Week 5 Workshop

Your initial project backlog

Objectives

In this week's workshop, you will:

- conduct a story-writing workshop
- evaluate user stories using the INVEST criteria
- add some stories to your project backlog

You will need to begin your first project sprint **next week**, and you'll need to have some stories in your backlog in order to be able to plan it. This week's lab gives you an opportunity to conduct a workshop to create those initial stories.

Your project inception documentation is due **at the end of this week**.

Task 1. A story-writing workshop

Read the Week 4 notes on user stories and story-writing workshops and conduct a story-writing workshop with your team. We suggest that you spend half an hour to an hour on this.

Your facilitator doesn't have to be the Product Owner – having a Product Owner that you only see once a week is very risky! But if you're going to nominate a student to perform that role, they need to understand your client's requirements well enough to represent them properly. In any case, your facilitator is *definitely* a highly-interested and influential stakeholder who, ideally, should be represented at the story-writing workshop regardless of their official role.

Task 2. The INVEST criteria

Your workshop should have produced a number of user stories. Discuss these with your team and evaluate each of them according to the INVEST criteria. Remember, a good user story should be:

- Independent
- Negotiable
- Valuable (to the client)
- Estimable
- Small
- Testable

If you need a refresher on these terms, they're defined in the Week 4 lecture slides on User Stories. For more information, consult this week's optional readings on Moodle.

If you find a problem with any of your stories, see if you can fix it (or at least make a plan that will allow you to fix it later).

We suggest you spend half an hour to an hour on this task. If you've got a lot of stories, you might not be able to get through them all in this time. In that case, you should plan to meet later on and continue to evaluate and refine your stories.

Task 3. Your product backlog

As a team, decide on a structure for your product backlog and begin to place your stories into it. As you do this, note down the status of each story: is it ready to go, or does it need further refinement? Remember, your objective is to get your backlog ready for sprint planning next week.

Once again, it is fine if some of this is left for later, as long as it's done in plenty of time for sprint planning.