

# Agile Software Engineering Product Backlog Hygiene

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# Hi, I'm Karsten!

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Background: Computer Science

In Software Dev since 2005

Wore all the hats...

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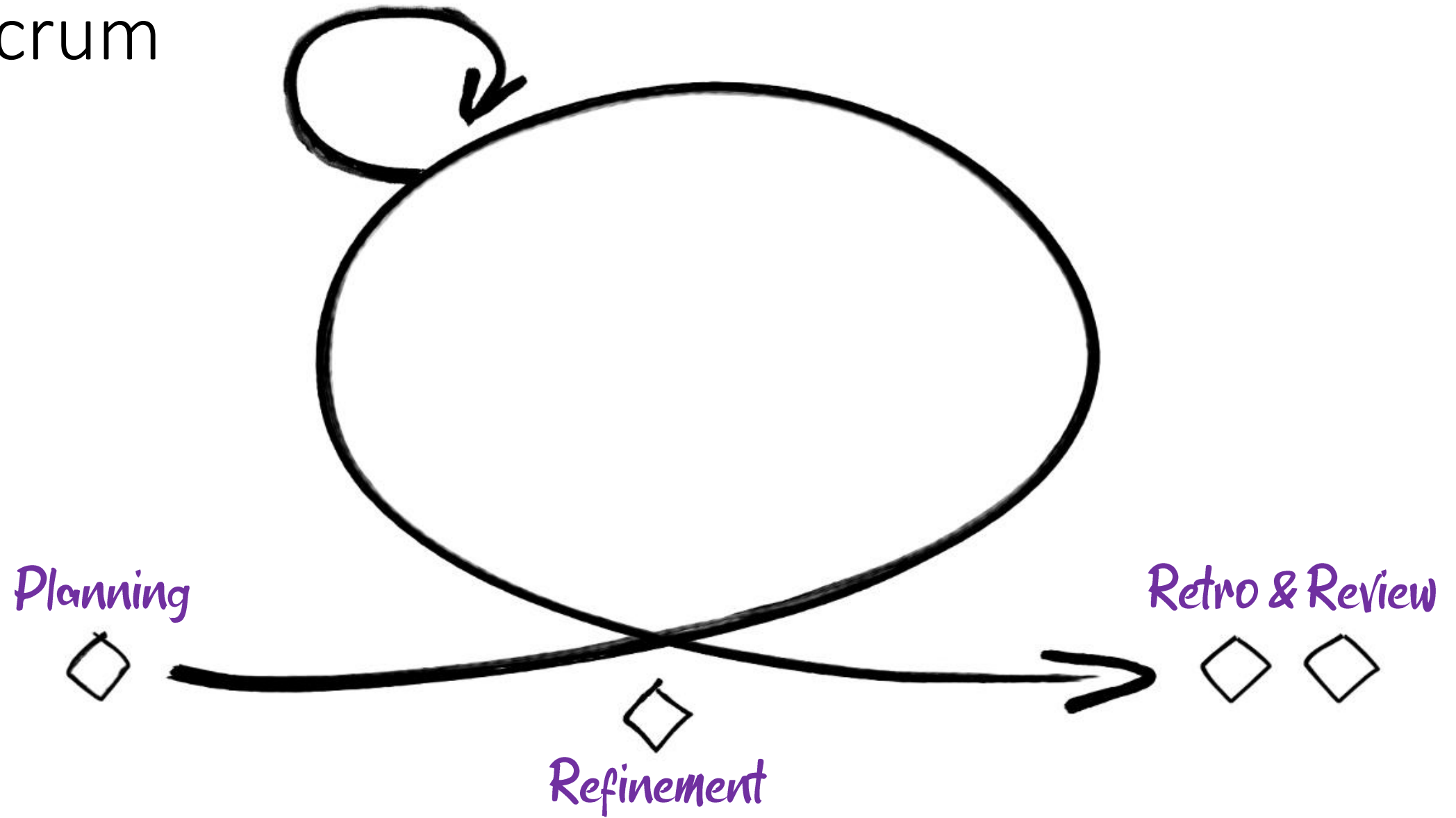
Previously...

- Product Planning
- Requirements Elicitation
- Product Vision & Roadmap

You already have the big picture. Now let's zoom in.

