

Lab 5: Build the Sprint Plan from your Product Backlog

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.

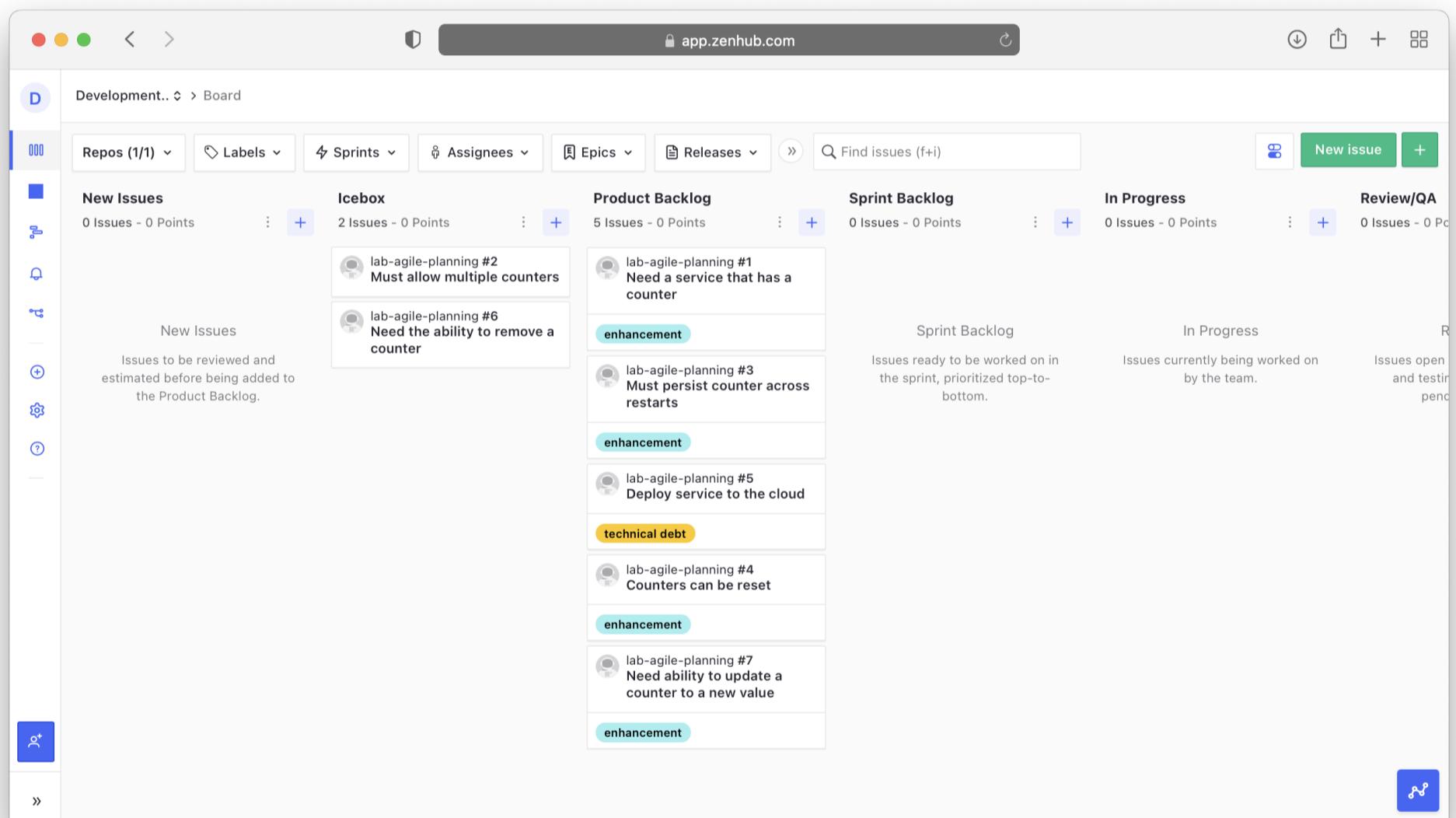
Objectives

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:



New Issues:

- None

Icebox:

