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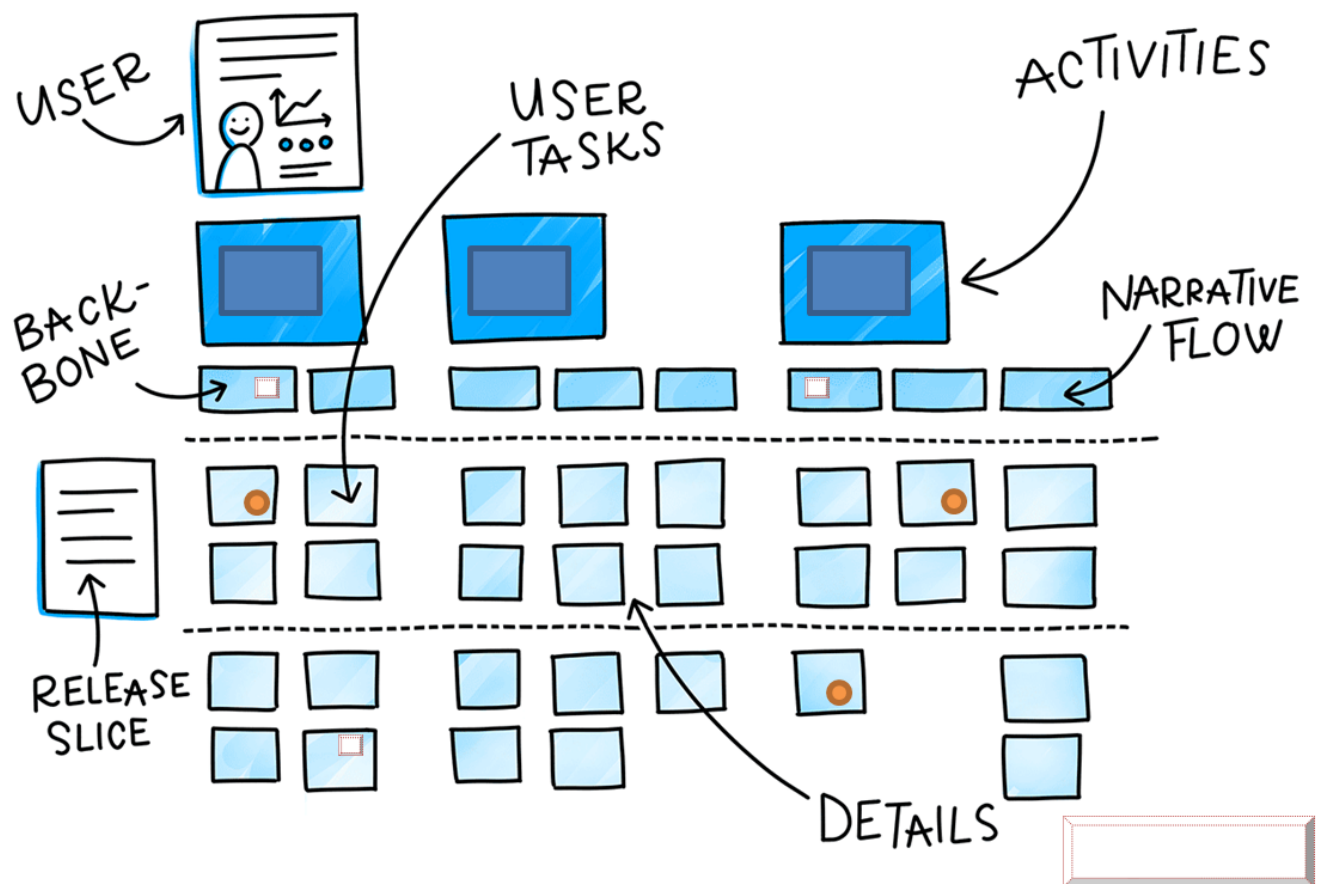
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User Story Mapping | Product Backlog Creation

Priyank Shah   May 16, 2019 · 4 min read

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> **Assumption** - We have good understanding of What is "User Story" in Agile world. If you are new, Please refer to <u>MY BLOG</u>:

Backlogs normally is pretty confusing if it is not managed periodically. They typically start off with a high-level list of features, which we call "**epics**" that make sense to everyone involved. However, as we start decomposing all the way down to **sprintable stories** soon everyone will be lost and the only person with the decoder ring is the **Product Owner**. They are the only one who knows how all the sub stories tie back up and relate with each other. **But how do we make sure we get the right <u>MVP</u>**?

