



USER STORIES

DR. ISAAC GRIFFITH

IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY

Outcomes



After today's lecture you will:

- Have an understanding of user stories
- Have an understanding of how user stories relate to requirements
- Have an understanding of how to put user stories into practice





- The User Story practice is a popular practice, in particular for small teams.
 - It originated from Extreme Programming (XP), a lightweight, efficient, low-risk way to develop software.
 - User stories have the benefit of getting the team to think, inquire and understand the value of what they do from the point of view of their users.



- The User Story practice is a popular practice, in particular for small teams.
 - It originated from Extreme Programming (XP), a lightweight, efficient, low-risk way to develop software.
 - User stories have the benefit of getting the team to think, inquire and understand the value of what they do from the point of view of their users.
- The User Story Lite practice is a simplified version of the User Story practice
 - It was created just for the readers of this book to understand how to Essentialize a practice and how to use an Essentialized practice

User Stories Explained



- A user story describes functionality in the system we are building that is valuable to a user of a system.

- A user story describes functionality in the system we are building that is valuable to a user of a system.
- A user story includes a written description that is used when discussing the story along with tests to help communicate what is needed to complete the story.
 - The idea of user stories is to provide a way to facilitate discussion to help clarify who (i.e. a role) a piece of functionality is for and how it benefits the role.

Capturing User Stories



- A user story is often captured on a card using a very concise format

*As a <role, of type of user>,
I want to <list here the function you want the
system to do>,
so that <list here the object you want to achieve>*

Capturing User Stories



- A user story is often captured on a card using a very concise format

*As a <role, of type of user>,
I want to <list here the function you want the
system to do>,
so that <list here the object you want to achieve>*

- This template helps to ensure that the “Who”, “What”, and “Why” are all considered and captured

Capturing User Stories



- A user story is often captured on a card using a very concise format

*As a <role, of type of user>,
I want to <list here the function you want the
system to do>,
so that <list here the object you want to achieve>*

- This template helps to ensure that the “Who”, “What”, and “Why” are all considered and captured

- An example could be:

*As a bank customer
I want to have a direct deposit capability
so that my employer can electronically send me
my paycheck.*

Capturing User Stories



- A user story is often captured on a card using a very concise format

*As a <role, of type of user>,
I want to <list here the function you want the
system to do>,
so that <list here the object you want to achieve>*

- This template helps to ensure that the “Who”, “What”, and “Why” are all considered and captured

- An example could be:

*As a bank customer
I want to have a direct deposit capability
so that my employer can electronically send me
my paycheck.*

Who – will get the value?

What – do we need to achieve?

Why – are we doing it?

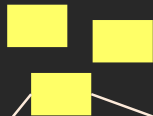
User Story Lite Practice Big Picture



Card

Conversation

Confirmation



As a <role>
I want to <function>
So that <objective>



INVEST

- Independent
- Negotiable
- Valuable
- Estimate-able
- Small
- Testable

Acceptance criteria:

- ...
- ...
- ...

User Story Lite Practice Big Picture



Card

Conversation

Confirmation

INVEST

- Independent
- Negotiable
- Valuable
- Estimate-able
- Small
- Testable

As a <role>
I want to <function>
So that <objective>

Acceptance criteria:

- ...
- ...
- ...

- **Card** – a succinct headline description, as captured on a Story Card

User Story Lite Practice Big Picture



Idaho State
University

Computer
Science

Card

Conversation

Confirmation

INVEST

- Independent
- Negotiable
- Valuable
- Estimate-able
- Small
- Testable

As a <role>
I want to <function>
So that <objective>

Acceptance criteria:

- ...
- ...
- ...

- **Card** – a succinct headline description, as captured on a Story Card
- **Conversation** – the actual users of the proposed system and developers discuss what is needed to converge on the best solution

User Story Lite Practice Big Picture



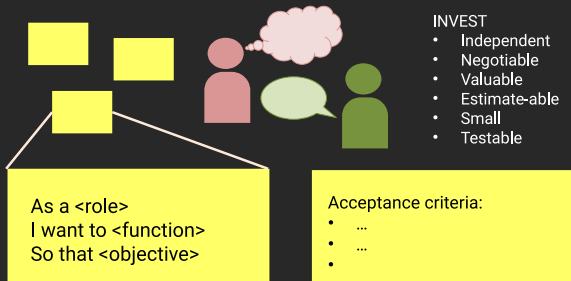
Idaho State
University

Computer
Science

Card

Conversation

Confirmation



- **Card** – a succinct headline description, as captured on a Story Card
- **Conversation** – the actual users of the proposed system and developers discuss what is needed to converge on the best solution
- **Confirmation** – acceptance criteria, captured as bullet-point statements, which can be captured on the back of the Story Card.

How to Write Good User Stories: INVEST



1. **Independent** – *independent* of each other
 - So that each can be developed separately.

