

Story Splitting Cheat Sheet

The INVEST Model

Stories should be: Independent, Negotiable, Valuable, Estimable, Small, and Testable.

Patterns for Splitting Stories

Workflow Steps

As a content manager, I can publish a news story to the corporate website.

...I can publish a news story directly to the corporate website.
...I can publish a news story with editor review.
...I can publish a news story with legal review.

Business Rule Variations

As a user, I can search for flights with flexible dates.

...as “n days between x and y.”
...as “a weekend in December.”
...as “± n days of x and y.”

Major Effort

As a user, I can pay for my flight with VISA, MasterCard, Diners Club, or American Express.

...I can pay with one credit card type (of VISA, MC, DC, AMEX).
...I can pay with all four credit card types (VISA, MC, DC, AMEX).

Simple/Complex

As a user, I can search for flights between two destinations.

...specifying a max number of stops.
...including nearby airports.
...using flexible dates.
...etc.

Variations in Data

As a content manager, I can create news stories.

...in English.
...in Japanese.
...in Arabic.
...etc.

Data Entry Methods

As a user, I can search for flights between two destinations.

...using simple date input.
...with a fancy calendar UI.

Defer Performance

As a user, I can search for flights between two destinations.

...(slow - just get it done, show a “searching” animation).
...(in under 5 seconds).

Operations (e.g. CRUD)

As a user, I can manage my account.

...I can sign up for an account.
...I can edit my account settings.
...I can cancel my account.

Break Out a Spike

As a user, I can pay by credit card.

Investigate credit card processing.
Implement credit card processing (as one or more stories).