

# Vertical Slicing – It's a Piece of Cake!

BA-Con 2022

# Hello!

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# What is Vertical Slicing?

When you slim down a work item to have a narrower focus; you break the work into small pieces that have all the functions to be stand-alone and valuable to the customer. It may or may not require more features (pieces of functionality) to truly be useful – however, as a piece of the system, it works on its own.

# Good Vertical Slices

**A good vertical slice is a usable piece of functionality that.....**

- Is testable
- Demonstrable
- Able to obtain feedback from stakeholders
- Has a bit of every layer included - all technical infrastructure or software stack components and business rules are included to achieve business value
- Keeps the product potentially shippable
- Able to be completed within a sprint/iteration

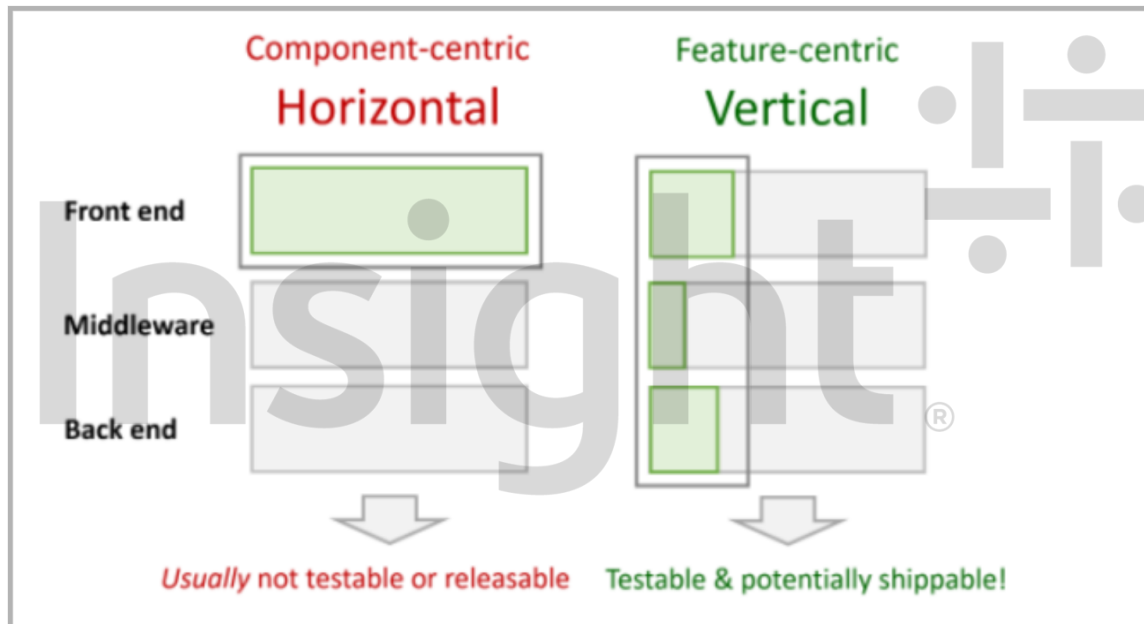
# Okay, but how small are we talking?



Set a trigger estimate!

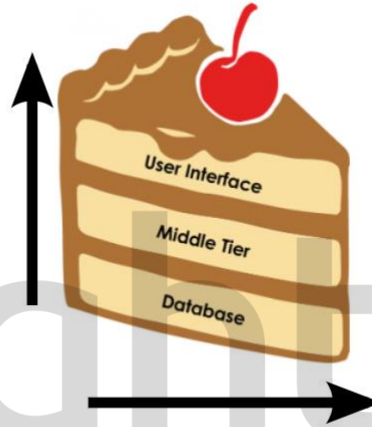
- What feels too big to finish in your timebox?  
5? 8? 13? Large? XLarge?

