can actually get broadband!"

Source: BBC 5G: EE launches UK's next-generation mobile network - 30 May 2019





Average monthly mobile data plan in the UK costs £18.36 for 1.9GB of data per month

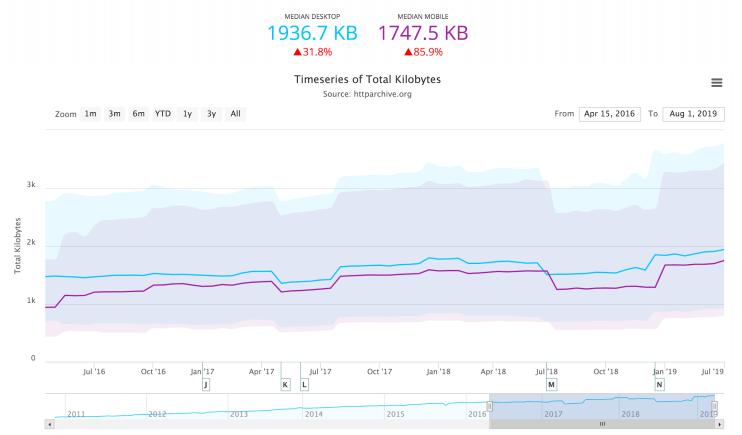
Source: Ofcom Pricing Report 2018



Total Kilobytes

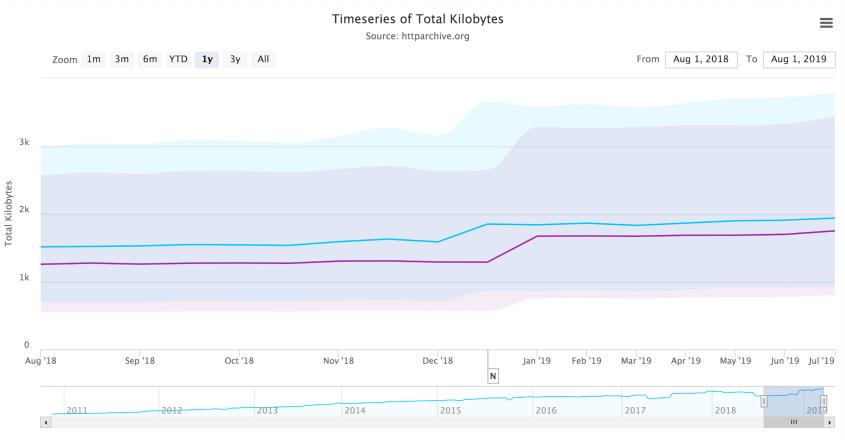
The sum of transfer size kilobytes of all resources requested by the page.

See also: Page Weight

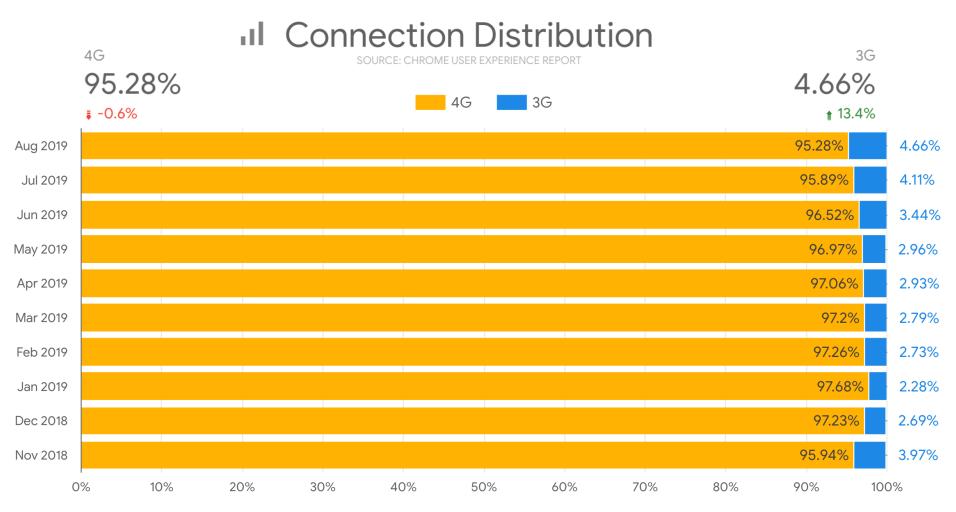


Source: HTTP Archive State of the Web report - Aug 2019 — Desktop — Mobile





Source: HTTP Archive State of the Web report - Aug 2019



Source: Chrome User Experience Report - Sept 2019

Test websites on poor connections



User stress (2

- Applying for a passport
- Register a death
- Applying for benefits
- Filing a tax return
- Applying for a divorce
- Applying for a blue badge



