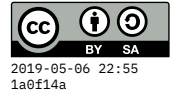# User stories

Contents

Requirements analysis in agile projects. The "user story" is a particular format:

> As a ROLE, I want GOAL so that REASON.

- Fill in the three placeholders (all-caps) – they basically cover the WHO, WHAT, and WHY.

- Some specific examples for a photo management application:

  - As an amateur photographer, I want to organize photos into collections so that I can browse easily.

  - As a professional photographer, I want to adjust color reproduction and white balance so that I can prepare photos for optimal quality.

  - As an amateur photographer, I want to crop pictures to different dimensions so I can frame the content appropriately or prepare for print to a particular size.

    * Condition: Cropping feature should have selectable aspect ratios, including 4×6, 5×7, 8×10, HD (1920×1080), square (1×1).

  - Example: As an instagram user, I want to upload selected photos to instagram so I can become famous.

- Write them on cards (paper or digital)

- More detail can be added either by splitting one story into several, or by adding "acceptance conditions" beneath them, carrying details or criteria.

- Sometimes in documenting requirements/stories, simple words carry very precise meanings:

  - want vs need

  - must vs may vs shall vs will

Organizing user stories

- Group by user role

- Prioritize just by ordering the cards.

- Tracking progress on each story can be done as a "kanban" board.

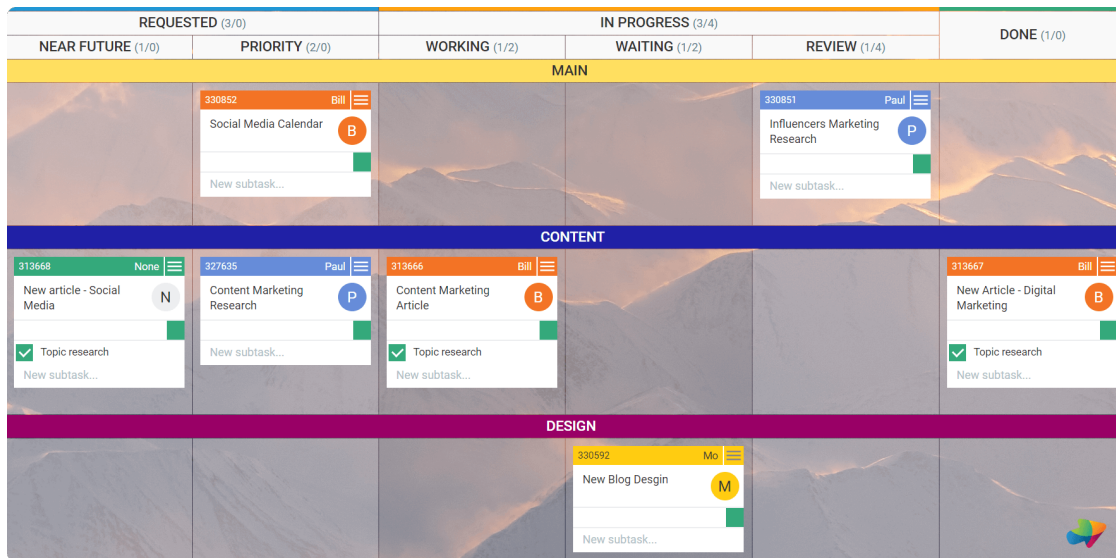- Columns in the kanban can represent various stages of completeness.

Figure 1: from 31 Kanban Board Examples for Different Teams on kanbanize.com

The "backlog"

- Backlog = a pipeline of prioritized stories to be implemented.

- Undertake a "sprint" - a short iteration (2-4 weeks)

- Select some number of stories from the backlog to accomplish during current sprint.

- Two roles provide competing pressure on how much to undertake in a sprint.

  - "Product owner" will prioritize the stories, wants to get as much done as fast as possible.

  - "Project manager" will decide how many for each sprint, and/or max # tasks/stories that can appear in each column of kanban board.

- Also, the analogy of "pigs vs chickens" for those roles that are "committed" vs merely "involved".