DEEP Product Backlog

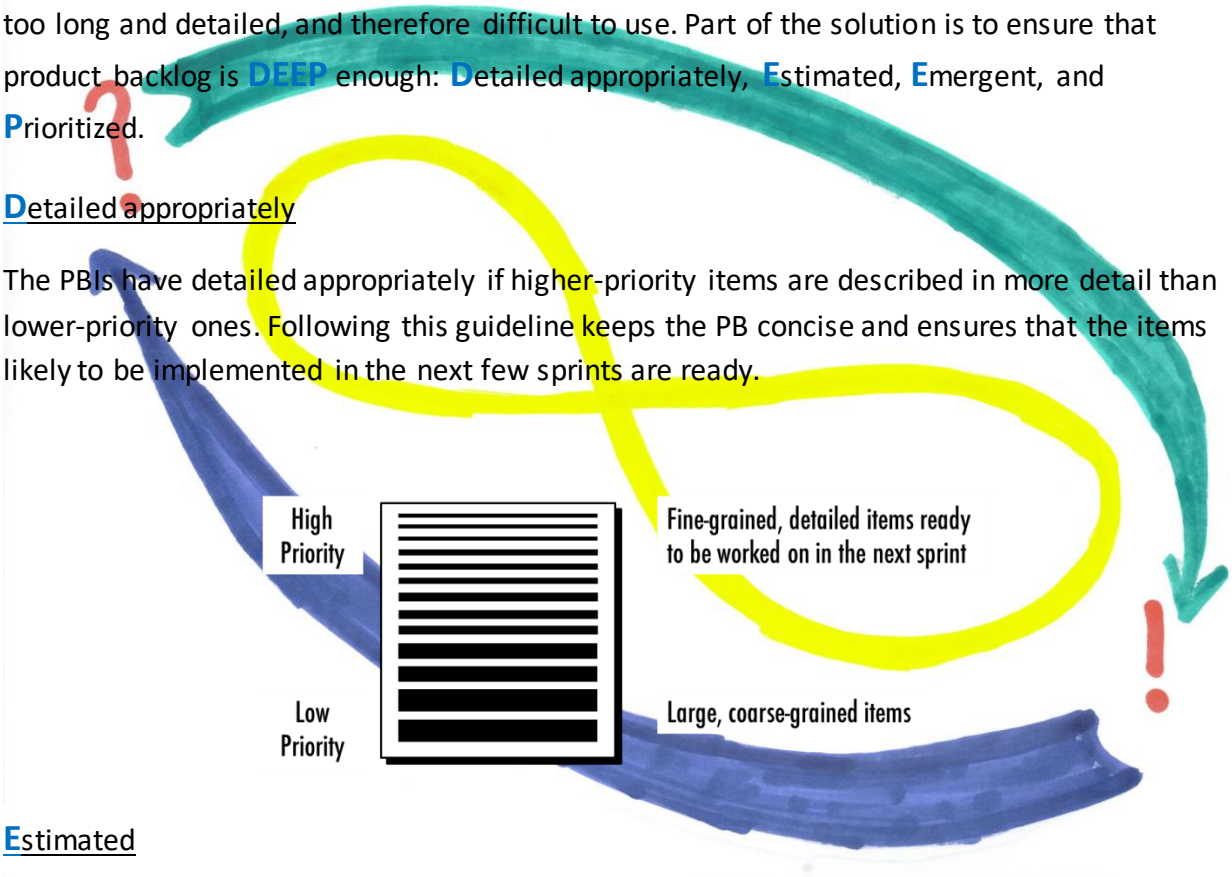
"Congratulations, you are promoted as Product Owner for our new initiative. We have all of the faith in your capabilities. Here is the list of high-level requirements. Let's discuss next week, what is in your product backlog."

You are elated; after all, you are the Product Owner of such a crucial initiative. You thank your manager and walk back to your desk; you look at the requirement list and discover that it contains several hundred items. "Oh! This is a huge list! Where should I start?"

This little story illustrates a common challenge: Requirement Lists/Product backlogs are often too long and detailed, and therefore difficult to use. Part of the solution is to ensure that product backlog is **DEEP** enough: **D**etailed appropriately, **E**stimated, **E**mergent, and **P**rioritized.

Detailed appropriately

The PBIs have detailed appropriately if higher-priority items are described in more detail than lower-priority ones. Following this guideline keeps the PB concise and ensures that the items likely to be implemented in the next few sprints are ready.



