

User Stories

User Stories: {{PROJECT_NAME}}

“ **Project:** {{PROJECT_NAME}} **Version:** {{VERSION}} **Date:** {{DATE}}
Author: {{AUTHOR}} **Status:** Draft | In Review | Approved **Reviewers:**
{{REVIEWERS}}

Document History

Version	Date	Author	Changes
0.1	{{DATE}}	{{AUTHOR}}	Initial draft

1. Epic Overview

Epic ID	Epic Name	Business Goal	Story Count	Status	Target Release
EP-01	{{EPIC_NAME}}	{{BUSINESS_GOAL}}	{{COUNT}}	Backlog / In Progress	{{RELEASE}}
EP-02					
EP-03					

2. Epic Templates

Epic: EP-01 — {{EPIC_NAME}}

Epic Statement: As a **{{PERSONA}}**, I need **{{CAPABILITY}}** so that **{{BUSINESS_VALUE}}**.

Business Goal: **{{BUSINESS_OBJECTIVE_REFERENCE}}** **Priority:** Must Have | Should Have | Could Have **Estimated Size:** **{{X}}** story points (rough) **Target Sprint(s):** Sprint **{{X}}** – Sprint **{{Y}}**

Acceptance Criteria at Epic Level:

- {{HIGH_LEVEL_CRITERION_1}}**
- {{HIGH_LEVEL_CRITERION_2}}**
- {{HIGH_LEVEL_CRITERION_3}}**

Stories in This Epic:

- US-001: **{{STORY_TITLE}}**
- US-002: **{{STORY_TITLE}}**
- US-003: **{{STORY_TITLE}}**

3. Story Format Guide

Standard Story Format:

As a [persona/role],
I want [feature/action],
So that [benefit/outcome].

Acceptance Criteria Format (Given/When/Then):

Given [a precondition that must be true],
When [the user performs an action],
Then [the expected outcome occurs].

Key Principles:

- Stories describe WHAT the user needs, not HOW to build it
 - Each story must be independently valuable and testable
 - Stories should be completable within a single sprint
 - If a story takes > 8 story points, break it into smaller stories
 - Acceptance criteria should be written as tests (they become test cases)
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4. Story Backlog

Epic EP-01: {{EPIC_NAME}}

US-001: {{STORY_TITLE}}

Attribute	Value
Epic	EP-01: {{EPIC_NAME}}
Priority	Must Have
Story Points	1
Sprint	{{SPRINT_NUMBER}}
Assigned To	{{AGENT/PERSON}}
Status	Backlog
FR Reference	FR-{{XXX}}
BR Reference	BR-{{XXX}}

Story: As a {{PERSONA}}, I want {{ACTION/FEATURE}}, So that {{BENEFIT/OUTCOME}}.

Context: {{ADDITIONAL_CONTEXT_THAT_HELPES_UNDERSTAND_THE_STORY}}

Acceptance Criteria:

- Given** {{PRECONDITION}}, **when** {{USER_ACTION}}, **then** {{EXPECTED_RESULT}}
- Given** {{PRECONDITION}}, **when** {{USER_ACTION}}, **then** {{EXPECTED_RESULT}}
- Given** {{ERROR_CONDITION}}, **when** {{USER_ACTION}}, **then** {{ERROR_HANDLING}}

Technical Notes:

- {{TECHNICAL_CONSTRAINT_OR_HINT}}

UI/UX Notes:

- Screen / component: {{SCREEN_NAME}}
- Design reference: {{FIGMA_LINK_OR_FILE}}
- Responsive behavior: {{NOTES}}

Dependencies:

- Blocked by: {{US-XXX | None}}
- Blocks: {{US-XXX | None}}

- External: {{THIRD_PARTY_DEPENDENCY | None}}

Definition of Done:

- Code complete and follows coding standards
- Unit tests written ($\geq 80\%$ coverage on new code)
- Code review approved by Tech Lead
- Merged to `develop`
- Deployed to staging
- All acceptance criteria manually verified
- No critical or high bugs open
- Documentation updated (if applicable)

US-002: {{STORY_TITLE}}

Attribute	Value
Epic	EP-01
Priority	Must Have
Story Points	{{POINTS}}
Sprint	{{SPRINT}}
Assigned To	{{AGENT}}
Status	Backlog
FR Reference	FR-{{XXX}}

Story: As a {{PERSONA}}, I want {{ACTION}}, So that {{BENEFIT}}.

