Lessons Learned: Agile Feature Breakdown Tool

# 🛠️ Project Context

While developing my Agile Feature Breakdown Tool (a Python-based utility for decomposing high-level features into user stories with story points), I encountered a subtle but important lesson that reinforced Agile best practices.

# ⚠️ What Happened

During an early test run, I mistakenly entered two distinct user needs into a single user story field. For example, I combined both 'submitting a safety incident' and 'viewing submitted incidents' into one long user story, which violated the principle of story granularity.

# 📚 Lesson Learned

Agile user stories should be clear, focused, and independently valuable. This mistake helped reinforce the importance of the INVEST criteria:  
• Independent  
• Negotiable  
• Valuable  
• Estimable  
• Small  
• Testable

In this case, separating those two concerns allowed me to identify two different users and goals: one for incident submission and one for incident tracking and review.

# 💬 How I Would Frame This in an Interview

"While testing my Agile Feature Breakdown Tool, I noticed I had inadvertently combined two user goals into one story. That helped reinforce the importance of keeping user stories independent and testable. I revised my input and the export to reflect better granularity and estimation. It’s a small but critical practice I’d bring into Agile PI Planning or backlog grooming discussions."

– Sean Mayers