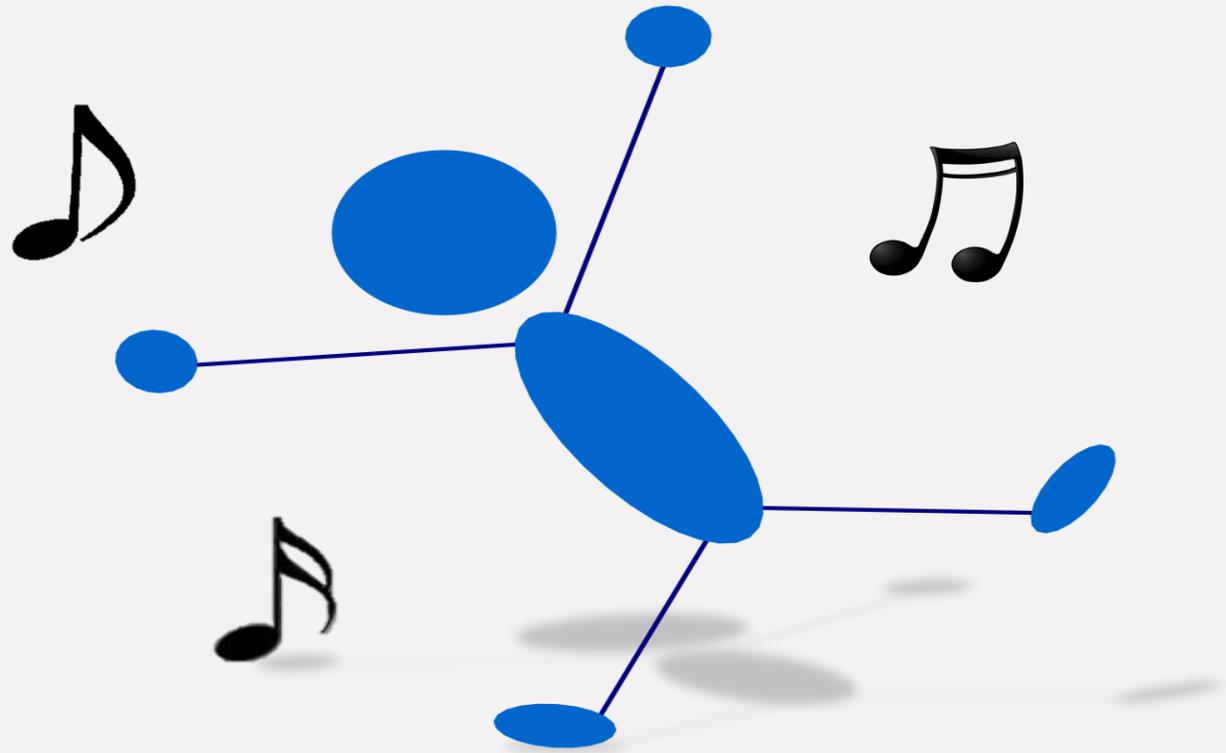


# From Models to Stories: Building your Agile Backlog

Candase Hokanson, PMI-ACP

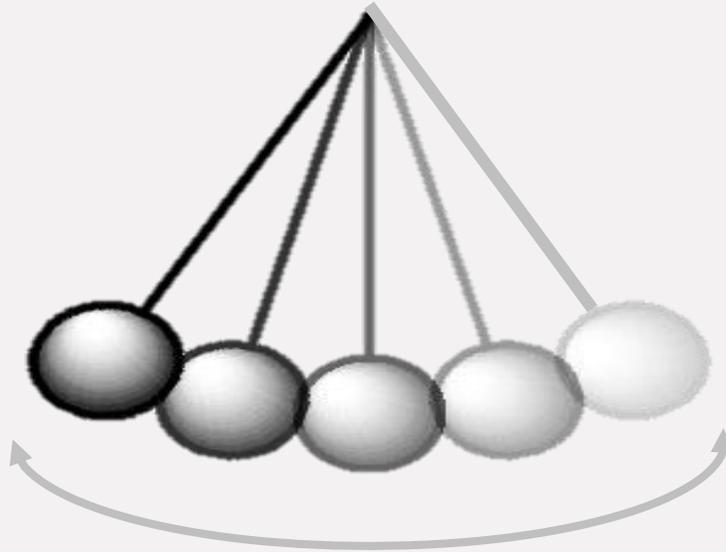
May 26, 2016

# Meet Blue, the SeiSounds Product Owner



Sometimes the pendulum swings too far

Too much  
documentation



Not enough  
documentation

What is “just enough”?



