

PRODUCT BACKLOG REFINEMENT – THE “UNSUNG” HERO

*Keep the **backlog** updated, clean and ordered*

AGENDA



Context Setting



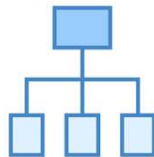
Survey



Top challenges

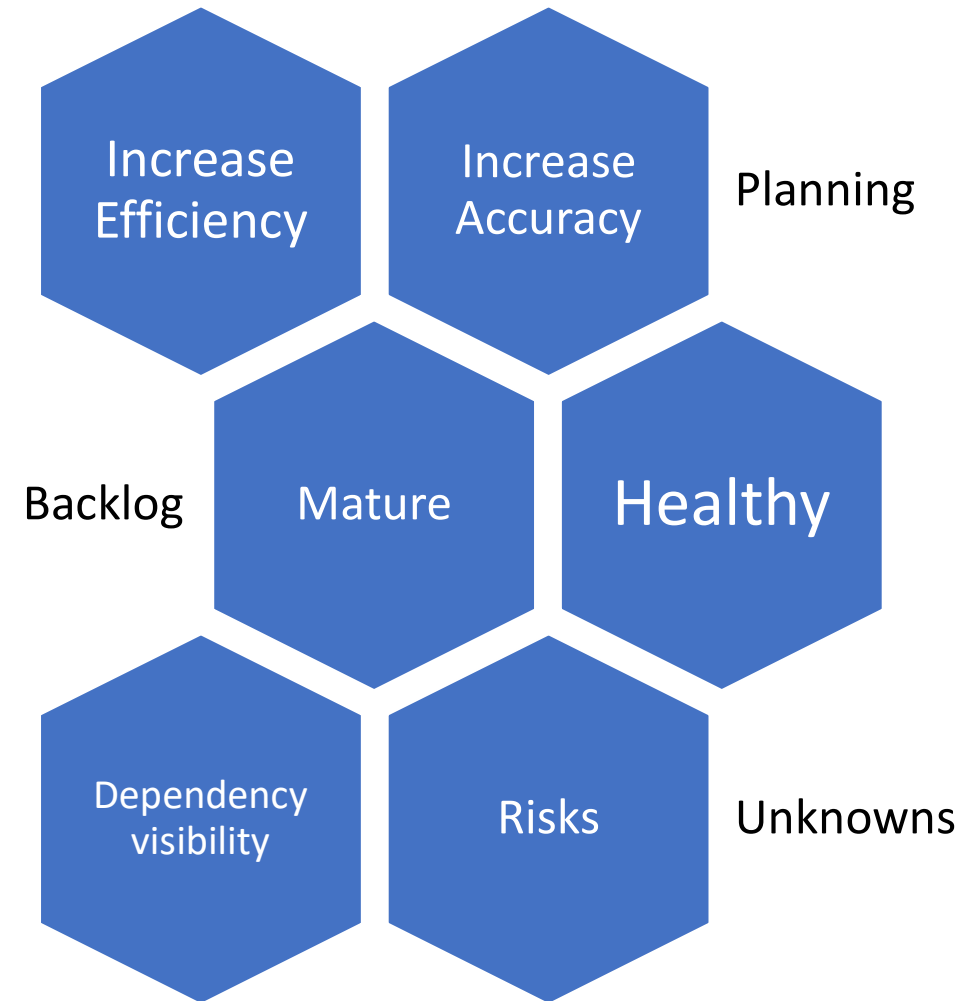


Recommendations

