

HOW TO SPLIT A USER STORY

CYNEFIN VERSION

(START IN THE CLEAR DOMAIN)

COMPLEX

DOES THE STORY REQUIRE LEARNING IN ORDER TO COMPLETE, FOR EXAMPLE:

- HIGH COMPLEXITY (SPLIT TO DO NON-COMPLEX PIECE FIRST TO LEARN MORE ABOUT COMPLEX PIECES)
- HIGH RISK (SPLIT TO TRY TO REDUCE RISK FIRST)
- HIGH UNCERTAINTY (SPLIT TO RUN AN EXPERIMENT TO LEARN MORE AND NARROW POSSIBILITIES)

DOES THE STORY BENEFIT IF WE FOCUS ON LEAN DISCIPLINES, FOR EXAMPLE:

- SPLIT TO MAXIMIZE TEAM SWARMING
- SPLIT TO MAXIMIZE EASE OF TESTING

DOES THE STORY HAVE INSUFFICIENT INFORMATION

- ASK QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER BACKLOG REFINEMENT
- OR...
- SPLIT FOR A SPIKE (RESEARCH)

COMPLICATED

DOES THE STORY HAVE SOME CLEAR DIFFERENCES IN HOW IT WILL BE IMPLEMENTED, FOR EXAMPLE:

- MULTIPLE PROCESS FLOWS (SPLIT INTO SEPARATE FLOWS)
- MULTIPLE OPERATION TYPES (SPLIT BY TYPE OF OPERATION)
- MULTIPLE RULES (SPLIT INTO SEPARATE RULES)
- ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA (SPLIT BASED ON ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA DIFFERENCES)

DOES THE STORY HAVE LOGICAL IMPLEMENTATION VARIATIONS, FOR EXAMPLE:

- ARE THERE IDENTIFIABLE EASY PORTIONS (SPLIT INTO EASY AND NON-EASY)
- CAN A SLOW PERFORMING VERSION BE USEFUL FOR LEARNING (SPLIT INTO SLOW THEN OPTIMIZE LATER)

CHAOTIC

THESE ARE A LAST RESORT!!!

SPLIT ALONG BOUNDARIES TO REDUCE CHAOS (THESE SPLITS MAY NOT YIELD TRUE VALUE)

- SYSTEM COMPONENTS (DATABASE, GUI, ETC)
- MILESTONE (1/4 DONE, 1/2 DONE, ETC.)
- TEAM MEMBER ROLE (FRONT END, BACK END, ETC)
- INDIVIDUAL PROCESS STEPS (GATHER INFO, PROCESS, ETC)
- DEVELOPER TASK FLOW (IMPLEMENT X, THEN Y, THEN Z)



CLEAR

DOES THE STORY HAVE SOME CLEAR WAYS TO BE SPLIT, FOR EXAMPLE:

- CONJUNCTIONS (MUST DO X AND Y - SPLIT INTO 2)
- PLURAL WORDS ("NEEDS ACTIVITIES" - SPLIT INTO EACH INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITY)
- MULTIPLE TYPES OF USERS (SPLIT INTO TYPE OF USER)
- DIFFERENT OUTCOMES (SPLIT FOR EACH OUTCOME)
- DIFFERENT OUTPUTS (SPLIT FOR EACH OUTPUT)