JAN 27, 2022

WEBINAR

How to use wireframes with Agile user stories

Presented by Leon Barnard
Education Team Lead

balsamiq®

as a <user role>
I want <goal>
so that <benefit>

Before we start…

We will be recording this webinar and posting it to YouTube but none of your personal information will be shown in the recording.

You can ask questions anonymously if you don’t want to share your name with other attendees.

Using Wireframes with Agile U
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Using Wireframes with Agile User Stories
8 min. read
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For PMs
A step-by-step guide on how to use wireframes in your Agile User Stories. Tips: add just enough detail and focus on what developers really need to know.
Agile User Stories are great because they focus on user needs and are short and decipherable, unlike functional specification documents. But they often lack details that front-end developers need to design the user interface. In this article we'll learn how wireframes and User Stories can work together to provide adequate information without unnecessary effort.
Imagine that you've come up with a design that allows users to view a list of customer demographic information. Something like this:
balsamiq.com/learn/articles/wireframing-agile-user-stories/
Search
Export
Last Name
First Name
Address
Phone
Actions

Agenda

- What is Agile?
- What are User Stories?
- Agile + UX ≠ BFF
- Wireframes and Agile
- Using wireframes with User Stories
- Q&A

What is Agile?

- Agile was created as a way to prevent problems caused by “Waterfall” development, specifically
  - Adapting to changes in user or business priorities
  - Communication challenges between departments (PM, design, dev, etc.)
- It is a philosophy of software development centered around efficiency and quality.

Manifesto for Agile Software Development

We are uncovering better ways of developing
software by doing it and helping others do it.
Through this work we have come to value:

Individuals and interactions over processes and tools
Working software over comprehensive documentation
Customer collaboration over contract negotiation
Responding to change over following a plan

That is, while there is value in the items on
the right, we value the items on the left more.

Kent Beck
Mike Beedle
Arie van Bennekum
Alistair Cockburn
Ward Cunningham
Martin Fowler
James Grenning
Jim Highsmith
Andrew Hunt
Ron Jeffries
Jon Kern
Brian Marick
Robert C. Martin
Steve Mellor
Ken Schwaber
Jeff Sutherland
Dave Thomas

agilemanifesto.org

The 12 principles of Agile software

- #4: Business people and developers must work together daily throughout the project.

- #6: The most efficient and effective method of conveying information to and within a development team is face-to-face conversation.

- #10: Simplicity—the art of maximizing the amount of work not done—is essential.

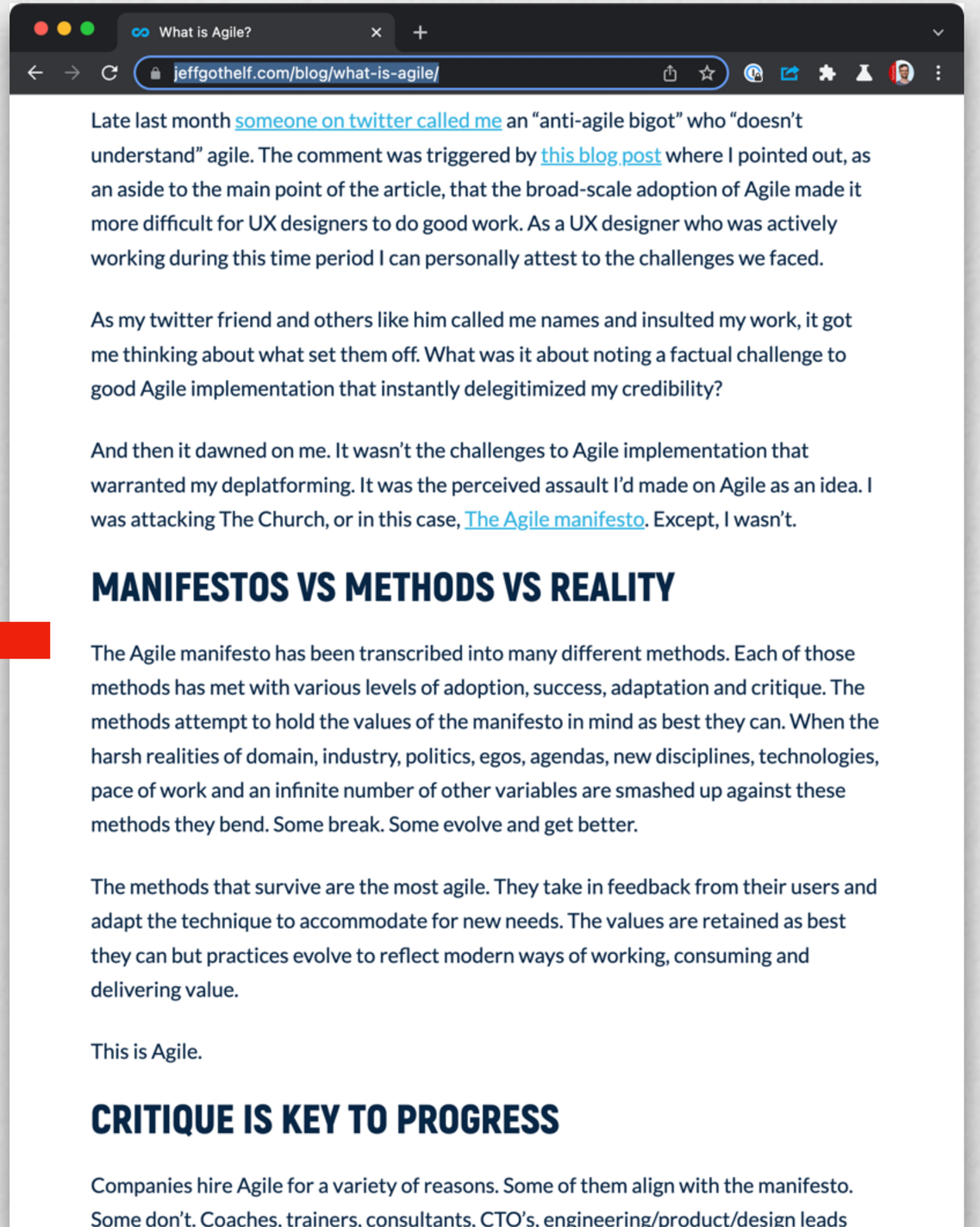
agilemanifesto.org/principles.html

Agile is a series of principles more than a set of procedures or rules to follow.

Companies hire Agile for a variety of reasons. Some see it as a way to ensure high code quality. Others see it as a way to increase production. Yet others see it as a way to be more customer-centered.