How to Write Good User Stories: INVEST



1. **Independent** – *independent* of each other
 - So that each can be developed separately.
2. **Negotiable** – written to promote negotiation between the user and developers
 - Negotiation promotes understanding and commitment

How to Write Good User Stories: INVEST



1. **Independent** – *independent* of each other
 - So that each can be developed separately.
2. **Negotiable** – written to promote negotiation between the user and developers
 - Negotiation promotes understanding and commitment
3. **Valuable** – A user story should be *valuable* to the user.
 - To understand the real intent of a requirement

How to Write Good User Stories: INVEST



1. **Independent** – *independent* of each other
 - So that each can be developed separately.
2. **Negotiable** – written to promote negotiation between the user and developers
 - Negotiation promotes understanding and commitment
3. **Valuable** – A user story should be *valuable* to the user.
 - To understand the real intent of a requirement
4. **Estimatable** – enough details to allow the developer to estimate the work effort required to implement the story

How to Write Good User Stories: INVEST



Idaho State
University

Computer
Science

1. **Independent** – *independent* of each other
 - So that each can be developed separately.
2. **Negotiable** – written to promote negotiation between the user and developers
 - Negotiation promotes understanding and commitment
3. **Valuable** – A user story should be *valuable* to the user.
 - To understand the real intent of a requirement
4. **Estimatable** – enough details to allow the developer to estimate the work effort required to implement the story
5. **Small** – to fit within a given iteration
 - Stories that are too large to fit within an iteration are referred to as Epics.

How to Write Good User Stories: INVEST



1. **Independent** – *independent* of each other
 - So that each can be developed separately.
2. **Negotiable** – written to promote negotiation between the user and developers
 - Negotiation promotes understanding and commitment
3. **Valuable** – A user story should be *valuable* to the user.
 - To understand the real intent of a requirement
4. **Estimatable** – enough details to allow the developer to estimate the work effort required to implement the story
5. **Small** – to fit within a given iteration
 - Stories that are too large to fit within an iteration are referred to as Epics.
6. **Testable** – when completed it has to be *testable*
 - Writing the tests first helps ensure the story is testable and helps ensure both users and developers are in agreement on what it means to complete the story.

Why Do We Need the “So That” Clause?



- To ensure developers **understand the end objective of the user**

Why Do We Need the “So That” Clause?



- To ensure developers **understand the end objective of the user**
- This helps to support evolutionary requirements development.
 - By evolutionary requirements development we mean that the requirements may evolve as we learn more about the available options and needs of the user.

Why Do We Need the “So That” Clause?



- To ensure developers **understand the end objective of the user**
- This helps to support evolutionary requirements development.
 - By evolutionary requirements development we mean that the requirements may evolve as we learn more about the available options and needs of the user.
- This also keeps the developer's options open in providing alternative solutions.

User Stories Essentialized Practice



Idaho State
University

Computer
Science

- For a deep dive on User Stories other literature provides complete and detailed presentation



- For a deep dive on User Stories other literature provides complete and detailed presentation
- Our **goal is to show how to essentialize a Practice**
 - This is a Lite practice because we have selected what we deem as a minimal core of the practice
 - Minimal for demonstration but in the real world would require much more technical detail



- For a deep dive on User Stories other literature provides complete and detailed presentation
- Our **goal is to show how to essentialize a Practice**
 - This is a Lite practice because we have selected what we deem as a minimal core of the practice
 - Minimal for demonstration but in the real world would require much more technical detail
- How to describe the User Stories Lite Practice using Essence?
 - The first questions we always ask when essentializing a practice are:
 - What are the things you need to work with?
 - What are the activities you do?

User Stories Practice Expressed In Essence



- **Requirements** are decomposed into **User Stories**

User Stories Practice Expressed In Essence



- **Requirements** are decomposed into **User Stories**
- Each User Story is:
 - Described by a **Story Card**
 - Verified by a **Test Case**
 - Singleton work products for each User Story

User Stories Practice Expressed In Essence

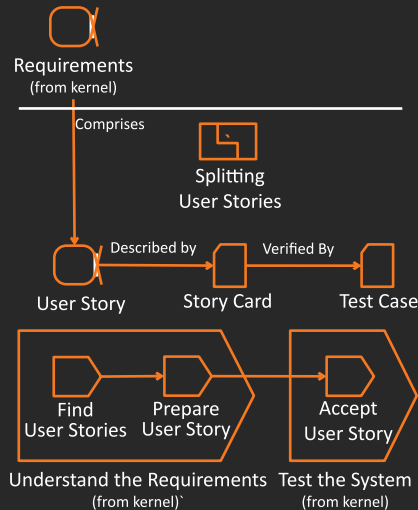


- **Requirements** are decomposed into **User Stories**
- Each User Story is:
 - Described by a **Story Card**
 - Verified by a **Test Case**
 - Singleton work products for each User Story
- The practice has several activities:
 1. Find User Stories
 2. Prepare User Story
 3. Accept User Story

User Stories Practice Expressed In Essence



- **Requirements** are decomposed into **User Stories**
- Each User Story is:
 - Described by a **Story Card**
 - Verified by a **Test Case**
 - Singleton work products for each User Story
- The practice has several activities:
 1. Find User Stories
 2. Prepare User Story
 3. Accept User Story
- A pattern **Splitting User Stories** represents the approach to help teams split user stories to ease development



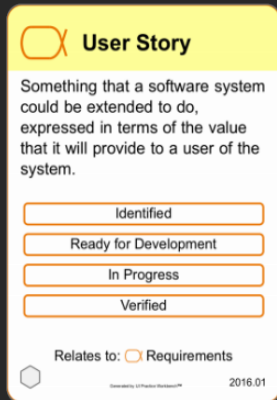
User Story Alpha



- A User Story is something that a software system could be extended to do, expressed in terms of the value that it will provide to a user of the system.

