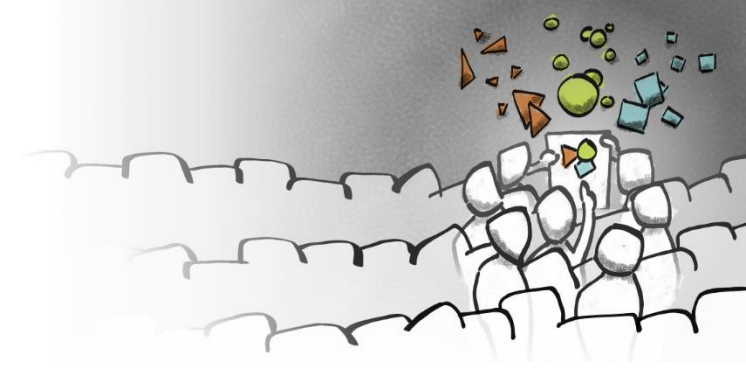# Effort Estimation With CrumbScale

Initial estimation and rapid estimation of new items

CrumbScale

- 2007 Invention (Phillipe Cantin)
- 2009-2010 First publication (blog)
- 2017 Description in the Rally-Point Backlog book
- 2022 Official GitHub

- Usages
  - Multiple domains of application
  - Small, medium and large development initiatives
  - Not only used to estimate effort (value, quantity, …)

Effort-points Estimation

- Simple

- Fast

- No re-estimation required
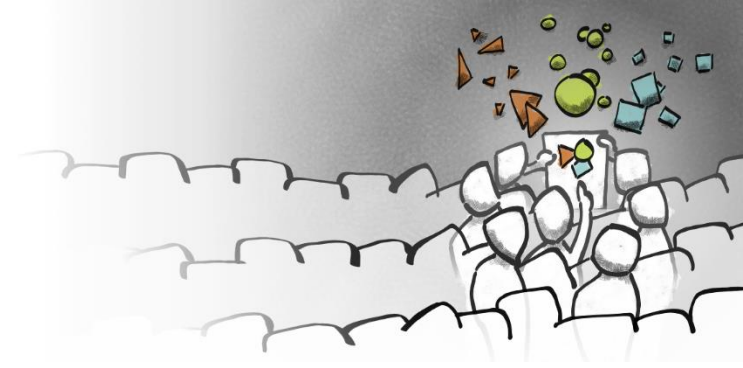
No link between hours and points

CrumbScale

- Eliminate hours-vs-points confusion

- Remains precise over time

- Eliminate the need for re-estimation

- Reduce estimation time

- Support a robust predictability and planning

- Results are accepted by the groupe/team

- Bonus creation of rapid estimation tool for estimating future backlog items
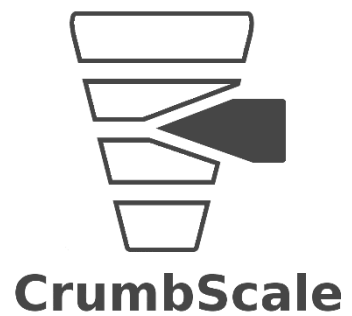
Method

- 2 steps process
- No need for special training
    - Other for the facilitator
- Average estimation of 30-60 items per hour