Just because it's codified in a manifesto or guide or book doesn't mean everyone understands it the same way, applies it the same way or uses it for the same purposes.

jeffgothelf.com/blog/what-is-agile/

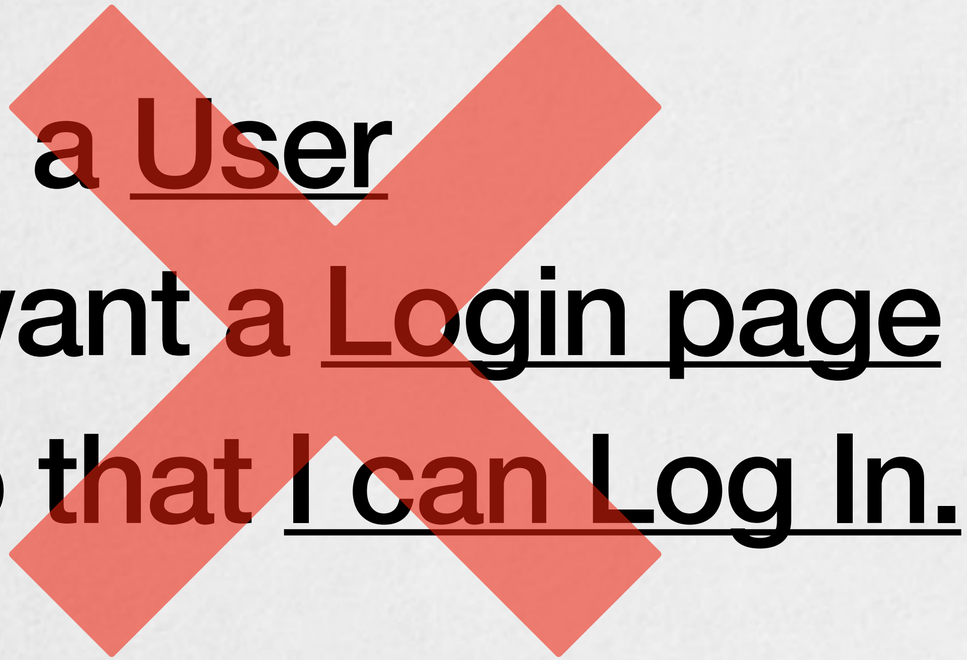


What are User Stories?

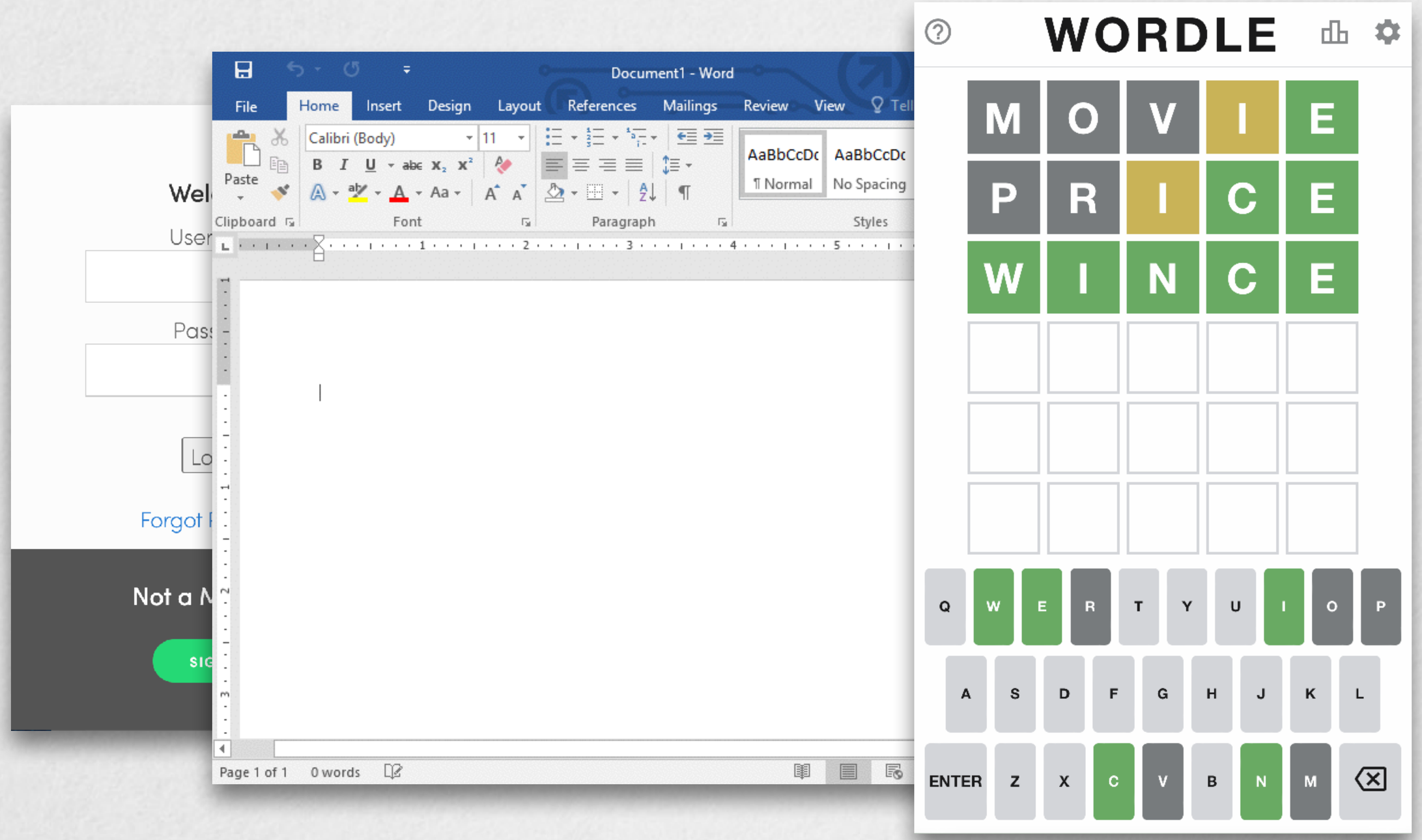
- User stories are a tool for making software according to Agile principles.
- They are primarily focused on
  - Being user-centered
  - Delivering small chunks of working code
  - Efficiency and flexibility.

