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run them when you leave - making them abandonware.

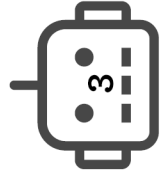
Choose boring tech over shiny. Those mainframes and COBOL still work just fine after 50 years of service. Those React apps you're writing are legacy before they launch, at a hundred times the cost, and no one can



run them when you leave - making them abandonware.

If you want to delve deeper into these topics, I highly recommend reading Cyd Harrell's fantastic book [A Civic Technologist's Practice Guide](#)

Technology is almost never the solution to the problem. You need a deep understanding of culture, policy, budget, acquisitions, etc. to be successful. We don't need ANY more shiny new websites or hackathons. Your first year should be spent understanding the systems.



*This is a zine so you'll have to look it up on the internet!

“Build with, not for” -Laurenellen McCann

(that one is still the most important and gets its own tweet)

Note: Laurenellen's talk at CFA Summit in 2014* begins with “At the risk of creating a massive existential crisis...” and the following five minutes created one for me. It completely changed how I look at the world and approach The Work.

②

This content originally appeared as a thread on my Twitter account. Someone asked if I'd make it into a zine and, well, here we are!

I see many of my former technology colleagues now suddenly eager to return to government – or join for the first time – and I'm very excited to work with you all again!

That being said, here are a few thoughts from someone who stuck around for the hard parts over the last four years.

before signing up.

⑥ People don't want to hear this, but... this isn't a job for tourists. Building relationships to cause change takes time. If people know you have one foot out the door, they're not going to trust you. Think about what you're willing to sacrifice before signing up.

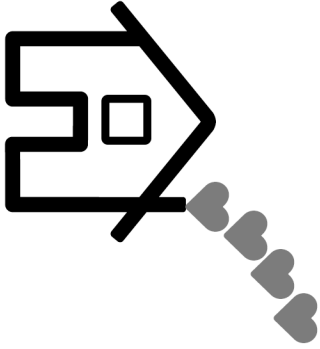


⑤ Government doesn't need disruption, or even innovation. Many of us who came in as “innovators” are now the career bureaucrats just keeping the place from burning down. Listen to our expertise and work with us.



“Move fast and break things” failed. As a result, we inherited a lot of fast-moving broken things.

Sustainability is the most important principle in government tech today.



I'm looking forward to collaborating with you all soon!

That all being said...

Welcome Home.

by Bill Hunt (@krusynth)