@GOVUK tried renewing my blue badge via the website today - it no longer allows you to save your progress so 3 hrs work wasted when it decided it had waited long enough for me to finish - as there is a complex medical history that is a lot of work to redo



Users have to concentrate 50% more when trying to complete a simple task on a badly performing website

Source: Web Stress: A Wake-Up Call for European Business



Sustainability



Search



Departments Worldwide How government works Get involved Consultations Statistics News and communications

<u>Home</u>

English Русский

News story UK becomes first major economy to pass net zero emissions law

New target will require the UK to bring all greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.

Published 27 June 2019 From: Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy and Chris Skidmore MP



Chris Skidmore signs legislation to commit the UK to a legally binding target of net zero emissions by 2050

Related content

Law for net zero emissions begins passage through Parliament

Committee on Climate Change 'Net Zero'

"We will need to be sure that we are using clean and green digital and technology services and practices"

Source: The Greening Government Sustainable Technology Strategy 2016-2020

"ICT currently accounts for around 3.6% of global electricity use and 1.4% of greenhouse gas emissions"

Source: The Energy and Carbon Footprint of the Global ICT and E&M Sectors 2010–2015, Malmodin and Lunden

GDS estimates running all our services produce up to 4,000 tonnes of CO2 a year

Source: GDS Sustainability Network - https://gds.blog.gov.uk/2019/10/03/measuring-the-climate-impact-of-our-digital-services-at-gds/

Watlington Primary School Watlington Cricket Club

Icknield Community College

Wild Thyme

Technical Moulding Projects

MRd

Counter Production

RARO

MKO ENGINEERING

The Fat Fox Inn

Watlington Parish Council

Campion RC Church

Peter Osborne Fine Wines 480

The Chequers

Jones & Jacob

The Carriers Arms

The Black Pig Chiltern Hills - Hog Roast

The Chiltern Surgery

White Mark Farm

- Larger assets = more hosting required
- More hosting = more computing power required
- More computing = more electricity required
- More electricity = more CO2

The WWW is the greatest infrastructure mankind has ever created, but it comes at a cost



Evepperf matters

Users on poor connections and older devices are excluded



Users can't get the information and guidance they need

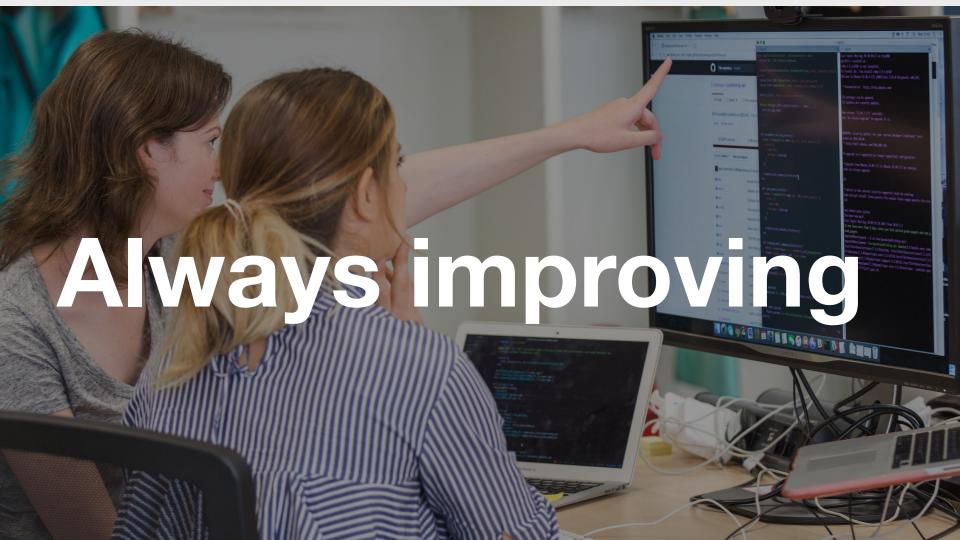




EU Directive on the accessibility of public sector websites and mobile applications.