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

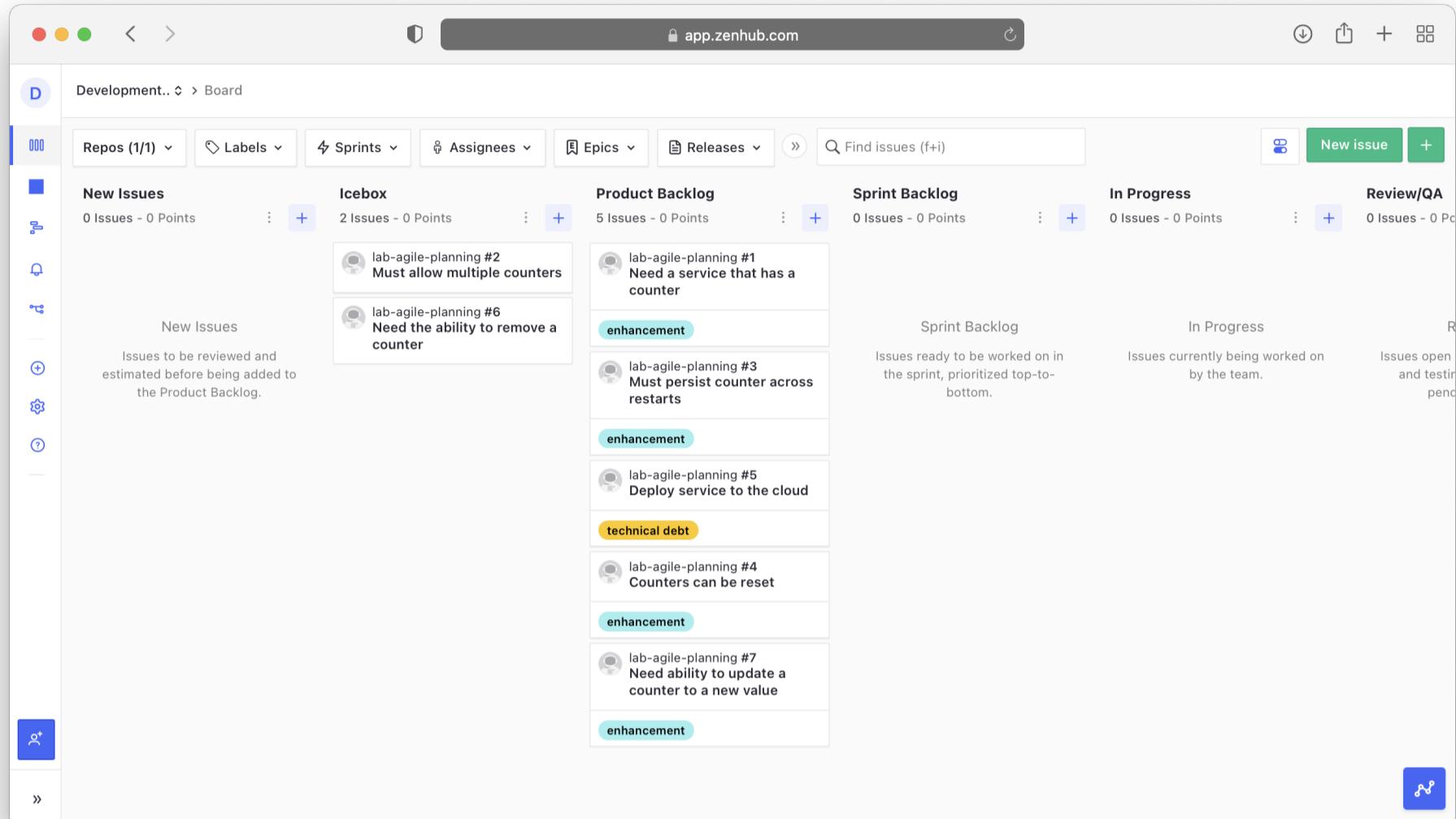
Product Backlog:

- 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

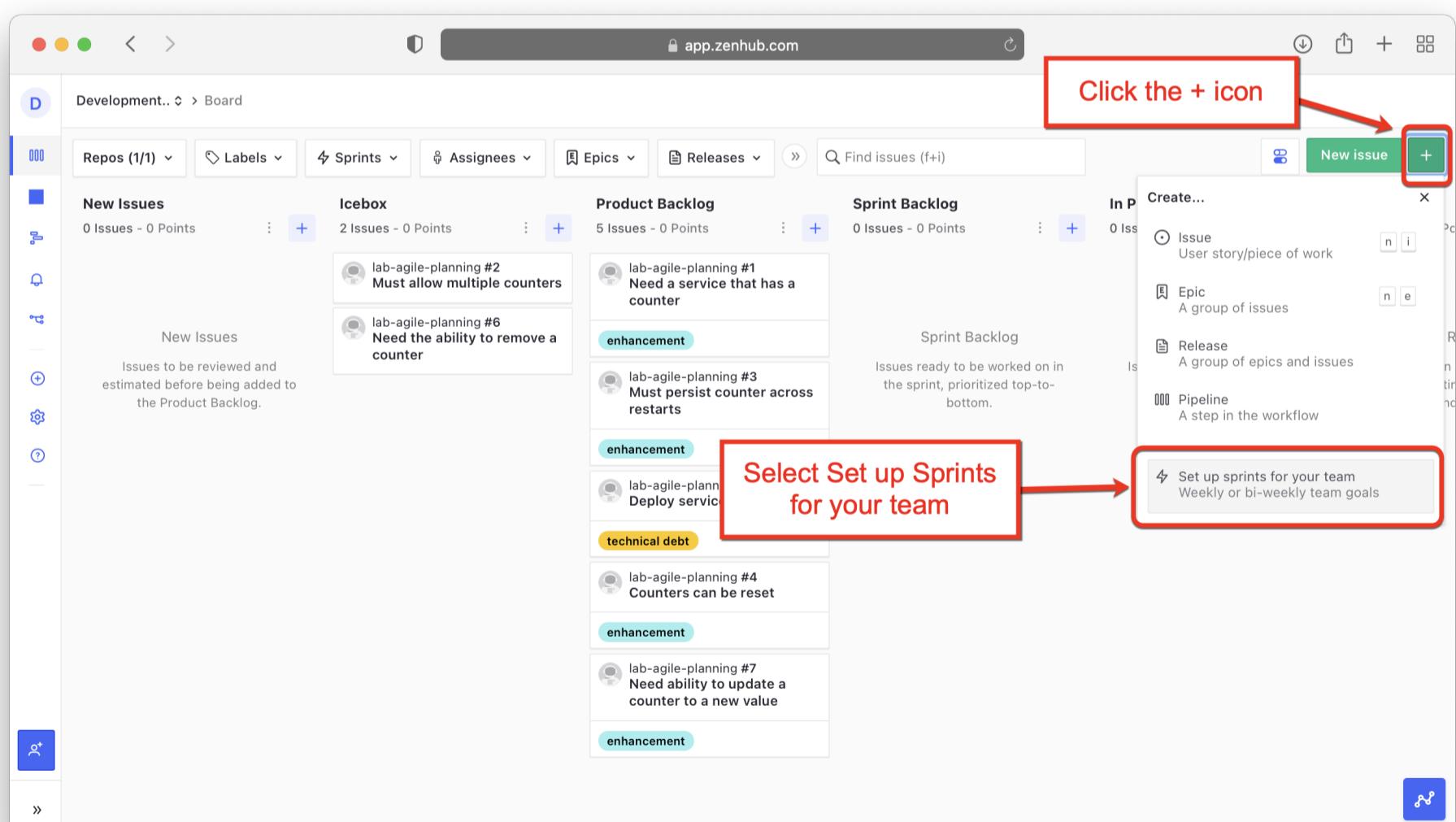
Exercise 1 : Setup Sprints

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.