and

- Rapid estimation of future backlog items

Estimation CrumbScale

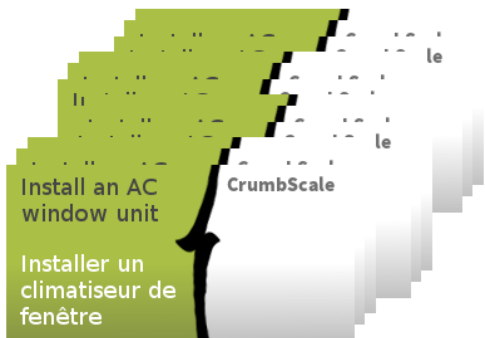# Step 1/2

Sorting by relative size
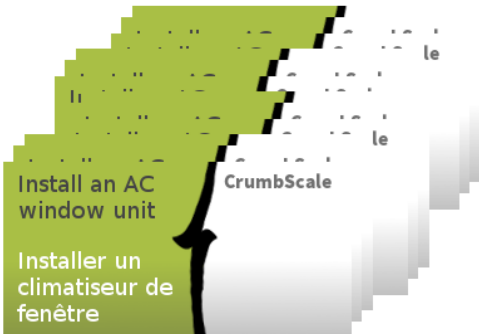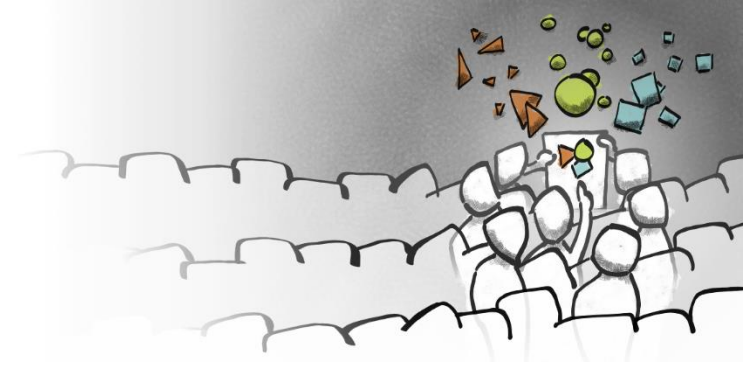
via an « insert sort »

Step 1/2

Install an AC
window unit

Installer un
climatiseur de
fenêtre

CrumbScale

P-10

Install an AC
window unit

Installer un
climatiseur de
fenêtre

CrumbScale

Insert a first item in the
list.

Step 1/2

Install an AC window unit
Installer un climatiseur de fenêtre
CrumbScale
P-10

Install an AC window unit
Installer un climatiseur de fenêtre
CrumbScale

Install an AC window unit
Installer un climatiseur de fenêtre
CrumbScale

Insert a second item in the list while asking the question:

'Is this bigger than...?'