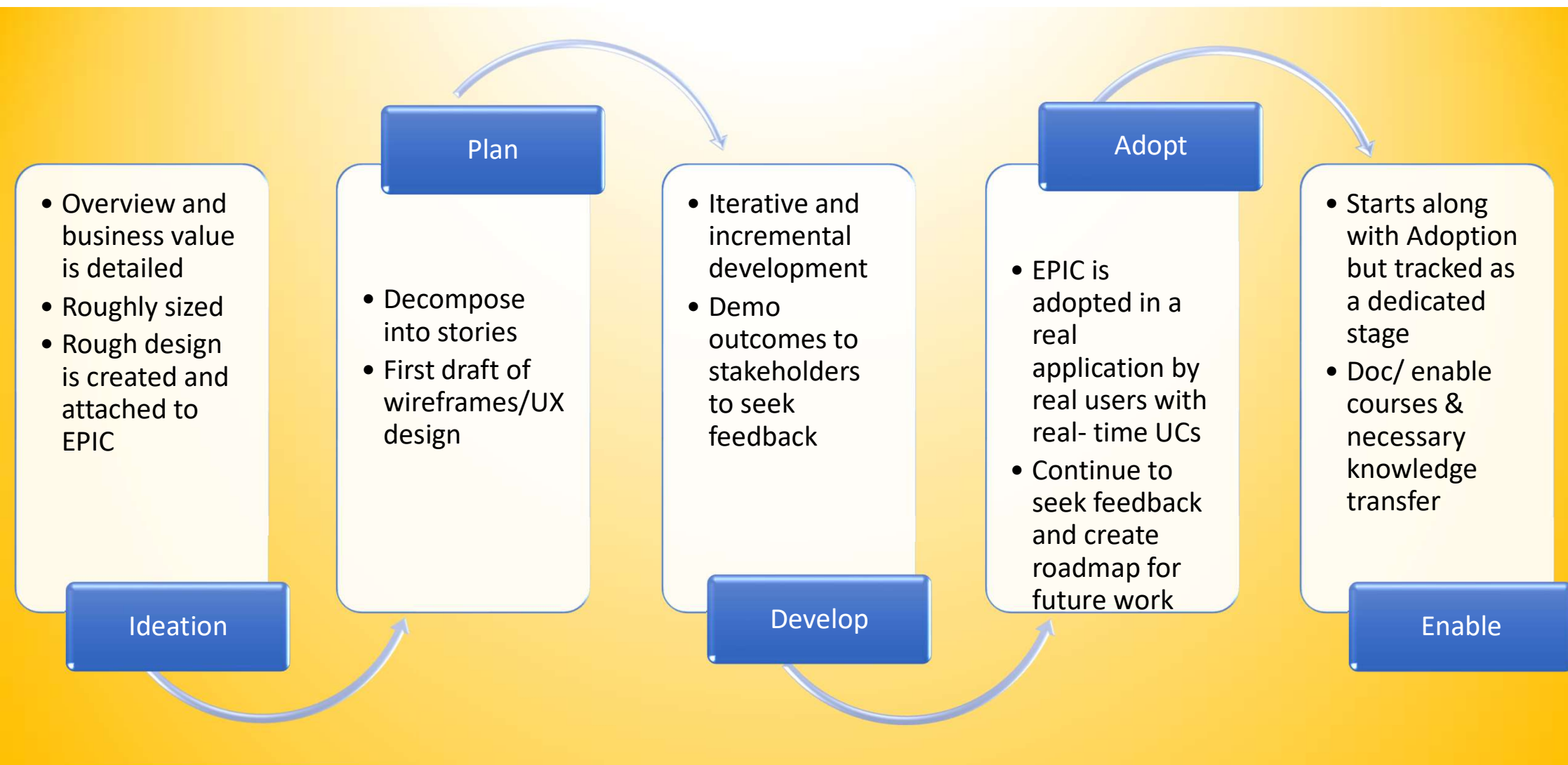


Suggested Flow

Importance and Benefits



EPIC Lifecycle



Survey Exercise



80+ Scrum teams



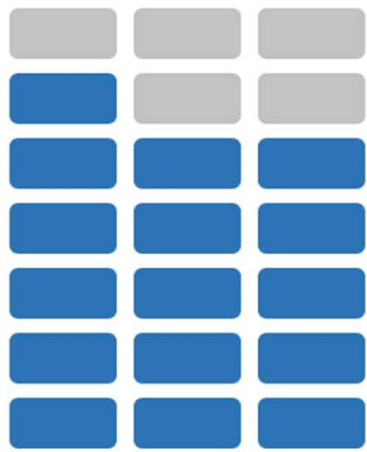
44 Scrum Masters

Ask for Scrum Masters was to gather Product Backlog Refinement challenges from teams



