



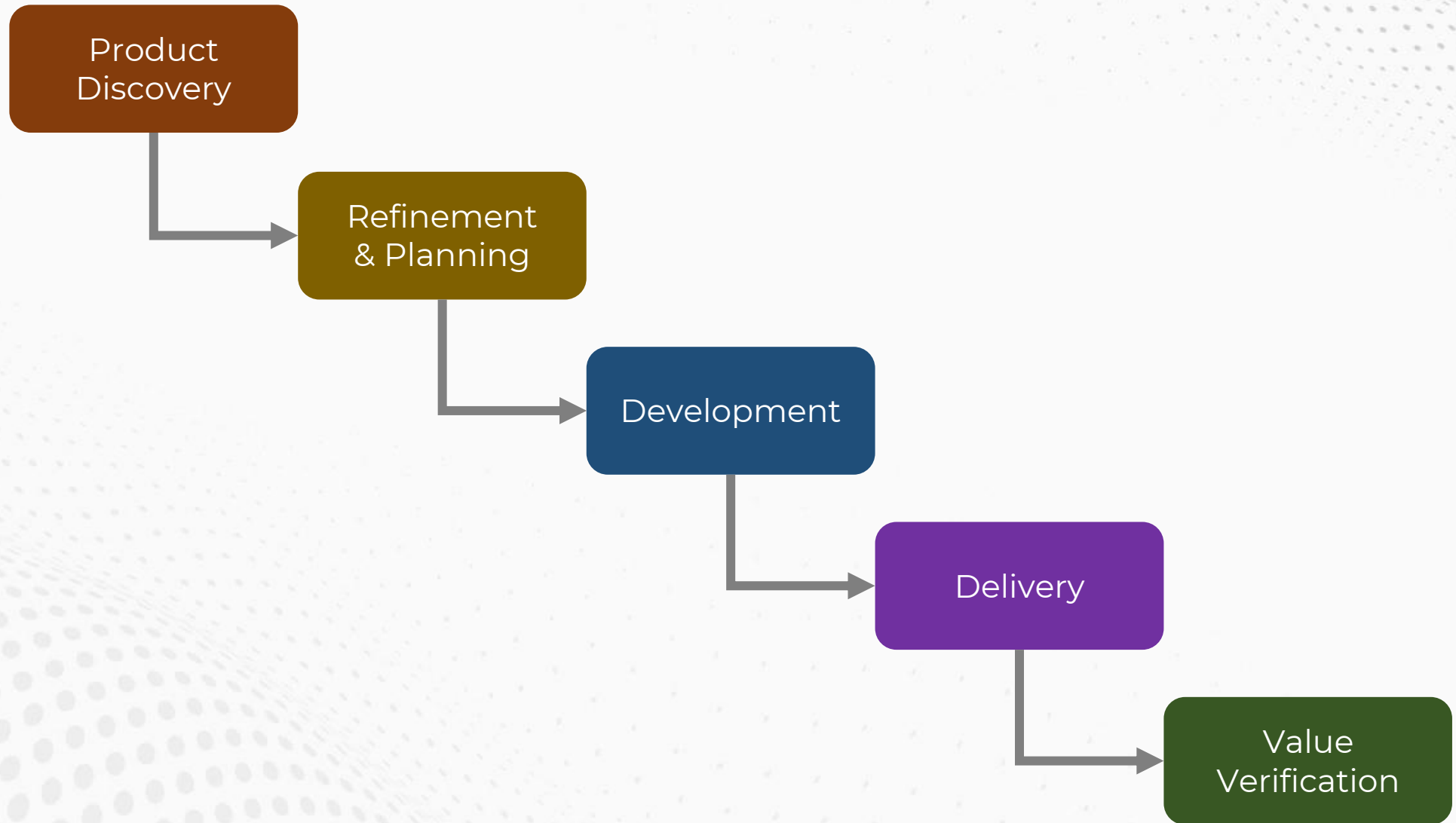
Step 4

Incorporate AI into Scrum

AI Transformation For Scrum Teams Series

Product Delivery Lifecycle

Incorporating AI into Scrum means how you can leverage AI in each step of the product delivery lifecycle.