- A User Story is something that a software system could be extended to do, expressed in terms of the value that it will provide to a user of the system.

A User Story progresses through the following states:



- A User Story is something that a software system could be extended to do, expressed in terms of the value that it will provide to a user of the system.

 **User Story**

Something that a software system could be extended to do, expressed in terms of the value that it will provide to a user of the system.

Identified

Ready for Development

In Progress

Verified


Relates to:  Requirements

 Generated by US Product Backlog™ 2016.01

A User Story progresses through the following states:

- **Identified** – The user story is identified with its value clearly expressed. It is placed in the team's product backlog.

- A User Story is something that a software system could be extended to do, expressed in terms of the value that it will provide to a user of the system.

 **User Story**


Something that a software system could be extended to do, expressed in terms of the value that it will provide to a user of the system.


Identified

Ready for Development

In Progress

Verified


Relates to:  Requirements

 Generated by US Planner (Backdoor)™ 2016.01

A User Story progresses through the following states:

- **Identified** – The user story is identified with its value clearly expressed. It is placed in the team's product backlog.
- **Ready for Development** – The team discusses the details of the user story such that members are clear on what is involved in fulfilling the requirements behind the user story. This might involve details about user interfaces, implementation details, and so on.

- A User Story is something that a software system could be extended to do, expressed in terms of the value that it will provide to a user of the system.

 **User Story**


Something that a software system could be extended to do, expressed in terms of the value that it will provide to a user of the system.


Identified

Ready for Development

In Progress

Verified

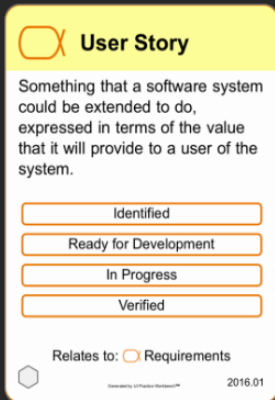
Relates to:  Requirements

 Generated by US Product Backboard™ 2016.01

A User Story progresses through the following states:

- **Identified** – The user story is identified with its value clearly expressed. It is placed in the team's product backlog.
- **Ready for Development** – The team discusses the details of the user story such that members are clear on what is involved in fulfilling the requirements behind the user story. This might involve details about user interfaces, implementation details, and so on.
- **In Progress** – At this state, the team is working on fulfilling the user story.

- A User Story is something that a software system could be extended to do, expressed in terms of the value that it will provide to a user of the system.



User Story

Something that a software system could be extended to do, expressed in terms of the value that it will provide to a user of the system.

Identified

Ready for Development

In Progress

Verified

Relates to: Requirements

Generated by: 10/10/2016 10:10:10 AM 2016.01

A User Story progresses through the following states:

- **Identified** – The user story is identified with its value clearly expressed. It is placed in the team's product backlog.
- **Ready for Development** – The team discusses the details of the user story such that members are clear on what is involved in fulfilling the requirements behind the user story. This might involve details about user interfaces, implementation details, and so on.
- **In Progress** – At this state, the team is working on fulfilling the user story.
- **Verified** – The user story implementation is verified by a qualified user representative, such as a member being the Product Owner.

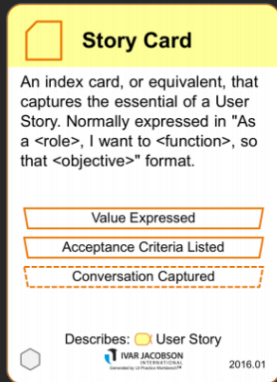
Story Card Product



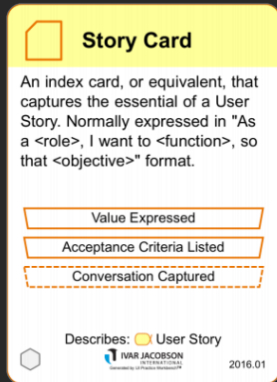
A Story Card is the written description of a user story

A Story Card is the written description of a user story

A User Story can be at different levels of detail:



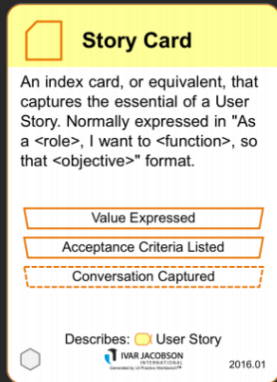
A Story Card is the written description of a user story



A User Story can be at different levels of detail:

- **Value Expressed** – The value of the user story is clearly expressed, such as using the common format described before (and in the card).

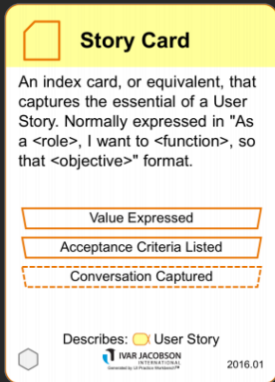
A Story Card is the written description of a user story



A User Story can be at different levels of detail:

- **Value Expressed** – The value of the user story is clearly expressed, such as using the common format described before (and in the card).
- **Acceptance Criteria Listed** – The acceptance criteria for the fulfillment of the User Story are clearly expressed.