Step 1/2

- Always insert from the bottom
- Q: 'Is this bigger than...?'
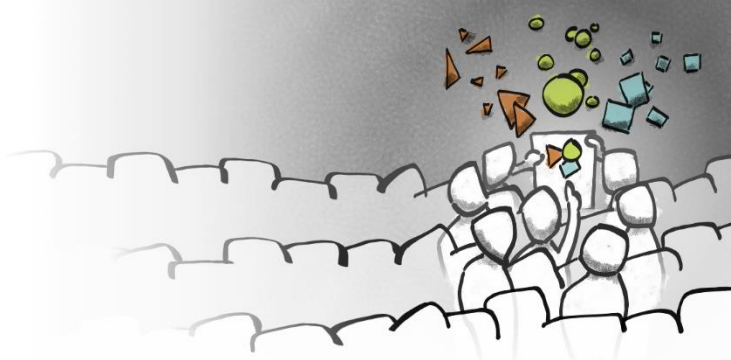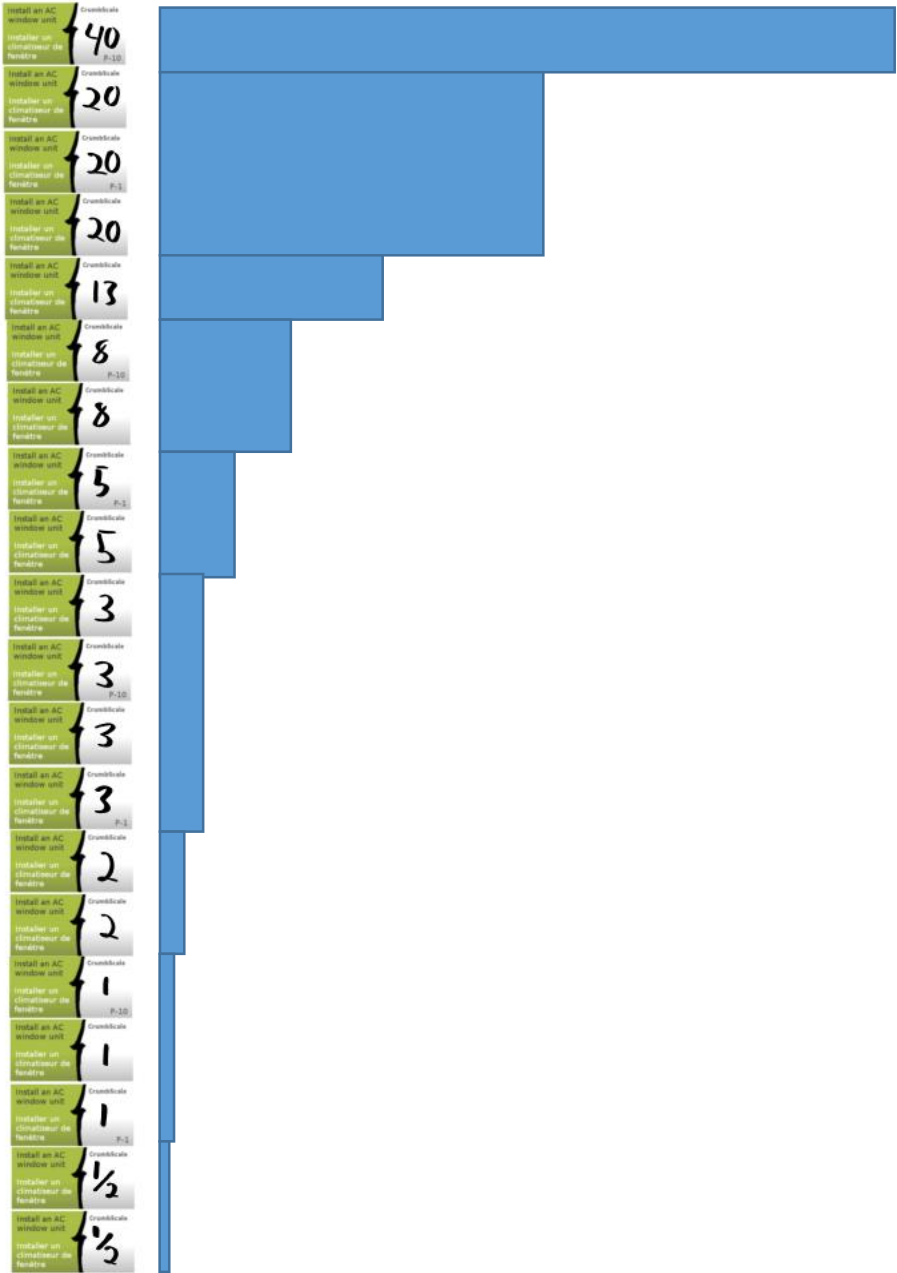- Correct errors as you go

