



Julie Wyman

KonMari Your Backlog: Tidying Up Those PBIs



Using Mentimeter

1. Grab your phone / open a tab
2. Go to **www.menti.com**
3. Enter code **7212 4078**
4. Submit your answers



Or scan the QR code

the life-changing magic of tidying up

the Japanese art of decluttering
and organizing

marie kondo



The inspiration

Applying tidying at work

Project 1:

Case management
system support

Project 2:

Grants management
product development

Agenda

1. Product Backlog pop quiz!
2. Why tidy up?
3. How does this work for a Product Backlog?
4. Tips on storage
5. Next steps & questions





Pop Quiz!

Answer at:

www.menti.com | code: **7212 4078**

Product Backlog Pop Quiz

1. How **many** PBIs are in your backlog?
2. How **old** is the oldest PBI?
3. How many sets of **duplicate** PBIs?
4. Are PBIs hiding in any other **locations**?
5. Could a randomly selected **team member** find a specific PBI?

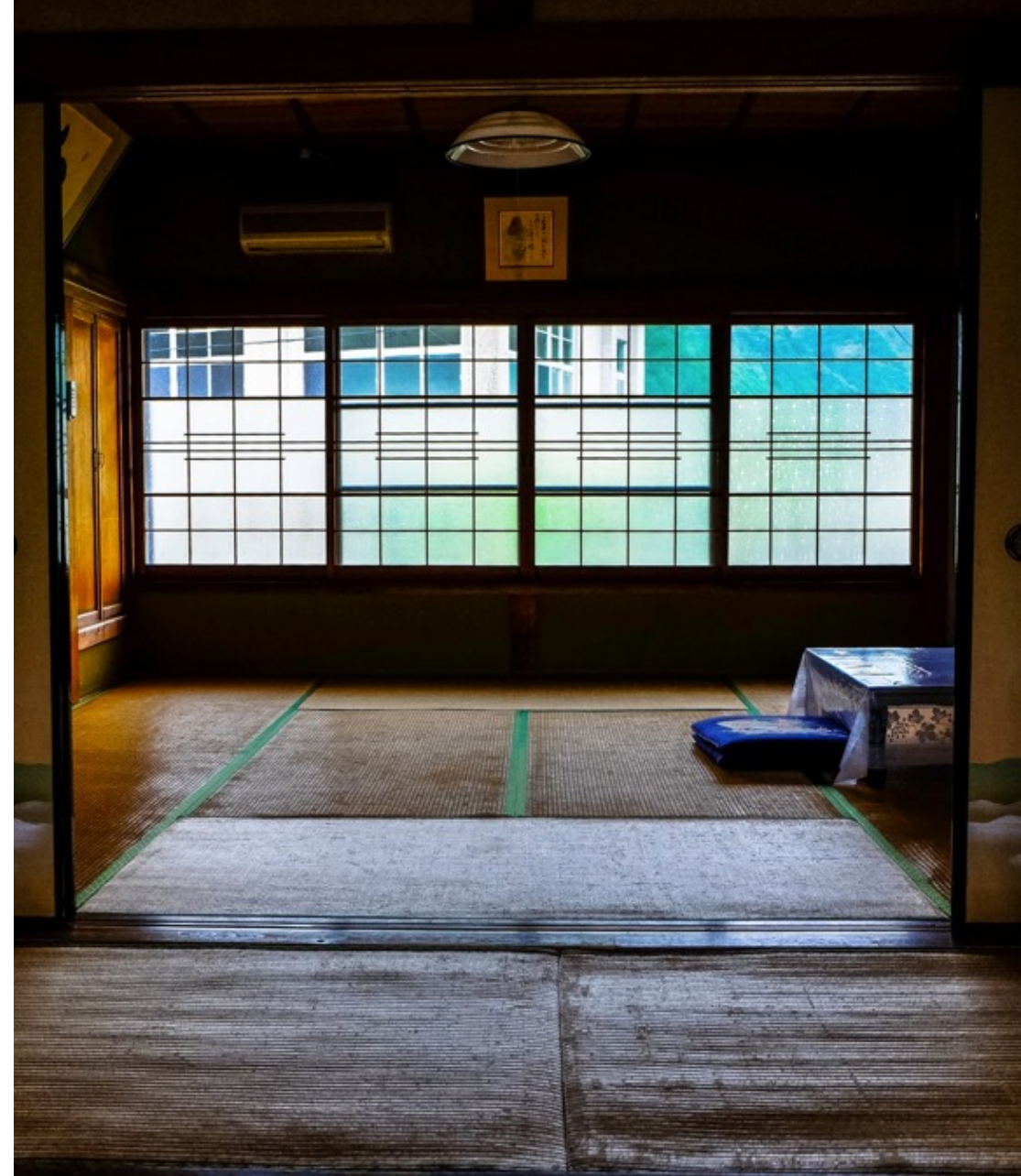


A dense, chaotic pile of various tools including knives, scissors, pliers, and a hammer, with the text "Why tidy up?" overlaid in the center. The tools are scattered and overlapping, creating a cluttered appearance. The text is white and bold, centered horizontally and vertically. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a workbench or a pile of debris. The tools include various types of knives, some with colorful handles (red, yellow, blue), and some with wooden handles. There are also pliers, a hammer, and a pair of scissors. The overall scene suggests a state of disarray or clutter.

Why tidy up?

Simplicity – the art of maximizing the amount of work not done – **is essential.**

Principles behind the Agile Manifesto



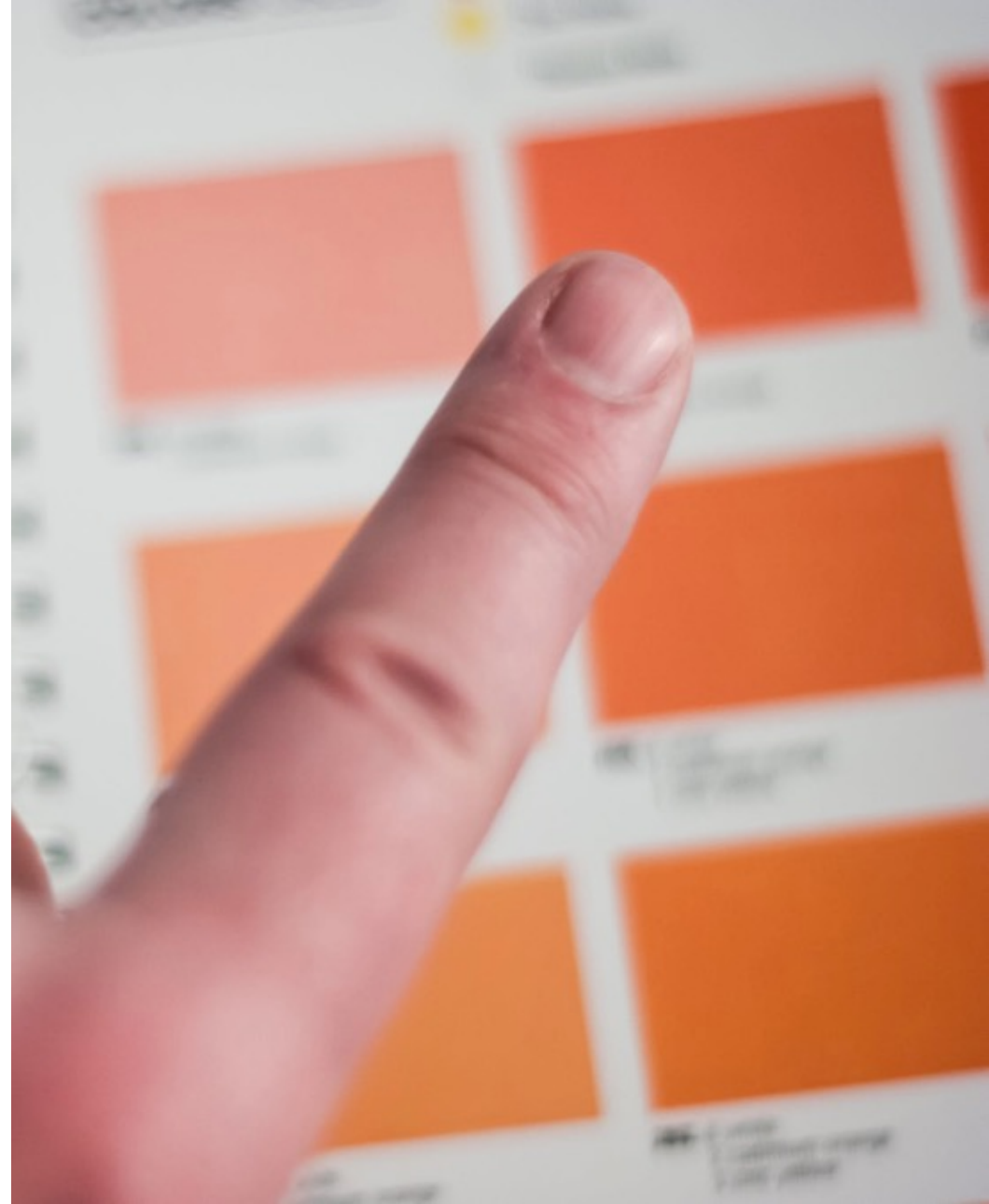
Without simplicity...