Again, the spirit matters most

Not the execution



- ***Not*** specific
- Doesn't add ***value***
- ***Not*** their actual goal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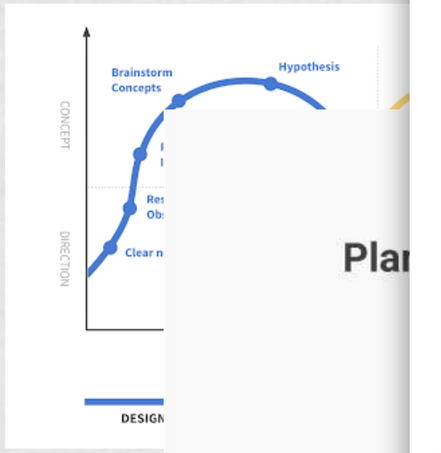
Agile

We're sti



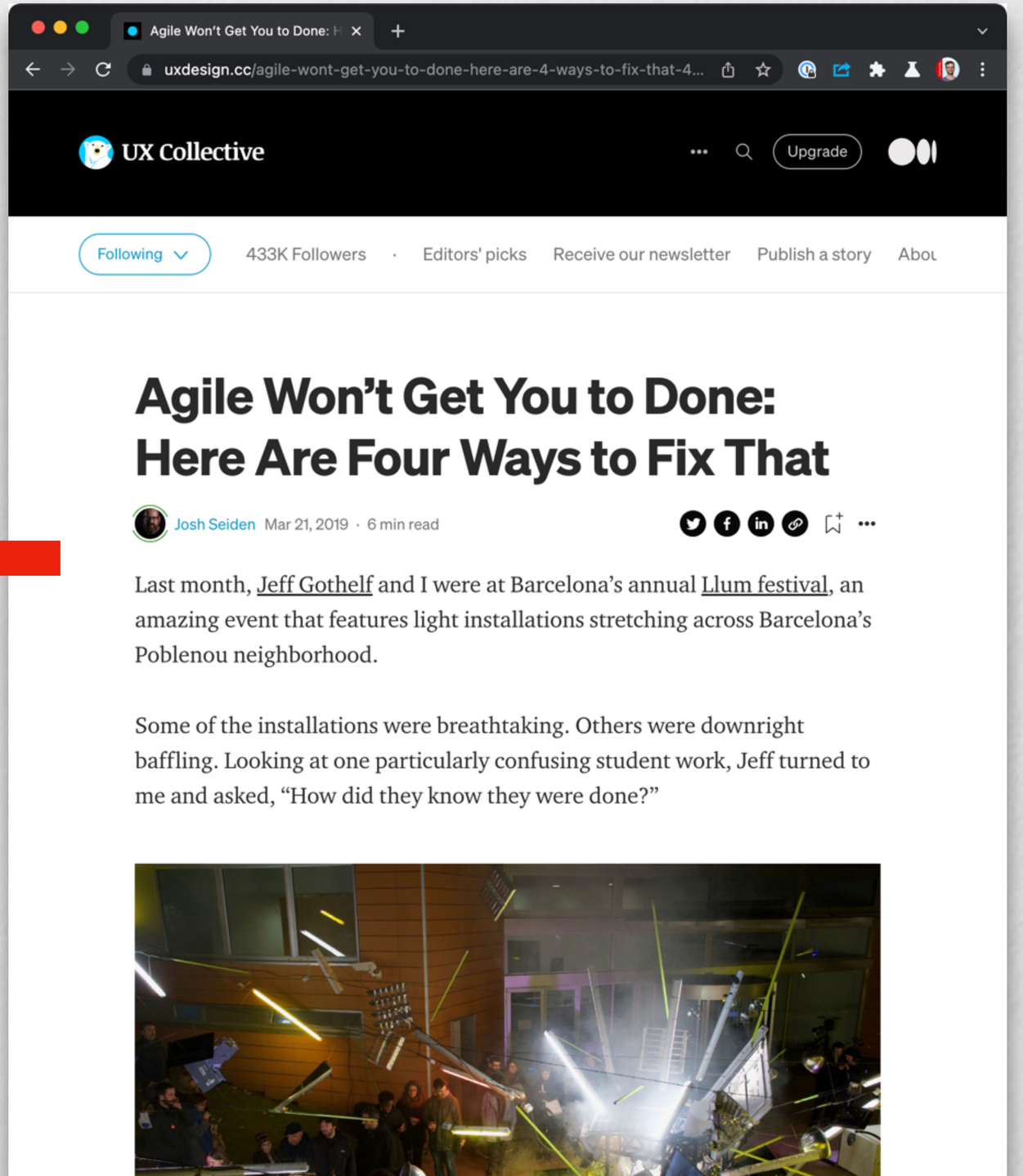
Plan

Backl

One of the fundamental conflicts

- *For traditional UX work, “done” = designed and tested with users and revised as needed.*
- *For Lean UX, “done” = validated*
- *For Scrum (Agile), “done” = working software.*