JobNext Team Way

JobNext Team Conversation

JobNext is a job listing platform that helps candidates find their desired jobs easily. These are the JobNext Scrum Team members:



Sara
Product Owner



Ted
Scrum Master



Jack
Back-End Developer



Brayan
Front-End Developer



Kate
UI/UX Designer

Incorporate AI into Scrum

After using AI as a personal assistant for a while, the JobNext team gathered and discussed how they can incorporate AI into their Scrum way of working as the next step of their AI Transformation journey. This is their conversation:

Jack: *“Well done, team. It has been around one month since we have been using AI as our personal assistant. I think we have learned a lot. So, this is the time to think of the next step.”*

Ted: *“I agree. Now that we have the fundamental AI literacy and have used AI as a personal assistant, we should go to the next step.”*

Kate: *“Let’s think of the whole Product Delivery Lifecycle.”*

Brayan: *“That’s a good idea. In the product delivery lifecycle, we have five steps: Product Discovery, Refinement & Planning, Development, Delivery, and Value Verification. So, should we think of all of them?”*

Sara: *“I don’t think so. Because it creates chaos, I believe, we should start with one of those steps.”*

Jack: *“Yes, confidence is important. If we start with all steps of the product delivery lifecycle, we will encounter a lot of unpredictable things. So, let’s choose one step.”*

Ted: *“Then I think it is better we start with a step that sometimes we have some problems with. But now we want to improve it with the help of AI. I mean the Refinement and Planning. What do you think, guys?”*

Kate: *“Nice. We always have this process. So, that would be great if we could start with this step. But, how?”*

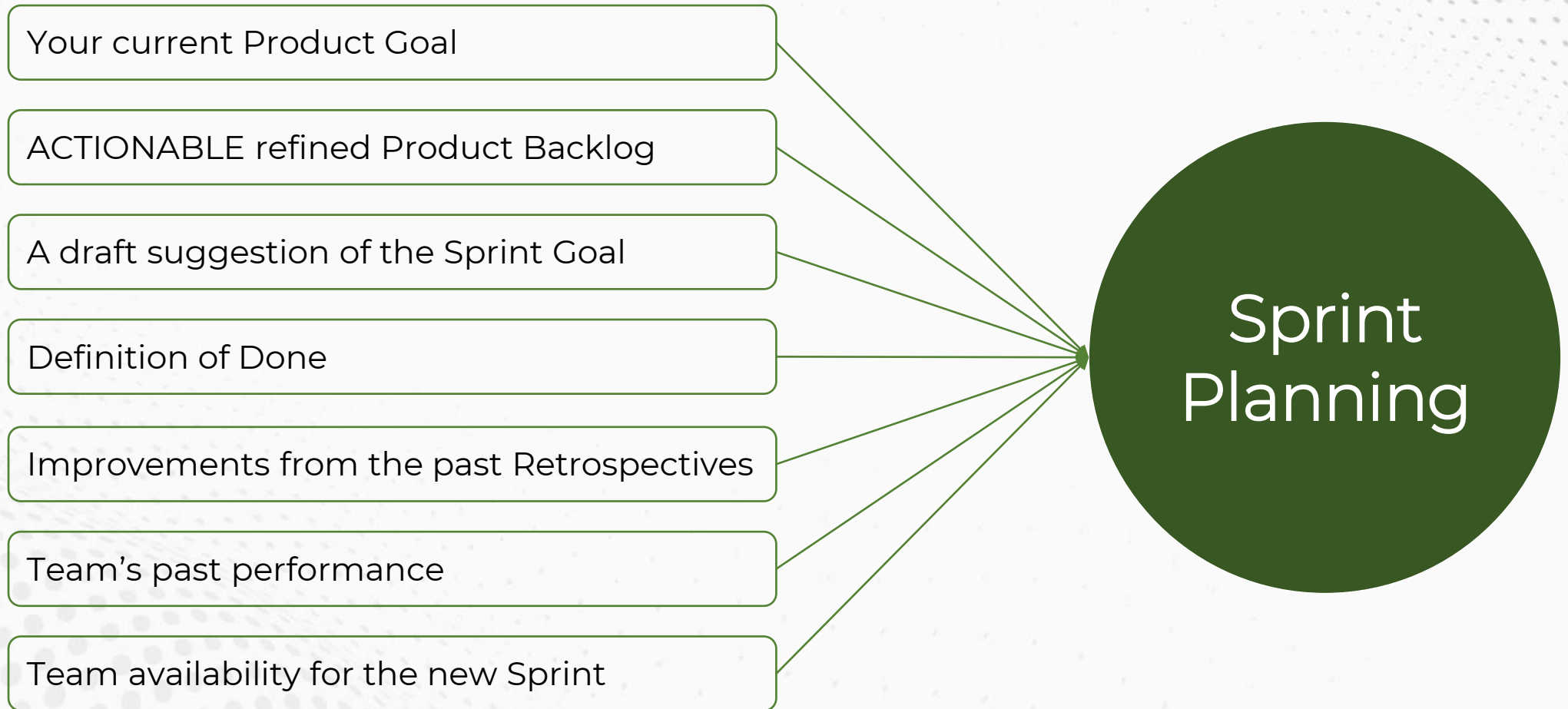
Ted: *“I will research it and create a proposal to improve our refinement and planning process. At the beginning of the next Sprint Planning, I will present it to tune and finalize it.”*