Moral obligation to make sure our websites perform well on as many user devices as possible



HTTP/2



Browser / Connection	Homepage	Past PM page	Start page	Speech page	Organisation page
Chrome 69 Desktop / Native	h1	h1	h1	h1	h1
Chrome 69 Mobile / 3G	h1	h2	h2	h1	h1
Chrome 69 Mobile / 3G Slow	h1	h1	h2	h1	h1
Firefox 62 Desktop / Native	h1	h1	h1	h1	h2
Firefox 62 Mobile / 3G	h1	h1	h1	h1	h2
Firefox 62 Mobile / 3G Slow	h1	h1	h1	h1	h2
Nexus 5 Chrome Mobile / 3G	h1	h1	h1	h1	h1
iPhone 5C / 4G	h2	h2	h2	h2	h1/h2
Nexus 5X / 3G Fast	h1/h2	h2	h1/h2	h1/h2	h1

Source: Sitespeed.io 7.5.0 - Comparing First Visual Change, Visual Complete 95%, Last Visual Change, Fully loaded, Speed Index.

New webfont

Font	v1	v2	Difference
Bold WOFF2	55KB	32KB	-42%
Bold WOFF	73KB	41KB	-44%
Bold EOT	72KB	57KB	-21%
Light WOFF2	68KB	33KB	-51%
Light WOFF	96KB	43KB	-55%
Light EOT	92KB	57KB	-38%



Font EM box adjustment





Font-display property

.font-adjustments {
 font-display: auto;
 font-display: block;
 font-display: swap;
 font-display: fallback;
 font-display: optional;
}



Brotli compression

File Type	Size (bytes)	Compression type	Saved	Saved(%)	Diff to gzip (zlib) (%)
All HTML uncompressed	209,835	none	0	0	0
All HTML gzip (zlib)	48,303	zlib	161,532	76.98	0
All HTML gzip (zopfli)	45,689	zopfli	164,146	78.23	5.41
All HTML Brotli	33,246	brotli	176,589	84.16	31.17
All CSS uncompressed	1,024,257	none	0	0	0
All CSS gzip (zlib)	130,122	zlib	894,135	87.30	0
All CSS gzip (zopfli)	122,560	zopfli	901,697	88.03	5.81
All CSS Brotli	96,622	brotli	927,635	90.57	25.75
All JS uncompressed	458,132	none	0	0	0
All JS gzip (zlib)	122,452	zlib	335,680	73.27	0
All JS gzip (zopfli)	118,730	zopfli	339,402	74.08	3.04
All JS Brotli	106,306	brotli	351,826	76.80	13.19
All assets uncompressed	1,482,389	none	0	0	0
All assets gzip (zlib)	252,574	zlib	1,229,815	82.96	0
All assets gzip (zopfli)	241,290	zopfli	1,241,099	83.72	4.47
All assets Brotli	202,928	brotli	1,279,461	86.31	19.66

Image lazy loading

Search

Departments Worldwide How government works Get involved Consultations Statistics News and communications

19th century

History **Past Prime Ministers**

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CH

Past Prime Ministers

The Rt Hon Theresa May MP

The Rt Hon David Cameron

The Rt Hon Sir John Major KG

Baroness Margaret Thatcher

The Rt Hon Gordon Brown The Rt Hon Tony Blair

James Callaghan Harold Wilson

Sir Edward Heath

Sir Alec Douglas-Home Harold Macmillan Sir Anthony Eden Sir Winston Churchill Clement Attlee

Sir Winston Churchill

Neville Chamberlain Stanley Baldwin James Ramsay MacDonald Stanley Baldwin James Ramsay MacDonald Stanley Baldwin

Andrew Bonar Law

David Lloyd George

Harold Wilson

MP 2016 to 2019

20th & 21st centuries

The Rt Hon Theresa May Conservative 1895 to 1902



18th century





The Rt Hon David Cameron Conservative 2010 to 2016

Archibald Primrose, 5th Earl of Rosebery Liberal 1894 to 1895







The Rt Hon Gordon Brown Labour 2007 to 2010

Labour 1997 to 2007





William Petty, 2nd Earl of Shelburne Whig 1782 to 1783



Salisbury



Robert Gascoyne-Cecil, 3rd Marguess of Conservative 1886 to 1892









User-centric performance metrics

Metric	Without LL	With LL	diff
First Contentful Paint	3271 ms	2520 ms	-22%
First Meaningful Paint	3393 ms	2578 ms	-24%
Time to Interactive	3325 ms	2840 ms	-15%
Speed Index	3564 ms	3240 ms	-9%
Fully Loaded	7280 ms	5821 ms	-20%
Total Bytes	1011 KB	761 KB	-25%

Source: Web Page Test, 3G Fast, Chrome 78.0.3880.4

Guidance

05

C

GOV.UK Service Manual



Complete our quick 5-question survey to help us improve our content.