medium.com/@jseiden



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Wireframes, UX, and Agile

Or, Why wireframes are great for User Stories

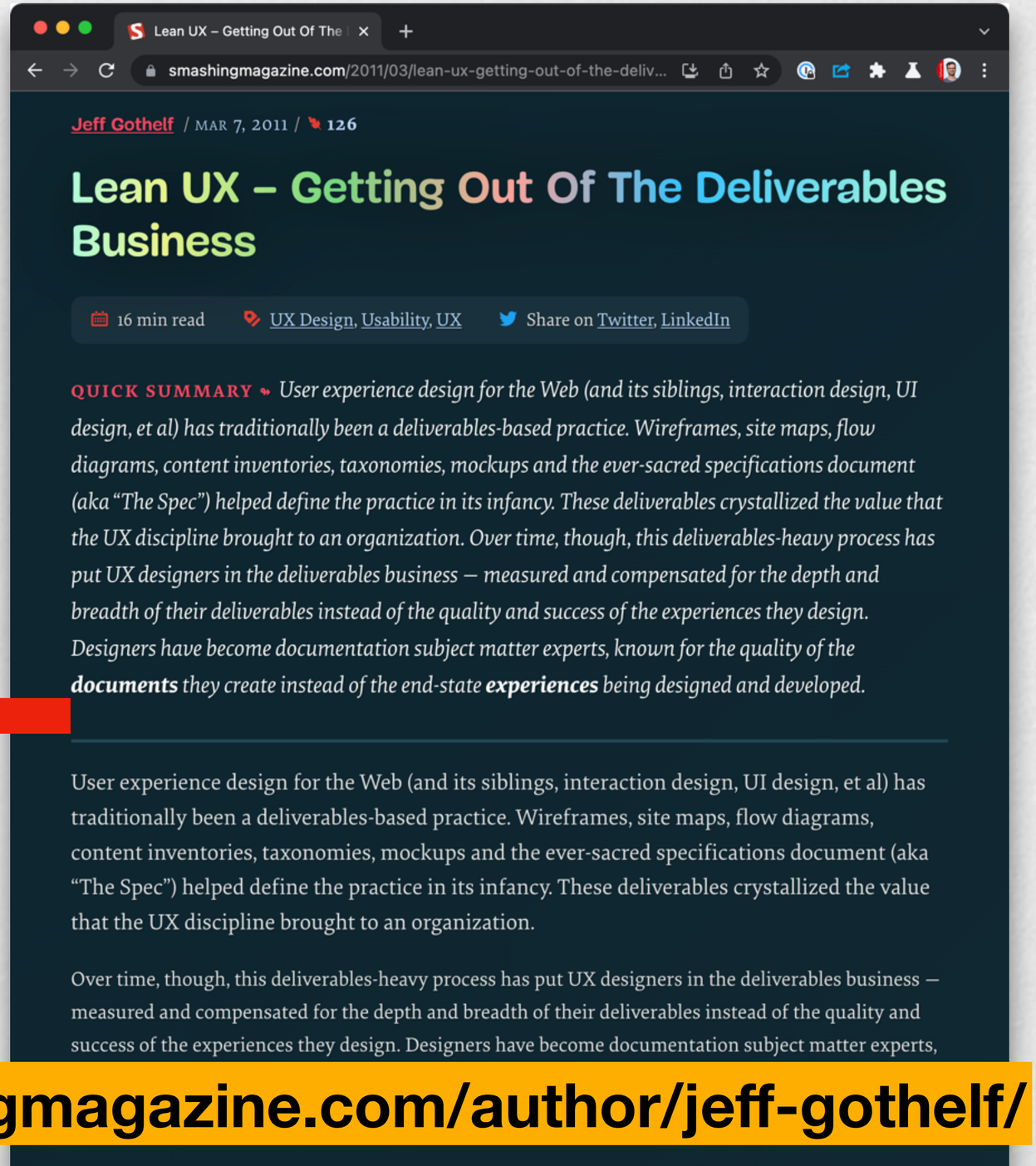
- **Agile**
  - Focused on **speed**
  - Optimized for **flexibility**
  - Cares about **reducing waste**
  - Emphasizes **cross-department participation**
  - Encourages **communication**
- **Wireframes**
  - **Quick** to create
  - Easy to **change**
  - Provide a **high return on time investment**
  - Can be **made by anyone**
  - Facilitate **shared understanding**

“Individuals and interactions over processes and tools; Working software over comprehensive documentation”

- Agile Manifesto

Traditional documents are discarded or stripped down to their bare components, providing ***the minimum amount of information necessary to get started on implementation****.*

…Keep the deliverables light and editable. Eliminate waste by ***not spending hours getting the pixels exactly right*** *and the annotations perfect.*



smashingmagazine.com/author/jeff-gothelf/

Wireframes ARE Agile

- By being less detailed, wireframes actually *encourage* individuals and interactions.
- They are light-weight and deliberately *not* comprehensive.
- Don’t design for your portfolio — design for understanding and agreement.

Using wireframes with User Stories

Tips from real life

1. You don’t have to stick to the script
2. Divide to conquer
3. Write a “recipe”
4. Know your audience

Ingrid wants to select which columns are shown in her s

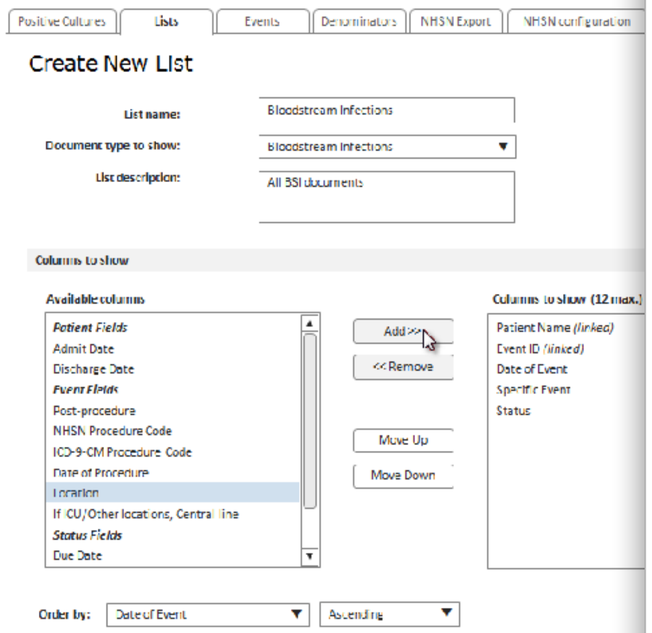
(v17 - Latest version, last modified 1 day ago)

Add tags

Detailed Story Narrative

Ingrid would like to select which columns she can see in her lists, so we should provide a w

Images/Mockups



Acceptance Criteria

Given that Ingrid has chosen to create a new list

1. Show a two-panel UI containing "Available columns" and "Columns to show"
    1. the Available columns panel should show all the fields for the document type sele
    2. The Columns to show panel should show a set of default fields for each document document lists
2. Provide affordances for "Add", "Remove", "Move Up" and "Move Down" between the t
    1. When a column is selected in the left panel, enable the "Add" affordance, which v
        1. Multiple columns can be selected and moved by using Ctrl- and Shift-click com
    2. The "Remove" affordance should behave the same as the "Add" affordance, but i
    3. The "Move Up" and "Move Down" affordances will apply only to the right panel ar of the list, respectively
3. The Columns to show panel should not allow more than 12 fields to be added, so whe
4. Below the column selection panels, present two drop-downs for selecting the table so
    1. "Order by:", [list of columns in the right panel], [ascending/descending]
    2. The list of columns should get updated as columns are added and removed from t
    3. If a column that is selected as the sort column is removed from the right panel, th
5. As in #1333, clicking the Save button should direct the user to the main Lists page and dickable and should show the newly-created list when clicked
    1. The list should be displayed as it always has been (including date filter and print columns that were selected
        1. Multi-select fields should be shown as a comma-separated list of values withi
        2. All columns should wrap to accommodate the larger number of possible visib

Ingrid wants to view a list of NHSN exportable Infection Event documents #1030

(v53 - Latest version, last modified 3 months ago)

