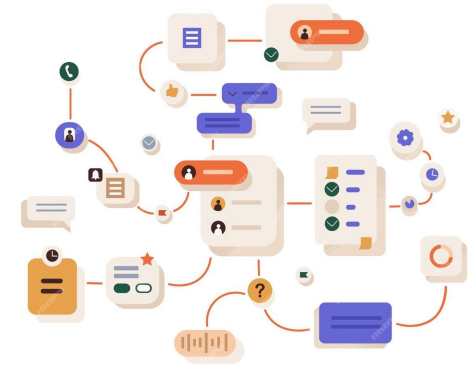# Parallel session
User personas and stories

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Evaluation of Tools and Services to improve the quality of research software
Feb 10, 2025

EVERSE dashboard

- Designing a system for measuring **research software** quality quantitatively
  - User personas
  - User stories

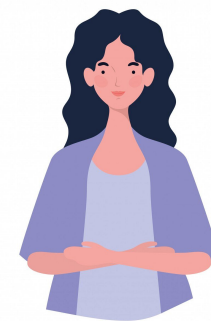Designed by [Freepik](#)

What Are User Personas?

Persona

Fictional but **realistic representations** of the different types of users who might interact with our software.

Why They Matter

- **Empathy**: Helps us understand users' perspectives.
- **Focus**: Guides feature priorities by focusing on actual needs.
- **Clarity**: Makes it easier to communicate user requirements across the team.

Basic Persona Elements

- **Name & Role** (e.g., "Marie, a PhD candidate in Biology")
- **Goals & Motivations** (e.g., "Wants easy code-quality metrics")
- **Challenges & Frustrations** (e.g., "Limited coding experience")
- **Technical Skills & Environment** (e.g., "Uses Python, has access to HPC clusters")

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Crafting User Stories

A user story is

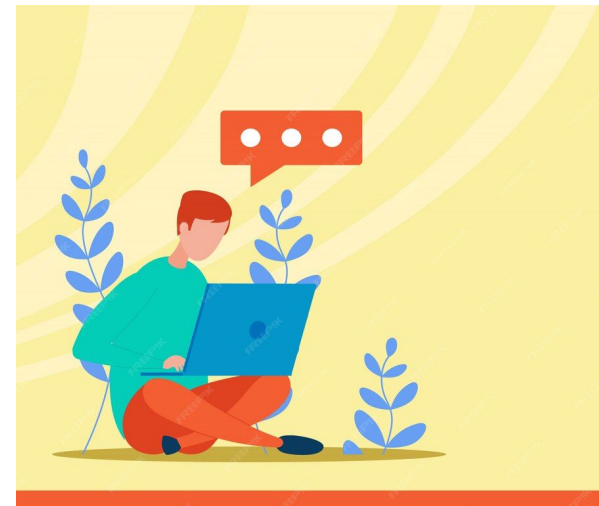Short, simple statements that describe

- **"who"** the user is,
- **"what"** they need,
- and **"why"** it's important.

Standard Format

"As a **<type of user>**, I want **<some goal>** so that **<reason | benefit>.**"

Examples

- "As a **junior researcher**, I want **to view quick metrics on my code's performance** so that **I can identify bugs efficiently**."
- "As a **project PI**, I want **to track overall code quality trends so that I can allocate resources to the teams most in need**."

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Exercise Instructions

1. **Work individually (optionally form Small Groups of 3–5 people)**
2. **Brainstorm Personas**
   - Identify at least **2 or 3** user types (e.g., a junior researcher, a senior software engineer, a project manager).
3. **Write User Stories**
   - For each persona, create **3–5** user stories.
   - Use the "As a … I want … so that …" format.
4. **Consider Non-Functional Requirements**
   - What do these stories imply about usability, reliability, performance, etc.?

https://tinyurl.com/everse-persona

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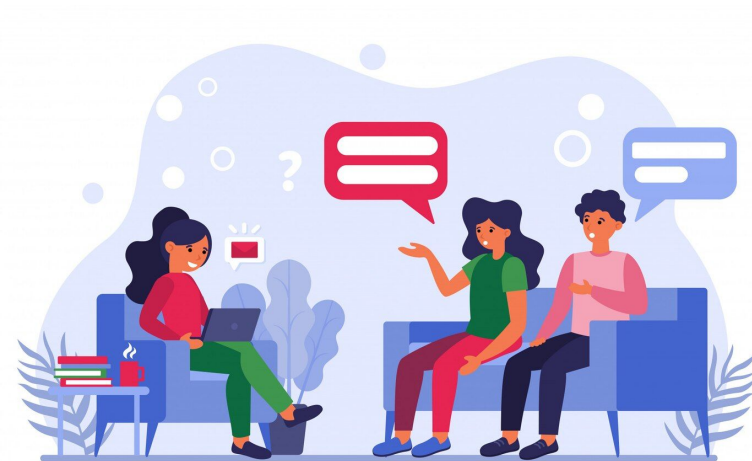# Wrap-Up & Next Steps

Share Your Work

- Each group will briefly present their **personas** and **user stories**.

Discussion

- Compare common needs, challenges, and potential overlaps in requirements.
- Identify key **non-functional insights** (e.g., "must support large datasets," "needs minimal setup time," etc.).

Integration

- We'll gather your findings to **inform the EVERSE system design** and requirements documentation.

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