Service manual > Technology > How to test frontend performance

Give feedback about this page

Technology How to test frontend performance

From: Technology community (frontend development) 7 months ago Last updated:

Page contents:

- Why frontend performance matters
- Use performance as a metric
- Set a performance budget
- How to run performance tests

Websites that perform badly can frustrate users and drain their data plans and battery life. You can address this by making sure your service frontend is as fast and lightweight as possible.

This will also mean your service works well on a range of devices.

Why frontend performance matters

By focusing on frontend performance, you can improve both the speed and

Service Standard



- 1. Understand users and their needs
- 2. Solve a whole problem for users
- 3. Provide a joined up experience across all channels
- 4. Make the service simple to use
- 5. Make sure everyone can use the service
- 6. Have a multidisciplinary team
- 7. Use agile ways of working
- 8. Iterate and improve frequently
- 9. Create a secure service which protects users' privacy
- 10. Define what success looks like and publish performance data
- 11. Choose the right tools and technology
- 12. Make new source code open
- 13. Use and contribute to open standards, common components and patterns
- 14. Operate a reliable service

GOV.UK Design System





Get started Styles Components Patterns Community

Design your service using GOV.UK styles, components and patterns

Use this design system to make your service consistent with GOV.UK. Learn from the research and experience of other service teams and avoid repeating work that's already been done.

Get started >

Styles

Make your service look like GOV.UK with guides for applying layout, typography, colour and images.

Components

Save time with reusable, accessible components for forms, navigation, panels, tables and more.

Patterns

Help users complete common tasks like entering names and addresses, filling in forms and creating accounts.

Digital, Data and Technology Profession



Collection Digital, Data and Technology Profession Capability Framework

Digital, data and technology (DDaT) roles in government and the skills needed to do them.

Published 23 March 2017 Last updated 5 August 2019 — <u>see all updates</u> From: <u>Digital, Data and Technology Profession</u>

Contents

- Data: data analyst
- Data: data engineer
- Data: data scientist
- Data: performance analyst
- IT operations: business relationship manager
- IT operations: change and release manager
- IT operations: command and control centre manager
- IT operations: engineer application operations
- IT operations; engineer end user computing

Related content

Senior product manager: skills they need

Senior business analyst: skills they need

<u>Head of (agile) delivery management: skills</u> <u>they need</u>

Principal business analyst: skills they need

Business analyst: skills they need

Web Performance Optimisation

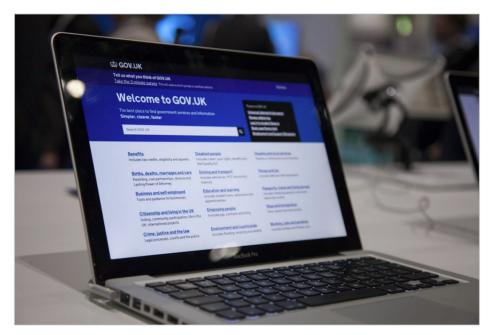
Understands the delivery of assets can have a large impact on user experience. Can apply technical knowledge and experience to remove bottlenecks to improve performance. Can use various sources of data to monitor and identify performance issues. Explores different approaches to solving performance problems.

Technology Blogging



Why we focus on frontend performance

Matt Hobbs, GDS, Head of Frontend, 18 April 2019 - GOV.UK Performance, Transformation



We've recently updated the <u>Service Manual guidance</u> to help developers across government identify and test performance issues before they become a problem for users.

Technology in government

This is for everyone: documenting how we're building, assembling and running digital and technology projects across the UK government. Find out more.

Categories

Select Category

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Find out more

NHS Website:

- 70-80% of users on mobile
- 45% reduction in CSS size
- 10% reduction in JavaScript size
- 32% reduction in page weight (700KB)
- Saving mobile network users ~7,420GB per month

Source: Improving the NHS website using the frontend library - Dave Hunter (https://youtu.be/Bzs_qJtuxE4?t=1076)

Final thoughts

CHOSE INTO

2003

MEDIAN DESKTOP MEDIAN MOBILE **1936.7 KB 1747.5 KB** ▲31.8% ▲85.9%



- Who are your users?
- What are their stories?
- What devices are your users using?
- What connection speeds do they have?
- What core service are they there for?
- Have you tested on real devices, real connections?
- Have you tested with users to minimise their stress?

Be inclusive, not exclusive





"Make people's lives better...

Source: Charlie Owen - Dear developer, the web isn't about you



... or at least not make it worse!"

Source: Charlie Owen - Dear developer, the web isn't about you





Cabinet Office

Thanks for listening!

Matt Hobbs

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