- Mental **overhead**
- Everything becomes **noise**
- Can't find what's **important**



As a **result...**

- Harder to **make decisions**
- Impossible to **prioritize**
- Lack **confidence**





Simplicity supports **self-organization**

**Reduce
future stress
by making a
mindset shift**



**How to
start?**





Five Steps

#1

Think of Your **Product Vision**

#2

Find all PBIs. Put them in one place.

Uncover “unofficial backlogs”

Combine separate lists of features, enhancements, bugs, technical debt items, etc.



#3

Sort by category.

Sort to help **make sense**

What are some possible
Product Backlog categories?



#4

Start **simply.**

Practice with easier items

Build up your tidying skills
before tackling harder items



#5

Keep what “sparks joy”

Delight the customer

Let go of some “good” ideas



“This is not only the simplest but also the most accurate yardstick by which to judge”

- Marie Kondo

Five Steps Recap

- 1) Define your **product vision**
- 2) Find all PBIs –
put them in **one place**
- 3) Sort by **category**
- 4) Start **simply**
- 5) Keep what **“sparks joy”**



TIP ♡

**Decide to keep
or discard first.**

**Then worry
about refining.**



If you're **stuck...**

Find a PBI that **definitely**
sparks joy

Use that as a **benchmark**
to help compare against others



Be respectful when discarding

Recognize that emotions
may be involved

Appreciate the time and
effort that was put in



Let go.
Do not
pass along.

Don't create clutter
for another team

If it's **not important enough**
to be on your backlog,
they don't need to it either



Do it all at once.

