



Agile Estimating

Mike Cohn
NDC London
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Agenda

- What is agile planning?
- Story points
- Ideal time
- Estimating with Planning Poker



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Product Backlog

As a user...	3
As a user...	5
As a user...	5
As a user...	2
As a user...	2

Iteration Backlog

Code the UI	12
Write tests	8
Code middle tier	4
Update docs	6
A	5

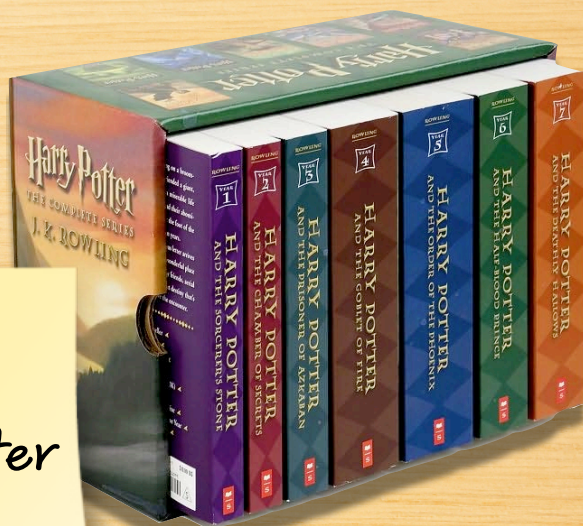
We're talking
about these
right now



How long will it take...

...to drive to
Moscow?

...to read the
last Harry Potter
book?



Estimate size; derive duration

Size

Calculation

Duration

300
kilograms

Velocity
=20

$300/20 = 15$
iterations



Measures of size

Traditional
measures
of size

Lines of Code
Function Points

Agile
measures
of size

Story points
Ideal days



Story points

- How long a user story will take (effort)
- Influenced by complexity, uncertainty, risk, volume of work, etc.
- Relative values are what is important:
 - A login screen is a 2.
 - A search feature is an 8.
- Basic math properties should hold
 - $5+5 = 10$



Estimating in zoo points



Lion
Kangaroo
Rhinoceros
Bear
Giraffe
Gorilla
Hippopotamus
Tiger



Agenda

What is agile planning?

Story points

Ideal time

Estimating with Planning Poker



Ideal Time

How long something will take if:

- it's all you work on
- no one interrupts you
- and everything you need is available



Elapsed time vs. ideal time

Ideally

- Monday has 8 hours
- Each week has 40 hours

But instead

Each day has something like:

- 2 hours of meetings
- 2 hours of email
- 4 hours left for the project

"How long will this take?"

- Are you answering what is being asked?



Two big advantages to story points

1

Story points are additive; time-based estimates may not be

2

Story points help avoid problems with unit confusion



Confusing units

Product Backlog

As a user...	30
As a user...	50
As a user...	50
As a user...	20
As a user...	20

Iteration Backlog

Code the UI	12
Write tests	8
Code middle tier	4
Update docs	6
Automate tests	5



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- What is agile planning?
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Planning Poker®



- An iterative approach to estimating
- Steps
 - Each estimator is given a deck of cards, each card has a valid estimate written on it
 - Customer/Product owner reads a story and it's discussed briefly
 - Each estimator selects a card that's his or her estimate
 - Cards are turned at the same time
 - Discuss differences (especially outliers)
 - Re-estimate until estimates converge



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Planning Poker®—an example



Estimator	Round 1	Round 2
Ana	5	8
Trond	5	8
Maria	8	8
Johannes	20	13



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Estimate these

Product Backlog Items	Estimate
Read (and understand) a high-level, 10-page overview of agile software development in a celebrity news magazine.	
Read (and understand) a densely written 5-page research paper about agile software development in an academic journal.	
Your uncle owns a clock store and wants to sell clocks over the internet. Write a basic product backlog for him covering what he'll need his website to do.	
Recruit, interview, and hire a new member for your team.	
Create a 60-minute presentation about agile software development for your coworkers.	
Wash and wax your boss' Porsche.	
Read (and understand) a 150-page book on agile software development.	
Write a 5-page summary of this conference for your boss.	



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www.PlanningPoker.com

Payroll system replacement [Planning Poker]

Account Log out

Write a list of definitions.

Estimate: 3

As a/an unauthenticated user I would like to log in so that I can start using the application

Estimate: 3

As a/an authenticated user I would like to change my password

Estimate: 2

As a/an admin I would like to add new users so that they can log in

How are they going to get their username and password?

3	3	5	13	20
Thijs V.	Manfred S.	Mike C.	Giel N.	Angie

Manfred S. 5 Giel N. Mike C.

Complete (Note: Completes automatically when all estimates are in)

All games

Estimator access (Lock)

<http://rthijs.planningpoker.com/ws24mq>

Estimators can join the game at the above URL. [Send it by email](#)

Countdown timer

Start timer

Start the 2 minute countdown timer when you think we've talked long enough.

Done playing?

Complete game

You can export all estimates as HTML or CSV after you've completed the game.

Participants

Angie
Giel de Nijis
Manfred Stienstra
Mike Cohn
Thijs van der Vossen (moderator)

Free, or I wouldn't mention it



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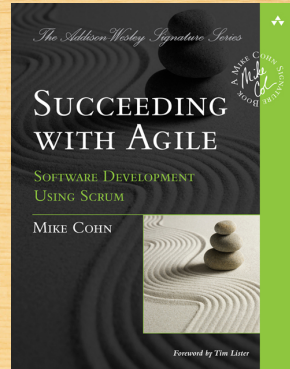
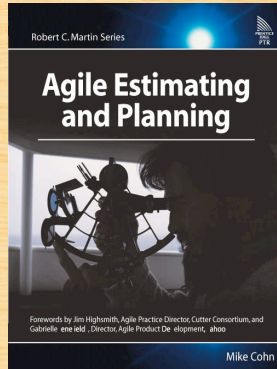
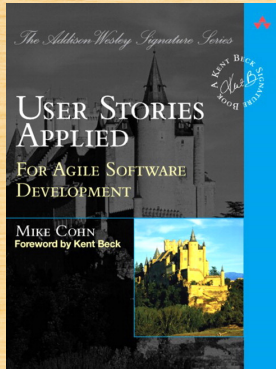
Mike Cohn

mike@mountaingoatsoftware.com

www.mountaingoatsoftware.com

twitter: mikewcohn

(888) 61-AGILE



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