DON’T WRITE THOSE USER STORIES

AGILE 2019
ARDITA KARAJ
Hello!

Coach, trainer, speaker

ardita@IndustrialLogic.ca  @Ardita_K  Ardita Karaj
You are a team!

- Decide on an app to build
- Have a conversation about what you are trying to solve
- Write down what you know, sort of know, don’t know
- Find a short way to communicate them
What is the worst user story description you have ever seen?

Paul D’Ambra @pauldambra · Mar 29
Repeating to @tdpauw
as a database
i want to be updated
so that I am at the latest version

I can’t remember if it was tongue-in-cheek. I really hope so

Nick Goede @ngoede · Mar 29
Repeating to @tdpauw
The worst examples I have seen are all of the form "As a user/customer/product manager I want a button that says x and opens a form that looks like this because it is important/valuable"

Nick @ntcoding · Mar 29
As a message bus
I want an API that I can call
So that..... (it literally ended here)

Ryan Latta @recursivefaults · Mar 30
Repeating to @tdpauw
As a product owner
I want a blue background
So that the app is well designed.

Yes it's real.

Chris Young @worldofchris · Mar 28
Replying to @tdpauw
As a System
I want to Accept the JSON results
so that I can process them for business uses(sic) cases

Thierry de Pauw @tdpauw · Mar 28
Really? 😳

Chris Young @worldofchris · Mar 28
REALLY

Channing Walton @channingwalton · Mar 30
Replying to @tdpauw
As a database
I want some data to be archived periodically
so that I don’t fill up

Patrick McConnell @DrPMcConnell · Mar 30
Replying to @tdpauw
Constantly: "As a server, I want to be patched, so that I am not un-patched."
I don't know the worst. Contender for my favorite:

As an author of the Agile Manifesto I want people to stop using this format To learn how to do stories right.

What is the worst user story description you have ever seen?

Would you say that format is a good learning tool? (I really don't like it personally, but I use it initially when a team doesn't understand what the heck I'm talking about when I ask them for stories, so we have something to talk about)

No, I wouldn't say that it's a good learning format. It teaches the wrong thing: writing stories.

See, for example:
ronjeffries.com/articles/019-0 ...
revising
ronjeffries.com/xprog/articles ...
Conversation - Confirmation - Get the job done
Result(s) of conversation

- Understanding
- Who is the user
- Their Pain/Gain
- Benefits of business
- Constraints
- …
Conversation- **Confirmation**
Get the job done

**con·firm·a·tion**
/ˌkanfrəˈmərən/ noun
1. the action of confirming something or the state of being confirmed.
   "Sylvia received official confirmation of the instructorship"
   *synonyms: corroboration, verification, proof, testimony, endorsement, authentication, substantiation, justification, vindication, support, evidence*

...ideally

**Executable Confirmation**

![Image of people high-fiving in a meeting room]
Result(s) of confirmation

- Generate ideas for solution
- Identify what we know
- ..what we don’t know
- …what we ‘sort of’ know
- …what do we need more of
- …
Conversation - Confirmation - Get the job done

Where to begin.....

HAHAHA
So much to do...

- Things we think we know (Hypothesis)
- Experiments to run (validate/try it out)
- Spikes (try and decide)
- Research (survey and analyze)
- Gather feedback (low fidelity/interview)
- Suggest (analytics research)
- Make decisions (analytics, data)
- ...

- Design experience (JTBD, User stories)
- Prepare (tasks)
- Build (User stories with acceptance criteria)
- Discover with client (A/B test)
- Setup infrastructure (configuration)
- Update security patch (run jobs)
- Fix bugs (what we see/want to see)
- ...
Hypothesis

We believe that by doing ____
we will see ____ as result

We know we are successful when
we observe _____.

KEEP CALM
AND TEST THE HYPOTHESIS
TEAMS USING HYPOTHESIS
AND THEN TESTING THEM
When Database is full, I want to archive some data, So I can collect new data
Friends story

The one where <something happens> and we observe X instead of observing Y (expected observation)

2.16 The One Where Joey Moves Out

Chandler and Joey attend a party thrown by one of the other actors on Days of Our Lives, alone, Joey decides to take him up on it, which disheartens Chandler. Phoebe and Joey don't like needles. Ross, Monica, and Richard go to Jack Geller's birthday party ( "twinkie in the city"). Monica hides in the bathtub; her parents come into the bathroom.

2.17 The One Where Eddie Moves In

Joey shows his friends his new apartment, which (unfortunately) he decorated himself. Monica is annoyed that Ross is around so much; they fight like typical siblings, and Eddie, who seems like a great guy. Joey is jealous, and he and Chandler fight like brothers.

2.18 The One Where Dr. Ramoray Dies

Chandler's roommate, Eddie, begins to show signs of instability: He's obsessed with how many men Monica's been with, after Phoebe announces that it's been "a lot." He makes Rachel sleep over. Unfortunately, there's only one condom in the apartment, and the writer, who decides to have Dr. Ramoray fall down an elevator shaft.

2.19 The One Where Eddie Won't Go

Chandler wakes in the night to find Eddie watching him sleep; they argue and Eddie makes use of his "Word of the Day" toilet paper. Monica, Rachel, and Phoebe effects on their relationships with each other than it does on their relationships with their memories, and finally be rid of him.

2.20 The One Where Old Yeller Dies

Phoebe discovers that her mother used to shield her from the sad parts of movies.
Make it real: Collaborate
Start with conversation

Ron Jeffries
@RonJeffries

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Thierry de Pauw @tdpauw
What is the worst user story description you have ever seen?

as a ...
I want ......

10:32 AM - 29 Mar 2019
QUESTIONS

AND THANK YOU!

ardita@IndustrialLogic.ca

@Ardita_K

As the presenter of this session, I want to hear your feedback So that I can improve this presentation