Invest the necessary
amount of time

One product backlog
by the time you're done



Stretch Break





Storage

Increase visibility

Empower self-organization

by making it easy for anyone to find what they need

Facilitate decision-making

by highlighting key information

Vertical Folding

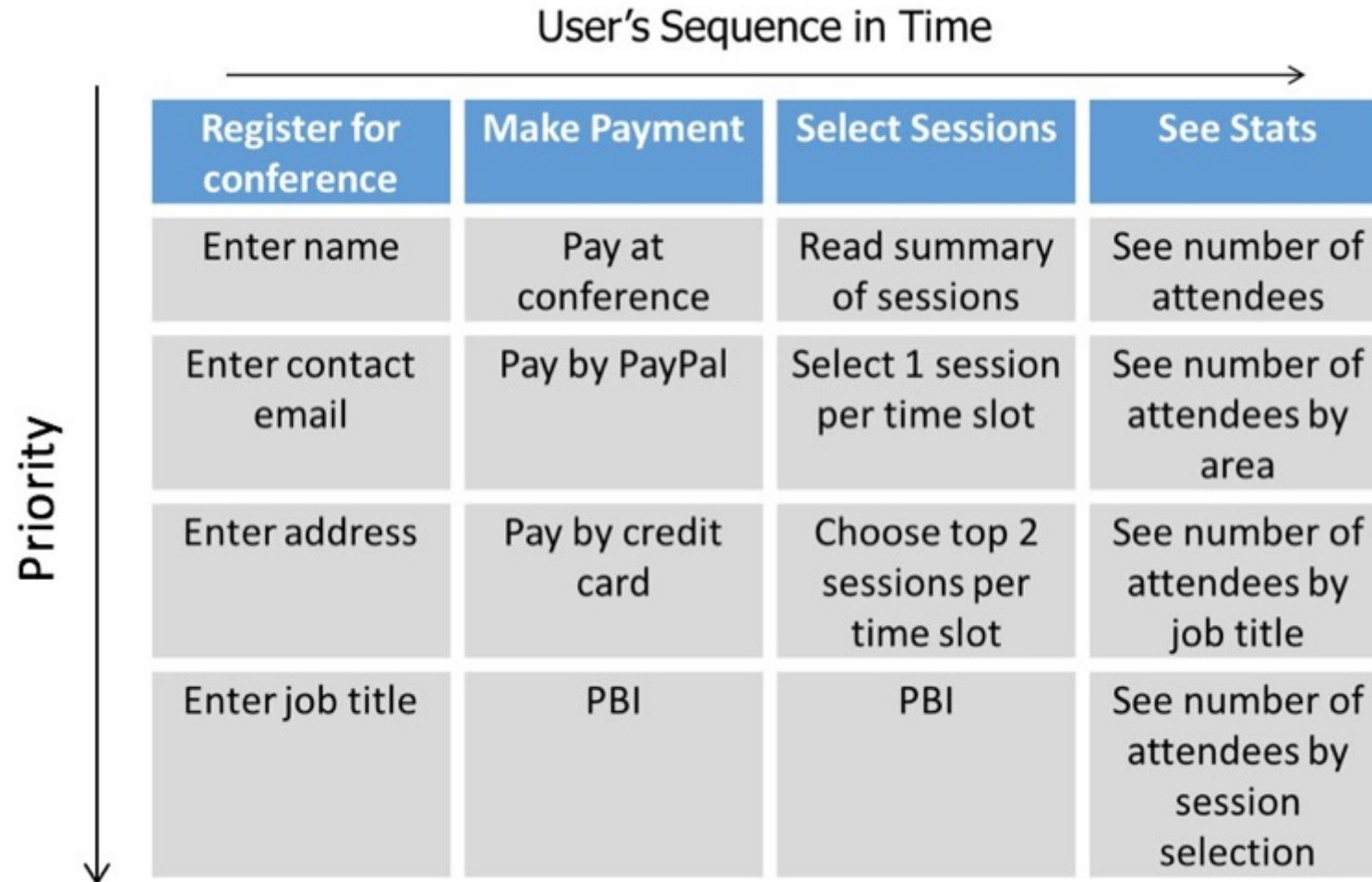
Before



After

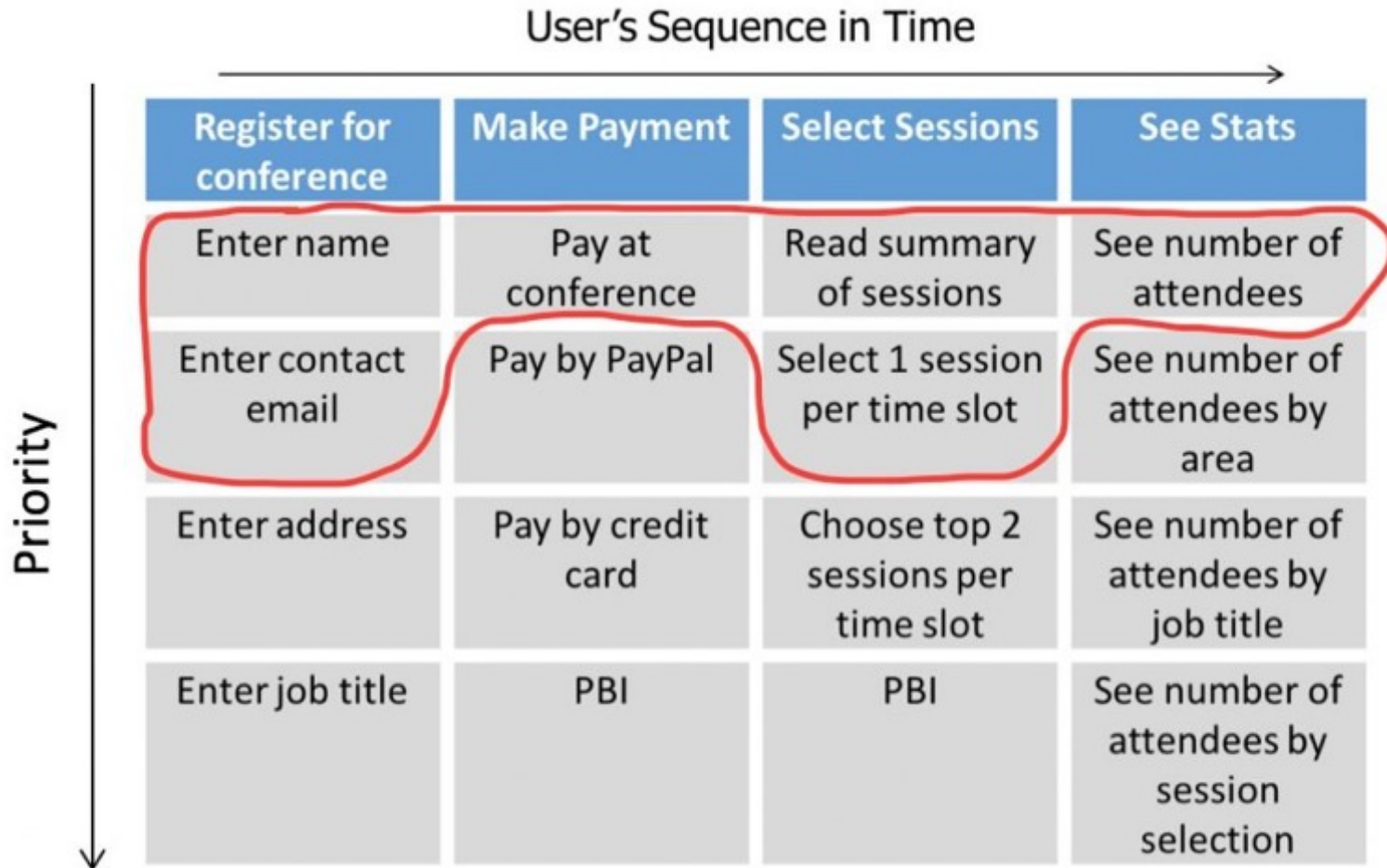


For backlogs ... try story mapping



Concept source: Jeff Patton
<https://www.jpattonassociates.com/user-story-mapping/>