Sara: *“Wonderful. Looking forward to hearing from you, Ted. Thanks”*

Improving Refinement & Planning with AI

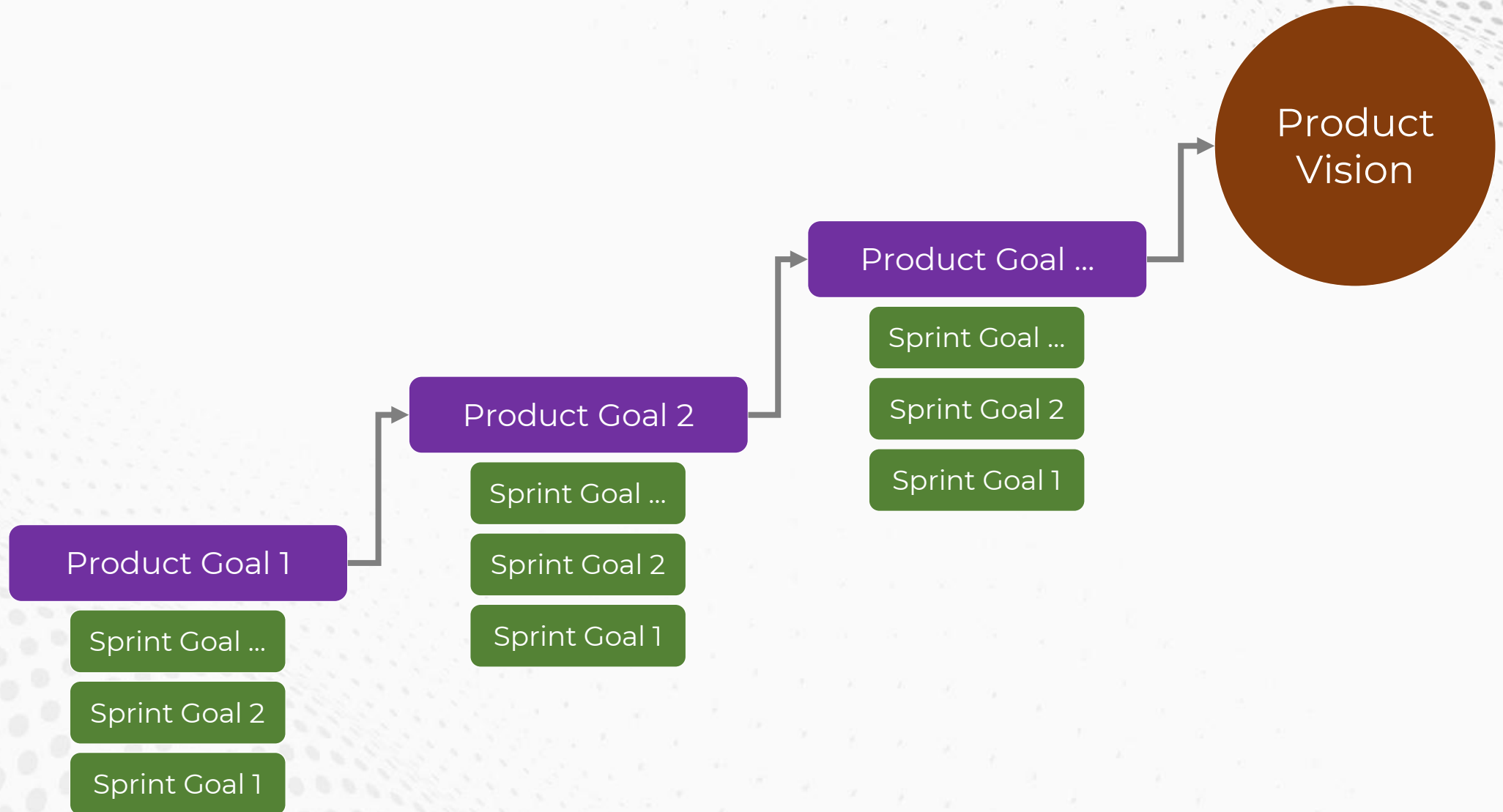
Improving Refinement & Planning with AI

To get prepared for Sprint Planning, you need to prepare several inputs. For most of them, AI can help you a lot.



Improving Refinement & Planning with AI

Whatever you plan to implement should support your goals.
This is the relation between 3 levels of goals.



Improving Refinement & Planning with AI

Product Goal

Bring a concrete Product Goal to the Sprint Planning. Product Goal is the future state of your product. Although the duration of the Product Goal depends on your context, using a quarterly Product Goal is a good choice. Leverage AI with the following instructions to create your Product Goal.

Copy this prompt, paste it into an AI system like ChatGPT, fill in the brackets with the specific data of your product, and create your Product Goal:

*We are building **[Your Product]**. The Product Vision is **[Your Product Vision]**.*

[Give it a little bit of context by explaining the high-level concept of your product and how it is going to create value].