What is Story Map / What can be achieved?
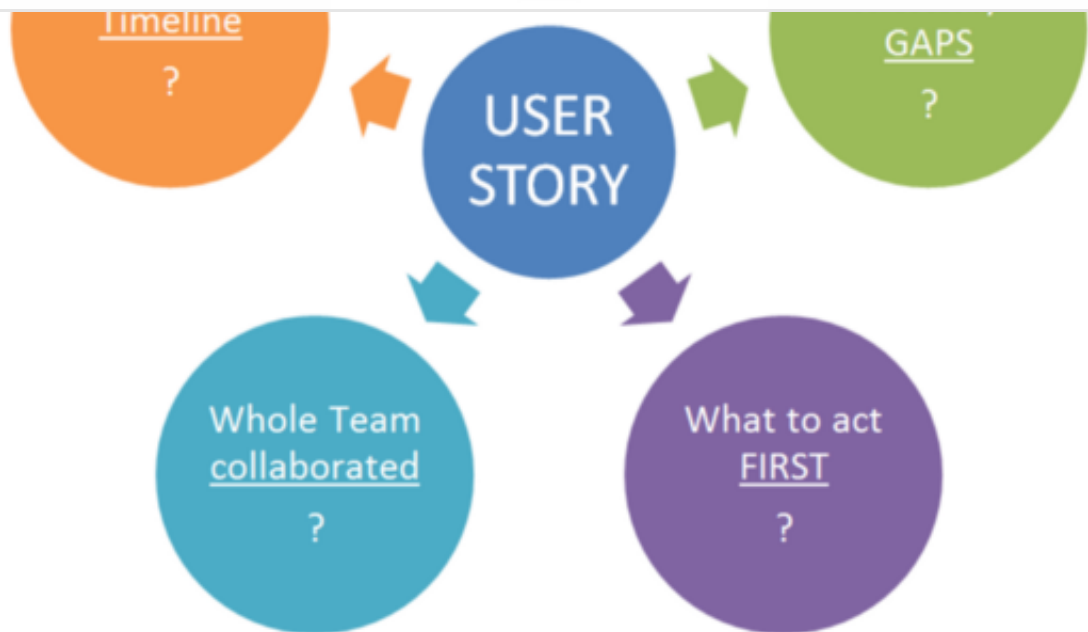
Above questions can be answered by Story Map

- **Story Maps** were invented by Jeff Patton to help discover requirements from a user experience point of view.

- **Story Maps** represent a roughly linear view of the steps a customer follows as he or she interacts with the product.

- **Story Maps** helps to identified all question shown in image.

Creating The Story Map

Let's take any e-commerce site as an example. So in order to buy Song, as a user, I will have following user journey…

These steps usually equate to **Epics** in the product backlog and each step gets broken down into smaller tasks, which often become **User Stories**.

- Once we've got the activities identified we will order them in the chronological order of how a user will interact with the product (I have already ordered them)

backlog as we have the shared wisdom of an entire team involved in the discussion.

Stories

Below each activity , we create user stories which flesh out the customer journey. These stories are ordered by value to the user. Value may be identified through conversations with users, analytics on usage patterns, or another form of insight appropriate for your product. For example,

Selection Of Song	Purchase	Listen	Share
Free text search	Credit Card	PBI	Via Facebook
Browse by genre	PayPal	PBI	Via Twitter
Browse by Singer	Cash	PBI	Via WhatsApp
Browse by Writer	Pay at outlet	PBI	Via LinkedIn
Browse by Movie		PBI	
Most Popular			

User's Sequence (Time) → · Priority ↓

Collection of all Stories / Tasks

Test for gaps

| Selection Of Song	Purchase	Listen	Share
Free text search	Credit Card	PBI	Via Facebook
Browse by genre	PayPal	PBI	Via Twitter
Browse by Singer	Cash	PBI	Via WhatsApp
Browse by Writer	Pay at outlet	PBI	Via LinkedIn
Browse by Movie	Wallet Pay	PBI	
Most Popular	UPI		
Most Traded			

Added Points identified by team

Next, I will look for missing tasks for my map. I will do this by having someone walk through another scenario or from a different perspective (I.e. Different user persona). This will allow us to flesh out any missing pieces.

