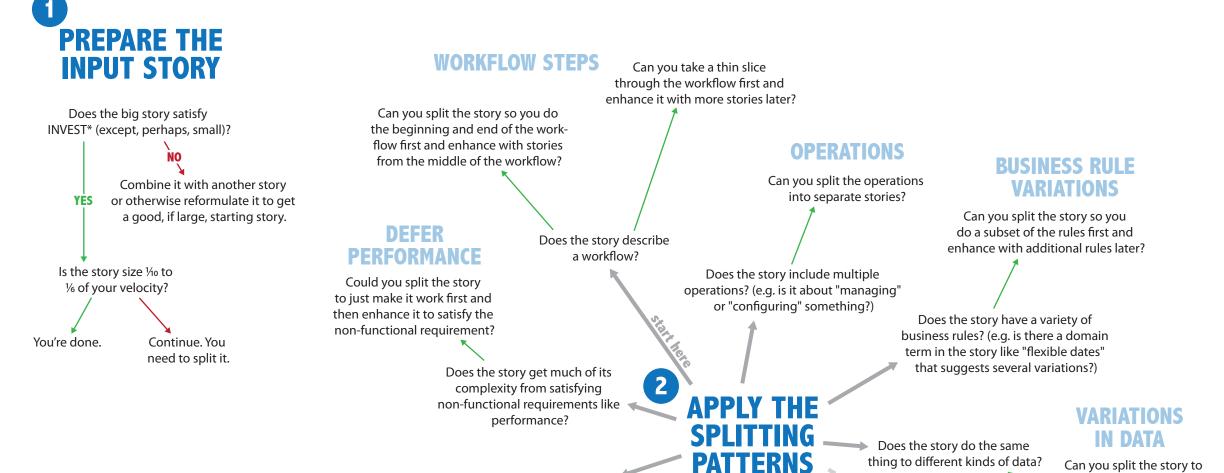
# **HOW TO SPLIT A USER STORY**



When you apply the obvious

split, is whichever story you do first the most difficult?

Can you split the story to

handle data from one

interface first and enhance

with the others later?

Does the story have a simple

core that provides most of the

value and/or learning?

Could you split the story to do that simple core first and enhance it with later stories?

SIMPLE/COMPLEX

Could you group the later stories and defer the decision about which story comes first?

**MAJOR EFFORT** 

Can you split the story to process one kind of data first and enhance with the other kinds later?

**BREAK OUT A SPIKE** 

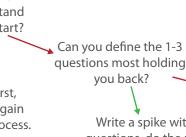
Are you still baffled about how to split the story?

Can you find a small piece you understand well enough to start?

Write that story first, build it, and start again at the top of this process. EVALUATE THE SPLIT

Are the new stories

roughly equal in size? YEŚ Is each story about 1/10 to 1/6 of your velocity? Try another pattern on the original story or the larger Do each of the post-split stories. stories satisfy INVEST? Try another pattern. Are there stories you can deprioritze or delete? Try another pattern. You probably have waste in each of your stories. Is there an obvious story to start with that gets you early value, learning, risk mitigation, etc.? Try another pattern to see if you can get this. You're done, though you could try another pattern



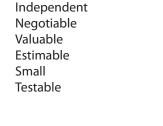
to see if it works better.

you back?

Take a break and try again.

Write a spike with those

questions, do the minimum to answer them, and start again at the top of this process



\* INVEST - Stories should be:



Does the story get the same

kind of data via multiple interfaces?

Does the story have a

complex interface?

INTERFACE

**VARIATIONS** 

Is there a simple version

you could do first?

# **†**Humanizing Work

# **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).