

Hands-on Lab: Build a Sprint Plan from Your Product Backlog using Zenhub

Estimated time needed: 10 minutes

In this lab, you will create a sprint plan from your product backlog. This is normally done during the sprint planning meeting with the entire team, so for this exercise we will have to simulate that meeting.

Objectives

After completing this lab, you will be able to:

1. Set up sprints.
2. Assign estimates to stories.
3. Assign a sprint to stories.
4. Build your sprint backlog.

Initial State

After completing the previous lab, your kanban board should look like this:

The screenshot shows a Zenhub Kanban board titled "Development.. > Board". The board has five columns: "New Issues", "Icebox", "Product Backlog", "Sprint Backlog", "In Progress", and "Review/QA".

- New Issues:** 0 Issues - 0 Points. Contains two items: "lab-agile-planning #2 Must allow multiple counters" and "lab-agile-planning #6 Need the ability to remove a counter".
- Icebox:** 2 Issues - 0 Points. Contains two items: "lab-agile-planning #1 Need a service that has a counter" and "lab-agile-planning #3 Must persist counter across restarts".
- Product Backlog:** 5 Issues - 0 Points. Contains seven items:
 - "lab-agile-planning #1 Need a service that has a counter" (enhancement)
 - "lab-agile-planning #3 Must persist counter across restarts" (enhancement)
 - "lab-agile-planning #5 Deploy service to the cloud" (technical debt)
 - "lab-agile-planning #4 Counters can be reset" (enhancement)
 - "lab-agile-planning #7 Need ability to update a counter to a new value" (enhancement)
 - "lab-agile-planning #2 Must allow multiple counters" (enhancement)
 - "lab-agile-planning #6 Need the ability to remove a counter" (enhancement)
- Sprint Backlog:** 0 Issues - 0 Points. Contains three items: "lab-agile-planning #1 Need a service that has a counter", "lab-agile-planning #3 Must persist counter across restarts", and "lab-agile-planning #5 Deploy service to the cloud".
- In Progress:** 0 Issues - 0 Points. Contains three items: "lab-agile-planning #1 Need a service that has a counter", "lab-agile-planning #3 Must persist counter across restarts", and "lab-agile-planning #5 Deploy service to the cloud".
- Review/QA:** 0 Issues - 0 Points. Contains three items: "lab-agile-planning #1 Need a service that has a counter", "lab-agile-planning #3 Must persist counter across restarts", and "lab-agile-planning #5 Deploy service to the cloud".

New Issues:

- None

Icebox:

- Must allow multiple counters
- Need the ability to remove a counter

Product Backlog:

- Need a service that has a counter
- Must persist counter across restarts
- Deploy service to the cloud
- Counters can be reset
- Need ability to update a counter to a new value

Exercise 1 : Setup Sprints

In this exercise, you will setup your sprints. ZenHub will set up three (3) sprints by default to get you started. It will then create new sprints for you as needed automatically.

1. Go to app.zenhub.com and sign in with your GitHub account and bring up your kanban board.

The screenshot shows the same Zenhub Kanban board as the previous one, but with some changes. The "Sprint Backlog" column now contains only the first item: "lab-agile-planning #1 Need a service that has a counter". The "In Progress" and "Review/QA" columns are still empty.

2. Click the + icon and select Set up Sprints for your team from the dropdown menu.

The screenshot shows the ZenHub board interface. At the top right, there is a green 'New issue' button with a '+' icon. A red box with the text 'Click the + icon' points to this button. Below it, a tooltip window is open, showing a list of options: 'Create...', 'Issue', 'Epic', 'Release', and 'Pipeline'. The 'Issue' option is selected. Another red box with the text 'Select Set up Sprints for your team' points to the 'Issue' option in the tooltip.

3. In the window that pops up, disable the switch labeled "Move unfinished Issues to the next sprint". This type of automation breeds bad habits and is not very agile, which is why I suggest it be disabled. You should understand why issues are unfinished and determine if they are still needed in the next sprint as priorities may have changed.

The screenshot shows the 'Create sprints' dialog box. On the left, under 'Automatically add Issues to a sprint', there is a switch labeled 'Move unfinished Issues to the next Sprint'. A red box with the text 'Disable Move unfinished Issues' points to this switch. On the right, there is a calendar for January 2022 with a 'Start Date' set to Jan 10, 2022, and an 'End Date' set to Jan 21, 2022. A red box with the text 'Specify the first start and end date' points to the calendar area.

4. Pick a date range of 2 weeks for the sprint duration, where the current date that you are working on this lab is within that range. In this example we selected a Monday to the following Friday which is two weeks later. You will see this selection in blue. Notice that ZenHub hints that it will create two future sprints as well (in grey). Press the Create sprints button to create the sprints.