Repeat for all items. Climb the list while asking the question:
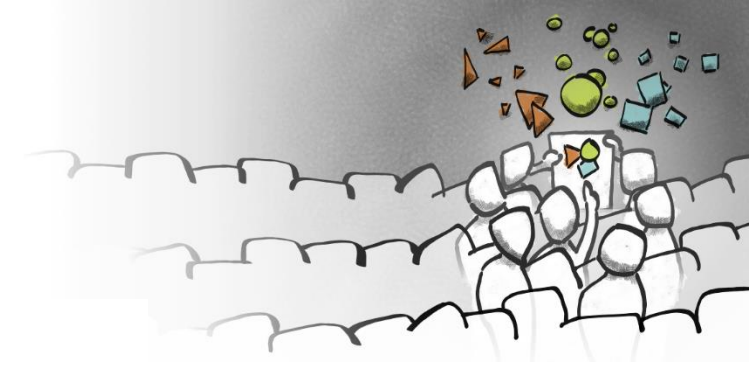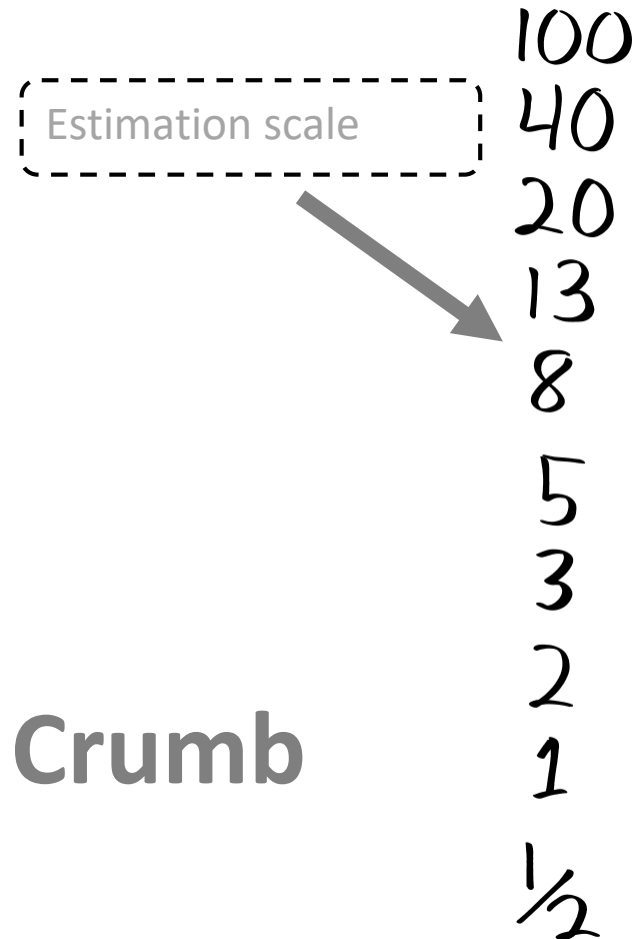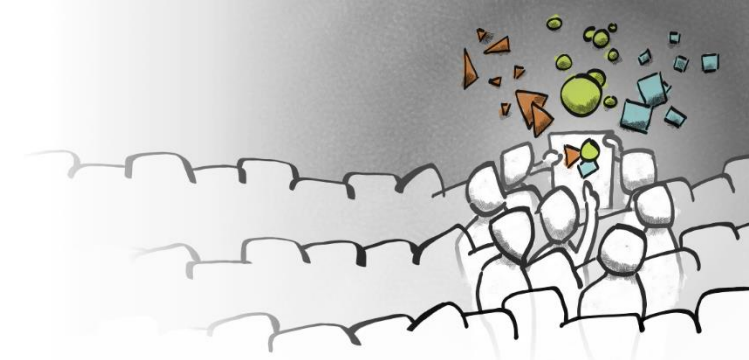
'Is this bigger than...?'

Step 2/2

Points distribution

Step 2/2

Identify Crumbs of value ½

(no impact)
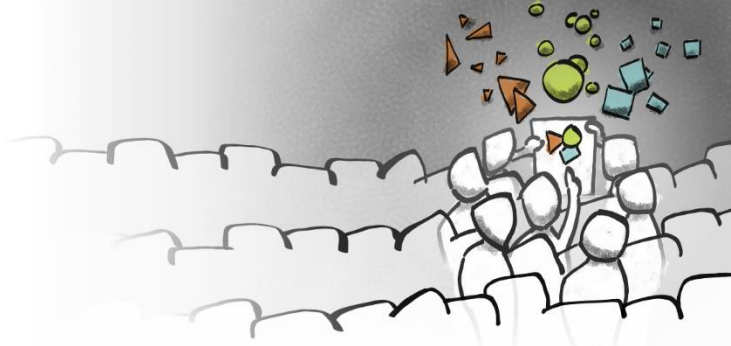

A 'Crumb' item has no impact on your daily schedule.