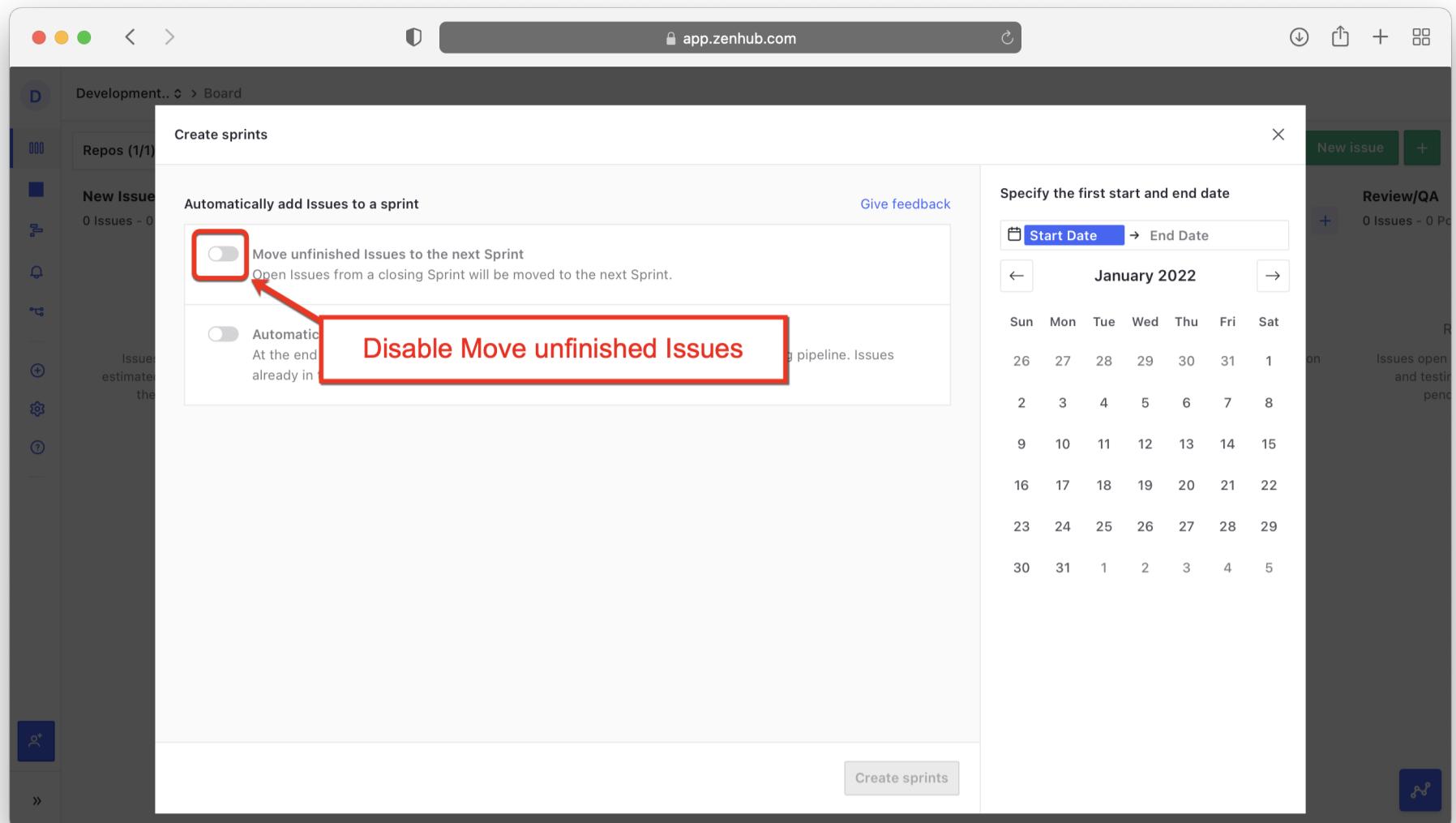
1. Go to app.zenhub.com and sign in with your GitHub account and bring up your kanban board.