Product Owner in Scrum sense:  
The **Owner** of the **Product Backlog**

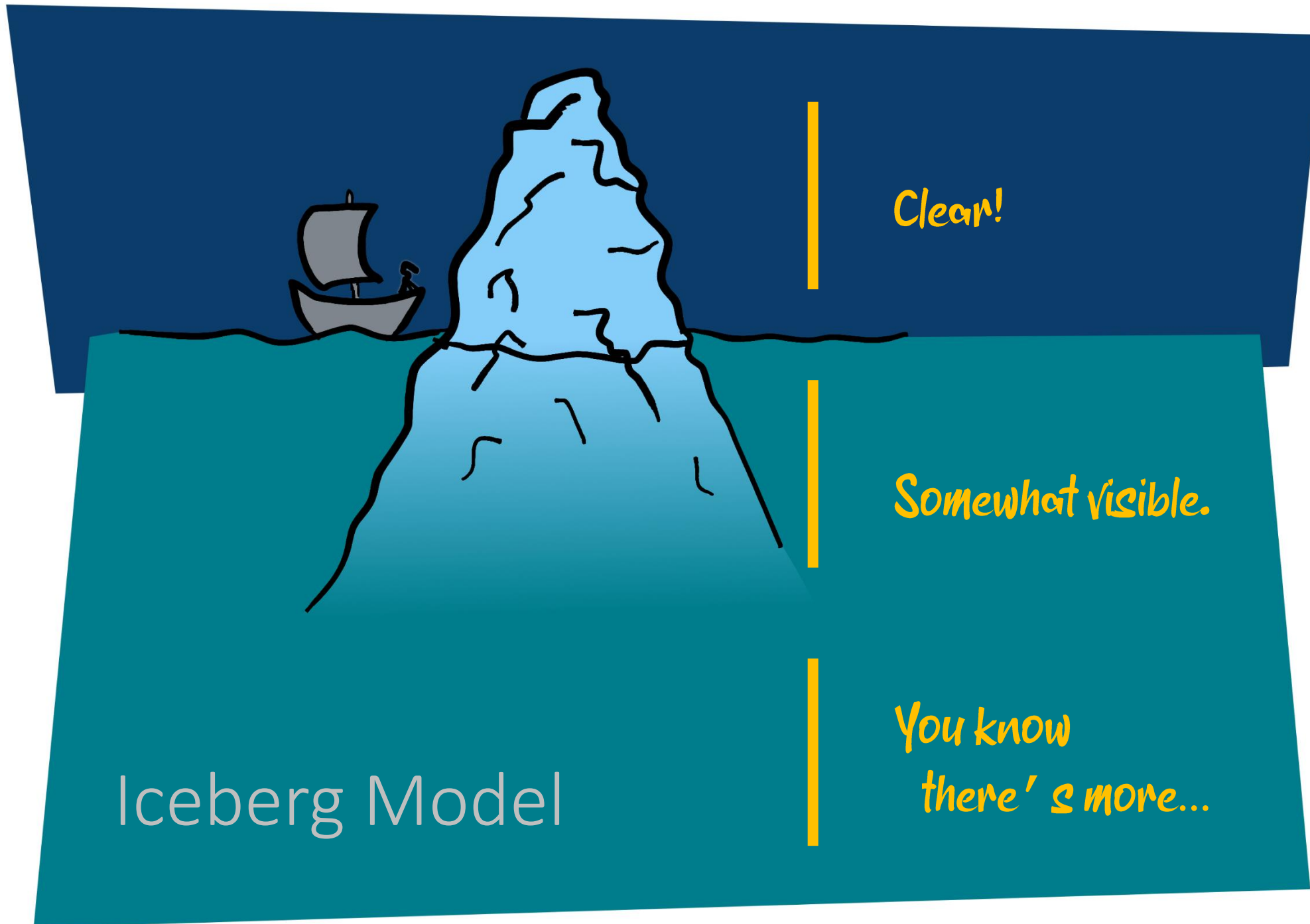
# Scrum



# Backlog

The Product Backlog is an emergent, ordered list of what is needed to improve the product. It is the single source of work undertaken by the Scrum Team.

