# accenture technology

## Agile University: Delivery School

Product Backlog Refinement

High performance. Delivered.

Strategy | Digital | Technology | Operations

# Agenda

What is Product Backlog Refinement?

When to Conduct?

Why to Conduct?

# What is Product Backlog Refinement?

- Most Product Backlog Items (PBIs) initially need refinement because they are too large and poorly understood. Backlog Refinement includes clarification of requirements, decomposition of large Product Backlog Items (often called "epics") into smaller ones (such as "user stories") and size estimation.

- Team does story point estimation for the Product Backlog Items and provides other technical information to help the Product Owner prioritize them.

- This is an ongoing process in which the Product Owner and the Scrum Team collaborate on the details of Product Backlog items.
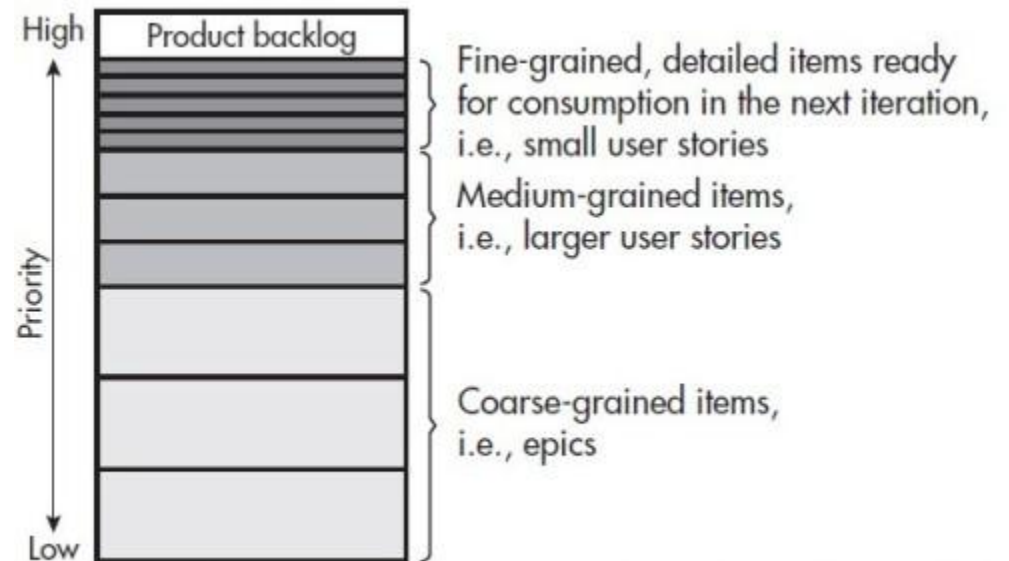


**FIGURE 3.1** Product backlog prioritization determines the level of detail

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# When to Conduct?

- Usually happens two to three days before the end of previous sprint.