# The measure of success is working software (not comprehensive documentation)

**Models in  
agile**



**Prioritize based on value**

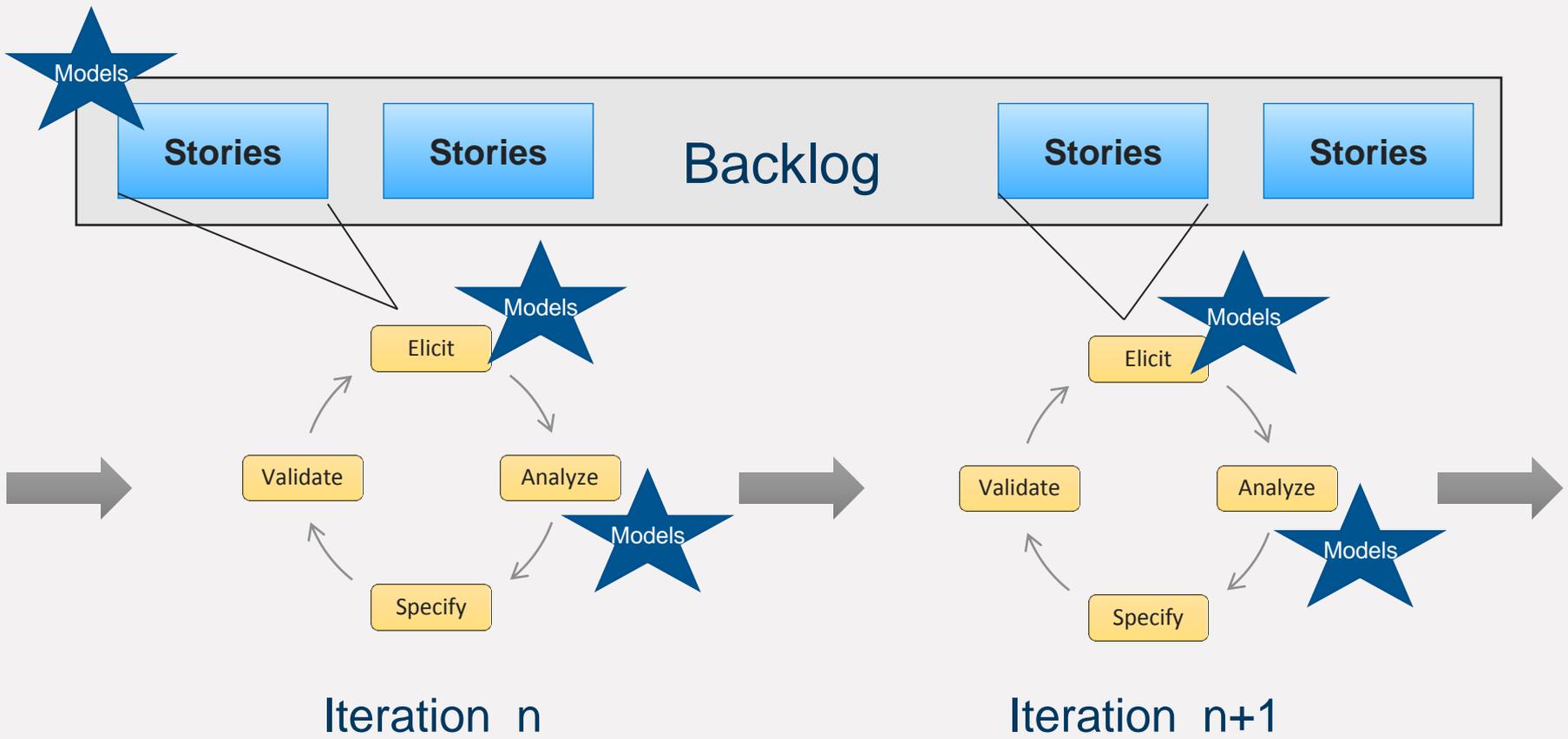