# Feature Centric Slicing



# Think about it in terms of food

Vertical slices are organized by features (business value / requirements)



Horizontal slices are organized by technical layers



Approach creating cards like you would a bite of a cheeseburger - *Take a whole bite, don't just eat the lettuce or cheese*

# Benefits of Vertical Slicing



## Getting value sooner

By breaking work into pieces, those pieces can deliver value on their own. The team is feature driven, as you continually deliver pieces of features, working toward a larger goal.



## Easier to prioritize work

You can weigh pieces of work against others more easily because their value is more understood. When you prioritize the work, it stands to reason that the higher priority items will deliver higher value. A nicely prioritized backlog becomes so much easier!



## Consistent Feedback

By vertically slicing, the team can help enable a better feedback loop. And the team can learn and adjust.



# Benefits of Vertical Slicing



## Enables responding to change

Business priorities can often change, as the business landscape changes. By working in an incremental fashion on smaller pieces of work, you can move on to new priorities easier.



## Allows just enough to meet goals

Smaller increments of work allow just enough to meet goals without working on large chunks of work that do way more than is needed. Instead, you accomplish what is needed, and when a goal is met you can move on to new work.



## Increased shared understanding

Smaller stories are easier for everyone to wrap their head around - less uncertainty! Its simpler to find the gaps and produce solid Acceptance Criteria when cards are small.

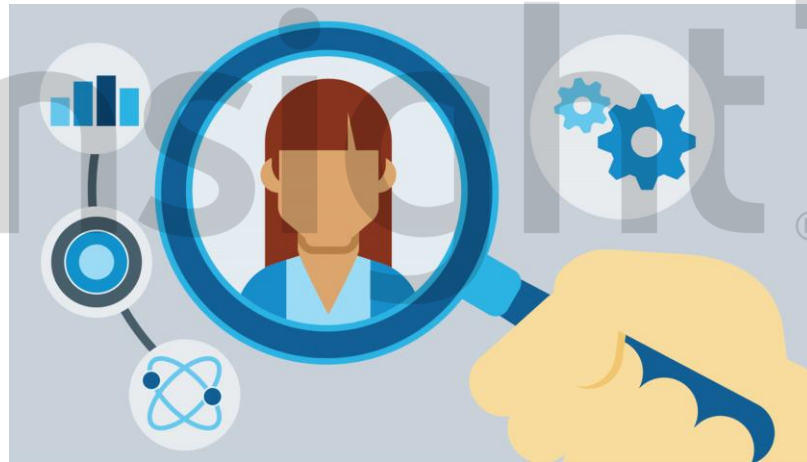
# Vertical Slicing Techniques

“SLICER THUD”



# Spike

Is there a timeboxed research activity that should be broken out on its own before the feature work is started?



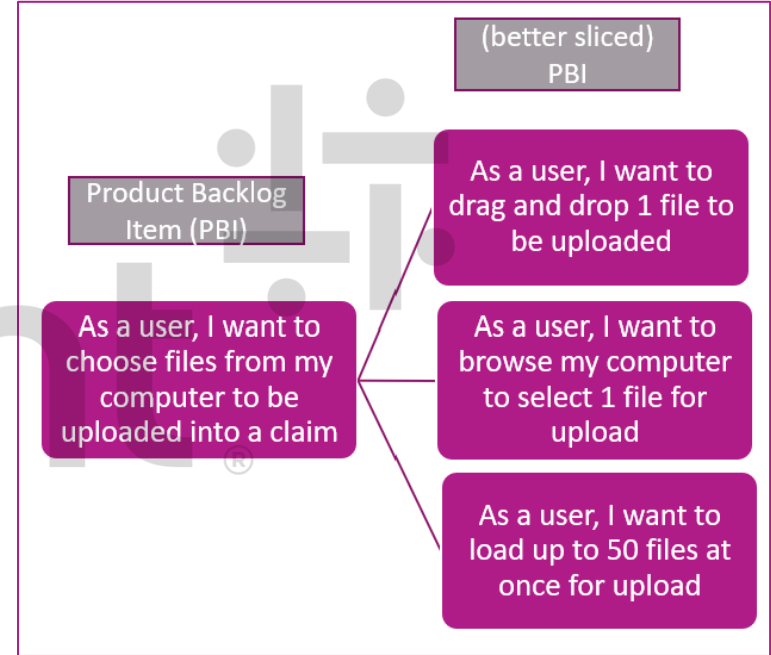


# Line

Can you draw a line where there are different alternatives / user choices?