Estimated

The PBIs for upcoming few sprints should be estimated. The estimates are coarse-grained and relative in nature (many be story points).

Emergent

The PB is evolutionary in nature: it keeps on changing to reflect dynamic nature environment. New items emerge and existing one gets updated and/or deleted to reflect feedback from

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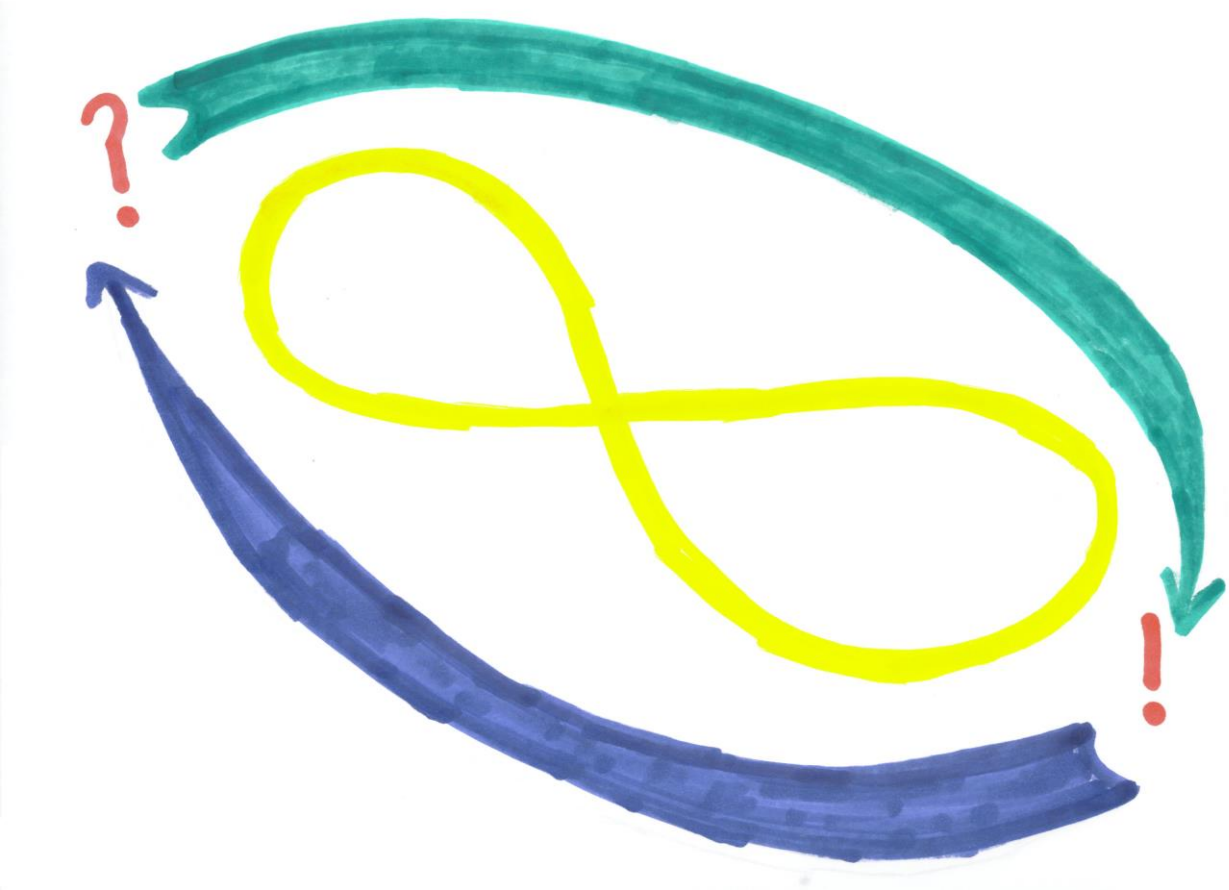
customers & end users, changing business context, evolving technologies continuous learning by people, etc. This requires continuous refinement and privatization.

Prioritized

Not all PBI are prioritized (or ordered) but at least for few releases and only couple of sprint worth of PBIs are **INVEST**able. The highest-priority PBIs are implemented first. They can be found at the top of the PB. Once an item is done, it is removed from the product backlog. Scrum framework does not suggest any prioritization factors. For prioritization, there are several tools and techniques in vogue (divided into two classes - categorization and prioritization), experiment with few and select as per context.



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