HOW TO SPLIT A USER STORY

OPERATIONS

Can you split the operations

into separate stories?

Can you take a thin slice

PREPARE THE INPUT STORY

Does the big story satisfy
INVEST* (except, perhaps, small)?

Combine it with another story
or otherwise reformulate it to get
a good, if large, starting story.

Is the story size 1/10 to
1/2 of your velocity?

You're done.

Continue. You
need to split it.

WORKFLOW STEPS

through the workflow first and enhance it with more stories later?

Can you split the story so you do the beginning and end of the workflow first and enhance with stories from the middle of the workflow?

Does the story describe

a workflow?

DEFER PERFORMANCE

Could you split the story to just make it work first and then enhance it to satisfy the non-functional requirement?

Does the story get much of its complexity from satisfying non-functional requirements like performance?

Could you split the story to do that simple core first and enhance it with later stories?

SIMPLE/COMPLEX

Does the story have a simple core that provides most of the value and/or learning?

Could you group the later stories and defer the decision about which story comes first?

MAJOR EFFORT

much of its satisfying irements like APPLY THE SPLITTING PATTERNS

Does the story do the same thing to different kinds of data?

Can you process first and other of the earning?

When you apply the obvious split, is whichever story you do

that suggests several variations?)

Does the story do the same thing to different kinds of data?

Can you process first and other complex interface?

Does the story include multiple

operations? (e.g. is it about "managing"

or "configuring" something?)

Does the story get the same kind of data via multiple interfaces?

Can you split the story to handle data from one interface first and enhance with the others later?

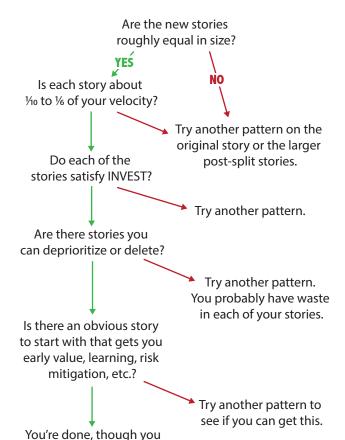
first the most difficult?

INTERFACE VARIATIONS

Is there a simple version

you could do first?

EVALUATETHE SPLIT



BREAK OUT A SPIKE

VARIATIONS

IN DATA

Can you split the story to

process one kind of data

first and enhance with the

other kinds later?

BUSINESS RULE

VARIATIONS

Can you split the story so you

do a subset of the rules first and

enhance with additional rules later?

Does the story have a variety of

business rules? (e.g. is there a domain

term in the story like "flexible dates"

Are you still baffled about how to split the story?

Can you find a small piece you understand well enough to start?

Write that story first, build it, and start again

at the top of this process.

Can you define the 1-3 questions most holding you back?

could try another pattern to see if it works better.

Write a spike with those questions, do the minimum to answer them, and start again at the top of this process



* INVEST - Stories should be:

Independent

Negotiable

Valuable

Estimable

Small

Testable

Take a break

and try again.