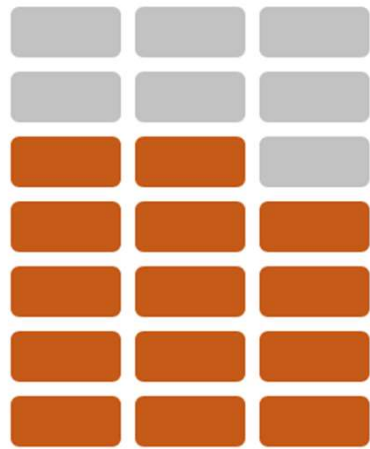
1 week

Top 5 Challenges Voted by Community



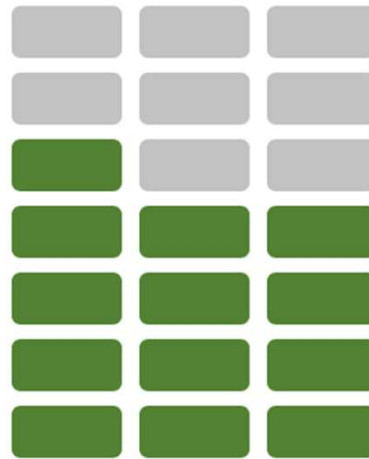
80%

**Backlog
state
transparency**



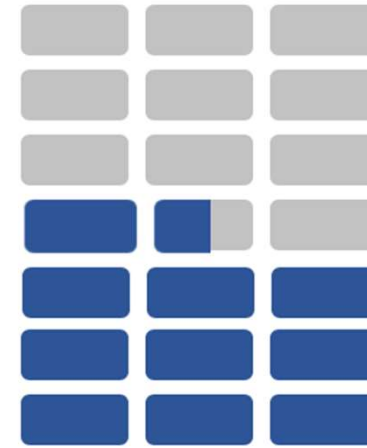
70%

**Unclear
Acceptance
Criteria**



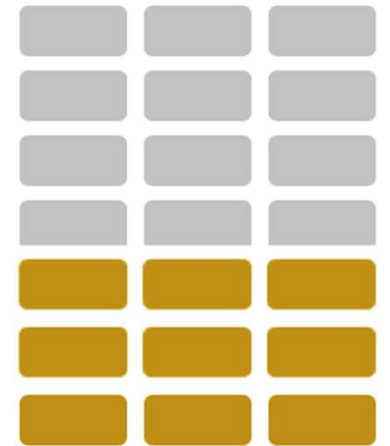
65%

**Unclear
Adoption
Target**



50%

**PO decides
how**



40%

**Too much
discussion
during sizing**

Backlog State Transparency



Create Reports to showcase
“EPIC cycle & lead time”



Have Weekly review of release
record/SoS



“Backlog Readiness” dashboard



Showcase upcoming work (N+2 Sprints)

Unclear Acceptance Criteria?



Ask relevant questions like Why, What, Who & How & get clarity



Work Together with PO



Try to adopt a light weight DoR



Start with the end in mind

Unclear Adoption Target (Who & How)?



Make Adoption Target part of epic Acceptance Criteria



Develop with target use cases in mind



Start involving end user during ideation phase and invite them for all Sprint reviews

PO Decides "How"?