Story Map Benefits

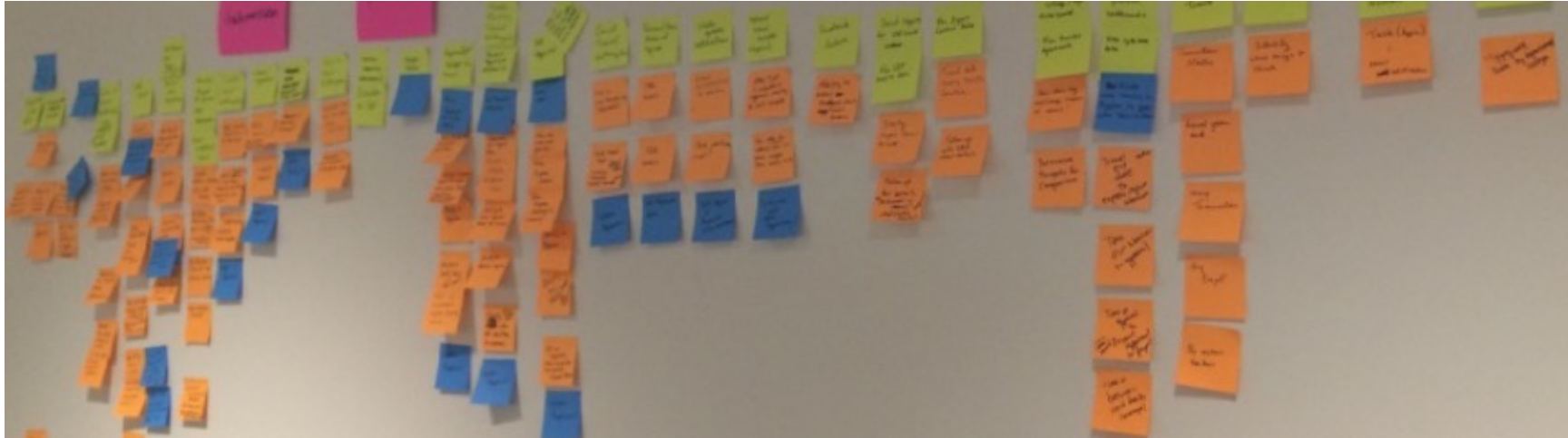


Visualizes
requirements

Provides a
holistic view

Eases
prioritization

Story Map Benefits



Keeps the **customer in focus**

Creates **shared understanding** by getting everyone involved

Identifies **duplicates** and **unnecessary complexity**

Cluttered Board

The image shows a Jira Scrum board with the following columns and tasks:

- BACKLOG 3**
 - As a diner, I want to inform the restaurant of my allergies when I make a reservation so that the...
Backlog
22/Apr/19 4:51 PM
EZ-24
BF-3
 - As a restaurant manager, I can add and hire employees so I can ensure consistent staffing.
Employee Tracking
Hungry
22/Apr/19 5:09 PM
EZ-2
BF-11
 - As a chef, I can adjust and update the supply inventory to let the manager know of any...
Inventory Management
Backlog
22/Apr/19 5:09 PM
EZ-7
BF-9
- SELECTED FOR DEVELOPMENT 1**
 - As a diner at the restaurant, I want a menu that lists each item with a description, price,
Selected for Development
22/Apr/19 4:51 PM
EZ-33
BF-6
- NEXT UP 0**
- DEVELOPMENT 0**
- IN PROGRESS 4**
 - As a restaurant manager, I can track what orders and how many orders made each shift to
Menu Creation
In Progress
22/Apr/19 4:50 PM
EZ-6
BF-1
 - As a diner, I want to inform the restaurant of my shellfish allergy when I make a
Confirm
In Progress
22/Apr/19 4:51 PM
EZ-3, EZ-34
BF-5
 - As a head server, I can view the amount of tips accumulated from each employee to gauge
Tip Metrics
Analysis - In Prog
22/Apr/19 4:51 PM
EZ-4
BF-7
 - As a busboy, I can mark tables as recently vacated so that tables can be cleaned as soon
Tables
Accept / Reject
22/Apr/19 5:09 PM
EZ-8
BF-8
- TESTING 0**
- USER ACCEPTANCE 1**
 - As a diner, I want to create a reservation so that I can ensure I can experience the restaurant
User Acceptance
22/Apr/19 4:51 PM
EZ-23
BF-2
- DONE 1**
 - As a scheduler, I can quickly find openings in the schedule that need to be filled so that I
Employee Tracking
Done
22/Apr/19 5:09 PM
EZ-3
BF-10

Tidy Board

TO DO


Remove Menu Items

  5

EZ-5

Hiring

  -

EZ-2 

Tips per waiter

  -

EZ-4

IN PROGRESS

Track # of Orders

  8

EZ-6 

Item Description

  -

EZ-33 

Open Shifts

  -

EZ-3

Average Tips

  -

EZ-10

DONE

Create Reservation

  -

EZ-23 

Allergy Notification

  -

EZ-24 

Shellfish Allergy

  -

EZ-31 

Board View: Before and After

The image displays two Kanban boards side-by-side, illustrating a transition from a traditional workflow to a more streamlined one.

