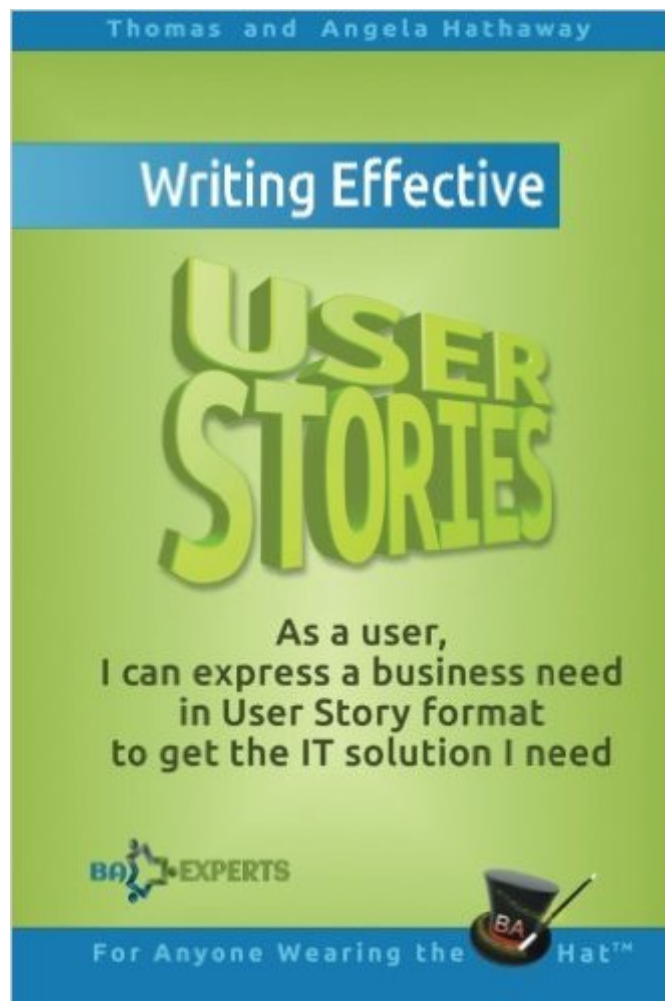


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# Writing Effective User Stories: As A User, I Can Express A Business Need In User Story Format To Get The IT Solution I Need



## Synopsis

User Stories are a great method for expressing stakeholder requirements, whether your projects follow an Agile, Iterative, or a Waterfall methodology. They are the basis for developers to deliver a suitable information technology (IT) app or application. Well-structured user stories express a single action to achieve a specific goal from the perspective of a single role. When writing user stories, stakeholders knowledgeable about the role should focus on the business result that the IT solution will enable while leaving technology decisions up to the developers. Good user stories are relevant to the project, unambiguous, and understandable to knowledge peers. The best user stories also contain crucial non-functional (quality) requirements, which are the best weapon in the war against unsatisfactory performance in IT solutions. This book presents two common User Story structures to help you ensure that your User Stories have all the required components and that they express the true business need as succinctly as possible. It offers 5 simple rules to ensure that your User Stories are the best that they can be. That, in turn, will reduce the amount of time needed in User Story elaboration and discussion with the development team. After reading this book you will be able to:

- Translate business needs into well-structured User Stories
- Write User Stories that express the what and avoid the how
- Apply five simple rules for writing effective User Stories
- Clarify assumptions in User Stories by adding context
- Identify and remove ambiguous and subjective terms and phrases in User Stories
- Select the appropriate format for expressing User Stories for Agile Projects
- Write stakeholder requirements in User Story format that solve business problems
- Elaborate User Stories to identify measurable non-functional requirements

**AUTHOR'S NOTE:** The term "User Story" is a relative new addition to our language and its definition is evolving. In today's parlance, a complete User Story has three primary components, namely the "Card", the "Conversation", and the "Criteria". Different roles are responsible for creating each component. The "Card" expresses a business need. A representative of the business community is responsible for expressing the business need. Historically (and for practical reasons) the "Card" is the User Story from the perspective of the business community. Since we wrote this book specifically to address that audience, we use the term "User Story" in that context throughout. The "Conversation" is an ongoing discussion between a developer responsible for creating software that meets the business need and the domain expert(s) who defined it (e.g., the original author of the "Card"). The developer initiates the "Conversation" with the domain expert(s) to define the "Criteria" and any additional information the developer needs to create the application. There is much to be written about both the "Conversation" and the "Criteria", but neither component is dealt with in any detail in this publication. A well-written User Story ("Card") can

drastically reduce the time needed for the "Conversation". It reduces misinterpretations, misunderstandings, and false starts, thereby paving the way for faster delivery of working software. We chose to limit the content of this publication to the "User Story" as understood by the business community to keep the book focused and address the widest possible audience.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I write user stories as part of my job and have done much research into what makes them most effective. This book does a wonderful job of providing specific examples and tips. I applied this book immediately and feel like anyone who writes user stories can immediately benefit from the advice in this book.

You can probably find all of this information with a Google search, but for \$2.99, it is all right there, so I took a chance. I would give it 4 stars if the section on non-functional requirements was better. The information is not a revelation, but it's easy to read and probably good for a new Agile user story writer.

it gives insights on how we can understand stakeholder needs. This applies regardless of technical development approach used. BA's and PM's need a tool box rather than the promise of a silver bullet. User Stories represent a good tool and this book gives you good insights.

I am in the process of developing my skills in writing user stories for project management purposes. I found this book to provide a good amount of information related to the purpose of User Stories,

and how to think about approaching User Stories. I adopted many of the concepts introduced in this book into my work flow almost immediately.

Good book but a little short in "meat". Plenty of standard notes are passed in each rule but not much new or challenging examples or advice. If you are totally new to developing User Stories its a good book. If you are an experienced user story writer don't expect much from this book.

Fantastic! This book shows us simple and practical guidance for writing User stories. I'd like to recommend this book to the engineer who carried a waterfall project. It's the best way to communicate with your users or customers when you're defining system requirements.

This gave me a great understanding of how to write extremely efficient and effective user stories. I am going to walk through this with our development team and it will definitely improve our effectiveness on both agile and waterfall projects.

Simple and direct rules for writing effective user stories. Expected more details than mentioned as there are other things to be considered.

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