Definition of Ready (DoR)

An agreed upon set of criteria to ensure a story is sprint ready

SIMPLIFIED, ONE-PAGE SUMMARY (SOS)





IVEWHYZ COM/RESOURCES

WHAT is a Definition of Ready?

The **Definition of Ready (DoR)** is part of a working agreement that specifies the conditions that must be met before a Story can be accepted into an Iteration or Sprint. "Story" is used throughout this SOS, but applies to any Product Backlog Item (PBI).

WHY use a Definition of Ready?

- Prior to starting work, reduce the amount of re-work and execution risk taken on by the team by having a clear, comprehensive understanding of what it means to be "done"
- The team's able to "hit the ground running" and stop avoiding work they don't understand
- An agreed upon set of criteria ensures that those criteria have the best possible chance of being completed in the sprint
- Explicit agreements create psychological safety for team members to speak up when they're not being set up for success

WHERE TO BEGIN?

Try the I.N.V.E.S.T. criteria to kick-start the conversation & work toward a candidate DoR

INDEPENDENT Work item is modular and can be delivered with no (or manageable) dependencies

NEGOTIABLE A basic solution is articulated with room for options

VALUABLE The value is clearly identified in the "...so that..." statement

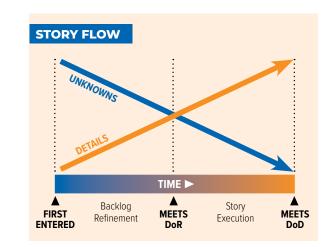
ESTIMABLE Provides just enough information to be able to size the story relative to other work

SMALL Small enough to be completed in one iteration (e.g. one sprint)

TESTABLE The acceptance criteria have been developed and are understood by the team

COMMON "MUST HAVE" CRITERIA

While everything needs to be discussed and agreed upon as a team, it's usually a good idea for the following items to be factored into your DoR



TITLE

A few words that clearly summarize the desired outcome

DESCRIPTION

The story isn't ready until a clear description is provided

ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA

If the team agrees to use acceptance criteria, there needs to be at least an inital pass before work begins

Determine Customer Order History

As an existing customer, I want to be able to view recently purchased items so that I can easily re-order them.

Acceptance Criteria:

- 1. Given a customer placed an order <= 6 months ago, when they click
 the [My Previous Orders] link, then display their prior orders <= 6
 months
- Given a previously ordered item is displayed and in stock, when a
 customer clicks [buy again], then add the item to their shopping
 cart

ESTIMATE

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Helps to know when the team has reached their capacity for the iteration

PRIORITIZED?

Has the work been evaluated against other items in the sprint and deemed most important?

DEPENDENCIES?

Have upstream and downstream dependencies been considered? Work is not ready to begin until external dependencies are completed or scheduled within a reasonable level of certainty.

DEFINITION OF SUCCESS

- ☐ There is a smooth flow of top priority from a business perspective
- Story is well understood by the Team and uses language everyone comprehends (e.g. avoid acronyms, jargon, and superfluous words)
- Iteration (Sprint) planning results in a plan that seems relatively low-risk
 Team is set up to up to deliver value with limited requirement defects
- The team is able to independently execute and successfully deliver against expectations with minimal clarification on what is needed
- ☐ The team consistently adheres to DoR criteria and does not need to work around, ignore, or break the agreement

TIPS & TRAPS

- Consider adding a Ready (sub-)state on your team's board to clarify status against DoR
- Find the "sweet-spot" of just enough information to successfully execute
- Ensure Teams and Product Owner regularly reflect on and improve the DoR
- Use time-boxes to limit how much time is spent defining on a Story, and treat items with lots
 of unknowns as "homework"
- Consider how the team will demo the work as DoR criteria. If it is not clear, then the story
 may not be ready
- Discuss how the team should behave when there is pressure to start working on a PBI when the DoR is not yet met

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

What is Definition of Ready from Agile Alliance <u>bit.ly/3Grso7V</u>

Definiton of Ready from Scrum.org

Gherkin as Acceptance Criteria from Cucumber

Automate Gherkin from Cucumber

bit.ly/3lSgGtA from Cucumber bit.ly/3wW2lMj



bit.ly/39XzapY