Crumb

Estimation scale

100
40
20
13
8
5
3
2
1
½

P-10

CrumbScale

CrumbScale

CrumbScale

P-1

CrumbScale

1

>Crumb

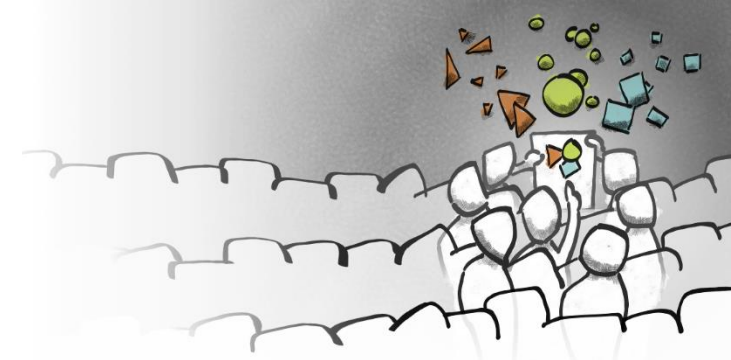CrumbScale

½

The first item bigger than a 'Crumb', is given the value of 1

100
40
20
13
8
5
3
2
1
½

Step 2/2

'Is this at least 2x bigger than...?'

While going up the list, ask this question:
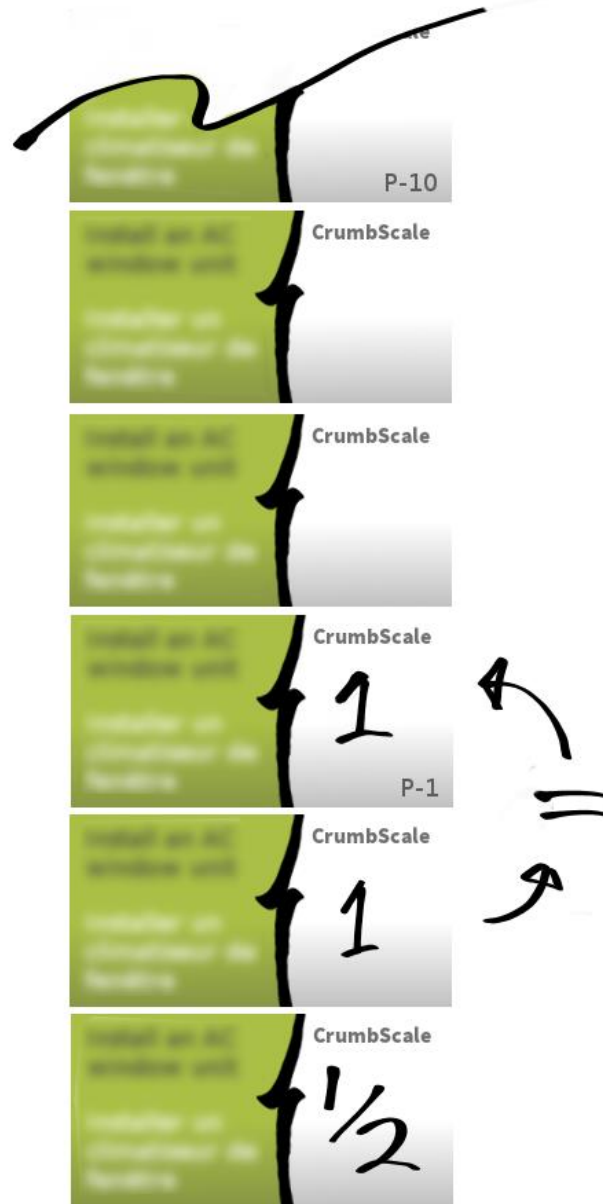
'Is the next item at least 2x bigger than this one?'

Step 2/2

'Is this at least 2x bigger than…?'