*We use Product Goals as the mid-term goals. So, break down the Product Vision into several smaller mid-term goals and create the first Product Goal (mid-term goal) within the **SMART** model boundaries as follows:*

***Specific:** The goal should be clear and specific, avoiding any ambiguity about what is to be achieved.*

***Measurable:** The goal should have criteria for measuring progress and success, so you can track your achievements.*

***Achievable:** The goal should be realistic and attainable.*

***Relevant:** The goal should matter to you and your stakeholders and align with other relevant objectives, ensuring it is worthwhile.*

***Time-bound:** The goal should have a clearly defined deadline to create a sense of urgency and focus.*

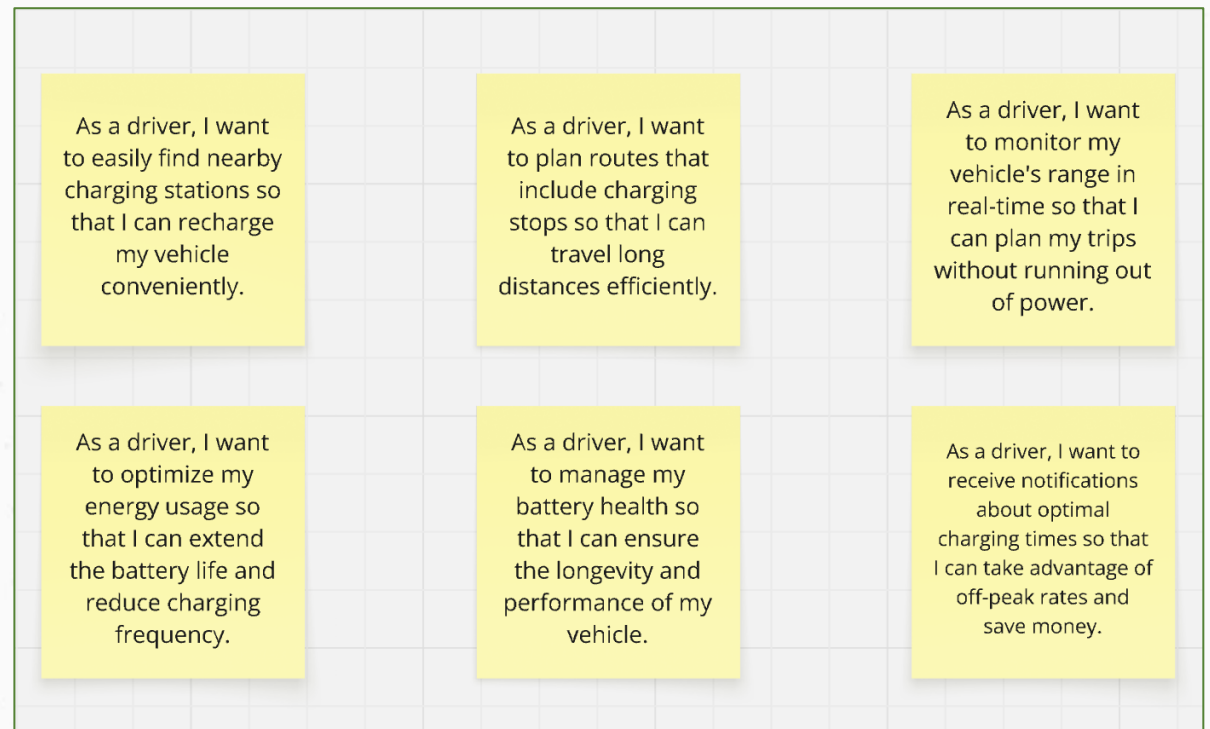
Improving Refinement & Planning with AI

Product Backlog Content

You can leverage AI as a thought partner to help you manage your Product Backlog by creating PBIs.

As an example, I used Miro AI to initiate a Product Backlog for an Electric Vehicle product. The prompt is:

