Definition of Ready vs. Done

Acronyms

- Definition of Ready (DoR)
- Definition of Done (DoD)

Technical Definition of Ready (DoR)

- How do you know a user story is ready for development?
  - Meets INVEST criteria
  - Has acceptance criteria
  - Has been estimated
  - Delivery team agrees ready for sprint

- When is an epic is ready for development?

Business Definition of Ready (DoR)

- How do you know a user story is ready to show to the development team?
  - Meets INVEST criteria
  - Has acceptance criteria
  - Business team has discussed the story at length and is prepared to answer questions
  - Business team agrees they are providing all information known at the time

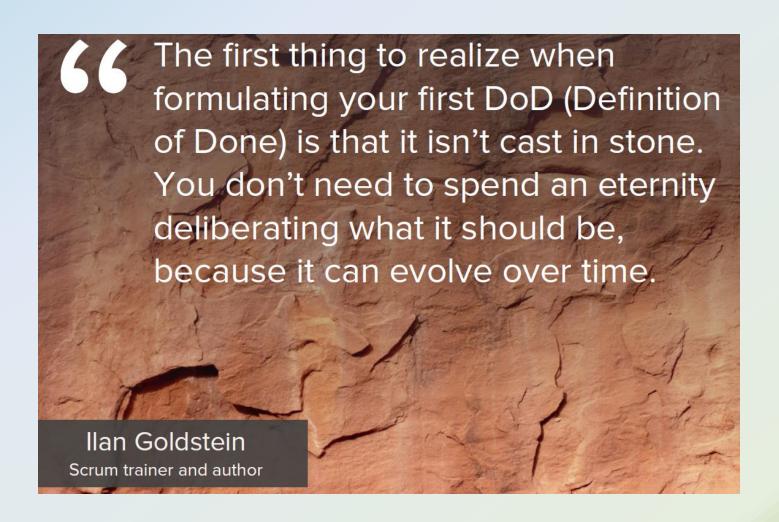- When is a business epic is ready to work on?

Definition of Done

DoD can include the following:
- Completion of code check-in/merge
- Code review sign off
- Completion of automated test script
- Performance tuning

Definition of Done is applicable to the project/program

Definition of Done is a Living Artifact

" The first thing to realize when formulating your first DoD (Definition of Done) is that it isn't cast in stone. You don't need to spend an eternity deliberating what it should be, because it can evolve over time.

Ilan Goldstein
Scrum trainer and author

Isn't the Definition of Done really just Acceptance Criteria on the story?

No. Story acceptance is purely specific to the use case or business requirement that is being solved in a story and will vary from story to story.

The Definition of Done is global to the work that each team does. It is a sort of an exit checklist.

What is the Difference Between Acceptance Criteria and a Definition of Done?

Acceptance Criteria

Unique to a specific backlog item and must be satisfied before the item is considered done.

Product Owner Authored

Definition of Done

An agreed-upon set of things that must be true before any product backlog item is considered complete.

Team Authored

Comparison of Acceptance Criteria & a Technical Definition of Done

Acceptance Criteria

- Customer can log in using Facebook account
- Customer can change profile mailing address
- Customer can select a default credit card

Definition of Done

- Code complete
- Code review(s) pass
- Unit test(s) pass
- Automated test(s) pass
- Regression test(s) pass

Comparison of a Technical Definition of Done vs. a Business Definition of Done

Technical
Definition of Done

- Code complete
- Code review(s) pass
- Unit test(s) pass
- Automated test(s) pass
- Regression test(s) pass

Business
Definition of Done

- Work submitted to team has been proofread and is found to be without error
- Story has been reviewed by both business and technical teams and is understood by all

Definition of Done Format

- Some teams have a generic Definition of Done checklist format
- Other teams choose to separate the items into categories of Doneness such as:
  - Definition of Done for a Sprint
  - Definition of Done for a Release

Exercise

- In your group, discuss and agree upon what structure or format your team's Definition of Done will follow

Exercise

- In your group, begin to identify some items you want to include in your team's Definition of Done

Remember

The Definition of Done (DoD):

- Is a living document

- Should be revisited as needed; some teams revisit it in keeping with the theme/goal of each sprint

- Should not be thought of as a contract, but more like a checklist; veering away from content should be agreed to by the whole team