Enterprise
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by IBM

TOOLKIT
User Stories

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INTRODUCTION

Why do we do this activity?

Describe requirements as discrete tasks a user must complete to reach their goal, in order to ensure your work delivers user value.

INTRODUCTION

When should you use this activity?

Start writing user stories shortly after you've written your Hills. If you aren't sure where to start, make a To-be Scenario Map to get a better picture of the user tasks you need to define.

INTRODUCTION

We suggest **30 minutes** for this activity. How much time you spend is up to you!

- **Write before you talk.** Write or sketch lots of your ideas on sticky notes *before* talking about them. During discussions, capture the main points on sticky notes and post to the wall.

- **There are no bad ideas.** Start big. Diverge to get everyone's ideas out there. Come back together to discuss, cluster, and seek patterns. Then, converge to determine the strongest ideas.

- **Stay focused on your users.** Tell stories about users to keep them at the center of your attention.

- **Everyone participates.** Everyone has a marker and a pad of sticky notes.

- **Stay engaged.** Avoid side conversations. Use a "parking lot" to capture issues that are off-topic.

- **Start on time, stay on time.** To meet our goals, we need to watch the clock and stick to the plan.

- **Yes, and…** Instead of dismissing the ideas that your teammates suggest, push yourself to build on them.

Ready, set, go!

WRITE

Diverge on all the various tasks your users need to complete to reach their goals. Keep the statements granular and phrased as short, specific sentences.

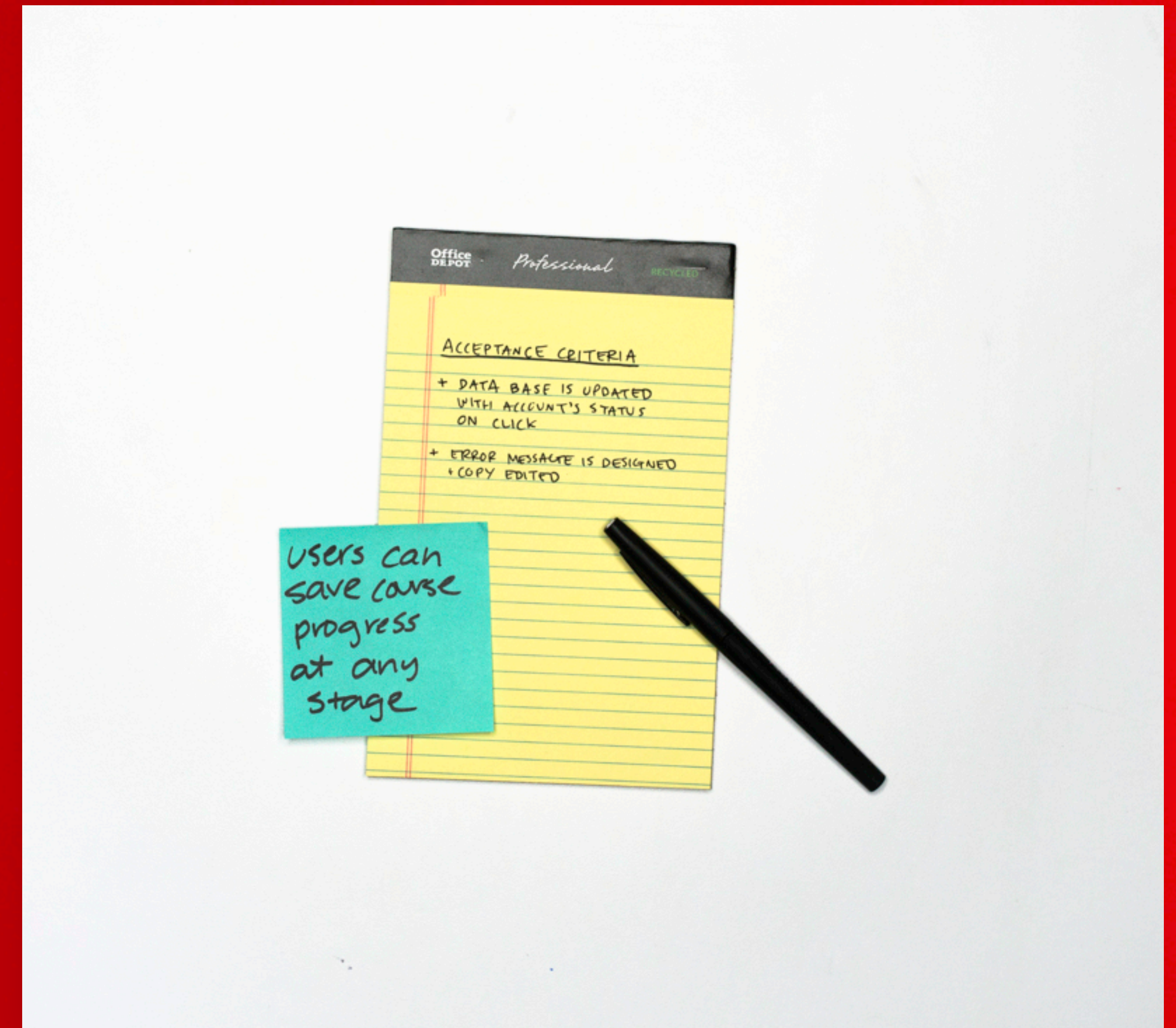- **Example:** A user can upload her profile picture from her computer.

PRIORITIZE

At the beginning of each sprint, choose a set of User Stories from your backlog based on your team's most important priorities at the time.

- If you're asked to deliver a story that doesn't help achieve a Hill, think critically about whether or not it's really in your users' or clients' best interest.

DEFINE

Before you actually start implementing a User Story, define a set of acceptance criteria that will verify the team adequately and fully addressed it.

ASSIGN

As a team, decide who will work on which User Stories.

- Some User Stories will be more complex than others.

- When assigning User Stories to people, make sure they're empowered with the skill and authority to do what they need to do in order to achieve the acceptance criteria.

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