Board View: Before

- BACKLOG 3**:
 - As a diner, I want to inform the restaurant of my allergies when I make a reservation so that the...
Backlog 22/Apr/19 4:51 PM 62-04 BF-3
 - As a restaurant manager, I can add and hire employees so I can ensure consistent staffing.
Employee Tracking Hungry 22/Apr/19 5:09 PM 62-2 BF-11
 - As a chef, I can adjust and update the supply inventory to let the manager know of any...
Inventory Management Backlog 22/Apr/19 5:09 PM 62-7 BF-9
- SELECTED FOR DEVELOPMENT 1**:
 - As a diner at the restaurant, I want a menu that lists each item with a description, price, ...
Selected for Development 22/Apr/19 4:51 PM 62-33 BF-6
- NEXT UP 0**
- DEVELOPMENT 0**
- IN PROGRESS 4**:
 - As a restaurant manager, I can track what orders and how many orders made each shift to...
Menu Creation In Progress 22/Apr/19 4:52 PM 62-4 BF-1
 - As a diner, I want to inform the restaurant of my shellfish allergy when I make a...
Confirm In Progress 22/Apr/19 4:51 PM 62-3, 62-04 BF-5
 - As a head server, I can view the amount of tips accumulated from each employee to gauge...
Tip Matrix Analysis - In Prog 22/Apr/19 4:51 PM 62-4 BF-7
 - As a DuxDoby, I can mark tables as recently vacated so that tables can be cleaned as soon...
Tables Accept / Reject 22/Apr/19 5:09 PM 62-6 BF-8
- TESTING 0**
- USER ACCEPTANCE 1**:
 - As a diner, I want to create a reservation so that I can ensure I can experience the restaurant.
User Acceptance 22/Apr/19 4:51 PM 62-05 BF-2
- DONE 1**:
 - As a scheduler, I can quickly find openings in the schedule that need to be filled so that I...
Employee Tracking Done 22/Apr/19 5:09 PM 62-3 BF-10

Board View: After

- TO DO**:
 - Remove Menu Items 5 EZ-5
 - Hiring - EZ-2
 - Tips per waiter - EZ-4
- IN PROGRESS**:
 - Track # of Orders 8 EZ-6
 - Item Description - EZ-33
 - Open Shifts - EZ-3
 - Average Tips - EZ-10
- DONE**:
 - Create Reservation 23 EZ-23
 - Allergy Notification - EZ-24
 - Shellfish Allergy - EZ-34

Cluttered Story View

Bad Food / BF-7

As a head server, I can view the amount of tips accumulated from each employee to gauge good customer service

Edit Comment Assign Backlog Selected for Development Workflow Admin

Type: Story Status: ANALYSIS - IN PROG (view workflow) Assignee: Jennifer Forrest

Priority: Medium Resolution: Duplicate Reporter: Jennifer Forrest

Affects Version/s: Version Fix Version/s: 1.0 Votes: 0

Component/s: Blocker Labels: Blocked Important release Watchers: 1 Stop watching this issue

Environment: Unsure Due: 17/Apr/19

Epic Link: Tip Metrics Created: 2 days ago

Beverage Type: Diet Updated: Just now

Flagged: Impediment Resolved: Just now

Rank: 0j0027b: Start date: 10/Apr/19

Sprint: CSA Sprint 3

Story Points: 12

Story point estimate: 12

Description

Acceptance Criteria:

- User role for head server
- Head server can see breakdowns of each server's tips
- Data visualization for server tips

Attachments

Drop files to attach, or browse.

Issue links

blocks

- EZ-3 Shellfish Allergy DONE

clones

- EZ-4 Tips per waiter TO DO

Activity

All Comments Work log History Activity

There are no comments yet on this issue.

Time Tracking

Estimated: 1w

Remaining: 1d

Logged: 4d

Agile

Future sprint: CSA Sprint 3

View on Board

Tidy Story View

 EZ-4

 Give feedback  1  

Tips per waiter



As a head waiter, I can view the amount of tips accumulated from each employee to gauge good customer service

Linked issues

is cloned by



 BF-7 As a head server, I can view the amount of tips accumulated from...  **ANALYSIS - IN PROG**

Activity

Comments 



Add a comment...