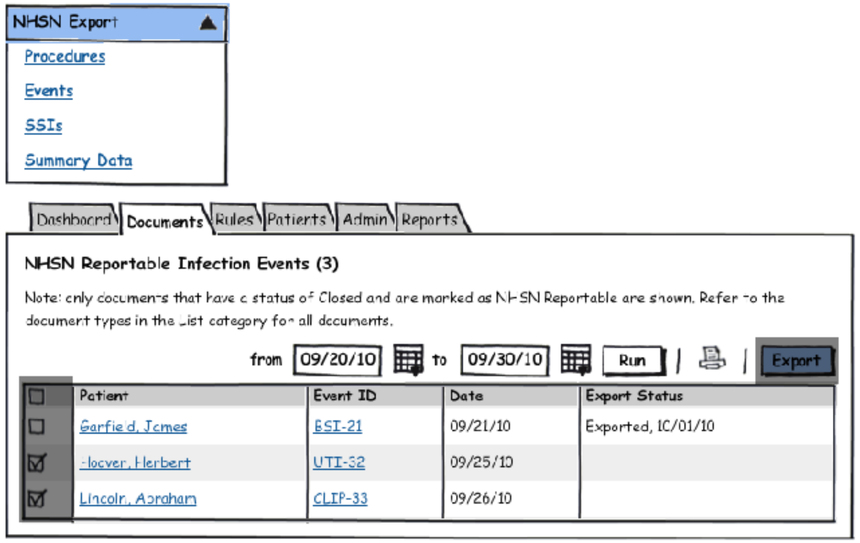
Add tags

Detailed Story Narrative

Because there is a clearly defined workflow for exporting documents to NHSN, we should create separate grid views of NHSN exportable documents so that they are a) not confused with non-NHSN exportable documents, b) placed more prominently, and c) oriented around exporting documents rather than just viewing or reviewing them.

This amounts to creating a separate navigation panel for NHSN exportable document types and new grid views (lists) that are similar to the existing ones, but provide functionality to export selected documents and view their exported status (to be done in later stories).

Images/Mockups



Acceptance Criteria

1. Add a new navigation panel called 'NHSN Export' and place it above the 'Lists' navigation panel
2. Add a link in the 'NHSN Export' navigation panel called "Events"
3. Create a new list view that is similar to the existing lists for the HAI document types, with the following criteria
    1. Remove the core event column
    2. Add a column called 'Export Status' at the far right of the table, which should be empty for all document types. The relative order, hyperlinks, sorting and names (use "Date" as the name of the date column) of the other columns should match the existing lists.
    3. Retain the existing date filtering mechanism and wording
    4. Retain the existing print icon and functionality
    5. Remove the ability to export to CSV
    6. Replace the title with "NHSN Reportable Infection Events (#)"
    7. Only show **BSI, CLIP, LABID, and UTI** documents that fall within the selected date range and have a status of Closed and are marked as NHSN Reportable (see #1029)
    8. Add text below the title indicating that the list is only showing documents that are Closed and NHSN Reportable (e.g., "Note: only documents that have a status of Closed and are marked as NHSN Reportable are shown. Refer to the document types in the List category for all documents.")

Exclusions & Constraints

This story does not include any work to actually validate or export documents.

Interface Considerations

Architecture Considerations

ISN forms from the new CLL schema #883

will cease to work, so we need a replacement for it that uses the nicely-parsed new at was there before in order to help her make a determination about the type of infection and easier to read now that we can separate each piece of data into separate fields. The mockup

Ingrid creates a new form from the CLL
e widget placed between the patient info and form fields, as it is currently
se icon
r each identified organism and a section at the bottom for details, which should list the

ng fields, in the following order:

rug comments)] (if present; if not, don't show the field label)

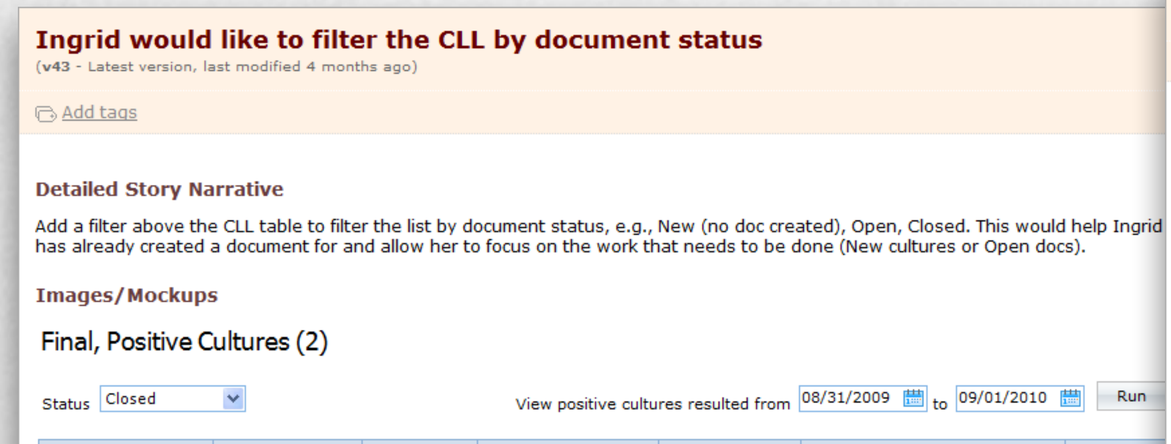
1. You don’t have to stick to the script

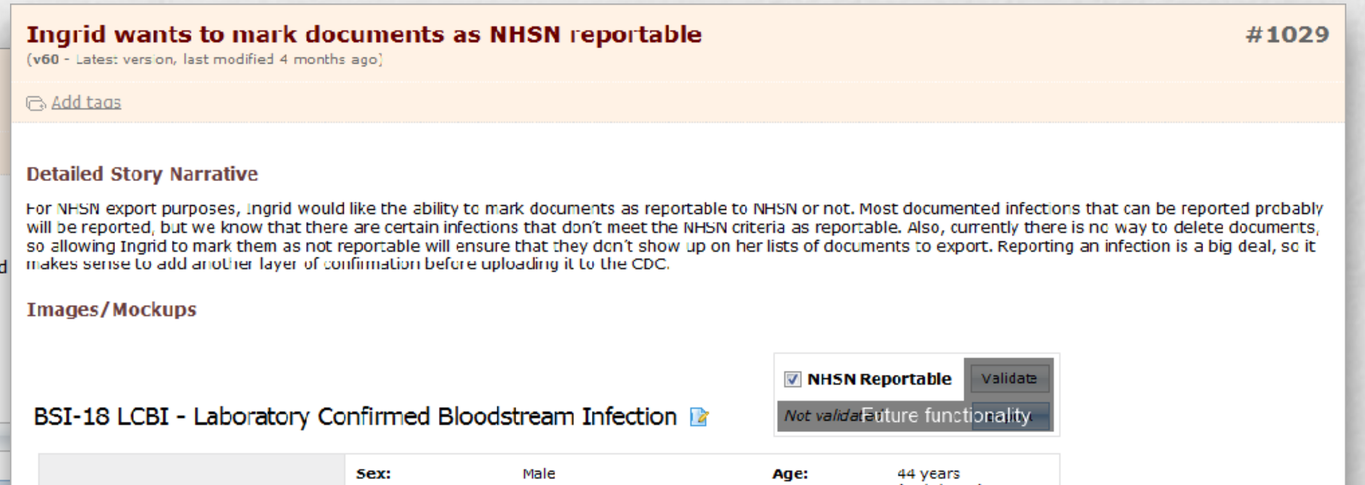
This is how I used to do it

Title: {user} wants to {action}

Narrative: {context} + {solution} + {benefit}

- ***What*** are we doing?
- ***Why*** does it matter?