**The Scrum Guide**



Next

Soon

Eventually

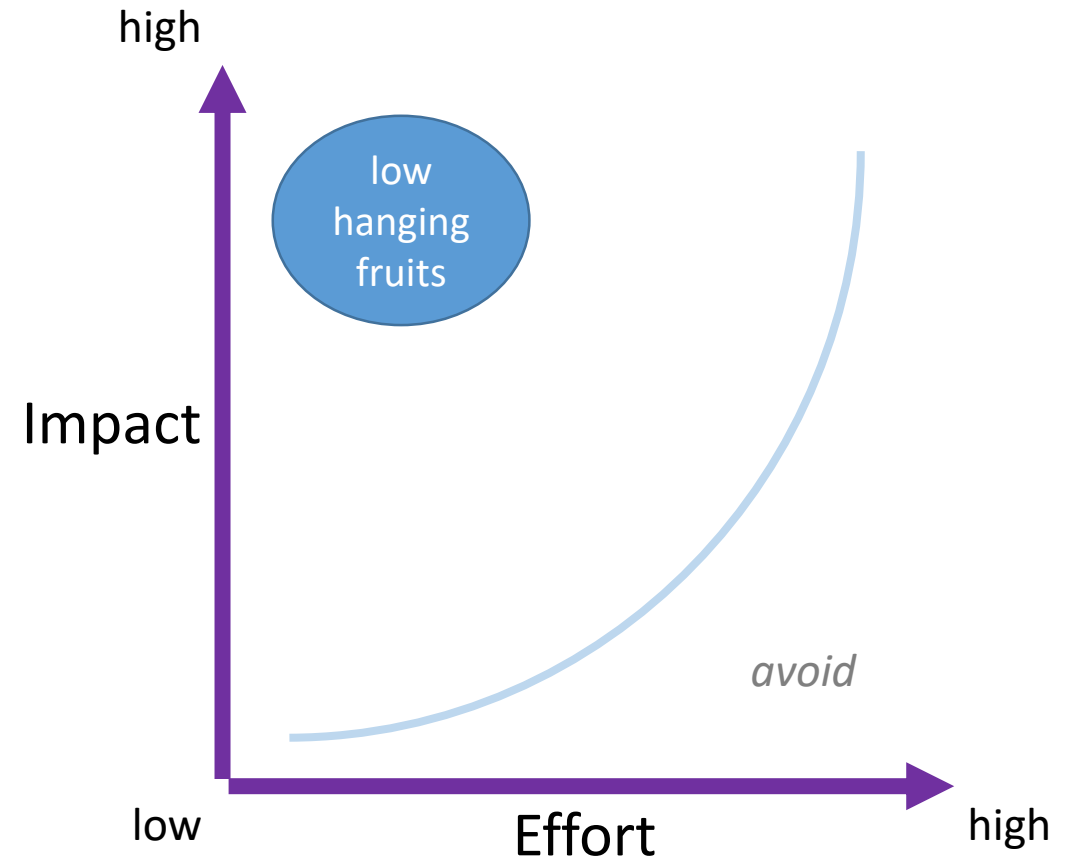
# Impact Effort Matrix

## Impact estimation:

- User value
- Revenue
- Efficiency

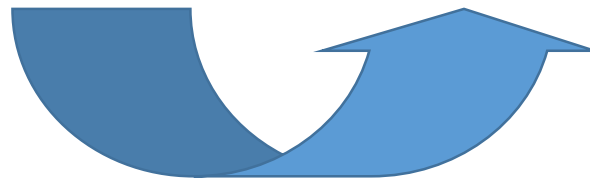
## Effort estimation:

- Refinement



# Outcome vs Output

Outcome	Output
High level (quantifiable)	Specific details
The goal you want to reach.	The steps you need to take.
Make it easier for our customers to log in.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Color log-in button red</li><li>• Increase button size by 20%</li></ul>



Refinement



# User Stories

Making sure to provide value for your users

Document what it is you're trying to achieve

Note: User Stories are a communication tool, not a contract!

# User Stories 1: Personas

Personas are profiles for specific users.  
Help to put yourself in their shoes.

Name: Karsten

Details: Experienced power shopper, easily frustrated with slow systems

Goal: Wants to buy products in short time with few clicks

*Note:* The better you know your customers, the more you can focus on providing value for them

# User Stories 2: Format

Define what it is you want to solve, so you can discuss questions and approach to do that.

## User Story Format

As a	<i>Who?</i>	As an experienced shopper with low patience
I want to	<i>What?</i>	I want to add items to cart without interrupting my shopping experience
So that	<i>Why?</i>	So that I can keep shopping and add more items to cart and fulfill my shopping needs in short time

# User Stories 2: Acceptance Criteria

What needs to be fulfilled so the PO can accept the solution?