STATUS

To Do 

ASSIGNEE

 Unassigned

REPORTER

 Jennifer Forrest

LABELS

None

STORY POINT ESTIMATE


None

Tidy Story View

3/19			
S	R	C	DVE


15091 : Note taking workshop

- Develop materials
- Schedule sessions
- Run through sessions
- Debrief & make edits



US2891

Broad Ridge Changes
- Part 3



S - 5/20

JW

Story View: Before and After

Bad Food / BF-7

As a head server, I can view the amount of tips accumulated from each employee to gauge good customer service

[Edit](#) [Comment](#) [Assign](#) [Backlog](#) [Selected for Development](#) [Workflow](#) [Admin](#)

Type: Story **Status:** ANALYSIS - IN PROG (View workflow) **Assignee:** Jennifer Forrest
Priority: Medium **Resolution:** Duplicate **Reporter:** Jennifer Forrest
Affects Version/s: Version **Fix Version/s:** 1.0 **Votes:** 0
Component/s: Blocker **Watchers:** 1 Stop watching this issue
Labels: Blocked Important release **Due:** 17/Apr/19
Environment: Unsure **Created:** 2 days ago
Epic Link: Tip Metrics **Updated:** Just now
Beverage Type: Diet **Resolved:** Just now
Flagged: Impediment **Start date:** 10/Apr/19
Rank: 00027b
Sprint: CSA Sprint 3
Story Points: 12
Story point estimator: 12

Description

Acceptance Criteria:

- User role for head server
- Head server can see breakdowns of each server's tips
- Data visualization for server tips

Attachments

Drop files to attach, or browse.

Issue links

blocks

- EZ-3 Shellfish Allergy ↑ DONE

clones

- EZ-4 Tips per waiter ↑ TO DO

Activity

All **Comments** Work log History Activity

There are no comments yet on this issue.

EZ-4

[Give feedback](#) 1 ... ×

Tips per waiter

[Edit](#) [Comment](#) [Link](#) [Print](#) [...](#)


As a head waiter, I can view the amount of tips accumulated from each employee to gauge good customer service

Linked issues

is cloned by

- BF-7 As a head server, I can view the amount of tips accumulated from... ↑ ANALYSIS - IN PROG

Activity Comments

 Add a comment...

STATUS

To Do

ASSIGNEE

Unassigned

REPORTER

Jennifer Forrest

LABELS

None

STORY POINT ESTIMATE

None

Don't become a **storage expert**

Don't **focus too much** on storage

Not about using a particular tool

Keep it **simple**, so you'll actually do it





Wrap Up



Okay, so...
now what?

What's **one** thing you learned today that you can use to help your team improve on the **Product Backlog pop quiz?**

Marie Kondo resources

Website: <https://konmari.com/>

Netflix: [Tidying Up with Marie Kondo](#)

Books by Marie Kondo:

1. [The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up: The Japanese Art of Decluttering and Organizing](#)
2. [Spark Joy: An Illustrated Master Class on the Art of Organizing and Tidying Up](#)
3. [Life-Changing Magic: A Journal](#)
4. [The Life-Changing Manga of Tidying Up: A Magical Story](#)



Additional resources

- [The Life Changing Magic of Tidying \(Your Product Features\) Up](#)
- [Does your Scrum Team have a compulsive hoarding disorder?](#)
- [The Project-changing Magic of Tidying Up Your Backlog](#)
- [KONMARI YOUR CODE; REFACTOR YOUR LIFE](#)
- [Four Steps to Keep Your Product Backlog Small and Manageable](#)
- [5 Benefits of Story Mps](#)
- [Story Mapping Resources from Jeff Patton](#)
- [INVEST in Good Stories, and SMART Tasks](#)



Let's connect

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- <https://www.slideshare.net/JulieWyman3>



Give it a **try.**

WHY?

A simpler, tidier backlog ...

- facilitates better decision-making
- leads to better products

HOW?

- Sort.
- Start with the easy stuff.
- Do it all at once.

**Don't let the clutter
sneak up...
make the mindset shift now!**



Questions?



The image shows a low-angle shot of a modern glass skyscraper against a clear blue sky. The Appian logo is mounted on the upper part of the building's facade. The logo consists of the word "app'ian" in a bold, sans-serif font, with the apostrophe in the 'i'. The letters are dark and have a slight 3D effect.

app'ian

A large, white, sans-serif version of the Appian logo is centered in the middle of the image. The logo is "app'ian", with a lowercase 'a', lowercase 'p's, an apostrophe in the 'i', and lowercase 'a' and 'n'. The font is clean and modern, matching the corporate branding.

app'ian

A leader in low-code.