HOW TO SPLIT A USER STORY

1. PREPARE THE INPUT STORY

- Does the big story satisfy INVEST* (except, perhaps, small)?
  - NO: Combine it with another story or otherwise reformulate it to get a good, if large, starting story.
  - YES: You're done.
- Is the story size 1/10 to 1/100 of your velocity?
  - YES: You're done.
  - NO: Continue. You need to split it.

2. APPLY THE SPLITTING PATTERNS

- Can you split the story so you do the beginning and end of the workflow first and enhance with stories from the middle of the workflow?
- Does the story describe a workflow?
- Does the story include multiple operations (e.g., is it about "managing" or "configuring" something)?
- Is the story a thin slice through the workflow?
- Can you split the operations into separate stories?
- Does the story get most of its complexity from satisfying non-functional requirements like performance?
- Can you split the story to do a subset of the rules first and enhance with additional rules later?
- Does the story have a variety of business rules?
  - YES: Can you split the story so you do a subset of the rules first and enhance with additional rules later?
  - NO: Try another pattern.
- Does the story have a simple core that provides most of the value and/or learning?
- Is the story size 1/10 to 1/100 of your velocity?
- Can you split the story to handle data from one interface first and enhance with the others later?
- Is there a simple version you could do first?
- Can you find a small piece you understand well enough to start?

3. EVALUATE THE SPLIT

- Are the stories INVEST? (Independent, Negotiable, Valuable, Estimable, Small, Testable)
  - YES: You're done.
  - NO: Try another pattern.
- Are there stories you can deprioritize or delete?
- Is there an obvious story to start with that gets you early value, learning, risk mitigation, etc.?
- Can you define the 1-3 questions most holding you back?
- Are you still baffled about how to split the story?
- Can you find a small piece you understand well enough to start?
- Can you define the 1-3 questions most holding you back?

* INVEST - Stories should be: Independent, Negotiable, Valuable, Estimable, Small, Testable