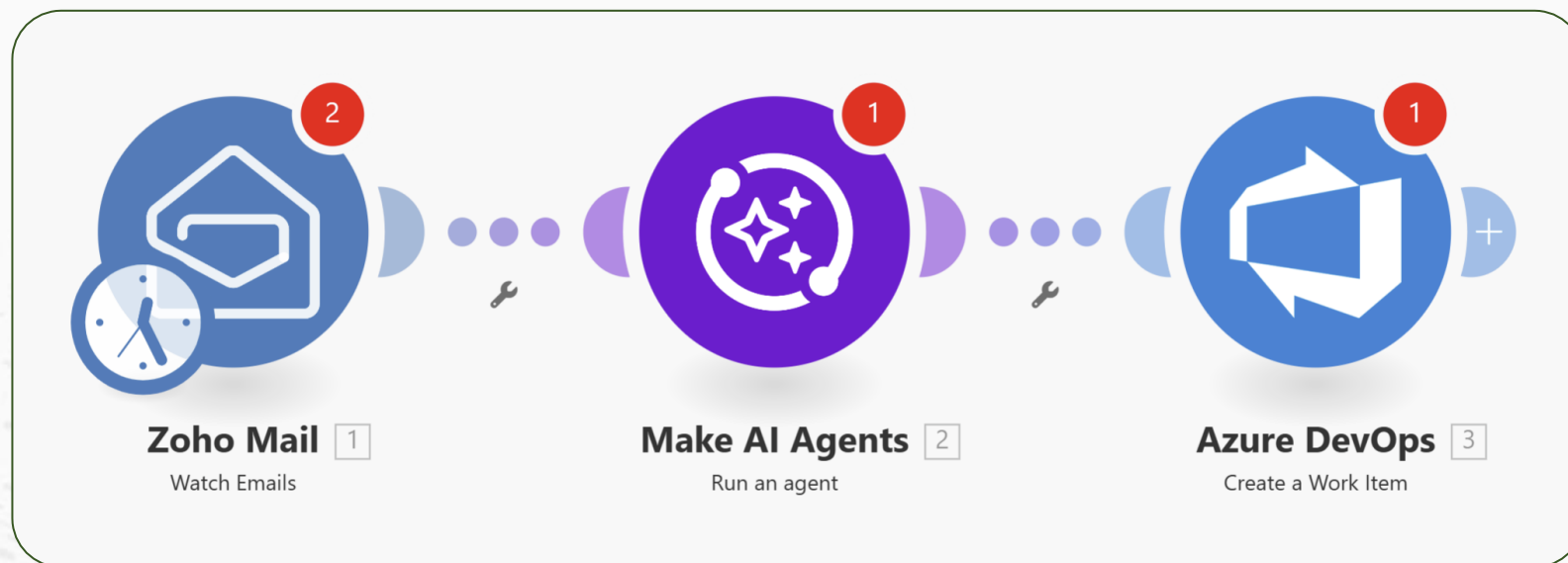
Create 6 User Stories for an Electric Vehicle car product from the Driver actor's point of view.



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Product Backlog Content

Create an AI Agent to watch the incoming support emails from customers on Outlook, Gmail, Zoho, etc., to discover new features and add them to the Product Backlog on Jira, Azure DevOps, Trello, etc.



*** You can use Make.com, n8n, Zapier, etc. to create your AI Agents.
My recommendation is Make.com, which is simple and user-friendly.

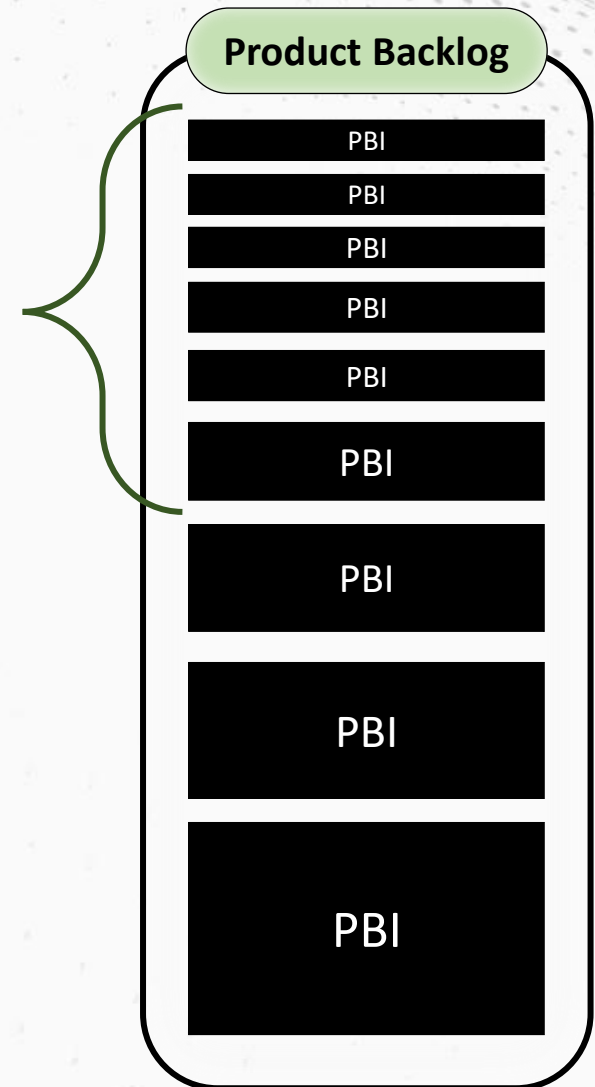
Improving Refinement & Planning with AI

Actionable Product Backlog

A Product Backlog is actionable when it has the following characteristics:

- The PBIs on top of the Backlog are related and coherent.
- They follow a shared objective that guides your Sprint Goal.
- The PBIs on top of the Backlog are refined.
- The Product Owner has consciously ordered the PBIs on top of the Backlog to follow one shared objective.
- The PBIs should support achieving your current Product Goal.
- Keeping the Product Backlog in the Actionable state is the Product Owner's accountability.