Prioritize

Once the team has the backbone and stories ordered it is time to sequence the work. What do we want to deliver in our MVP, our 1.0, 2.0, etc.
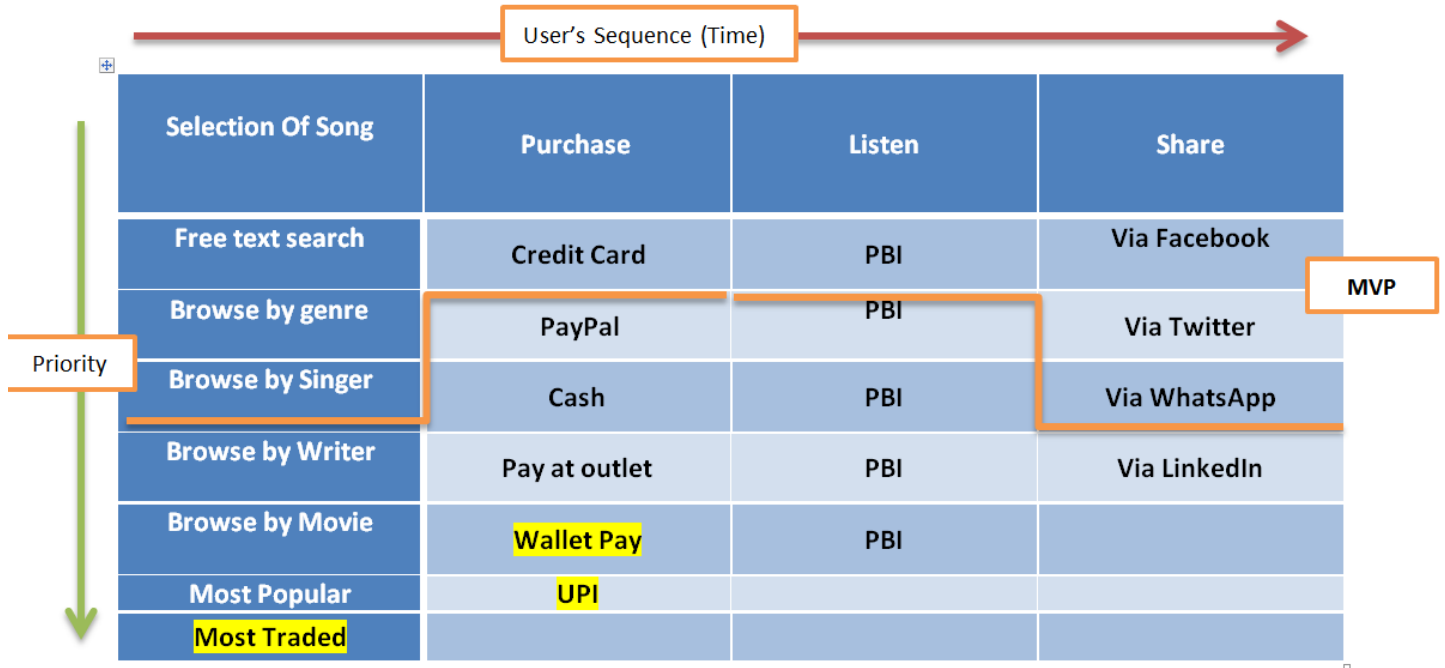
- Now that we have the map prioritized we can outline iterations or releases of our map. We can draw a line for Release 1.

- We can order within an activity and we can also create different swim lanes across the story map for different levels of priority **MoSCoW** (ex: Must, Should, Could, Would)
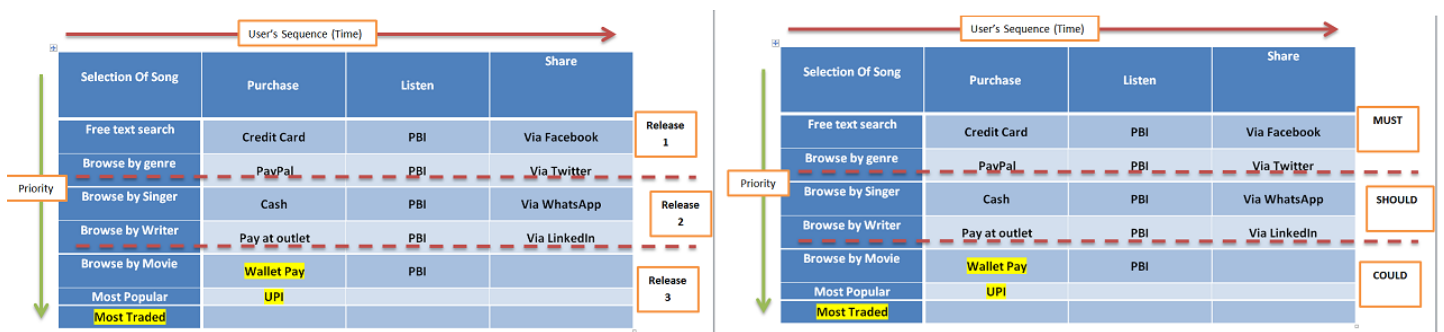
Release based / MoSCoW based categorization

build a first release that's a minimum viable product and then iterate on it, bringing new value to the business and the user with each new release.

Selection Of Song	Purchase	Listen	Share
Free text search	Credit Card	PBI	Via Facebook
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Browse by Singer	Cash	PBI	Via WhatsApp
Browse by Writer	Pay at outlet	PBI	Via LinkedIn
Browse by Movie	Wallet Pay	PBI	
Most Popular	UPI		
Most Traded			

User's Sequence (Time)

Priority

MVP

Defining MVP Scope

Conclusion:

Story mapping is an effective inception tool to create a product backlog in a visually structured way. It helps in building a shared understanding, identify gaps in the backlog, see inter-dependencies, perform better relative sizing.

Storymapping   Scrum Agile   Product Backlog   MVP

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