



Feature / story

Date when added to board

Hard deadline (if applicable)

2009-08-20 2009-09-30
(description)

★ = priority
★★★ = panic



Who is analyzing / testing right now

Task / defect

(description) = task (description) = defect

(description) = completed

(description) why = blocked

(description) = who is doing this right now

What to pull first

1. Panic features ★★★
(should be swarmed and kept moving. Interrupt other work and break WIP limits as necessary)
2. Priority features ★
3. Hard deadline features (only if deadline is at risk)
4. Oldest features



What is this? Who is it for?

This is a detailed example of a fairly typical 2-tier Kanban board, for teams that know the basics of Kanban and are taking their first steps towards implementing it in practice.

How do I use it?

Like a code example. Use it as a source of ideas & inspiration when you create your own board. Or copy & evolve.

Does my Kanban board have to look like this?

No! This is just an example of a bunch of useful patterns.

What is the difference between features and tasks?

- **Features** (or stories or MMF or whatever flavor you prefer) are deliverables. They flow across the board from left to right, and their workflow state is indicated by which column they are in. The WIP (work in progress) limit in each column applies to features, not tasks.
- **Tasks** are part of a feature, the stuff that needs to be done to implement that feature. They don't flow across the board, instead their state is indicated by colored markers. When a feature reaches development-done then all its tasks are thrown away. If defects are found in acceptance test then defect notes are added under acceptance-doing.

What do the columns mean?

- **Next** = the stuff that the product owner wants done next.
- **Analysis** = figure out the concrete acceptance criteria, identify the first few tasks, and if the feature is too big break it into smaller features.

- **Development** = development :o)

- **Acceptance** = we think we are done, so ask stakeholders to verify that the feature is acceptable.

- **Prod** = the feature is in production. Done-done. Nothing left to do. Empty this column from time to time. This is the "feel good" column, to see what we recently accomplished.

What about tracking?

At the moment this example does not include anything about how to track lead times and such. One simple way is to maintain a spreadsheet that tracks when each feature reached which state, then create a CFD (cumulative flow diagram). Might add an example of that here later.

Where can I learn more about Kanban?

Try www.limitedwipsociety.org or www.crisp.se/kanban.

If you are familiar with Scrum, check out:

www.crisp.se/henrik.kniberg/Kanban-vs-Scrum.pdf

Who created this example and why?

I did (Henrik Kniberg). I notice that many fledgling Kanban teams stumble in the beginning and are happy to see concrete examples to work from. So I wanted to collect a host of typical Kanban "patterns" and show in one single example.

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