A Story Card is the written description of a user story

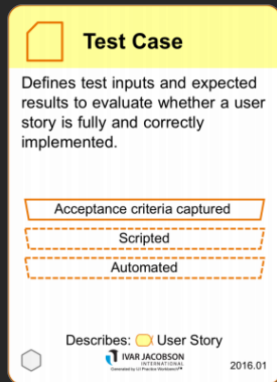


A User Story can be at different levels of detail:

- **Value Expressed** – The value of the user story is clearly expressed, such as using the common format described before (and in the card).
- **Acceptance Criteria Listed** – The acceptance criteria for the fulfillment of the User Story are clearly expressed.
- **Conversation Captured** – The discussions the team has about the User Story are captured so that the team understands more clearly the requirements for the user story and the rationale behind the details of the User Story.
 - These discussions are usually verbal, but can be written on the story card itself or some electronic means

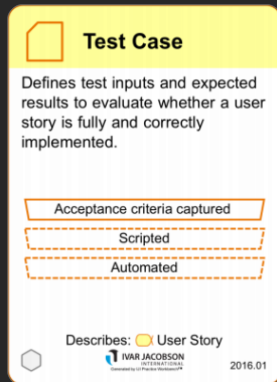
Test Case Product

A Test Case defines test inputs and expected results to evaluate whether a user story is fully and correctly implemented.



A test case has several levels of detail:

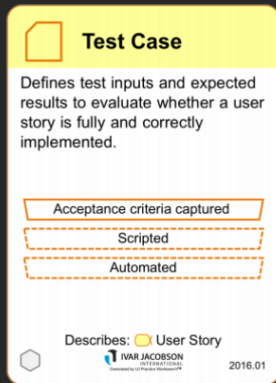
A Test Case defines test inputs and expected results to evaluate whether a user story is fully and correctly implemented.



A test case has several levels of detail:

- **Acceptance criteria captured** – The different possible ways for testing the user story are captured

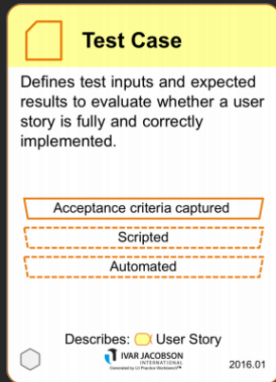
A Test Case defines test inputs and expected results to evaluate whether a user story is fully and correctly implemented.



A test case has several levels of detail:

- **Acceptance criteria captured** – The different possible ways for testing the user story are captured
- **Scripted** – The step-by-step procedure for testing and accepting the user story is available. This necessitates also the preparation of test data and test environment used when executing the test case.

A Test Case defines test inputs and expected results to evaluate whether a user story is fully and correctly implemented.



A test case has several levels of detail:

- **Acceptance criteria captured** – The different possible ways for testing the user story are captured
- **Scripted** – The step-by-step procedure for testing and accepting the user story is available. This necessitates also the preparation of test data and test environment used when executing the test case.
- **Automated** – The test case is automated and can be executed with little or no intervention

Kick Starting User Story Practice

There were two primary challenges our development team faced that led them to decide to try User Stories Lite on their endeavor

Kick Starting User Story Practice



There were two primary challenges our development team faced that led them to decide to try User Stories Lite on their endeavor

1. Smith's team members sometimes found themselves wondering about the purpose of the system they were developing.
 - Instead of just enumerating product backlog items, developing product backlog items in a user story from the resulting requirements would help the team better understand the purpose of the system they were developing.
 - This would also help Angela (the Product Owner) when discussing the system with her stakeholders, such as Dave.

Kick Starting User Story Practice



There were two primary challenges our development team faced that led them to decide to try User Stories Lite on their endeavor

1. Smith's team members sometimes found themselves wondering about the purpose of the system they were developing.
 - Instead of just enumerating product backlog items, developing product backlog items in a user story from the resulting requirements would help the team better understand the purpose of the system they were developing.
 - This would also help Angela (the Product Owner) when discussing the system with her stakeholders, such as Dave.
2. The second challenge the development team often faced was product backlog items being too large to fit within a single sprint/iteration.

Kick Starting User Story Practice



There were two primary challenges our development team faced that led them to decide to try User Stories Lite on their endeavor

1. Smith's team members sometimes found themselves wondering about the purpose of the system they were developing.
 - Instead of just enumerating product backlog items, developing product backlog items in a user story from the resulting requirements would help the team better understand the purpose of the system they were developing.
 - This would also help Angela (the Product Owner) when discussing the system with her stakeholders, such as Dave.
2. The second challenge the development team often faced was product backlog items being too large to fit within a single sprint/iteration.

Working with User Stories involves several activities:

Kick Starting User Story Practice



There were two primary challenges our development team faced that led them to decide to try User Stories Lite on their endeavor

1. Smith's team members sometimes found themselves wondering about the purpose of the system they were developing.
 - Instead of just enumerating product backlog items, developing product backlog items in a user story from the resulting requirements would help the team better understand the purpose of the system they were developing.
 - This would also help Angela (the Product Owner) when discussing the system with her stakeholders, such as Dave.
2. The second challenge the development team often faced was product backlog items being too large to fit within a single sprint/iteration.

Working with User Stories involves several activities:

- First the team needs to **find user stories, prepare each user story** for development, and then **accept the implementation of the user story**

Kick Starting User Story Practice



There were two primary challenges our development team faced that led them to decide to try User Stories Lite on their endeavor

1. Smith's team members sometimes found themselves wondering about the purpose of the system they were developing.
 - Instead of just enumerating product backlog items, developing product backlog items in a user story from the resulting requirements would help the team better understand the purpose of the system they were developing.
 - This would also help Angela (the Product Owner) when discussing the system with her stakeholders, such as Dave.
2. The second challenge the development team often faced was product backlog items being too large to fit within a single sprint/iteration.