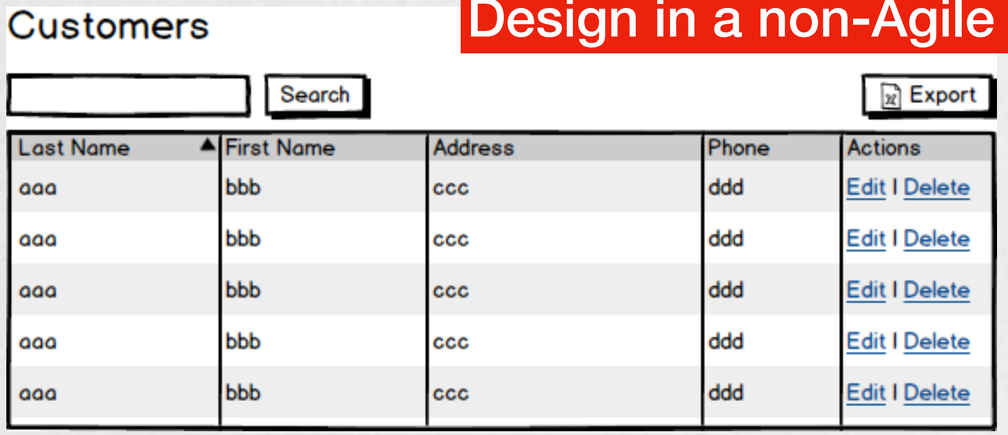




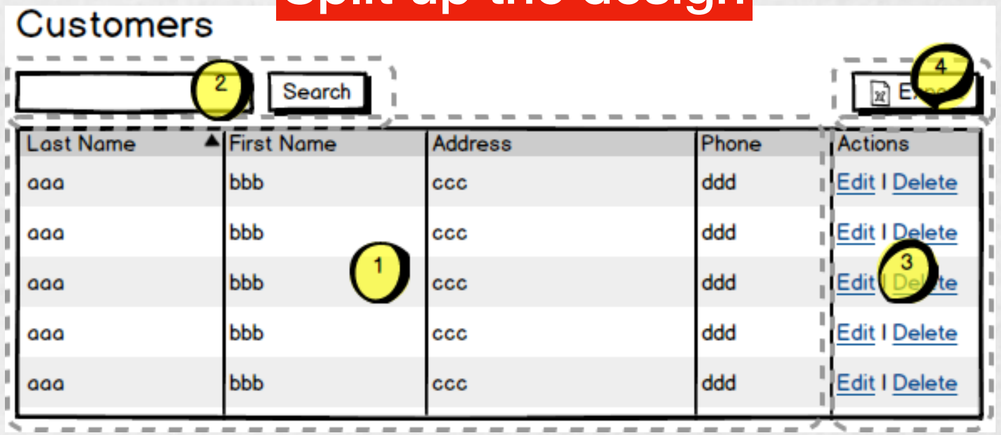
2. Divide to conquer

Ok, I do have one tip for reconciling UX and Agile

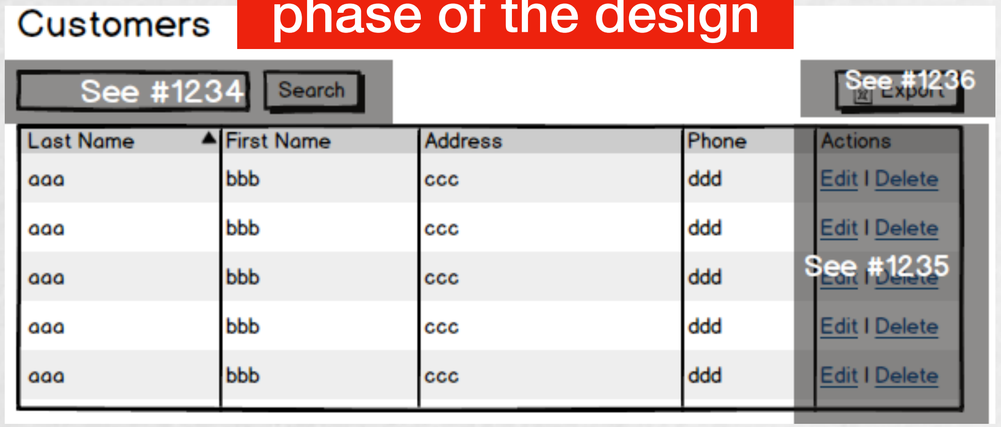
Design in a non-Agile way



Split up the design



Write stories for each phase of the design



Not Started	In Progress	Done
Edit and Delete	Search	Table and content
Export		

London	UK	Riccardo Cambiassi
San Francisco, CA	USA	Darren Schreiber
Woodland Hills, California	USA	Jason Thompson
San Francisco, CA	USA	John Ulgar Dogru
London	UK	Dimo Trifonov
Wollerau	Switzerland	Eric Seuret

search

London	UK	Riccardo Cambiassi	Edit I Delete
San Francisco, CA	USA	Darren Schreiber	Edit I Delete
Woodland Hills, California	USA	Jason Thompson	Edit I Delete
San Francisco, CA	USA	John Ulgar Dogru	Edit I Delete
London	UK	Dimo Trifonov	Edit I Delete
Wollerau	Switzerland	Eric Seuret	Edit I Delete

search

London	UK	Riccardo Cambiassi
San Francisco, CA	USA	Darren Schreiber
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search