- Example Line Draws for Making a Payment

- Pay by credit card
- Pay by PayPal
- Pay with Apple Pay or Android Pay



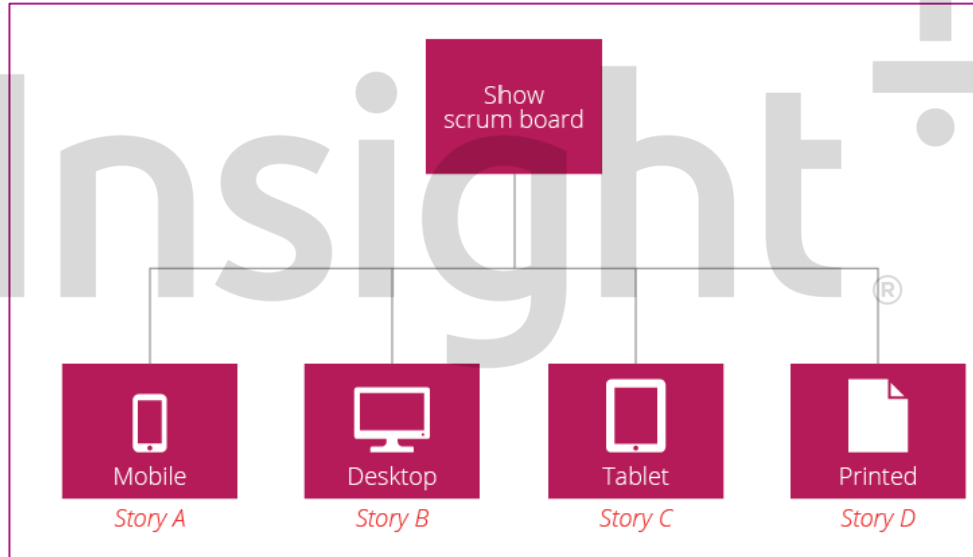


# Insight<sup>®</sup> Interface

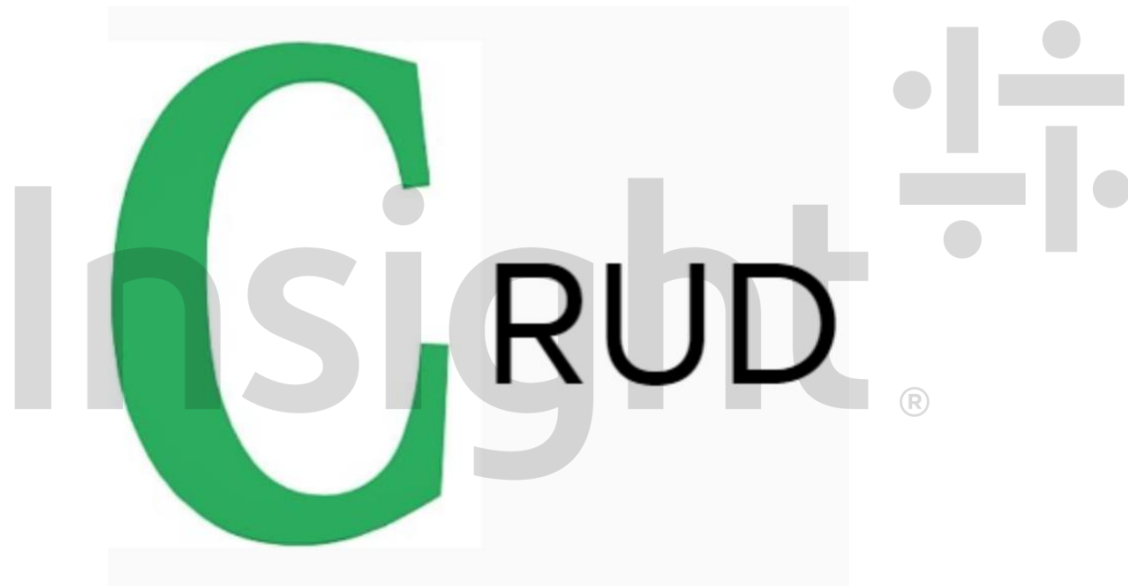
# Interface

Are there different mediums that a user could consume this feature?