Working with User Stories involves several activities:

- First the team needs to **find user stories, prepare each user story** for development, and then **accept the implementation of the user story**
- The implementation of the user story, (i.e., writing and testing code), is outside the scope of the User Story Lite practice we are describing
 - It is expected to be addressed by another practice such as the microservice practice presented later.

Find User Stories Activity



Find User Stories

Identify things of value that a software system could do. Capture these as simple and succinct headline descriptions on Story Cards.

Understand the Requirements



Stakeholder
Representation



Analysis



User Story: Identified



Story Card: Value Expressed



- The Find User Stories activity is about agreeing on how the users are going to use the Software System for something that brings value to them.
 - For each User Story found, a Story Card is created with a simple headline and the value expressed.

Find User Stories Activity



Find User Stories

Identify things of value that a software system could do. Capture these as simple and succinct headline descriptions on Story Cards.

Understand the Requirements



- User Story: Identified
- Story Card: Value Expressed



- The Find User Stories activity is about agreeing on how the users are going to use the Software System for something that brings value to them.
 - For each User Story found, a Story Card is created with a simple headline and the value expressed.
- The card indicates that:
 - The Story Card needs at a minimum to achieve the **Value Expressed** level of detail
 - The user story alpha needs to achieve the **Identified** state

Prepare a User Story Activity



Idaho State
University

Computer
Science



Prepare a User Story


A User Story is prepared for development by discussion to build understanding and refinement of its acceptance criteria and test cases.


 User Story: Identified


 Story Card: Value Expressed

Understand the Requirements



 User Story: Ready for Development

 Story Card: Acceptance Criteria Listed or beyond

 Test Case: Test Ideas Captured or beyond (all Test Cases)

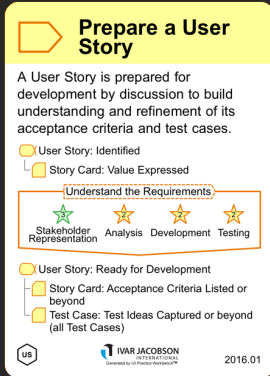


IVAR JACOBSON
INTERNATIONAL
Sponsored by US Practice Partnership™

2016.01

- The Prepare a User Story activity is about discussing how the user will interact with the system
 - The discussion aims to achieve a better understanding of the system to be developed, estimate the effort to implement and describe the acceptance criteria

Prepare a User Story Activity



- The Prepare a User Story activity is about discussing how the user will interact with the system
 - The discussion aims to achieve a better understanding of the system to be developed, estimate the effort to implement and describe the acceptance criteria
- The card indicates that:
 - The user story alpha needs to achieve the **Ready for Development** state by having:
 - The Story Card to have achieved a minimum of **Acceptance Criteria Listed** level of detail
 - The Test Case needs to have achieved at a minimum the **Test Ideas Captured** level of detail

TravelEssence Performing the Practice



Idaho State
University

Computer
Science

Angela and the team were discussing which product backlog items they would target for the next iteration. They selected the following three backlog-items:



Angela and the team were discussing which product backlog items they would target for the next iteration. They selected the following three backlog-items:

1. Improve algorithms to rank destinations according to traveller specific preference



Angela and the team were discussing which product backlog items they would target for the next iteration. They selected the following three backlog-items:

1. Improve algorithms to rank destinations according to traveller specific preference
2. Improve algorithms to rank destinations according to general popularity of destinations

Angela and the team were discussing which product backlog items they would target for the next iteration. They selected the following three backlog-items:

1. Improve algorithms to rank destinations according to traveller specific preference
2. Improve algorithms to rank destinations according to general popularity of destinations
3. Collect user data from users and analyze them

Angela and the team were discussing which product backlog items they would target for the next iteration. They selected the following three backlog-items:

1. Improve algorithms to rank destinations according to traveller specific preference
2. Improve algorithms to rank destinations according to general popularity of destinations
3. Collect user data from users and analyze them

Together as a team they expressed the user stories as shown:

Angela and the team were discussing which product backlog items they would target for the next iteration. They selected the following three backlog-items:

1. Improve algorithms to rank destinations according to traveller specific preference
2. Improve algorithms to rank destinations according to general popularity of destinations
3. Collect user data from users and analyze them

Together as a team they expressed the user stories as shown:

As a traveller, I want to have destinations I like to be ranked higher than other destinations so that it is easier for me find these destinations

Acceptance criteria:

1. A visited destinations ranks higher than a non-visited one
2. A "liked" destination ranks higher than a "non-liked" destination

As a traveller, I want to have popular destinations ranked higher than other destinations so that it is easier for me find these destinations

Acceptance criteria:

1. Each destination visited by a traveller will be given a higher score
2. Each destination liked by a traveller will be given a higher score

As a TravelEssence promotion staff, I want to track the actions on the recommendation list so that I can improve the quality of the recommendation and user experience.

Acceptance criteria:

1. Count the clicks, likes and booking on each recommendation destination by specific traveller and travellers in general.
2. Trend chart by day, week, month of top N destinations

What is the Outcome for the Team?