Export

London	UK	Riccardo Cambiassi
San Francisco, CA	USA	Darren Schreiber
Woodland Hills, California	USA	Jason Thompson
San Francisco, CA	USA	John Ulgar Dogru
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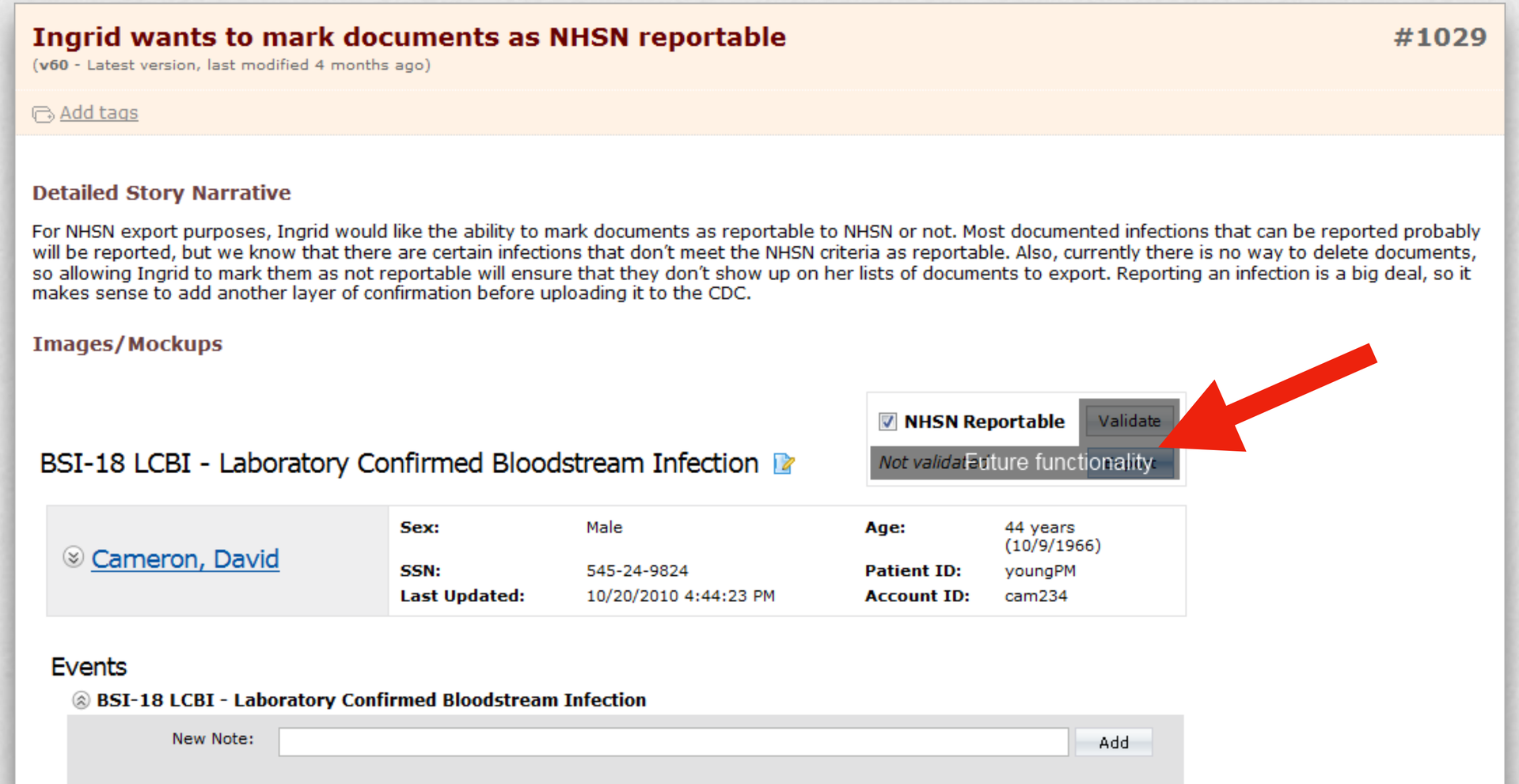
Context, context, context

A user story is always part of a larger narrative



3. Write a “recipe”

What else does the developer need to know?

Acceptance Criteria

1. Given that Ingrid has navigated to a View or Edit (*not* New) document screen for an NHSN-exportable document type (**BSI, CLIP, LABID, PROC, SSI, UTI, ICU denominator**)
    1. Show a checkbox with a label of 'NHSN Reportable'
        1. Place it next to the document title
        2. Place a grey border around it to match the other bordered elements in the page (right-aligned with the page content and baseline/bottom-aligned with the title text)
        3. It is expected that other UI elements (text, button(s)) will be added inside the border, so factor that in when designing
        4. Show tooltip text on hover-over of the checkbox and label ("Determines whether this document is shown in the list of events to export to NHSN")
    2. Save the state of the checkbox whenever it is checked (don't require the user to Save the document to update the state)
        1. This state will be used to determine which documents to show in a list of exportable documents, along with the Status (see #1030)
    3. Place the Edit or Save and Cancel buttons immediately to the right of to the document title (move them from their current location)
    4. The title and button(s) should wrap when resized rather than forcing the new UI controls to the next line

Exclusions & Constraints

This story does not include any work to actually validate or export documents.