IF the nest item is not at least 2x bigger, it is assigned the same value. If not we move up to the next value in the estimation scale.
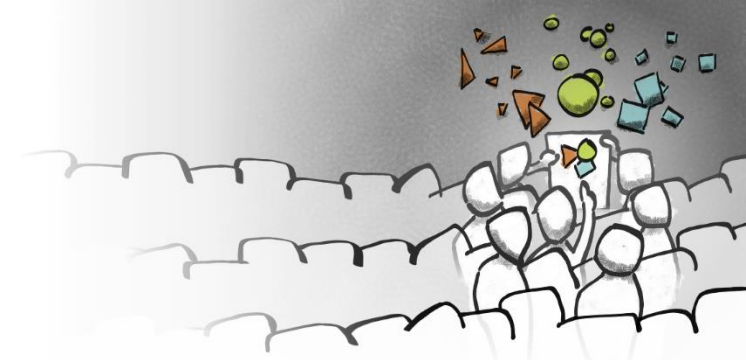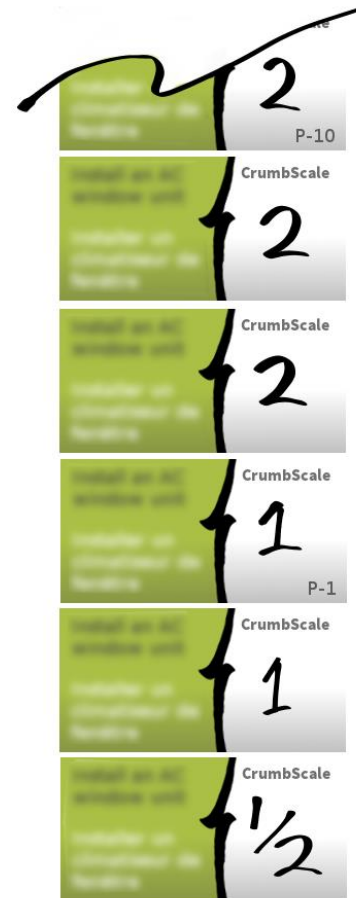
Step 2/2

- Identify the ½ (no impact)

- Q: 'Is this 2x bigger than…?'

- Correct errors as you go

Go up the list, repeating the same process for each item.

If there is a long series of items with the same value, we do not compare only with the last item but with 2-3 items from the series.