- Tom, Joel, and Grace were much happier with the user story form as it helped them better understand the purpose of the system they were developing.

What is the Outcome for the Team?



- Tom, Joel, and Grace were much happier with the user story form as it helped them better understand the purpose of the system they were developing.
 - The added detail helped them estimate each story and ensure each story was small enough to fit in an iteration.

What is the Outcome for the Team?



- Tom, Joel, and Grace were much happier with the user story form as it helped them better understand the purpose of the system they were developing.
 - The added detail helped them estimate each story and ensure each story was small enough to fit in an iteration.
 - In the first and second user stories, because we now have agreed to acceptance criteria the team better understands what Angela will accept for improve algorithms

What is the Outcome for the Team?

- Tom, Joel, and Grace were much happier with the user story form as it helped them better understand the purpose of the system they were developing.
 - The added detail helped them estimate each story and ensure each story was small enough to fit in an iteration.
 - In the first and second user stories, because we now have agreed to acceptance criteria the team better understands what Angela will accept for improve algorithms
 - In the third user story because it specifies “count clicks” and creates a “trend chart” the team better understands what Angela will accept for the data to be collected and how she expects it to be analyzed.

What is the Outcome for the Team?

- Tom, Joel, and Grace were much happier with the user story form as it helped them better understand the purpose of the system they were developing.
 - The added detail helped them estimate each story and ensure each story was small enough to fit in an iteration.
 - In the first and second user stories, because we now have agreed to acceptance criteria the team better understands what Angela will accept for improve algorithms
 - In the third user story because it specifies “count clicks” and creates a “trend chart” the team better understands what Angela will accept for the data to be collected and how she expects it to be analyzed.
 - The user stories would also help Angela when explaining to Dave, her boss, the specific requirements that the team would be focusing on in the next sprint.

What is the Outcome for the Team?



- Tom, Joel, and Grace were much happier with the user story form as it helped them better understand the purpose of the system they were developing.
 - The added detail helped them estimate each story and ensure each story was small enough to fit in an iteration.
 - In the first and second user stories, because we now have agreed to acceptance criteria the team better understands what Angela will accept for improve algorithms
 - In the third user story because it specifies “count clicks” and creates a “trend chart” the team better understands what Angela will accept for the data to be collected and how she expects it to be analyzed.
 - The user stories would also help Angela when explaining to Dave, her boss, the specific requirements that the team would be focusing on in the next sprint.
- Angela mentioned that expressing the requirements in a user story format demanded more effort from her

What is the Outcome for the Team?

- Tom, Joel, and Grace were much happier with the user story form as it helped them better understand the purpose of the system they were developing.
 - The added detail helped them estimate each story and ensure each story was small enough to fit in an iteration.
 - In the first and second user stories, because we now have agreed to acceptance criteria the team better understands what Angela will accept for improve algorithms
 - In the third user story because it specifies “count clicks” and creates a “trend chart” the team better understands what Angela will accept for the data to be collected and how she expects it to be analyzed.
 - The user stories would also help Angela when explaining to Dave, her boss, the specific requirements that the team would be focusing on in the next sprint.
- Angela mentioned that expressing the requirements in a user story format demanded more effort from her
 - But after some discussion, she agreed that this small upfront investment was worthwhile because it made her think more about what she wanted.

Applying Splitting User Stories Pattern



Splitting User Stories

Small things get done faster. In agile development there is a continuous and relentless drive to reduce the size of User Stories by splitting bigger Stories into smaller ones. The key is to ensure that each Story delivers value:

- Splits should support meaningful user interactions, no matter how small or "specialised" (think "thin end-to-end journey / slice") not technical architecture "dice" (e.g. front-end without back-end)
- Remember: each and every Test Case is a potential new Story.



Generated by Git-Flow-Workbench™

2016.01

- As part of preparing user stories for development, the team proceeded to split each user story that was too large
 - The outcome are smaller stories that are more aligned to the INVEST criteria
 - Especially the testable criteria

Applying Splitting User Stories Pattern



Splitting User Stories

Small things get done faster. In agile development there is a continuous and relentless drive to reduce the size of User Stories by splitting bigger Stories into smaller ones. The key is to ensure that each Story delivers value:

- Splits should support meaningful user interactions, no matter how small or "specialised" (think "thin end-to-end journey / slice") not technical architecture "dice" (e.g. front-end without back-end)
- Remember: each and every Test Case is a potential new Story.



Generated by Git-Flux Workspaces™

2016.01

- As part of preparing user stories for development, the team proceeded to split each user story that was too large
 - The outcome are smaller stories that are more aligned to the INVEST criteria
 - Especially the testable criteria
- Having smaller stories, with clear test criteria, makes each story easier to complete
 - This rewards team members with a sense of achievement, and
 - Improves team member progress assessments

TravelEssence Splitting User Stories

As an example, this Figure shows how the first user story was split into 3 smaller ones:



Accept a User Story Activity



Accept a User Story

The User Story implementation is evolved in close collaboration with the customers until it is acceptable to and accepted by the accepting customer representative.

 Software System: Demonstrable or beyond

Test the System




Stakeholder
Representation



Development



Testing

 User Story: Done



- The Accept a User Story activity is about having the customer representative accept that the User Story is implemented
 - The card indicates that:
 - The user story alpha achieve the **Done** state

Accept a User Story Activity



Accept a User Story

The User Story implementation is evolved in close collaboration with the customers until it is acceptable to and accepted by the accepting customer representative.

