

# Effective User Stories for Agile Requirements



The manner in which a project's requirements are documented or expressed has a tremendous impact on that project's success and cost. User stories are simple, clear, brief descriptions of functionality told from the perspective of a user. The idea is that these statements can make up the requirements of an agile or Scrum project. Expressing requirements as user stories is one of the most broadly applicable techniques introduced by the agile processes and can be an effective approach on all time-constrained projects.

This class provides the knowledge and tools needed to identify and write effective and accurate user stories. Participants will learn the six attributes all user stories must exhibit as well as five additional guidelines for taking user stories from good to better. The class will also explore the use of user role-modeling to write the tricky initial user stories for a project. During this hand-on seminar, participants put theory into action by identifying user roles and writing user stories for multiple case studies.

**For PMPs, this course counts for 7.5 Professional Development Units.**

## ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

Mike Cohn is the author of *User Stories Applied for Agile Software Development*, *Agile Estimating and Planning*, and *Succeeding with Agile: Software Development Using Scrum*. With more than 25 years of experience, Mike has been a technology executive in companies of various sizes, from startup to Fortune 40. A frequent magazine contributor and conference speaker, Mike is a founding member of both the Agile Alliance and the Scrum Alliance.



## YOU WILL LEARN



- Practical, project-proven practices
- The six attributes of a good user story and how to achieve them
- A useful project-proven template for writing user stories
- Practical techniques for gathering user stories
- How much work to do upfront and how much to do just in time
- Real world tips and tricks from the instructor's fifteen-plus years of writing product backlogs for agile projects in a wide variety of environments

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Mike Cohn at (720) 890-6110 or [mike@mountaingoatsoftware.com](mailto:mike@mountaingoatsoftware.com) or visit [mountaingoatsoftware.com](http://mountaingoatsoftware.com)



## AGENDA

### It's a Communication Problem

#### What User Stories Are

*Card, conversation, confirmation*  
*Some examples*

#### User Role Modeling

*User roles*  
*User role modeling*  
*Personas*  
*Extreme characters*  
*System users*

#### A Tools Interlude

### Writing User Stories

*The product backlog iceberg*  
*Stories, epics and themes*  
*Conditions of satisfaction*  
*Story-writing workshops*  
*Adding additional detail*

### INVEST in Good Stories

*Independent*  
*Negotiable*  
*Valuable*  
*Estimatable*  
*Sized appropriately*  
*Testable*

### Created Case Studies

*Creating and selecting case studies*  
*Writing the product backlogs*  
*Sharing insights*

### What User Stories Are Not

*Use cases*  
*IEEE 830 Software Requirements Specs*

### Why User Stories

### Why Not User Stories