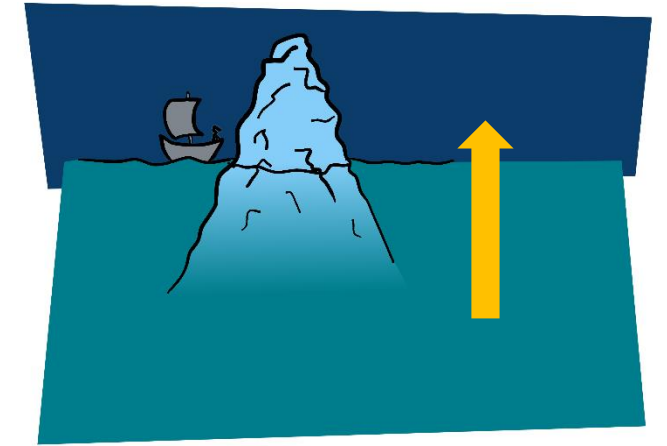
PO wants *Outcome*, Team delivers *Output*

Acceptance Test Format:

GIVEN	<i>Context</i>	GIVEN I'm logged in and have an empty cart
WHEN	<i>Action</i>	WHEN I hit the "add to cart" button on a PDP
THEN	<i>Expected Result</i>	THEN the cart icon on the top right corner flashes briefly and shows a little one going further, indicating one item in cart

# Refinement

Product Backlog refinement is the act of breaking down and further defining Product Backlog items into smaller more precise items. This is an ongoing activity to add details, such as a description, order, and size.



**The Scrum guide**

# INVEST Criteria

<b>I</b> ndependent	Can we manage the dependencies?
<b>N</b> egotiable	Can we discuss it or is this just an order (output)?
<b>V</b> aluable	Do we understand the value it brings?
<b>E</b> stimable	Can we estimate it?
<b>S</b> mall	Can we make it smaller?
<b>T</b> estable	Can we test it?

# Story Mapping

Process to map out how to achieve a certain goal.

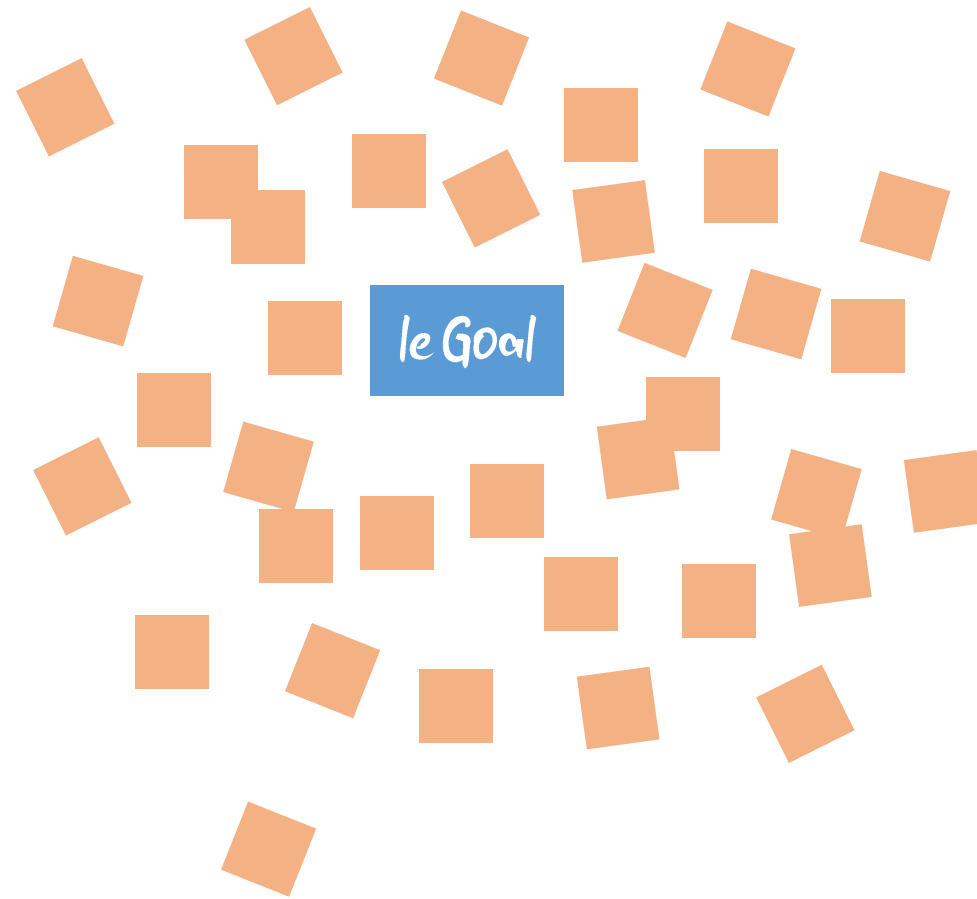
1. Goal definition
2. Brain storming
3. Grouping & ordering
4. Definition of steps