These PBIs are coherent following a shared objective.



Improving Refinement & Planning with AI

Product Backlog Refinement

It gives the team enough understanding of a PBI to start the implementation.

The bare minimum refinement for a typical software product includes preparing two things:

Visual
Design

Acceptance
Criteria

Product Backlog

PBI

PBI

PBI

PBI

PBI

PBI

PBI

PBI

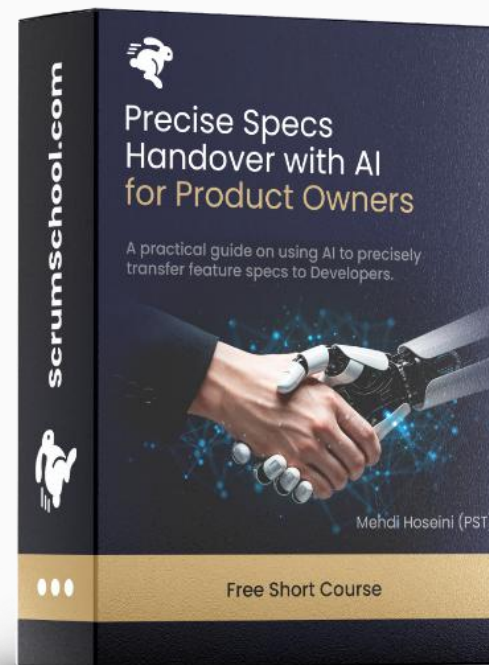
PBI

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Product Backlog Refinement – Visual Design

A great AI tool to create visual designs (Sketch, Mockup, Prototype) is Visily. Just with prompting, create polished designs. It increases your productivity dramatically.

If you want to learn how to use Visily, watch my free short video course, **Precise Specs Handover with AI for Product Owners**.