Acceptance Criteria:

- Given** {{PRECONDITION}}, **when** {{USER_ACTION}}, **then** {{EXPECTED_RESULT}}
- Given** {{PRECONDITION}}, **when** {{USER_ACTION}}, **then** {{EXPECTED_RESULT}}

Dependencies: Blocked by: {{US-001 | None}}

Definition of Done: (same as standard DoD above)

Epic EP-02: {{EPIC_NAME}}

US-010: {{STORY_TITLE}}

Attribute	Value
Epic	EP-02
Priority	Should Have
Story Points	{{POINTS}}
Sprint	{{SPRINT}}
Assigned To	{{AGENT}}
Status	Backlog

Story: As a {{PERSONA}}, I want {{ACTION}}, So that {{BENEFIT}}.

Acceptance Criteria:

Given {{PRECONDITION}}, **when** {{USER_ACTION}}, **then** {{EXPECTED_RESULT}}

Dependencies: None

Definition of Done: (standard DoD)

5. Story Estimation Guide

Points	Complexity	Examples
1	Trivial	Update a label, fix a CSS bug, add a config option
2	Simple	Simple form field, read-only data display, static page
3	Moderate	CRUD for one entity, simple filter, email notification
5	Complex	Multi-step form, API integration, complex UI component
8	Very Complex	New module with CRUD + logic + UI + tests
13+	Too Large	Break into smaller stories

Planning Poker: Use async estimation — each team member estimates independently, then compare and discuss outliers.

6. Definition of Ready Checklist

Before a story can be added to a sprint, verify:

- Story is written in As a / I want / So that format
- Story has at least 2 acceptance criteria in Given/When/Then format
- Story has been estimated in story points
- Dependencies are identified and not blocking
- UI/UX design exists (or story is backend-only)
- Technical approach is understood (no major unknowns)
- Priority is assigned (MoSCoW)
- Story size is ≤ 8 points (or confirmed as a spike)
- Acceptance criteria are testable by QA
- FR reference documented

7. Story Breakdown Techniques

Technique	When to Use	How
CRUD Split	Create/Read/Update/Delete are all in one story	Split into 4 stories (View, Create, Edit, Delete)
Happy Path First	Story handles many edge cases	First story = happy path only; subsequent stories = edge cases
Data Variations	Story handles many data types	Split by data type or category
Workflow Steps	Multi-step process in one story	Split by step (Step 1 as standalone value, etc.)
User Type Split	Different users, different experiences	One story per user type
Performance Deferred	Core function + performance optimization mixed	Functional story first; performance story second
UI + API Split	Full-stack story too large	API story first; UI story depends on API story

8. Story Mapping Visualization

USER JOURNEY: [Discovery] → [Registration] → [Core Feature] → [Management] → [Reporting]

MVP (Release 1)	US-001	US-020	US-030	US-040	–
Release 2	–	US-021	US-031	US-041	US-050
Release 3	–	–	US-032	US-042	US-051

“ Replace with actual story IDs mapped to user journey steps and release priority

9. Backlog Summary

Epic	Total Stories	Estimated Points	In Sprint	Done	Remaining
EP-01: {{NAME}}	{{COUNT}}	{{POINTS}}	{{COUNT}}	{{COUNT}}	{{COUNT}}
EP-02: {{NAME}}					
Total					

Velocity (last sprint): {{STORY_POINTS_COMPLETED}} **Projected completion:** Sprint {{X}}
({{DATE}})

Approval

Role	Name	Date	Signature
Author			
Reviewer			
Business Analyst			
Product Owner			
AI Director (John)			

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