

User Stories

contributed by Steve Adolph

“A promise for a conversations.”
Alistair Cockburn

The user story super power results from their ability to work as a low cost tool for creating alignment between teams and product owner.

What is a user story?

A user story is a short description (one or more sentences) written in ordinary business language that captures what a user does, or needs to do, and the benefits or value that they expect to get.

User Story

Descriptive Title
Size
Makes the story physical & visible

1-2 Sentence Description
Such as: “As a <role>, I can <action with system> so that <external benefit>”

Acceptance Criteria

Remember the 3 C's

Card
Makes the story physical & visible

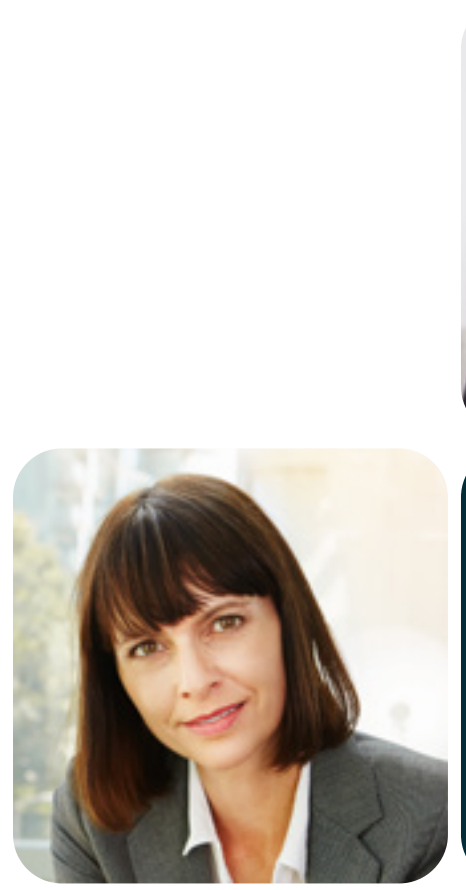
Conversation
All stakeholders agree on what the story means

Confirmation
How to know if the story is implemented right

Who is involved in user stories?

Everyone!

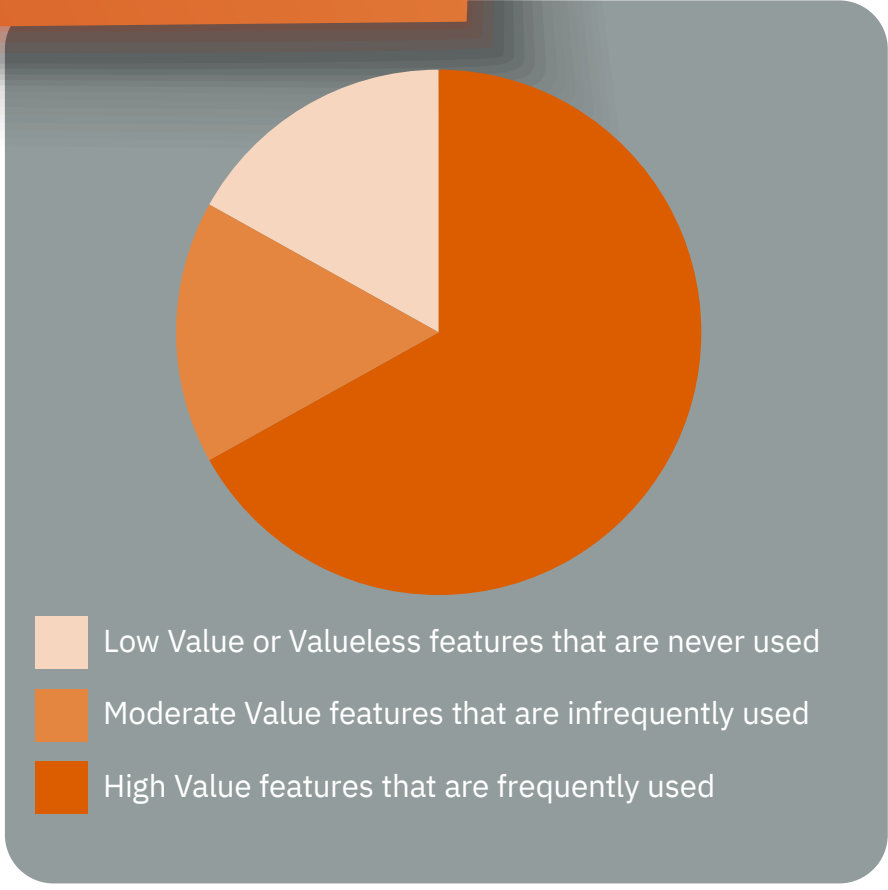
Build Consensus
Conversations around cards get alignment between everyone.



Why do we use user stories?

Why

do we use user stories?



When do we use user stories?

Value

User stories help us learn what is valuable to customers and stakeholders. Most features are never used-focus on maximizing value.

How do we write good user stories?

Split

What strategies can we use to split epics into smaller stories?

Model Driven

Does this user story describe a workflow or process with several alternative options or conditions?