 Software System: Demonstrable or beyond

Test the System


Stakeholder
Representation


Development


Testing

 User Story: Done



2016.01

- The Accept a User Story activity is about having the customer representative accept that the User Story is implemented
 - The card indicates that:
 - The user story alpha achieve the **Done** state

TravelEssence

- Acceptance criteria expressed clearly was an investment that paid off as developers had a clearer idea what had to be done
 - The result was reduced disagreements when accepting the story.
- Over the course of the delivery of each user story, they regularly communicated with Angela and with each other regarding the details of the user story.
 - Angela also participated in the acceptance of each user story
 - Whenever issues arose during the sprint, she worked with the team to refine the acceptance criteria

The Value of the Kernel to the User Story Practice



Idaho State
University

Computer
Science

- By describing the User Story practice in an essentialized form (i.e., activity cards showing relationships to alphas being progressed) we can see which alphas are being progressed and where the requirements practice still had weaknesses.

The Value of the Kernel to the User Story Practice



Idaho State
University


Computer
Science

- By describing the User Story practice in an essentialized form (i.e., activity cards showing relationships to alphas being progressed) we can see which alphas are being progressed and where the requirements practice still had weaknesses.
- Specifically the User Story practice helps achieve the following Essence kernel alpha states:
 - **Requirements** alpha: *Bounded* and *Coherent* state
 - **Work** alpha: *Prepared* state
 - **Requirements** alpha: *Acceptable* state

Requirements Alpha: Bounded and Coherent




The explicit activities in the user story practice directly supports the team in achieving key checklists within the Requirements alpha: Bounded and Coherent states.

 Requirements

Bounded


- ☐ Development stakeholders identified
- ☐ System purpose agreed
- ☐ System success clear
- ☐ Shared solution understanding exists
- ☐ Requirement's format agreed
- ☐ Requirements management in place
- ☐ Prioritization scheme clear
- ☐ Constraints identified & considered
- ☐ Assumptions clear

2 / 6

 1.1.2

System purpose
agreed


Shared solution
understanding
exists

 Requirements

Coherent

- ☐ Requirements shared
- ☐ Requirements' origin clear
- ☐ Rationale clear
- ☐ Conflicts addressed
- ☐ Essential characteristics clear
- ☐ Key usage scenarios explained
- ☐ Priorities clear
- ☐ Impact understood
- ☐ Team knows & agrees on what to deliver

3 / 6

 1.1.2

Conflicts addressed

Requirements Alpha: Bounded and Coherent



The explicit activities in the user story practice directly supports the team in achieving key checklists within the Requirements alpha: Bounded and Coherent states.

- The User Story practice encouraged stakeholders and team members to discuss and therefore:
 - **agree on the purpose** of the new system,
 - **helping everyone involved to achieve a shared understanding** of the extent of the proposed system

Requirements

Bounded

☐ Development stakeholders identified

☐ System purpose agreed

☐ System success clear

☐ Shared solution understanding exists

☐ Requirement's format agreed

☐ Requirements management in place

☐ Prioritization scheme clear

☐ Constraints identified & considered

☐ Assumptions clear

2 / 6

1.1.2

System purpose agreed

Shared solution understanding exists

Requirements

Coherent

☐ Requirements shared

☐ Requirements' origin clear

☐ Rationale clear

☐ Conflicts addressed

☐ Essential characteristics clear

☐ Key usage scenarios explained

☐ Priorities clear

☐ Impact understood

☐ Team knows & agrees on what to deliver

3 / 6

1.1.2

Conflicts addressed

Requirements Alpha: Bounded and Coherent



Requirements

Bounded

- ☐ Development stakeholders identified
- ☐ System purpose agreed
- ☐ System success clear
- ☐ Shared solution understanding exists
- ☐ Requirement's format agreed
- ☐ Requirements management in place
- ☐ Prioritization scheme clear
- ☐ Constraints identified & considered
- ☐ Assumptions clear

2 / 6

1.1.2

System purpose
agreed

Shared solution
understanding
exists

The explicit activities in the user story practice directly supports the team in achieving key checklists within the Requirements alpha: Bounded and Coherent states.

- The User Story practice encouraged stakeholders and team members to discuss and therefore:
 - **agree on the purpose** of the new system,
 - **helping everyone involved to achieve a shared understanding** of the extent of the proposed system
- Discussions helped both the team members and stakeholders to
 - **work through issues related to potentially conflicting requirements**

Requirements

Coherent

- ☐ Requirements shared
- ☐ Requirements' origin clear
- ☐ Rationale clear
- ☐ Conflicts addressed
- ☐ Essential characteristics clear
- ☐ Key usage scenarios explained
- ☐ Priorities clear
- ☐ Impact understood
- ☐ Team knows & agrees on what to deliver

3 / 6


1.1.2

Conflicts addressed

Work Alpha: Prepared state




Achieving the Prepared state of the Work alpha was helped by the User Story practice

 **Work**

Prepared

- ☐ Commitment made
- ☐ Cost and effort estimated
- ☐ Resource availability understood
- ☐ Risk exposure understood
- ☐ Acceptance criteria established
- ☐ Sufficiently broken down to start
- ☐ Tasks identified and prioritized
- ☐ Credible plan in place
- ☐ Funding in place
- ☐ At least one team member ready
- ☐ Integration points defined

2 / 6

 Generated by G2 Practice Dashboard™ 1.1.2

Sufficiently broken
down to start

Work Alpha: Prepared state



The screenshot shows a mobile application interface for 'Work'. At the top, there is a blue header with a magnifying glass icon and the word 'Work'. Below this is a white box with the word 'Prepared'. A checklist follows with ten items, each preceded by an unchecked checkbox. An orange oval highlights the item 'Sufficiently broken down to start', with an arrow pointing to it from a text box. At the bottom of the checklist is a blue progress bar showing '2 / 6'. The bottom of the screen features a gear icon, the text 'Created by @Parker-Hartman', and the version number '1.1.2'.

