Cultivating Agile Requirements
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Agile Manifesto

We are uncovering better ways of developing software by doing it and helping others do it. Through this work we have come to value:

- Individuals and Interactions
- Working Software
- Customer Collaboration
- Responding to Change

- Process and Tools
- Comprehensive Documentation
- Contract Negotiation
- Following a Plan

That is, while there is value in the items on the right, we value the items on the left more.
Scrum Framework

SPRINT 1-4 WEEKS

- Product Owner
- Development Team
- Scrum Master
- Stakeholders

Product Backlog

Sprint Planning

Sprint Backlog

Daily Scrum

Sprint Review

Retrospective

Product Increment

Event
Artifact
Product Backlog

• List of all remaining desired features for the product
• Ordered / stack ranked (1 to n…)
• Each feature expressed as a Product Backlog Item
• Visible to all stakeholders
• Product Backlog changes constantly throughout development of the product
Reprioritize
Remove

Reprioritize

REMOVED

SPRINT BACKLOG
Define a Maturity Model

1. Definition of Ready
2. Questions for Backlog Items
3. Maturity Stages
A ready item is:
• Clear
• Feasible
• Testable
Step 2: Questions for Backlog Items

Think about the questions that your Backlog Items need to answer as they mature.

- What do you need to know?
- When do you need to know it?
Questions for Backlog Items

- What is the idea?
- How does the user benefit?
- How important is it?
- What high-level items can we do in the next 6-12 months?
- How big is it?
- What specific items can we do in the next 1-3 Sprints?
- How are we going to implement it?
- How will we know it is done?
Step 3: Name and Define the Stages

- What is the idea?
- How does the user benefit?
- How important is it?
- What high-level items can we do in the next 6-12 months?
- How big is it?
- What specific items can we do in the next 1-3 Sprints?
- How are we going to implement it?
- How will we know it is done?

Stage 1
Stage 2
Stage 3
Stage 4
Define a Maturity Model

1. Definition of Ready
   What does a Backlog Item look like when it’s ready for a Sprint?

2. Questions for Backlog Items
   As we prepare Backlog Items, what do we need to know? When?

3. Maturity Stages
   What are the steps of maturity our Backlog Items go through?
### Making Maturity Visible

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>Epic</th>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Backlog Item</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Maturity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>Submit</td>
<td>Identify potential topics</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Bloom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>Submit</td>
<td>Select topic</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Bloom</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>Submit</td>
<td>Mature and refine topic</td>
<td>XL</td>
<td>Sprout</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>Submit</td>
<td>Review with peers</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Bloom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>Submit</td>
<td>Submit topic for conference consideration</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Bud</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>Prepare</td>
<td>Prepare draft slide deck and handouts</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Bud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
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<td>Prepare</td>
<td>Arrange travel and accommodations</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Seed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>Prepare</td>
<td>Promote on social media</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Bud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>Prepare</td>
<td>Design slide deck and handouts</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Bud</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>Prepare</td>
<td>Submit final slide deck</td>
<td>Sm</td>
<td>Sprout</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
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<td>Prepare</td>
<td>First dry run of presentation</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Sprout</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>Prepare</td>
<td>Print handouts</td>
<td>Sm</td>
<td>Sprout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>Prepare</td>
<td>Second dry run of presentation</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Sprout</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>Present</td>
<td>Travel to conference</td>
<td></td>
<td>Seed</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Present at conference</td>
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<td>Seed</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>Follow Up</td>
<td>Follow up on questions from participants</td>
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<td>Seed</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Presentation</td>
<td>Follow Up</td>
<td>React, thank on social media</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Bloom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>Follow Up</td>
<td>Review feedback &amp; identify modifications</td>
<td></td>
<td>Seed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Patterns in Backlog Maturity
Patterns: Cohn

1. Placeholder

2. Disaggregate to medium-sized stories

3. Disaggregate to sprint-sized stories

Cohn (Succeeding with Agile, p. 246)
Patterns: Jeffries

1. Card
2. Conversation
3. Confirmation

Jeffries (Three C’s, 2001)
Patterns: Kulak / Guiney

1. Façade (outline)
2. Filled (broadening / deepening)
3. Focused (narrowing / pruning)

Kulak / Guiney (Use Cases: Requirements in Context, p. 56)
Cautions
Cautions

Cookie Cutter
Your soil and seeds are unique; take pointers and ideas

BUFD
Focus on helping people prepare just enough, just in time

Process Heavy
Start informally, always be willing to throw something out
“Measure your success by evidence, not adherence.”

– David Hussman
Thank You!

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