- A good rule of thumb is that about 5 to 10 percent of the effort in each sprint should be spent on backlog refining. While the whole team's involvement would be nice, not all team members may be able to participate.
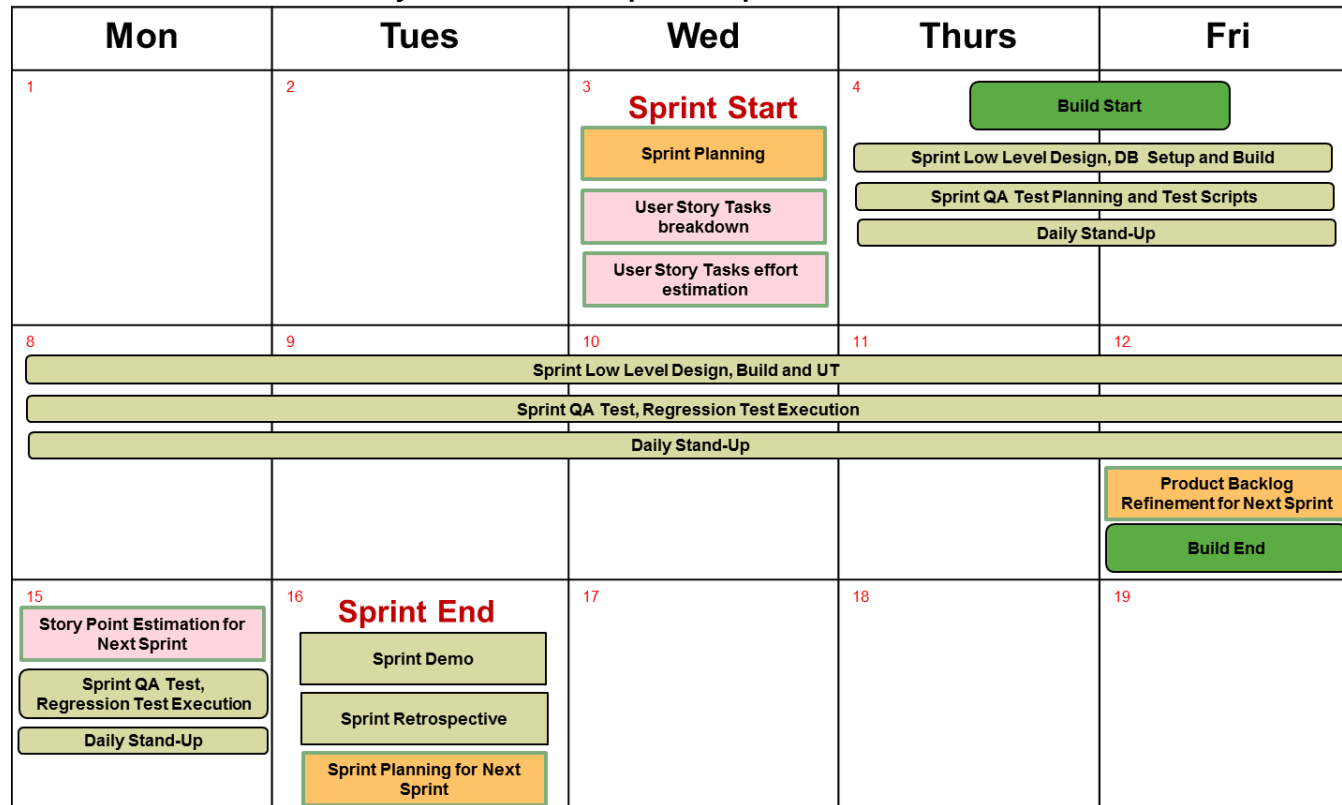
| Mon | Tues | Wed | Thurs | Fri |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 **Sprint Start**<br>Sprint Planning<br>User Story Tasks breakdown<br>User Story Tasks effort estimation | 4 **Build Start**<br>Sprint Low Level Design, DB Setup and Build<br>Sprint QA Test Planning and Test Scripts<br>Daily Stand-Up | |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| Sprint Low Level Design, Build and UT | | | | |
| Sprint QA Test, Regression Test Execution | | | | |
| Daily Stand-Up | | | | Product Backlog Refinement for Next Sprint<br>Build End |
| 15 **Story Point Estimation for Next Sprint**<br>Sprint QA Test, Regression Test Execution<br>Daily Stand-Up | 16 **Sprint End**<br>Sprint Demo<br>Sprint Retrospective<br>Sprint Planning for Next Sprint | 17 | 18 | 19 |

**Fig:** Sprint Execution – 2 Weeks Sprint

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# Why to Conduct?

- Helps the Product Owner get the top of the Product Backlog ready for the next Sprint Planning Meeting. The Product Owner cannot do this alone — the key team members like business analysts, architects, senior designers must help

- Increases efficiency of the team by greatly reducing uncertainty and unknowns.

- Better refined stories are more accurately estimated, more accurately tested, and more accurately implemented

- Increases efficiency of the team due to the benefit of shared knowledge gained by the entire Scrum team being in the refining.

- Allows the team to maintain a sustainable, higher pace.

# Questions & Answers

Q & A