Interface Considerations

Architecture Considerations

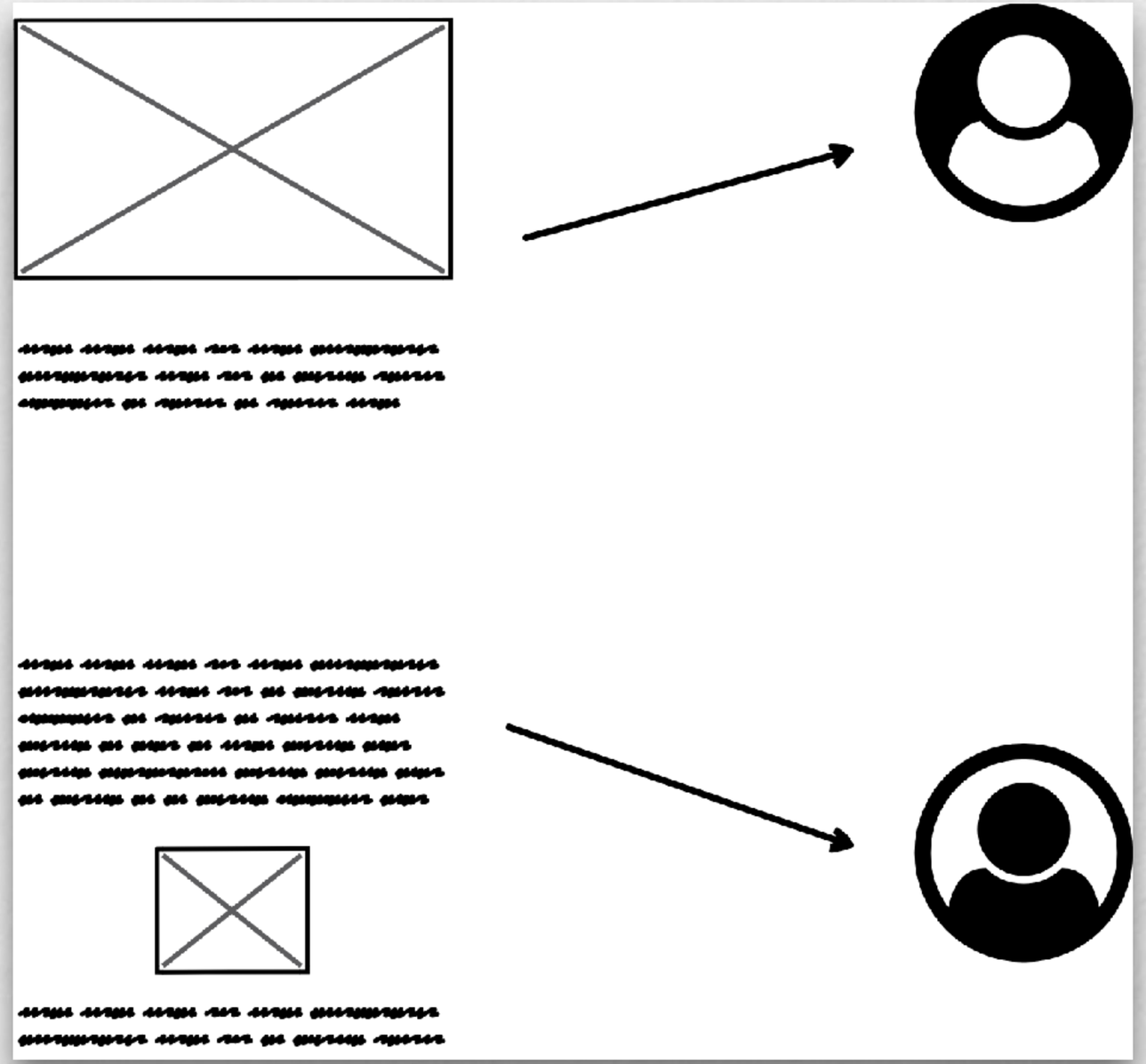
1. Must work on form engine (e.g., BSI) and non-form engine document types (e.g., ICU denominator)
2. Will eventually be added to additional document types
3. Should be flexible enough to add extra UI controls (shown as 'future functionality' in mockup)

4. Know your audience

Every developer is different

Every developer is different, so you may end up changing the level of detail based on your team. Some just look at the wireframe, some go straight for the acceptance criteria. Some improvise when details are missing, others refuse to continue until they get clarification.

*Try to **learn their styles and preferences**. Ultimately, try to **take responsibility for making your Story clear** and easy to understand.*



Recap

1. Agile was created to avoid the problems of Waterfall development
2. Follow the spirit of Agile and User Stories more than the “rules”
3. Wireframes are inherently Agile artifacts
4. Tips for writing better User Stories:
    1. You don’t have to stick to the script
    2. Divide to conquer
    3. Write a “recipe”
    4. Know your audience

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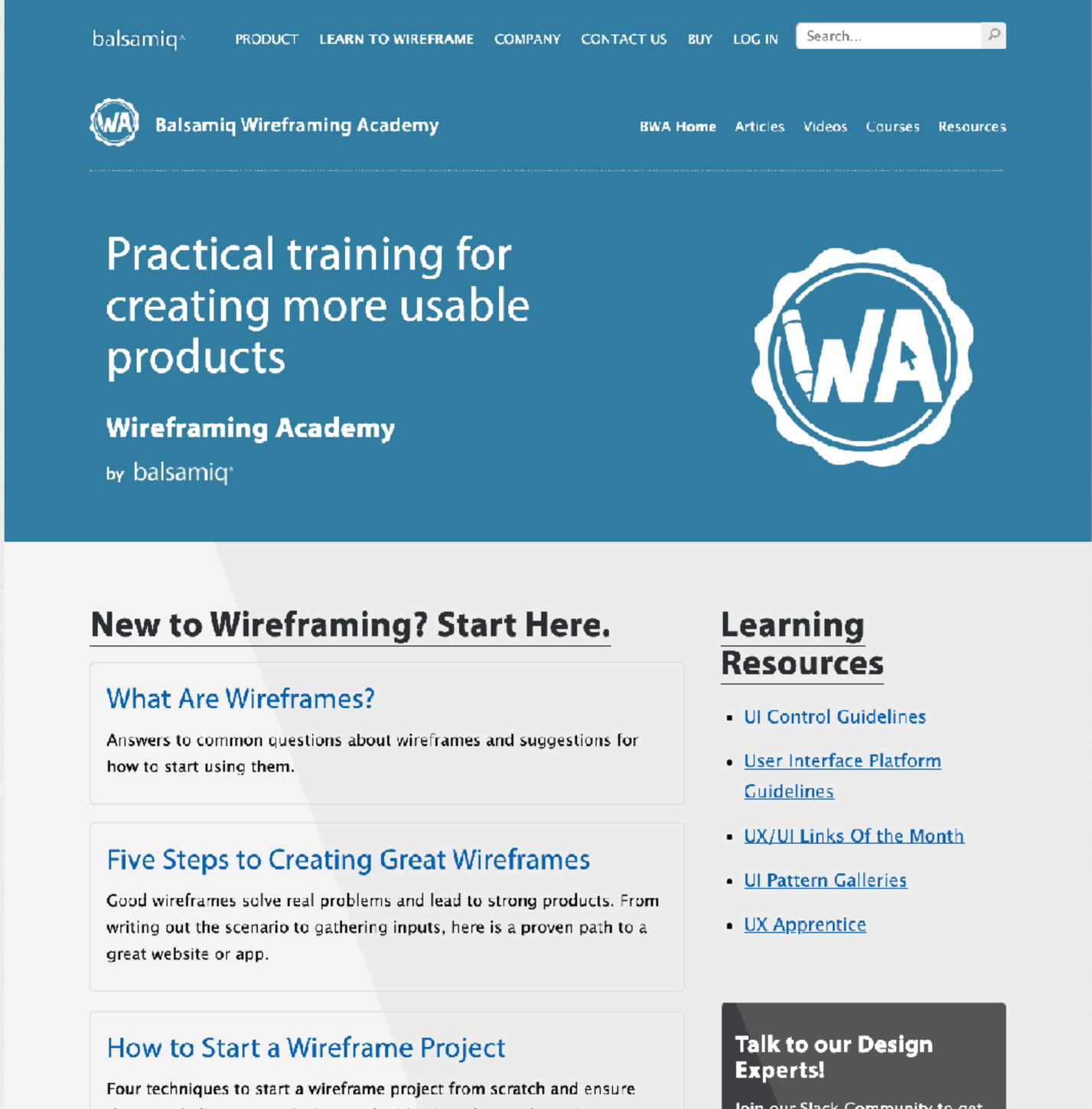

Questions?

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