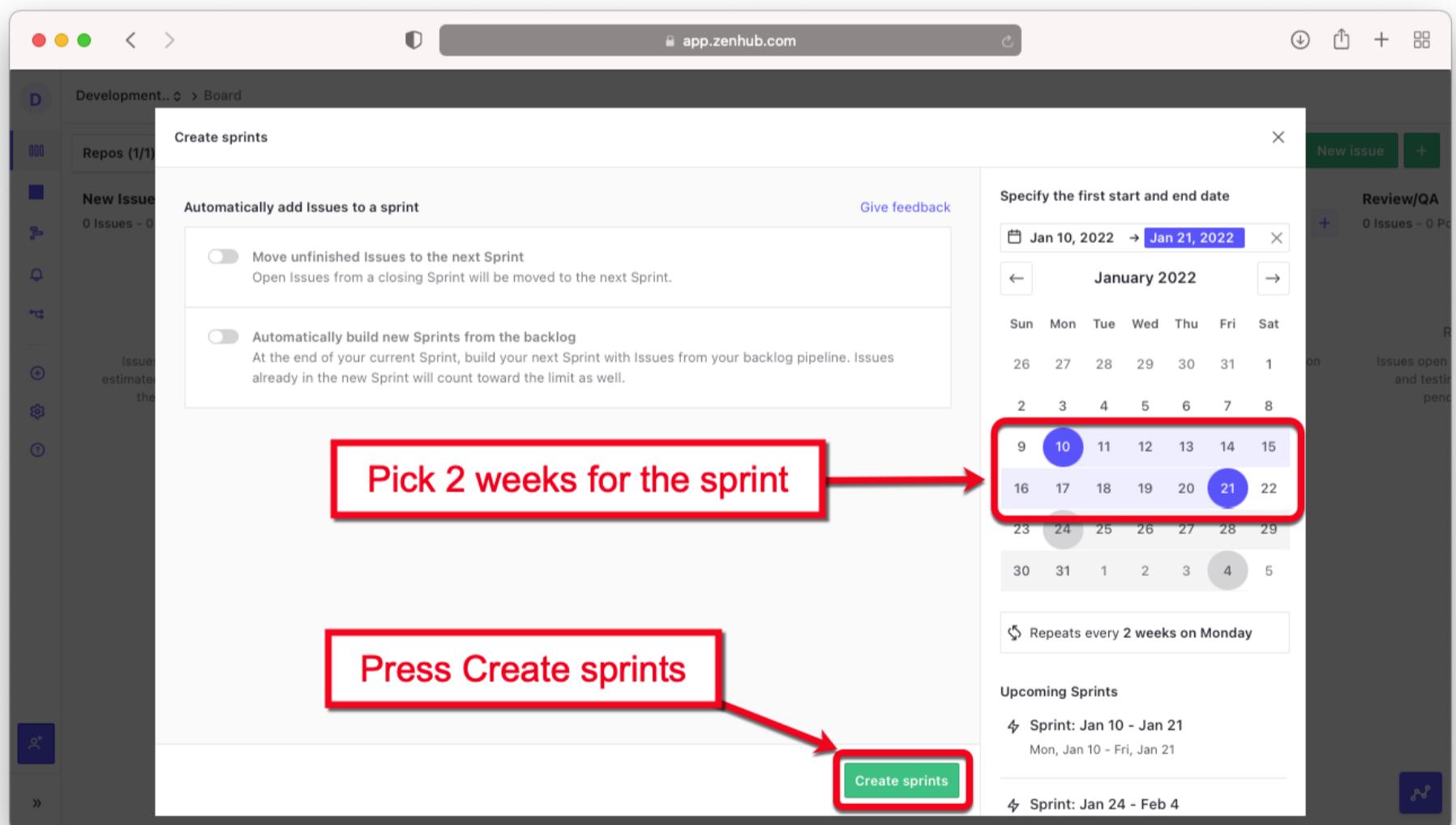
2. Click the + icon and select **Set up Sprints for your team** from the dropdown menu.



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.



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.



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 interface with the 'Development' board selected. The 'Product Backlog' section is highlighted with a red box around the first item: 'lab-agile-planning #1 Need a service that has a counter'. This item is categorized as an 'enhancement'. Below the backlog, there are sections for 'Sprint Backlog', 'In Progress', and 'Review/QA'.

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**.

The screenshot shows the ZenHub interface with the 'Development' board selected. The 'Issue Details' panel on the right is open for the story '#1 Need a service that has a counter'. In the bottom right corner of the panel, there is a 'Planning poker' estimation tool. A red box highlights the number '8' in the row of numbers, indicating the selected estimate. An arrow points from the text 'Select 8' to this highlighted number.

