

User Stories

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Agenda

- Review of our agile process
- What is a User Story?
- Why User Stories?
- Creating User Stories in Pivotal Tracker.
- User Story workshop.

What is a user story?

- It describes functionality that will be valuable to **user** of software.
- Moreover, a feature request from a user's point of view.
- It is **not** a bug report or a functional specification.
- It is **not** a technical design document.

Role-Action-Context

As a <type of user> I <want/need/can>
<goal> so that <reason>

Examples

BigMoneyJobs.com

→ As a recruiter I can post new jobs so that applicants can find those jobs via search

→ As a job seeker I can limit who sees my resume so that I have privacy

The Three C's

→ Card

A written description of the story used for planning and estimation.

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→ Conversation

A discussion about the story to flesh out details.
Happens 'just in time'.

→ Confirmation

Tests that confirms a story's completion.

Anti-stories

- The software is written in C++
- The database will have a connection pool

Why are these anti-stories?

Story Scope

"As a user I can search for jobs"

Story Scope

"As a user I can search and apply for jobs"

→ What values can they search on? State? Title?

→ Does the user have to logged in?

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This is known as an 'epic'

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→ Too granular.

→ A little underwhelming to from the user's point of view

INVEST

Independent

Each User Story should represent a distinct and independent set of business value such that, were it released on its own, it would deliver incremental value over the previous state.

INVEST

Negotiable

While the end-goal may be clearly described, the methods by which that goal is achieved should be negotiable - between the Product Owner and the Development Team, the Product Owner and the Customer, or any other involved stakeholders - so as to prevent unrealistic constraints on the feature or functionality.

INVEST

Valuable

The business value of any User Story should be readily recognizable by reading the story, and each story should represent some sort of value to a specific user type.

INVEST

Estimable

We must have enough information that we can properly size a story so that we may properly plan and commit to our work. (But no more!)

INVEST

Small

User Stories should be small enough that they are able to be completed within a sprint.

INVEST

Testable

All members of the team need a clear and precise way to verify whether or not a User Story has been completed.

Estimation & 'Story Points'

- In waterfall, workload capacity is determined in terms of time.
- Very difficult to do.
- After 13 years as a software engineer I am totally unable to do this.
- You don't know enough until you are done.

Estimation & 'Story Points'

- A User Story is assigned 'Story Points'.
- A measure of size and complexity *relative to other stories in the backlog*
- Takes some practice as a team

Estimation & 'Story Points'

- In Sprint Planning meeting, team estimates effort for the stories in the backlog.
- Product Owner needs these estimates, so they can prioritize the backlog.

Estimation & 'Story Points'

Common pointing schemes

- T-shirt sizes (XS, S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL)
- Fibonacci sequence (1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, ...)

A story at 4 points is 2x a story at 2 points

Tasks & Acceptance Criteria

Tasks are the implementation steps

“As a job seeker I can limit who sees my resume so that I have privacy”

→ Add new column in resumes table for the visibility of a resume

→ Add a drop down to the UI that allows the user to select the visibility

→ Add authorization check in search results

Tasks & Acceptance Criteria

Acceptance Criteria are the tests

“As a job seeker I can limit who sees my resume so that I have privacy”

→ Search for a private resume yields no results

→ Search for a public resume shows the resume

Are these good User Stories?

- As a system, I will use Log4J to log all error messages so that the system can be debugged easily.
- As a user, I want to be prompted to save every 15 minutes while editing my resume so that I don't lose any work.
- As a user, I want to be able to message job seekers
- As a visiting user I can search for jobs by location, salary and title.

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- They are the right style for iterative development.

User Story Lifecycle

- Usually backlog is populated during a Story Writing Workshop
- At Sprint Planning, the backlog is reviewed and points are assigned.
- During and after Sprint Planning 'tasks' and 'acceptance criteria' are created.
- Stories are completed during Sprint and marked as 'Resolved'.