

“Buffalo buffalo buffalo buffalo”. (Or, Bison from Buffalo (NY) intimidate and confuse other buffalo.) With context the sentence makes sense. Without it, it is meaningless.” –Mike Cohn

Requirements Analysis



The rule of thumb for writing good user stories is that they should be:

- Independent
- Negotiable
- Valuable
- Estimable
- Small
- Testable

Accurate capturing of business requirements is a communications problem.

The challenge is getting those that want software or technology solutions to communicate effectively with those that build the solutions. Ergo embraces the use of “User Stories” as a means to achieve this goal.

User stories

User stories are a plain English approach to describing what a system should do. Each story represents how a system is supposed to solve a particular problem. However, rather than large requirements documents, user stories are short and should represent an invitation to further conversation throughout the development cycle. Importantly, user stories are focussed on the roles people play when interacting with systems and ‘voiced’ according to those roles. This ensures that both developer and client are thinking about technology solving the needs of real people.

What makes a good story?

Our approach to good stories is outlined on the left. What’s important is that stories lead to a conversation, which leads to clarification and a real understanding of what the customer needs and wants.

Without asking questions and having a conversation, we cannot expect to pick up on the subtle meanings and nuances. With context, business requirements makes sense. Without it, they are often meaningless and misunderstood.

Ergo can facilitate the process of capturing your business requirements through the use of User Stories. This can be for:

- Solutions we develop for you
- Independent capturing of requirements for other developers
- Validation of existing systems being “fit for purpose”

Ask Yourself:

Would you rather see working software quickly or a long, detailed requirements document?

Does your development team have an appreciation for the business outcomes of the systems they develop?

Are your users actively involved in the development of new systems?

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