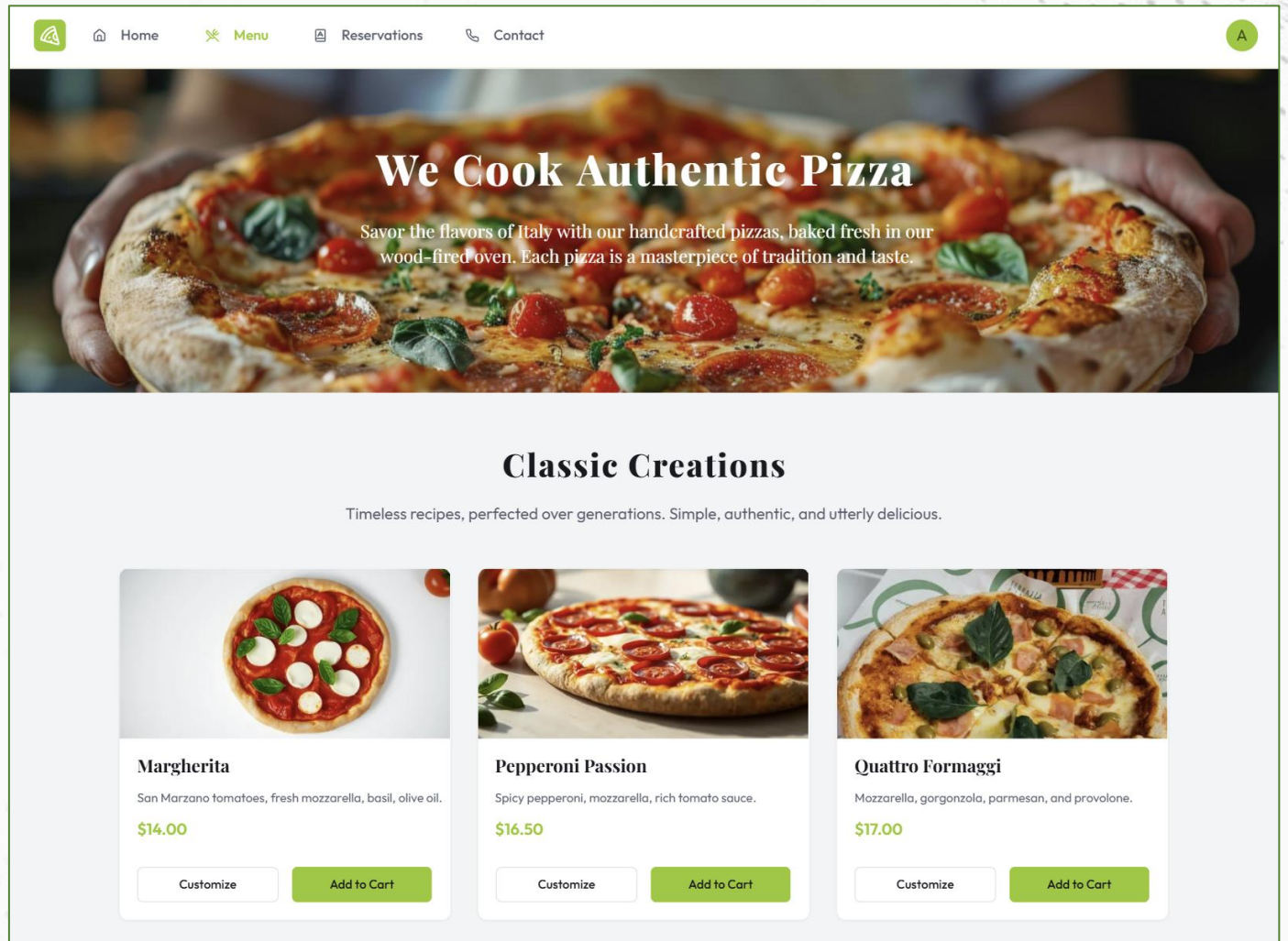
Watch Video

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Product Backlog Refinement – Visual Design Sample

I used this prompt with Visily, and it created this outstanding result:

Create a website for an Italian restaurant that just cooks original pizza with a homepage, menu, reservation form, and contact. Use a modern olive green color palette.



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Product Backlog Refinement – Acceptance Criteria

Acceptance Criteria is a set of test scenarios that a feature must pass to be considered complete and work as intended. It is a non-negotiable mechanism for creating quality features.

You can use Given-When-Then (GWT) format, to write effective test scenarios.

See this example:

Given

Preparation

When

Action

Then

Expectation

A Simple Feature

Number A

Number B

Sum

Result

Given

Number A: 2

Number B: 3

When

Click "Sum"

Then

Result should be 5

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Product Backlog Refinement – Acceptance Criteria

You can leverage AI to generate Acceptance Criteria for PBIs.

Copy this prompt, paste it into an AI system like ChatGPT, fill in the brackets with the specific data of your PBI, and create a draft version of the Acceptance Criteria and then tune it:

*We are building **[your product high-level concept]**.*

*One of the features of this product is **[your feature]**. Create Acceptance Criteria for this feature based on the Gherkin language with the Given-When-Then (GWT) format and show the result in a table with these columns: Scenario Title, Given, When, Then.*

This is an example prompt to create Acceptance Criteria for a feature of an online banking system. See the result on the next page:

We are building an online banking system.

One of the features of this product is that a user can transfer money from one bank account to someone else's bank account. Create Acceptance Criteria for this feature based on the Gherkin language with the Given-When-Then (GWT) format and show the result in a table with these columns: Scenario Title, Given, When, Then.

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Product Backlog Refinement – Acceptance Criteria

Scenario Title	Given	When	Then
Successful transfer to saved beneficiary	I am logged into my online banking account, I have a saved beneficiary "Jane Smith" with account #987654321, And my checking account balance is at least \$500.	I transfer \$250 from my checking account to beneficiary "Jane Smith".	The transfer is processed successfully, My checking account balance is reduced by \$250, I see a confirmation message with reference #TRX-2024-789, And I receive an email confirmation.
Attempt transfer with insufficient funds	I am logged into my online banking account, And my checking account balance is \$100.	I attempt to transfer \$200 to any beneficiary account.	The system prevents the transfer, I see the error: "Insufficient funds. Your available balance is \$100.00", And my account balance remains unchanged.
Transfer exceeds daily limit	I am logged into my online banking account, My account has a \$1,000 daily transfer limit, And I have already transferred \$900 today.	I attempt to transfer \$150 to a beneficiary.	The system prevents the transfer, I see the error: "Transfer would exceed your daily limit of \$1,000. You have \$100 remaining today."
Immediate transfer between own accounts	I am logged into my online banking account, I have a checking account with \$2,000 balance, And I have a savings account.	I transfer \$750 from my checking to my savings account.	The transfer completes immediately, My checking balance is \$1,250, My savings balance increases by \$750, And both accounts show the transaction.
Schedule a future-dated transfer	I am logged into my online banking account, And I have sufficient funds in my checking account.	I schedule a transfer of \$300 to a beneficiary for next Friday's date.	The transfer is scheduled successfully, I see a confirmation: "Transfer of \$300 scheduled for [date]", The funds remain in my account until the scheduled date.
Cancel a scheduled transfer	I am logged into my online banking account, And I have a transfer scheduled for tomorrow.	I cancel the scheduled transfer from my pending transactions.	The transfer is removed from scheduled transactions, I see: "Scheduled transfer has been canceled", And the funds remain available in my account.
Validate invalid account details	I am logged into my online banking account.	I enter an invalid account number (only 5 digits) for a new transfer.	The system shows: "Invalid account number. Please enter a valid 9-12 digit account number", And the "Continue" button remains disabled.
Transfer with exact balance	I am logged into my online banking account, And my checking account balance is exactly \$150.	I transfer \$150 to a beneficiary (my entire balance).	The transfer is processed successfully, My checking account balance becomes \$0.00, And I receive a confirmation.
Business day vs. weekend transfer	I am logged into my online banking account, And today is Friday afternoon.	I initiate a standard transfer (not instant) to another bank.	The system displays: "This transfer will be processed on the next business day (Monday)", And the expected completion date shows as Monday.