## 1. Goal definition

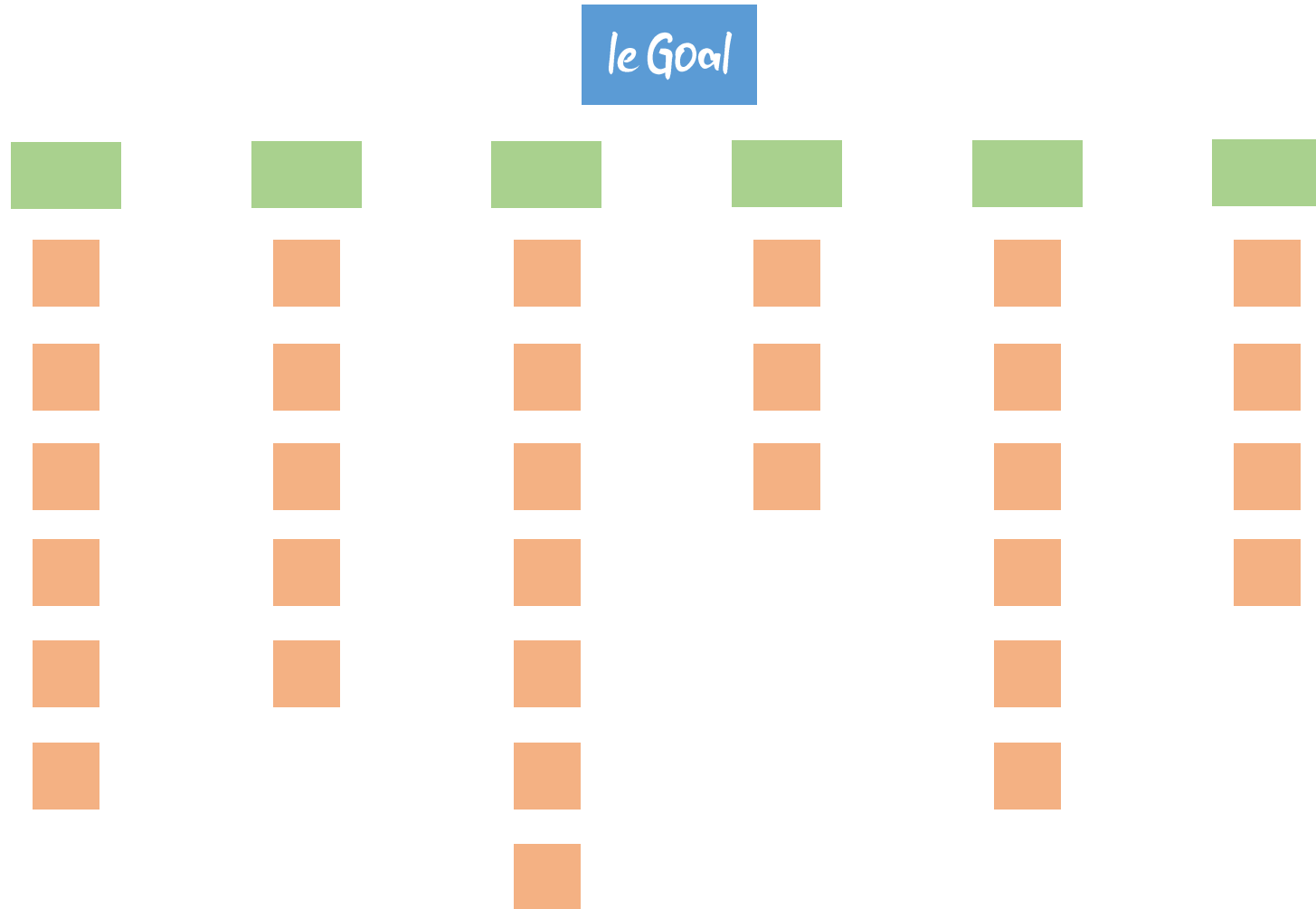
The logo consists of the words "le Goal" in a white, handwritten-style font, centered within a solid blue rectangular background.