2
P-10

2

2

1
P-1
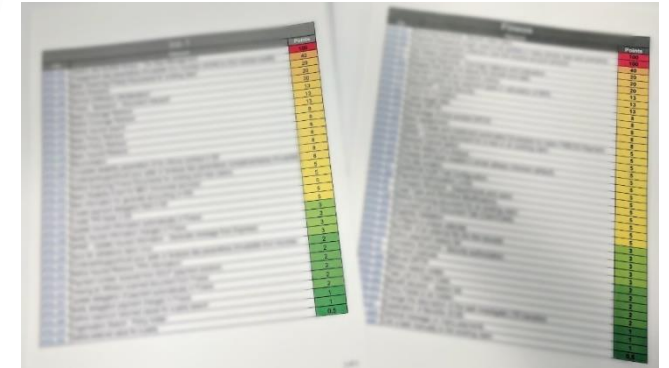
1

½

100
40
20
13
8
5
3
2
1
½
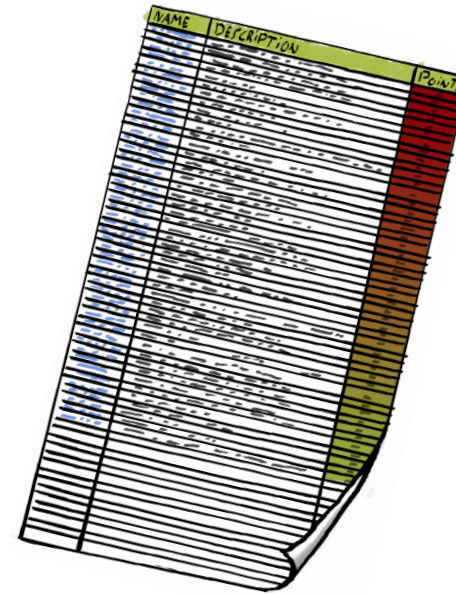
Results

✓ Initial estimation

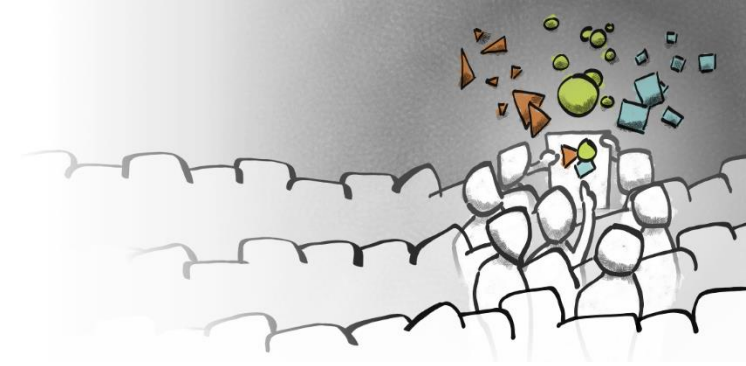✓ Rapid estimation tool

- No links with hours

- Fast

- Simple

Create an image or print the tool to avoid the temptation of modifying the values.

Rapid Estimation Tool

Rapid Estimation Tool

- Does not change over time
  - Fundamental to achieve predictability

- Enable ultra-fast estimations
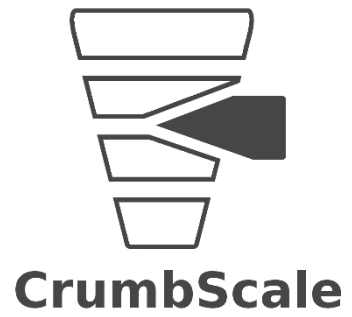
Rapid Estimation

After the PO/Arch. has described the new item:

- Find similar work in the list
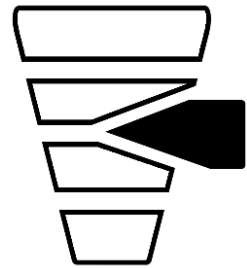
- Assign the same value to the new item

With this tool, we do not look for items of the same effort size but items with the same type of work.

Estimating with this tool should take on average **30-60 seconds**.
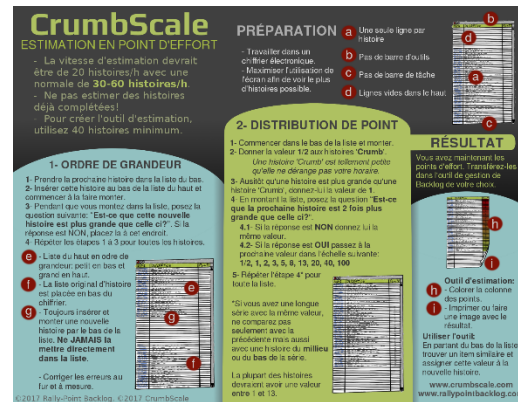
References

CrumbScale

Rally-Point Backlog
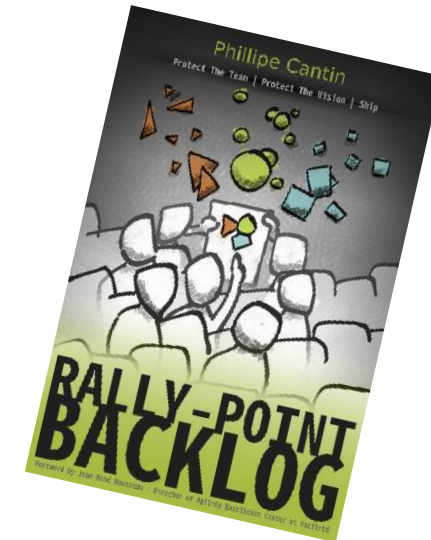
https://github.com/pcantin/crumbscale

- How To
- Troubleshooting
- Cheat-Sheets

Rally-Point Backlog

- Amazon
- Formats: eBook and paperback