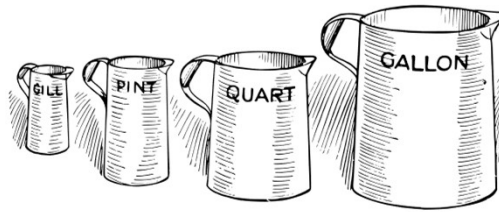


Educate the PO that
'How' is owned by the
Dev Team

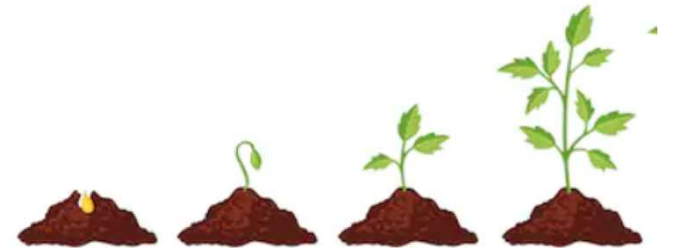


If this happens frequently, ask
PO to leave the room after
"WHAT" is discussed

Too much discussion before sizing



Have reference user stories

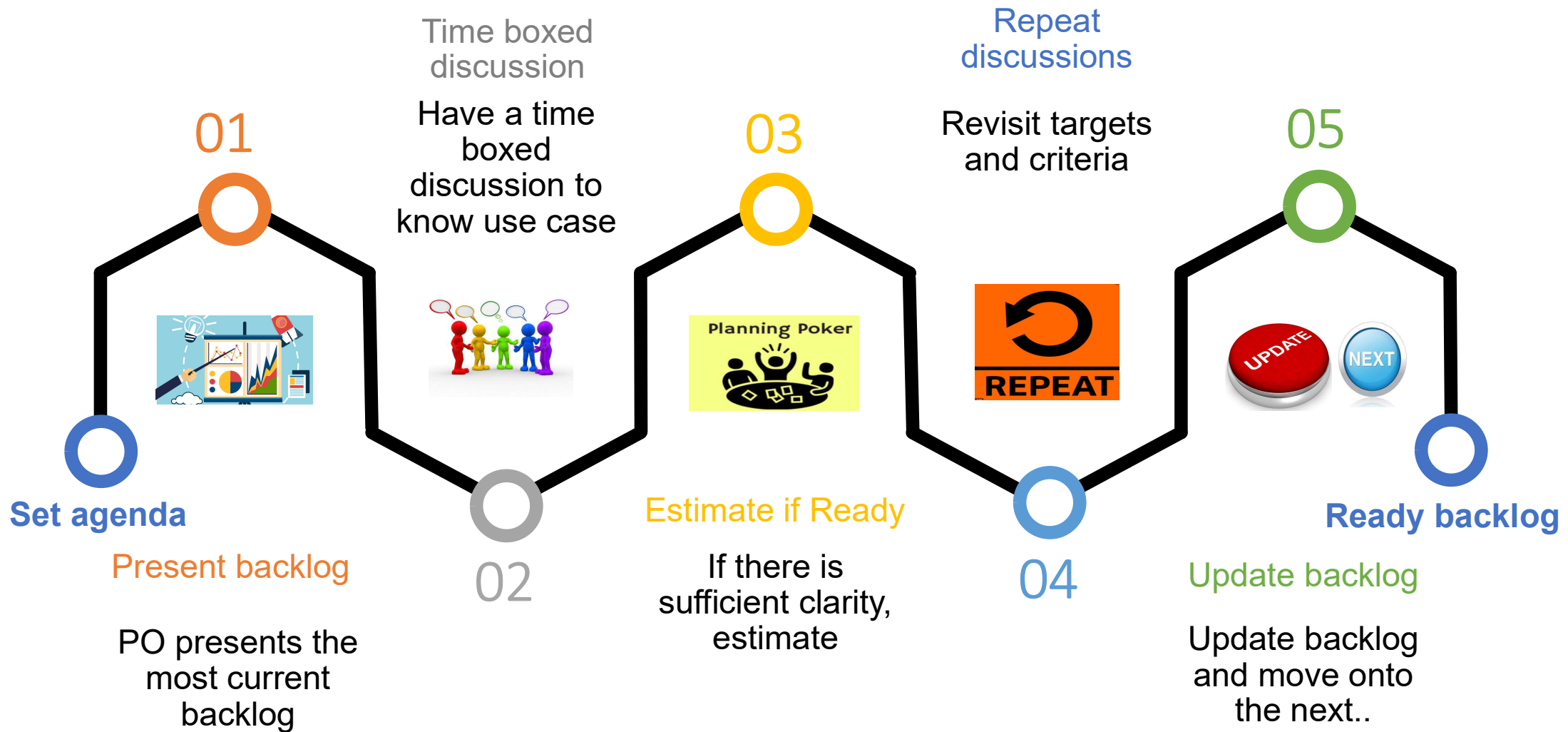


Have refinement in stages –
WHAT & HOW separated



Encourage teams to
take risk

Product Backlog Refinement Flow



When there is “No-Ready” work

- Spikes on upcoming feature work
- Remove flakiness from your automated test suites
- Clear that long pending tech debt!
- Automate manual tests, if there are any
- Execute any work that will help us to release early and often with higher quality

Outcomes Observed



Refinement meetings
has **gained further
momentum**



Backlog state is now
more **transparent** and
readiness has **improved**



Visibility has led to a
**positive behavioral
change** in teams





Thank
you!!