- For example, a card for the web interface and one for the mobile interface



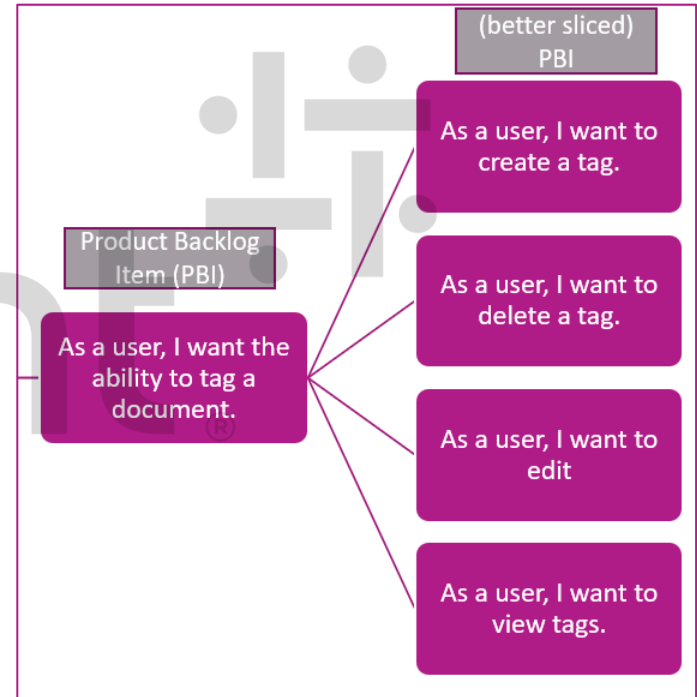




# CRUD

Are there Create, Read, Update, Delete functions?

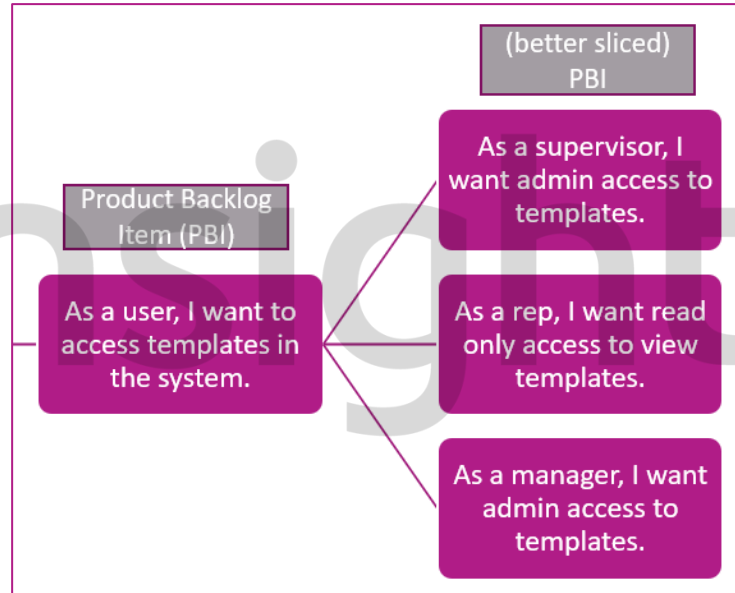
- Yes? Break those out into separate cards



# End User

# End User

Do you have different users that need different functions out of the feature?