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.

The screenshot shows a ZenHub board for the 'Development.. > Board' project. A story card titled 'Need a service that has a counter #1' is open. The story details include:

- As a User**: I need a service that has a counter
- So that**: I can keep track of how many times something was done
- Details and Assumptions**:
 - Need a way to increment a counter
 - Need a way to get the current value
- Acceptance Criteria**: 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

A red box highlights the 'Sprints' gear icon in the top right corner of the story card. Another red box highlights the 'Select the first Sprint' button in the Sprints dropdown menu.

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

The screenshot shows the same ZenHub board with the story card now closed. The story details are identical to the previous screenshot. The Sprints dropdown menu is still open, showing the selected sprint: 'Sprint: Jan 10 - Jan 21'. A red box highlights the 'Close issue' X button in the top right corner of the story card area.

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**.

The screenshot shows a kanban board interface with several columns: New Issues, Icebox, Product Backlog, Sprint Backlog, In Progress, and Review/QA. The Product Backlog column contains seven stories, with the top one being "lab-agile-planning #1 Need a service that has a counter". A red arrow points from this story to the Sprint Backlog column, which currently has zero issues.

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.

The screenshot shows the same kanban board after the story was moved. The Sprint Backlog column now contains one issue, "lab-agile-planning #1 Need a service that has a counter", which is highlighted with a red border. Annotations on the story card include "8 enhancement" and "Sprint: Jan 10 - Jan 21".

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

Story Title

Story Points

Deploy service to the cloud	5
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At the end of this step, your sprint plan should look like this:

The screenshot shows a Kanban board interface with the following sections:

- New Issues:** 0 Issues - 0 Points.
- Icebox:** 2 Issues - 0 Points. Contains stories: lab-agile-planning #2 (Must allow multiple counters), lab-agile-planning #6 (Need the ability to remove a counter).
- Product Backlog:** 2 Issues - 0 Points. Contains stories: lab-agile-planning #4 (Counters can be reset) labeled as enhancement, lab-agile-planning #7 (Need ability to update a counter to a new value) labeled as enhancement.
- Sprint Backlog:** 3 Issues - 18 Points. Contains stories: lab-agile-planning #1 (Need a service that has a counter) labeled as enhancement, lab-agile-planning #3 (Must persist counter across restarts) labeled as enhancement, lab-agile-planning #5 (Deploy service to the cloud) labeled as enhancement, and lab-agile-planning #8 (technical debt). All stories in this column have a due date of Jan 10 - Jan 21.
- In Progress:** 0 Issues - 0 Points.
- Review/QA:** 0 Issues - 0 Points.

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
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Need ability to update a counter to new value	5
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At the end of this exercise, your kanban board should look like this:

The screenshot shows a ZenHub board titled "Development.. > Board". The board is organized into several columns: "New Issues", "Icebox", "Product Backlog", "Sprint Backlog", "In Progress", and "Review/QA".

- New Issues:** 0 Issues - 0 Points.
- Icebox:** 2 Issues - 0 Points.
 - lab-agile-planning #2 Must allow multiple counters
 - lab-agile-planning #6 Need the ability to remove a counter
- Product Backlog:** 2 Issues - 8 Points.
 - lab-agile-planning #4 Counters can be reset
 - lab-agile-planning #7 Need ability to update a counter to a new value
 - lab-agile-planning #5 Deploy service to the cloud
- Sprint Backlog:** 3 Issues - 18 Points (Sprint: Jan 10 - Jan 21).
 - lab-agile-planning #1 Need a service that has a counter
 - lab-agile-planning #3 Must persist counter across restarts
 - lab-agile-planning #5 Deploy service to the cloud
- In Progress:** 0 Issues - 0 Points.
- Review/QA:** 0 Issues - 0 Points.

A sidebar on the left contains various icons for navigation and filtering, and a message: "Issues to be reviewed and estimated before being added to the Product Backlog."

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.

Author(s)

[John Rofrano](#)

Changelog

Date	Version	Changed by	Change Description
2021-08-07	0.1	John Rofrano	Initial version created
2022-01-13	0.2	John Rofrano	Removed Milestones