Acceptance Criteria Driven

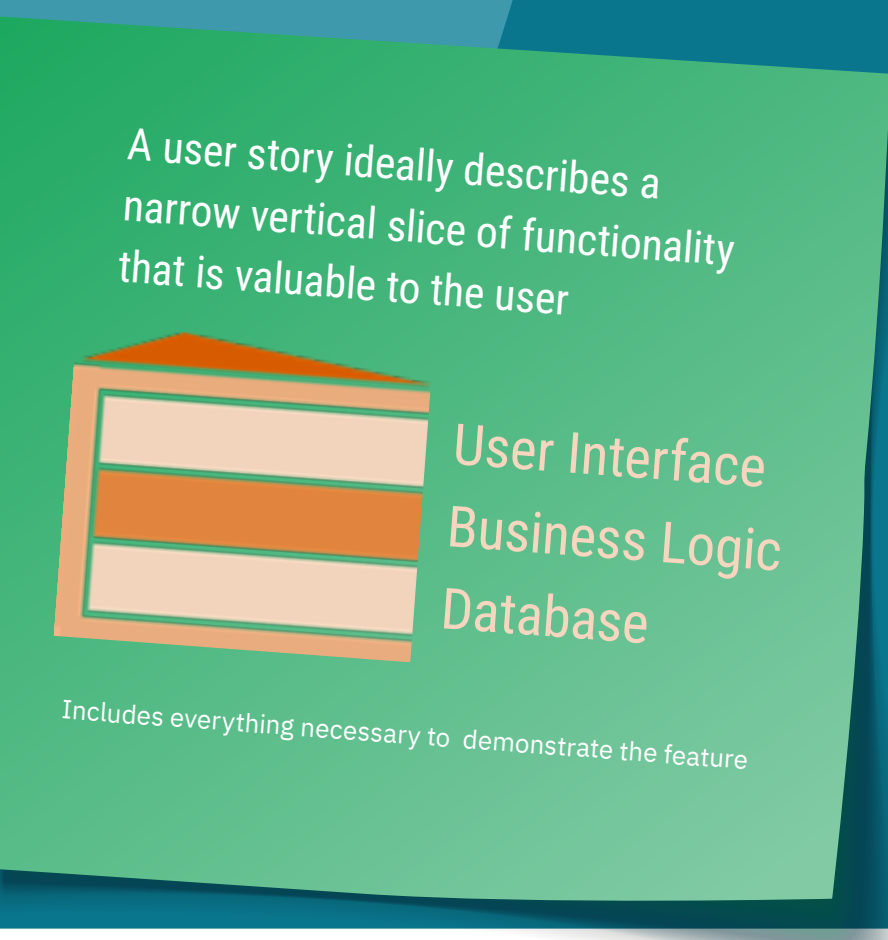
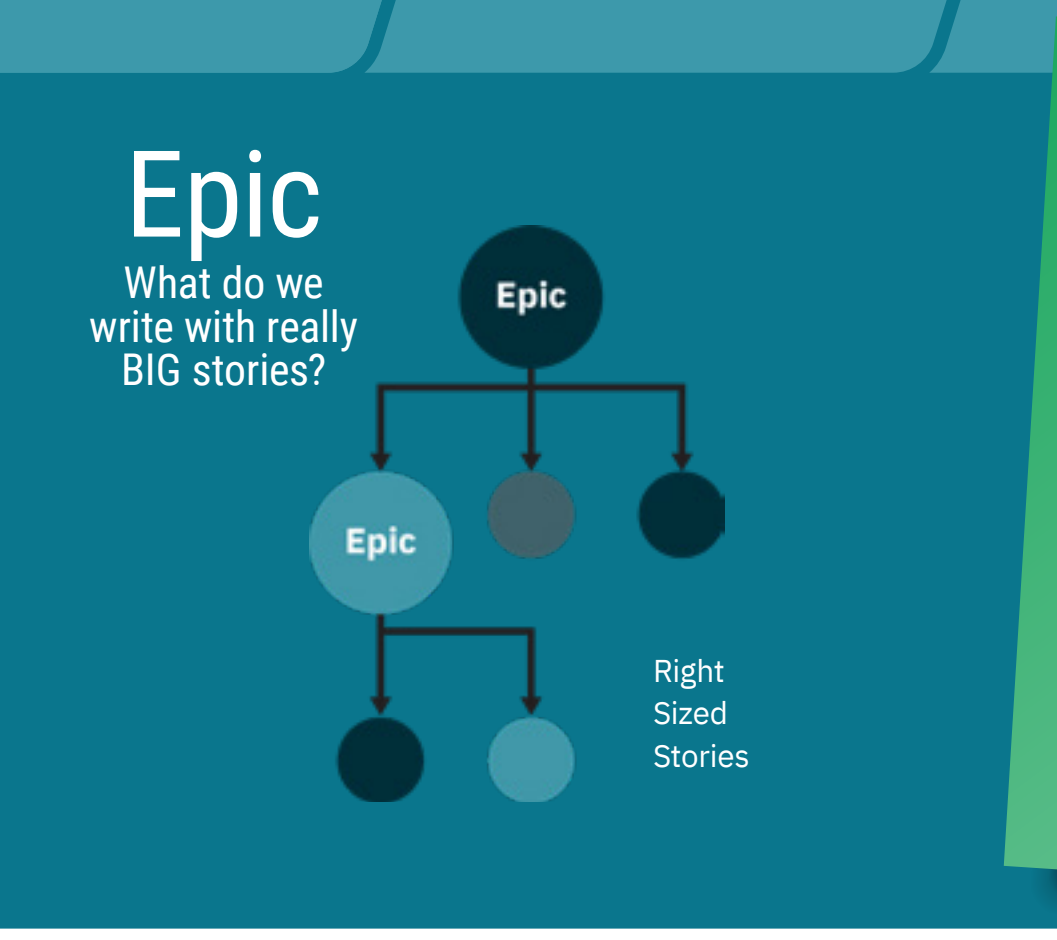
Does this user story have multiple rules or conditions that must be met for it to succeed?

Hi-Fidelity/ Lo-Fidelity

Can we build a simple implementation of this user story first and then elaborate on it later?

A user story describes a narrow vertical slice of functionality that is valuable to the user.

Independent
Negotiable
Valuable
Estimatable
Small
Testable



Deliver

Ready to Ship
Fast delivery of small pieces of work accelerates learning & increases value