

Breaking down Product Backlog Items, a cheatsheet



“Can we break this user story down (vertically) on ... “
(and make it simpler, more understandable and easier to estimate & order)

1. Workflow steps? What steps does a user perform? Are all of the steps necessary now? Can steps be simplified for now? <i>Steps in an order process, like selecting a payment option, delivery method, etc.</i>	2. Business rules? What rules apply to this story? Are all business rules necessary now? Can simpler rules suffice? <i>Rules in an order process (no order below 10 dollars, no shipping outside US)</i>
3. Happy / unhappy flow? What does the happy / unhappy flow look like? Are all unhappy flows necessary (right now)? Can unhappy flows be simplified (for now)? <i>Failures during a webshop order process and possible recovery options</i>	4. Input options? Which platforms are supported? Are all platforms required (right now)? Are some platforms harder to implement than others? <i>Tablet, iPhone, desktop, touchscreen</i>
5. Data types and parameters? What datatypes are supported and relevant? Which parameterized views are there? Are all parameters relevant at the moment? <i>Different search options / strategies or different kinds of reports (tables, graphs, etc.)</i>	6. Operations? What operations does the story entail? Are all operations necessary right now? <i>Breaking down on CRUD (create, read, update, delete)</i>
7. Test cases? What test scenarios are used to verify this story? Are all test scenarios relevant at the moment? <i>Some test scenarios may be very complex, but not highly relevant at this time</i>	8. Roles? Which roles are involved in this story? What can the roles do? Are all roles necessary now? <i>A customer can create orders, administrators can manage orders, etc.</i>
9. Browser compatibility? What browsers have to be supported? Are all browsers important at this point? <i>Ignoring support for Internet Explorer 9 because only a fraction of users makes use of it</i>	10. Optimize now vs optimize later? What optimizations can we think of (UX/UI)? Are all optimizations necessary now? <i>Implementing autocomplete for addresses, usage of GPS-location</i>

Created by Christiaan Verwijs | theliberators.com
Inspired by Dean Leffingwell, Richard Lawrence, Mike Cohn and others



Read the full post at
<https://bit.ly/tl10breakdownstrategies>