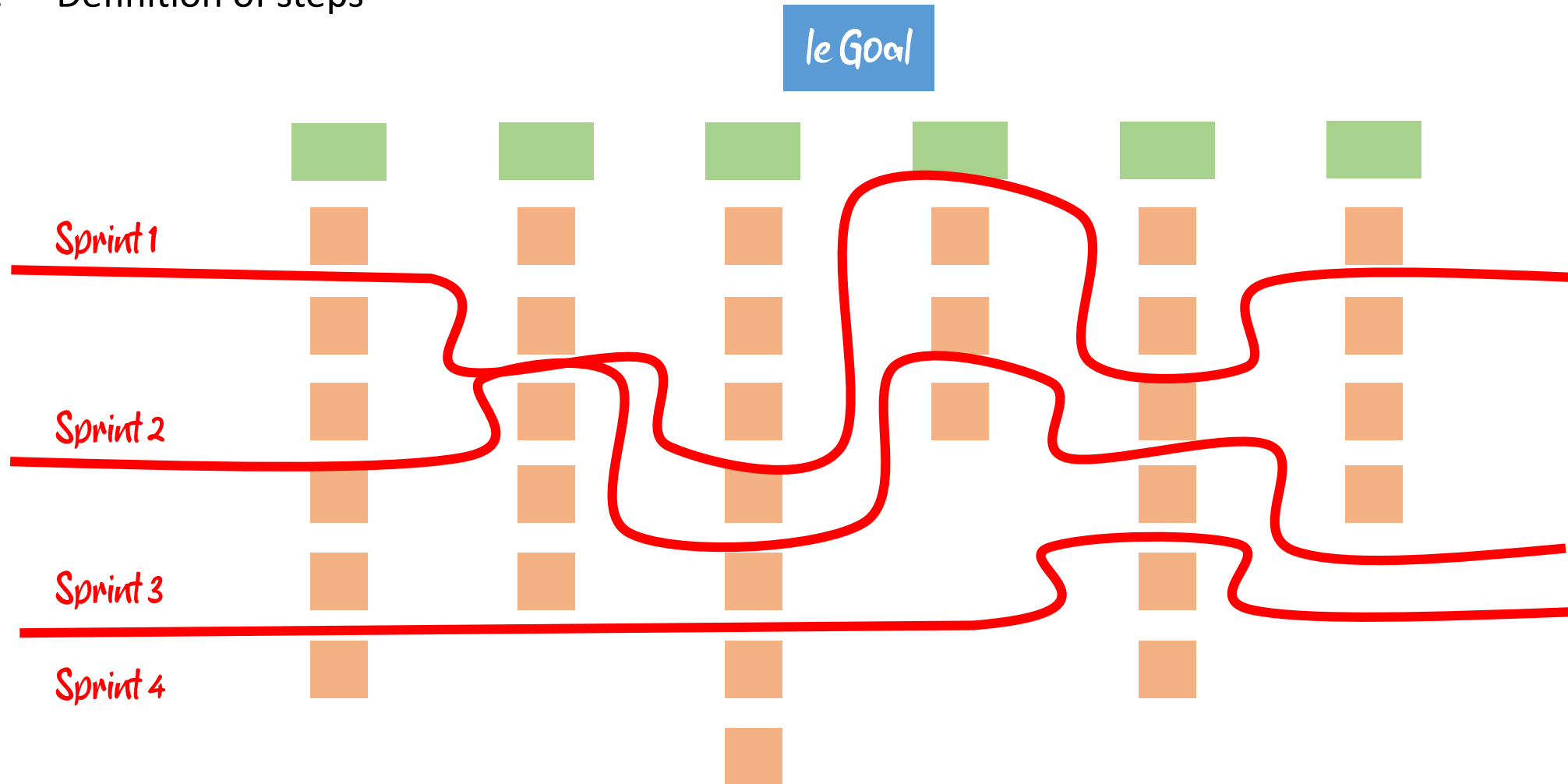
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1. Goal definition
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1. Goal definition
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# Planning

The Sprint Backlog is composed of the Sprint Goal (why), the set of Product Backlog items selected for the Sprint (what), as well as an actionable plan for delivering the Increment (how) .