Improving Refinement & Planning with AI

A draft suggestion of a Sprint Goal

It is better to bring a draft suggestion of the Sprint Goal to the Sprint Planning. It pushes the Product Owner to order PBIs on top of the Product Backlog in a way that they follow a shared objective, making the Product Backlog actionable.

Copy this prompt, paste it into an AI system like ChatGPT, fill in the brackets with the specific data of your product, and use the result as the draft suggestion of your Sprint Goal:

*We use **[Sprint duration like two-week]** Sprints to build **[Your Product]**. The Product Vision is to **[Your Product Vision]**. We use **[Product Goal duration like quarterly]** Product Goals as the mid-term goals. The current Product Goal is to **[Your current Product Goal]**. This is the **[Sprint number like first]** Sprint of the current Product Goal. So, break down the current Product Goal into smaller short-term goals and use them as the base to create a Sprint Goal for the **[Sprint number]** Sprint aligned with the Product Vision and the current Product Goal through the FOCUS model as follows:*

- Fun: come up with a memorable title and try to inject an element of fun.*
- Outcome-oriented: The goal should achieve a common understanding of what you are trying to accomplish.*
- Collaborative: The whole Scrum Team creates the Sprint Goal together.*
- Ultimate: The Sprint Goal should include a why, the ultimate reason behind what we are trying to achieve.*
- Singular: The Sprint Goal should consist of a single common objective instead of multiple competing objectives.*

Improving Refinement & Planning with AI

Definition of Done

The DoD is the shared clear understanding of what Done means. The more stringent the Definition of Done, the more quality product. It should include expectations from the following 6 main categories:

Process
Expectations

Technical
Expectations

Delivery
Expectations

Industry
Standards

Organization
Expectations

Non-Functional
Requirements

Definition of Done

Product: _____
Version: 1.0 Date: 2026/01/01

- The PBI has passed all the Acceptance Criteria expectations
- The PBI has been integrated with other components
- Regulatory compliance
- Security test has been passed
- Works in various devices desktop, mobile, tablet (Responsiveness)
- Help documentation has been updated
- ...

Improving Refinement & Planning with AI

Definition of Done

You can leverage AI to create and enhance your Definition of Done.

Copy this prompt, paste it into an AI system like ChatGPT, fill in the brackets with the specific data of your product and create the Definition of Done:

*We are building an application for **[The high-level concept of your Product]**. The product name is **[Your Product name]**.*

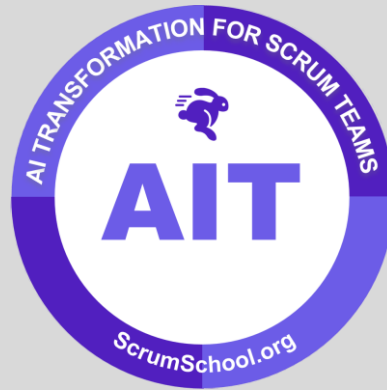
The Definition of Done is the common shared understanding of the criteria that must be met for an Increment to be considered complete. It is the commitment of the Increment artifact to enhancing transparency and focus.

*Create a Definition of Done document containing all required expectations for the **[Your Product name]** product.*

The Definition of Done should be like a checklist including the following main categories of expectations:

- 1- Process expectations*
- 2- Technical expectations*
- 3- Delivery expectations*
- 4- Industry standards & expectations*
- 5- Organization expectations*
- 6- Non-Functional Requirements*

After improving the Refinement & Planning step, the JobNext team continued improving other steps of the Product Delivery Lifecycle.



AI Transformation for Scrum Teams Premium Class

Now, it is decision time. If you want to go further and prepare yourself as a Scrum Master to lead your team in their AI Transformation journey, join my upcoming advanced “AI Transformation for Scrum Teams” class.

[Enroll Now](#)

See you in Step 5 ...