How to tell when a tech is *not* ready for government

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Usually, obviously, when the government's not ready for tech…

- But more seriously,
  - Techno-optimists oversell readiness, e.g.
    - Internet (1980) v. web (1992) v.
    - Broadband access (2000) smart phone(2007)
    - Use of internet for hospital booking reminders
    - Use of babylon systems for triage…2018
    - Wellbeing/fitness data from accelerometer?
    - NHS supply (e.g. Pharma/dressings) chains?
- And that was supposed to be *fast* ☺

With example from dlt,ml/ai,iot

1. Distributed Ledger Technology
2. Machine learning (and ai)
3. Internet of Things

dlt

- Do not mix up cryptocurrency and blockhain
- Immutable record of transactions
  - So is a database
- Smart contracts
  - So was e-commerce
- Why not gov? gov doesn't lackthese 3 essential requirements:
  - Decentralised
  - No single point of trust
  - Long term persistent

ML (AI)

- Do not mix up ml & ai
- ml is just
  - better stats with
  - bigger faster compute/storage
- Already used in much gov
- But what of AI
  - Anything that isn't explainable
  - How would gov use black boxes, ever, pray?

IoT

- Do not mix up internet (of things) and smart X
  - For X=home, car, city
- Most IoT systems are silos
  - CCTV, smart meter, fitness monitor/actuator
  - For good reasons
  - not just privacy
  - ***Safety*** is paramount (car brakes, defibrilator etc)
- What would gov do: regulate safety, please…
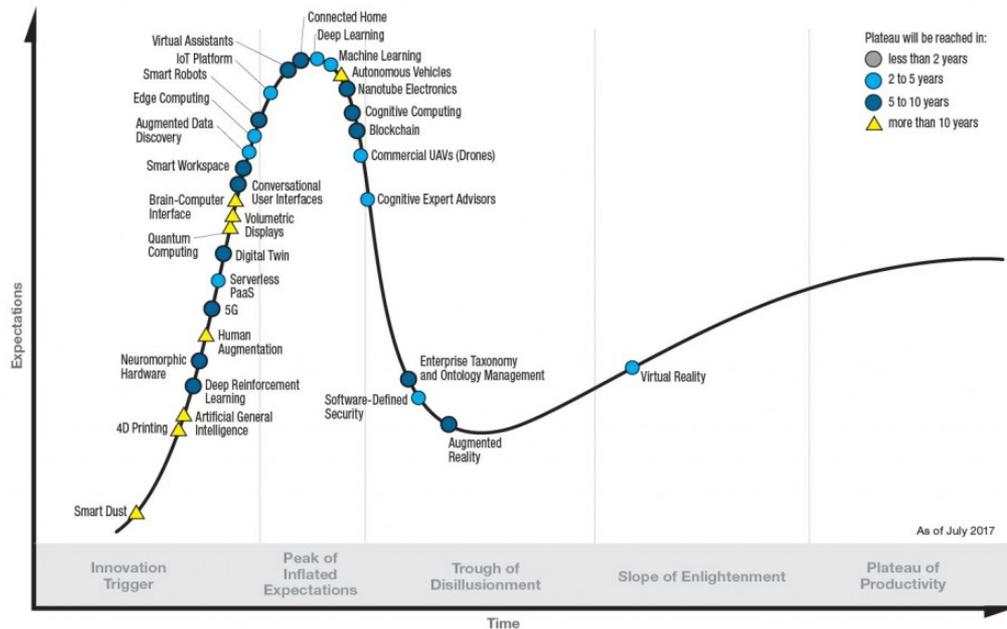
Generic gov tech lessons

- Don't listen to academics
  - Massively too early
- Don't listen to industry
  - Massively too late
- Especially don't listen to consultants
  - Massively too expensive
- So who do you listen to?

QC&A

- Questions….?
- Do not ask me about Quantum Computing

Over hyped hype curve