**The Scrum Guide**

# Sprint Goal

What do we want to achieve this sprint?!

Helps providing focus.

# Sprint Commitment

Team decides on how much they can take in.

And commits to achieving it.

And plans how to approach it.

... and then the sprint is started!

Thanks for your attention.

Questions?

# Backup

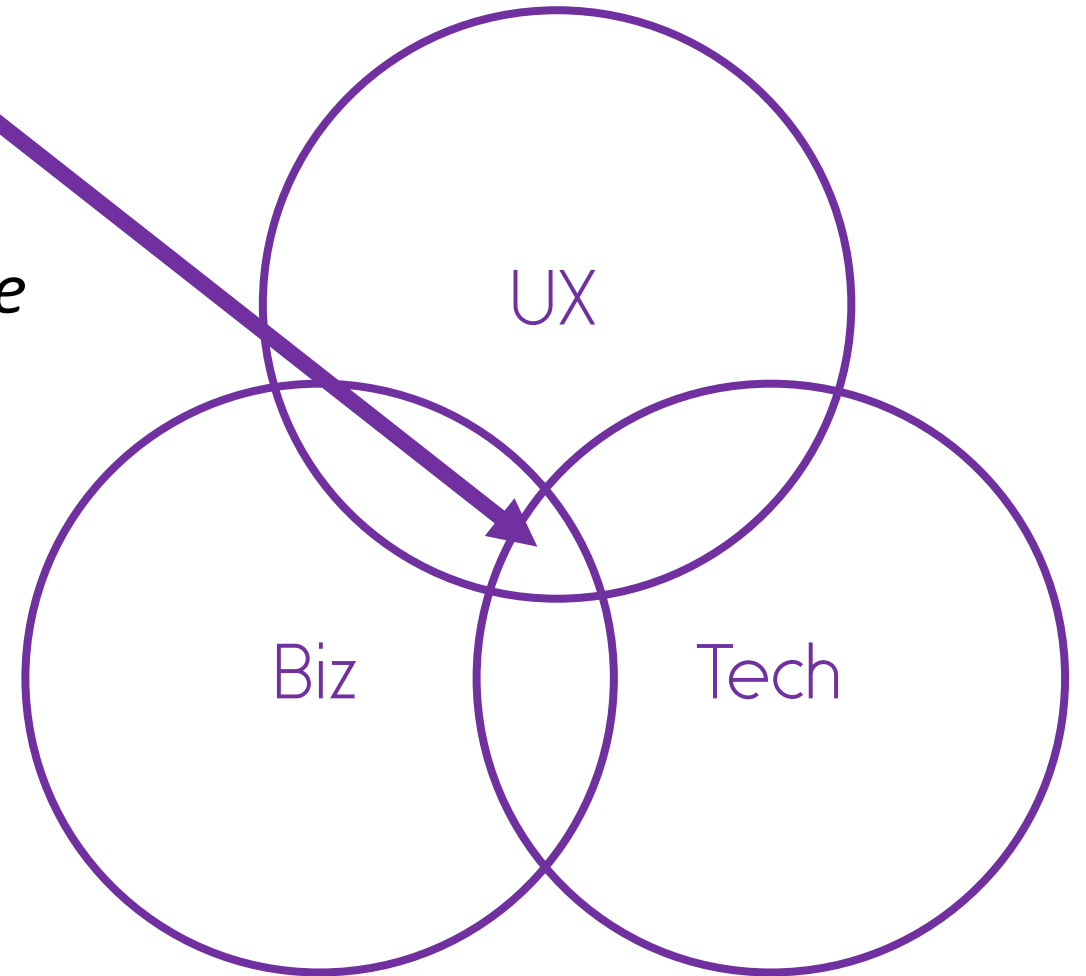


# Product Management

Holistic view of product

From *Budget Planing* to *Customer Service*

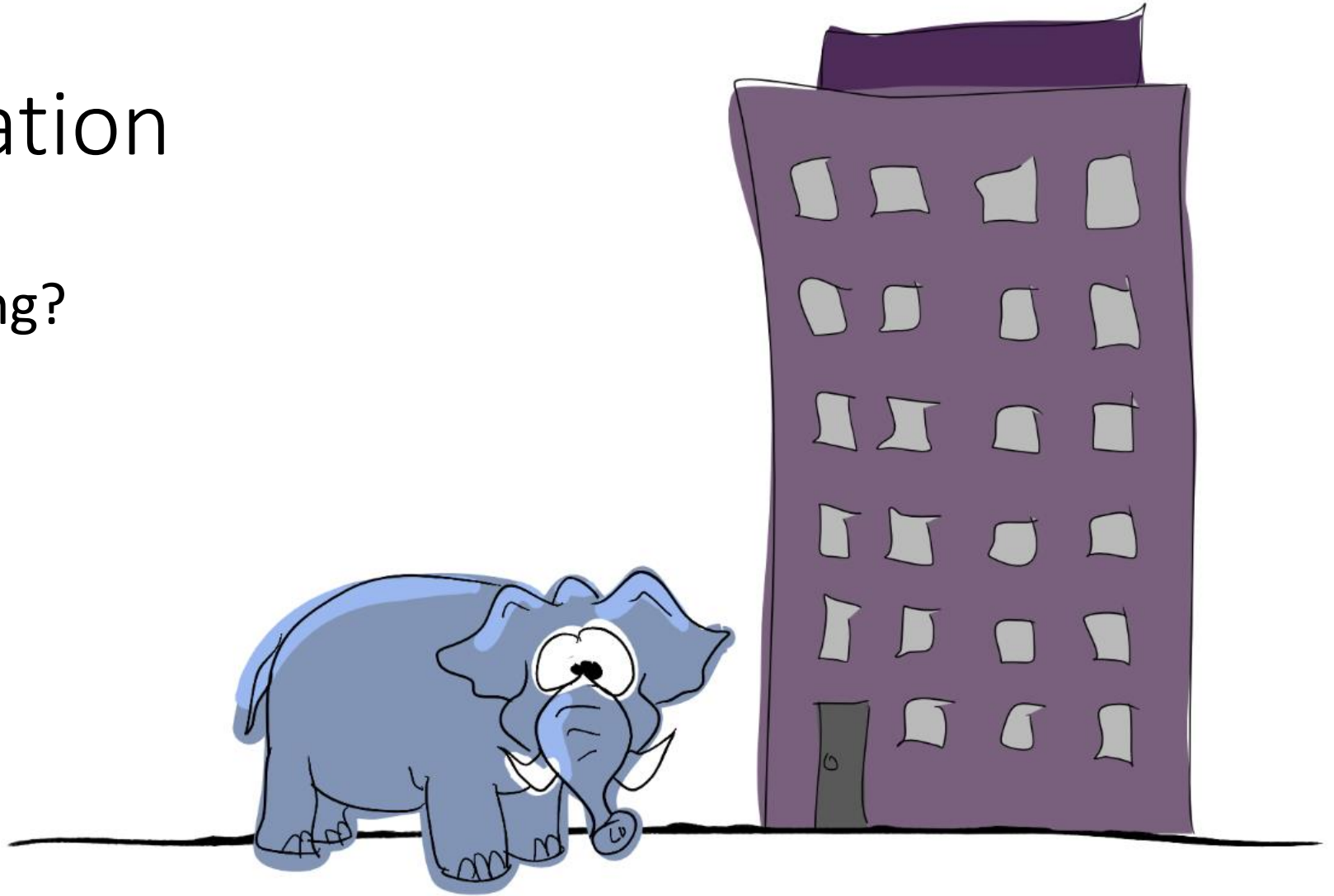
Little too fuzzy...



# Relative Estimation

How high is this building?

3 Elephants?



The team needs to decide on a reference story.

# Story Points

Measure for story complexity: points

Measure for team's velocity: points per sprint

Based on Fibonacci Sequence ( $\frac{1}{2}$  1 2 3 5 8 13 20 40 100)

Alternative: T-Shirt sizes (Small Medium Large)

*Note:* You can't compare the relative estimations between teams.  
Highly individual.

# Planning Poker

1. Discuss a story for short time.
2. Then ask everyone to make their story point assessment...
3. Show on count of 3!
4. Check differences.
5. Two people briefly explaining their perspective: lowest & highest
6. Repeat 2-5 until agreement.