

Splitting Headaches

SLICING AND DICING USER STORIES WITHOUT LOSING YOUR MIND

Gary Ray



@GeekCyclist

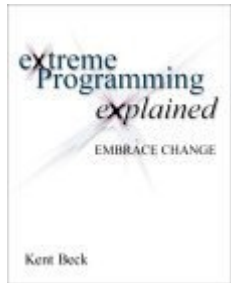


<https://github.com/geekcyclist>



<https://agilecoder.net>

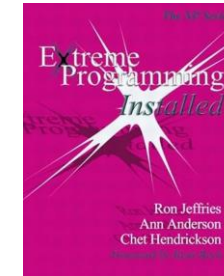
History



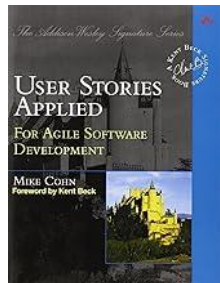
1997-1999 Stories,
XP, Planning Game



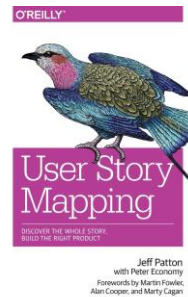
1998 - Personas



2000 CCC



2004 INVEST



2005/2014 Mapping

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/User_story#History

Stories

Stories

As a teacher, I want to enter grades for assignments and exams so that I can maintain an up-to-date record of student performance.

As a teacher, I want to have final grades automatically calculated based on weighted averages so that I can ensure accuracy and consistency

As a teacher, I want to leave feedback on assignments so that students understand their strengths and areas for improvement.

Stories

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The system shall allow a teacher to enter grades for assignments and exams.

The system shall calculate final grades based on weighted averages.

The system shall allow a teacher to leave feedback on assignments.

Stories

All connections to the database are through a connection pool.

Stories

As a sponsor/funder of the system I want it to be usable by 100 users with a ten-user database license so that we minimize our license costs.

All connections to the database are through a connection pool.

Personas

User – different classes of users?

Personas

User – different classes of users?

Customer – Person representing the purchaser of the system.

- As the IT director, I need my system administrators to be able to remotely wipe a phone that has been lost or stolen to protect company resources.

Sponsor – Person representing the payment for the development of the system.

- As the sponsor of our SaaS Gradebook Management System I want it to pass a NIST 800-53 audit so we can tout our security and risk management capabilities in sales presentations

INVEST

- ❖ Independent
- ❖ Negotiable
- ❖ Valuable
- ❖ Estimable
- ❖ Small
- ❖ Testable

INVEST

- ❖ Independent
- ❖ Negotiable
- ❖ Valuable
- ❖ ~~Estimable~~ “Estimate-able”
- ❖ ~~Small~~ Sized appropriately
- ❖ Testable

Size and Split

- ❖ Reduce Risk
- ❖ Facilitate Prioritization
- ❖ Enable Incremental Delivery
- ❖ Manage Complexity

Size and Split

Story: As a user, I want to manage my personal library so that I can easily track and organize my books.

Size and Split

Epic:

As a user, I want to manage my personal library so that I can easily track and organize my books.

Stories:

As a user, I want to add new books to my library so that I can keep track of what I own.

As a user, I want to edit book details such as title, author, and genre so that my library data is accurate.

As a user, I want to remove books from my library so that it only includes what I currently have.

As a user, I want to search for a book by title or author so that I can quickly locate it in my library.

As a user, I want to mark books as 'read', 'currently reading', or 'to be read' so that I can track my reading progress.

SPIDR



[HTTPS://WWW.MOUNTAINGOATSOFTWARE.COM/BLOG/FIVE-SIMPLE-BUT-POWERFUL-WAYS-TO-SPLIT-USER-STORIES](https://www.mountaingoatsoftware.com/blog/five-simple-but-powerful-ways-to-split-user-stories)

Image by vecstock on Freepik

S - Spike

Goal: Gather information or reduce uncertainty, enabling better decisions when implementing features. Frequently used as a “discovery story” to inform a go/no-go decision for implementing a large feature or epic.

As a developer I need to research best practices for storing book metadata to better understand storage and interface requirements.

P - Path

Goal – Identify the multiple ways a particular task can be accomplished. Each path may not need to be a story.

As a user I can share key book information with my friends.

Copy Link

Email

All the Socials...

I - Interfaces

Goal: Simplify by focusing on one interface, on hardware constraint, or one external system interaction at a time.

As a user, I want to be able to access my personal library from a standard browser so I can use the computer in my office where most of my books are stored.

In order to access my personal library as a user in a bookstore I want to be able to view my book list on a wifi connected phone or table.

D - Data

Goal: Deliver smaller increments of value by considering simplifying or restricting the data that is supported

As a user I want to be able to filter the book list in order to view specific subsets.

As a user I want to be able to filter the book list by Genre.

As a user I want to be able to filter the book list by Type (Fiction/Non-Fiction).

....

As a user I want to be able to apply a combination of up to 3 filter criteria.

R - Rules

Goal: Implement a simpler version and then later handle more complex scenarios.

As a user I can enter a comment about a book so I can recall details later.

As the hosting administrator of the library application I want all free text inputs sanitized to reduce the potential attack surface.

As a user I can save an ISBN for future use.

As a user I can receive a warning if an entered ISBN is not found in an online ISBN Database

Horizontal



Photo by [Troy Mortier](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Horizontal

As an admin, I want to generate reports so that I can analyze user engagement.

Data Aggregation Logic:

- As an admin, I want to have a robust data aggregation logic so that the reports are accurate and comprehensive.

API Layer for Report Data:

- As an admin, I want APIs to fetch report data so that the necessary information can be accessed efficiently.

UI Components for Display:

- As an admin, I want a user-friendly interface to display reports so that I can easily interpret user engagement data.

Horizontal



Image from Facebook Marketplace

Vertical



Photo by [Ravi Sharma](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Vertical

As an admin, I want to generate reports so that I can analyze user engagement.

Basic Engagement Report:

- As an admin, I want to generate a basic user activity report showing daily login counts so that I can understand overall user engagement trends.

Detailed Engagement Report:

- As an admin, I want to generate a detailed report including user actions such as page views and feature usage so that I can analyze specific areas of engagement.

Customizable Report Filters:

- As an admin, I want to apply filters to the reports (e.g., by date range or user segment) so that I can focus on specific data of interest.

Smells

Just a few...

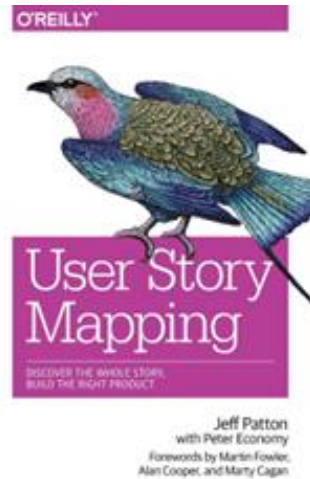
- ❖ Stories Are Too Small
- ❖ Goldplating
- ❖ Too Many Details
- ❖ Difficulty Prioritizing

Resources



<https://www.mountangoatsoftware.com>

- Weekly Tips
- Quarterly (or so) Free Webinar



Questions