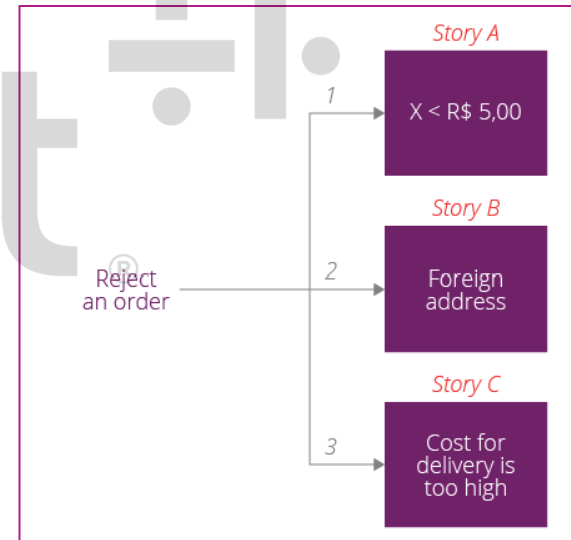


# Insight Rules

# Rules

Does the story have a variety of business rule variations?

- Create relaxed rules for an initial story and then add more in subsequent stories
- High value variation first, the rest come later



# T<sup>est</sup> scenarios

# Test Scenarios



Are there a lot of test scenarios on the card?

- Do they all need to be tested to meet the Definition of Done?
- Could completing only some of them still produce value to the customer?

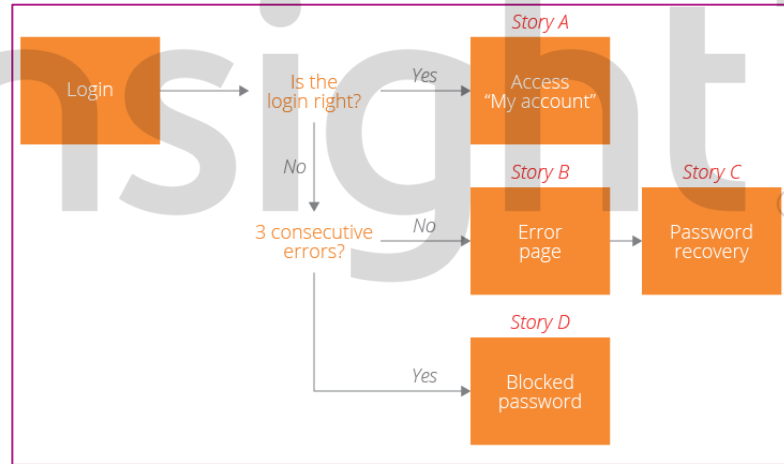


**H**appy path.  
**U**nhappy paths

# Happy Path / Unhappy Path

Start with the happy path 😊

- Are there unhappy paths that can be simplified for now?
- Which can we address in the future?

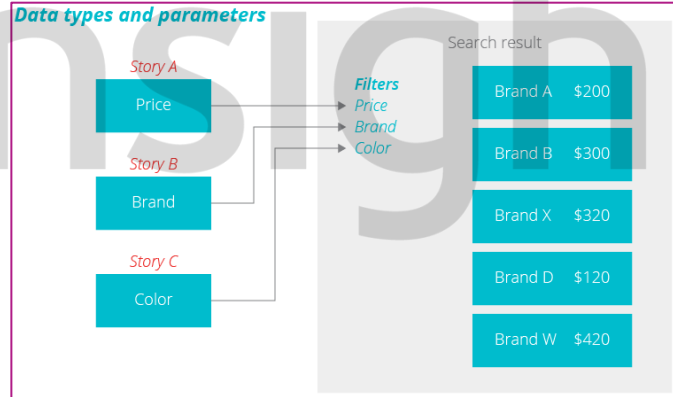




# Data

What data types can we currently support and are relevant to the story? Which should we support now versus later?

- Example: Search by price now and add brand and color later





## Let's Practice!

- Each group will work together to take a User Story for a larger Backlog Item and vertically slice it into smaller items using one of the techniques
- Use the sticky notes to write titles for smaller vertically sliced stories
- ~10 minutes to collaborate and break things down
- Sharing

# It's a Piece of Cake!



Thanks!

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