HOW TO SPLIT A USER STORY

Does the story include multiple

operations? (e.g. is it about "managing"

or "configuring" something?)

APPLY THE

SPLITTING

PATTERNS

Does the story get the same

kind of data via multiple interfaces?

OPERATIONS

Can you split the operations

into separate stories?

Can you take a thin slice through the workflow first and enhance it with more stories later?

PREPARE THE **INPUT STORY**

Does the big story satisfy INVEST* (except, perhaps, small)? Combine it with another story or otherwise reformulate it to get a good, if large, starting story. Is the story size 1/10 to % of your velocity? You're done. Continue. You need to split it.

WORKFLOW STEPS

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?

DEFER PERFORMANCE

Could you split the story to just make it work first and then enhance it to satisfy the non-functional requirement?

> Does the story get much of its complexity from satisfying non-functional requirements like performance?

Does the story describe

a workflow?

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

SIMPLE/COMPLEX

Does the story have a simple core that provides most of the value and/or learning?

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

MAJOR EFFORT

Can you split the story to handle data from one interface first and enhance with the others later?

When you apply the obvious

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

INTERFACE **VARIATIONS**

Does the story have a

complex interface?

THE SPLIT

Are the new stories roughly equal in size? 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

BREAK OUT A SPIKE

VARIATIONS

IN DATA

Can you split the story to

process one kind of data

first and enhance with the

other kinds later?

BUSINESS RULE

VARIATIONS

Can you split the story so you

do a subset of the rules first and

enhance with additional rules later?

Does the story have a variety of

business rules? (e.g. is there a domain

term in the story like "flexible dates"

that suggests several variations?)

Does the story do the same

thing to different kinds of data?

Is there a simple version

you could do first?

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. Can you define the 1-3 questions most holding you back? Write a spike with those

could try another pattern to see if it works better.

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

humanizing www.humanizingwork.com

* INVEST - Stories should be:

Independent

Negotiable

Valuable

Estimable

Small

Testable

Take a break

and try again.