Item	Status
Commitment made	Unchecked
Cost and effort estimated	Unchecked
Resource availability understood	Unchecked
Risk exposure understood	Unchecked
Acceptance criteria established	Unchecked
Sufficiently broken down to start	Highlighted
Tasks identified and prioritized	Unchecked
Credible plan in place	Unchecked
Funding in place	Unchecked
At least one team member ready	Unchecked
Integration points defined	Unchecked

Sufficiently broken
down to start


Achieving the Prepared state of the Work alpha was helped by the User Story practice

- Because it encourages the splitting of each user story
 - In order to break the requirements down into tasks that the team could estimate and commit to completing within a single sprint.

Requirements Alpha; Acceptable state




- The explicit activities in the User Story practice directly supported the team in achieving key checklists in the Requirements alpha: Acceptable state.

 **Requirements**

Acceptable

- ☐ Acceptable solution described
- ☐ Change under control
- ☐ Value to be realized clear
- ☐ Clear how opportunity addressed
- ☐ Testable

4 / 6

 Requirements Alpha Standard™ 1.1.2

Acceptable solution
described

Requirements Alpha; Acceptable state



Requirements

Acceptable

- ☐ Acceptable solution described
- ☐ Change under control
- ☐ Value to be realized clear
- ☐ Clear how opportunity addressed
- ☐ Testable

4 / 6

1.1.2

Acceptable solution
described

- The explicit activities in the User Story practice directly supported the team in achieving key checklists in the Requirements alpha: Acceptable state.
- The User Story practice encouraged acceptance criteria to be agreed to
 - This led the team to the importance of describing clear test steps that would lead to an acceptable solution

Impact of User Stories Practice for the Team



Idaho State
University

Computer
Science

- The three activities in the User Story practice only cover two activity spaces
 - No activity covers the “Shape the System” activity space
 - This is the activity space that deals with the structure of the solution area including the structure of requirements

Impact of User Stories Practice for the Team

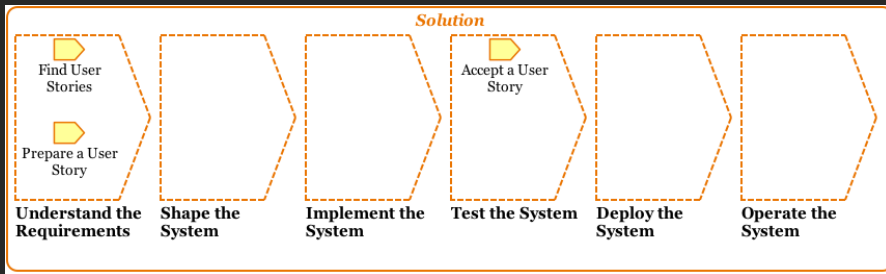


- The three activities in the User Story practice only cover two activity spaces
 - No activity covers the “Shape the System” activity space
 - This is the activity space that deals with the structure of the solution area including the structure of requirements
- By looking at their practices through the lens of Essence, the team can see the strengths of their current practices, as well as the weaknesses

Impact of User Stories Practice for the Team



- The three activities in the User Story practice only cover two activity spaces
 - No activity covers the “Shape the System” activity space
 - This is the activity space that deals with the structure of the solution area including the structure of requirements
- By looking at their practices through the lens of Essence, the team can see the strengths of their current practices, as well as the weaknesses



User Stories Bridge to Use Cases



Idaho State
University

Computer
Science

- The User Stories practice helped the team progress forward with multiple Essence Kernel Alphas

User Stories Bridge to Use Cases



- The User Stories practice helped the team progress forward with multiple Essence Kernel Alphas
 - Yet, it did not solve all the challenges the development team faced with regard to progressing the Requirements and the Work alphas to satisfy the Product Owner

User Stories Bridge to Use Cases



- The User Stories practice helped the team progress forward with multiple Essence Kernel Alphas
 - Yet, it did not solve all the challenges the development team faced with regard to progressing the Requirements and the Work alphas to satisfy the Product Owner
 - They had a list of user stories, but not how stories were related to one another

User Stories Bridge to Use Cases



- The User Stories practice helped the team progress forward with multiple Essence Kernel Alphas
 - Yet, it did not solve all the challenges the development team faced with regard to progressing the Requirements and the Work alphas to satisfy the Product Owner
 - They had a list of user stories, but not how stories were related to one another
 - In the following lecture we will present Use Cases

For Next Time



Idaho State
University

Computer
Science

- Review Chapter 15
- Review this Lecture
- Come to Class
- Read Chapter 16
- Watch Lecture 16 Video





Are there any questions?