The screenshot shows the 'Create sprints' dialog box. A red box with the text 'Pick 2 weeks for the sprint' points to the calendar. A red box with the text 'Press Create sprints' points to the 'Create sprints' button at the bottom. The calendar shows a range from Jan 10, 2022, to Jan 21, 2022, with other future dates highlighted in grey.

You now have a sprint that can be used for sprint planning in the next exercise.

Exercise 2 : Create a Sprint Plan

In this exercise, you will create a sprint plan. We will assign estimated story points and a sprint, and move the stories from the Product Backlog into the Sprint Backlog to build our plan.

1. Select the top story **Need a service that has a counter** from the **Product Backlog** to open it.

The screenshot shows the ZenHub board interface. The 'Product Backlog' section is active, displaying a list of stories. The first story, 'lab-agile-planning #1 Need a service that has a counter', is highlighted with a red box. This story is categorized under 'enhancement'. Below it are other stories like 'lab-agile-planning #3 Must persist counter across restarts', 'lab-agile-planning #5 Deploy service to the cloud', 'lab-agile-planning #4 Counters can be reset', and 'lab-agile-planning #7 Need ability to update a counter to a new value'. To the left of the backlog, there's a sidebar with 'New Issues' and 'Icebox' sections, and a 'New Issues' summary at the bottom.

2. You discussed the story with the team, and your developers agree that this is a large story worth 8 story points, so set the **Estimate** to 8.

This screenshot shows the detailed view of the story 'lab-agile-planning #1'. The 'Details and Assumptions' section contains the following text: 'As a User I need a service that has a counter So that I can keep track of how many times something was done'. The 'Acceptance Criteria' section includes a scenario: 'Given I have incremented the counter to 2 When I make a call to get the current value Then it should return 2 as the counter value'. On the right side, the 'Estimate' field is set to '8', which is highlighted with a red box and a callout 'Select 8'. Other fields shown include 'Pipelines' (Development, Product Backlog), 'Labels' (enhancement), 'Assignees' (No one - assign yourself), and 'Sprints' (No Sprint Assigned). A note at the bottom says 'Planning poker + Add members to vote on estimates'.

3. Click on the **Gear** icon next to **Sprints** and select the first sprint from the dropdown list to assign the story to that sprint. You may notice that you can assign a story to more than one sprint. This is not very agile! If your story is bigger than a sprint then it's too big and should be broken down into smaller "sprint-sized" stories.

This screenshot shows the 'Sprints' dropdown menu open. A red box highlights the 'Click the Sprints Gear' button. Another red box highlights the 'Select the first Sprint' option in the dropdown list, which is pointing to the 'Sprint: Jan 10 - Jan 21' option. The dropdown also lists 'Sprint: Jan 24 - Feb 10'.

4. Your story should look like the one below. Click the X to close the story window and get back to the kanban board.

Click the X to close the story window

5. The development team has determined that adding an 8 point story to the sprint is acceptable. Drag the story from the **Product Backlog** to the **Sprint Backlog**.

6. Your kanban board should now look like the one below. Notice that the story point estimate and sprint dates are annotations on the story.

7. The sprint planning meeting has proceeded nicely. In discussions with the development team, they have estimated the next two stories in the **Product Backlog** and determined that they can both fit in the current sprint. Select each of the following stories in the **Product Backlog**, assign them the corresponding story points and the same Sprint, and drag them to the **Sprint Backlog** in the same order.

Story Title	Story Points
Must persist counter across restarts	5
Deploy service to the cloud	5

At the end of this step, your sprint plan should look like this:

8. Based on the teams velocity, the development team has decided there are enough stories in the sprint, but there is some time left in the sprint planning meeting to estimate more stories. Add the following estimates to the stories in the **Product Backlog**.

Story Title	Story Points
Counters can be reset	3
Need ability to update a counter to new value	5

At the end of this exercise, your kanban board should look like this:

The screenshot shows a Kanban board with the following columns and tasks:

- Icebox:** 2 items, 0 Points.
 - lab-agile-planning #1: Must allow multiple counters
 - lab-agile-planning #2: Need the ability to remove a counter
- Product Backlog:** 2 items, 0 Points.
 - lab-agile-planning #3: Counters can be reset
 - lab-agile-planning #7: Need ability to update a counter to new value
- Sprint Backlog:** 3 items, 7 Points.
 - lab-agile-planning #1: Need a service that has a counter
 - lab-agile-planning #3: Must persist counter across Sprints
 - lab-agile-planning #6: Deploy service to the cloud
- In Progress:** 0 issues - 0 Points.
- Review/QA:** 0 issues - 7 Points.

Summary

You learned how to set up your sprints. You also learned how to assign story points to stories, assign stories to a sprint, and assemble a sprint plan from your product backlog.

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