**Easy to see the big picture**

**Find missing details**

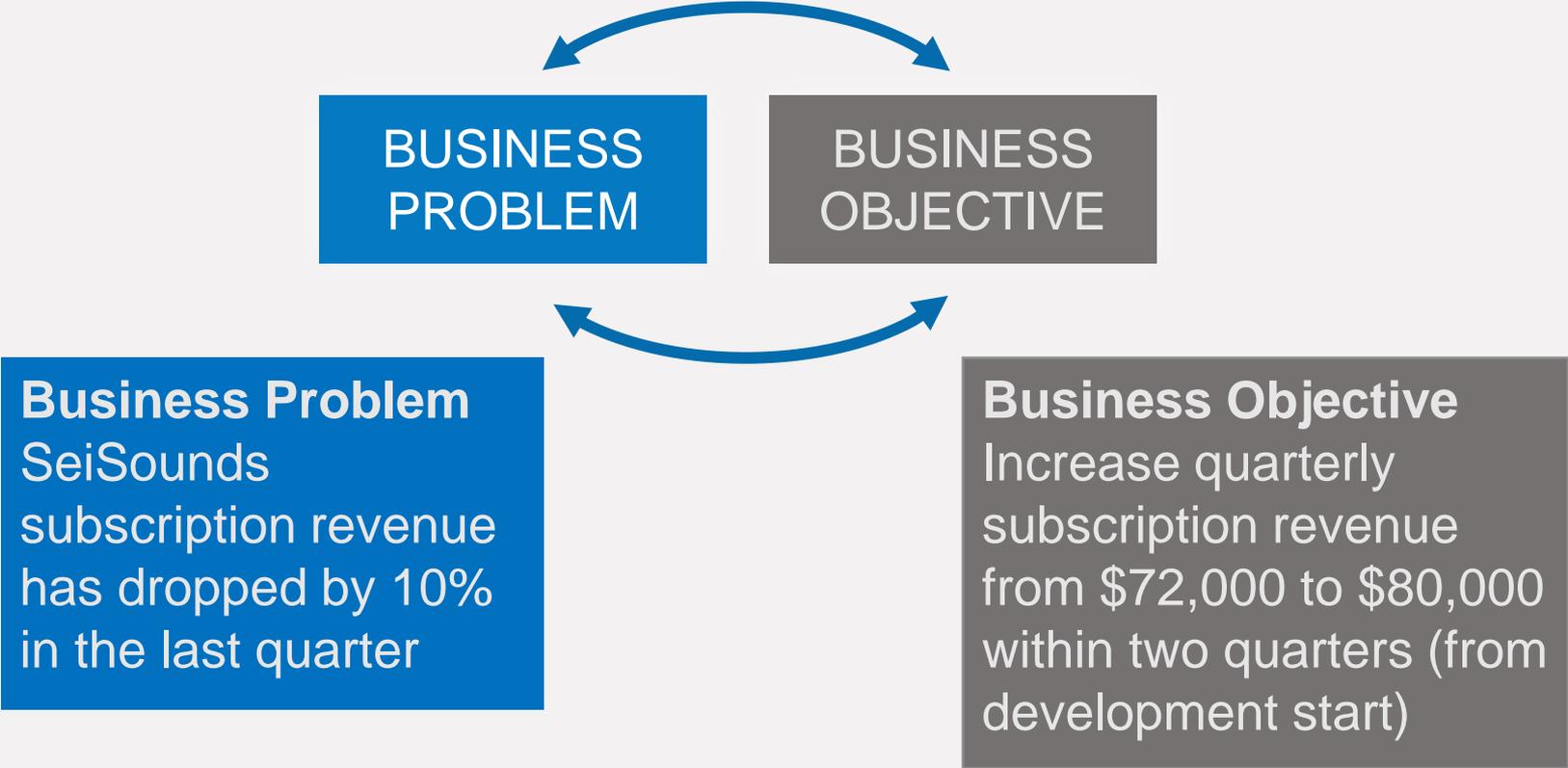
**Collaborate with customers to identify  
needs**

**Enhance team communication**

# Models help identify stories and elaborate stories

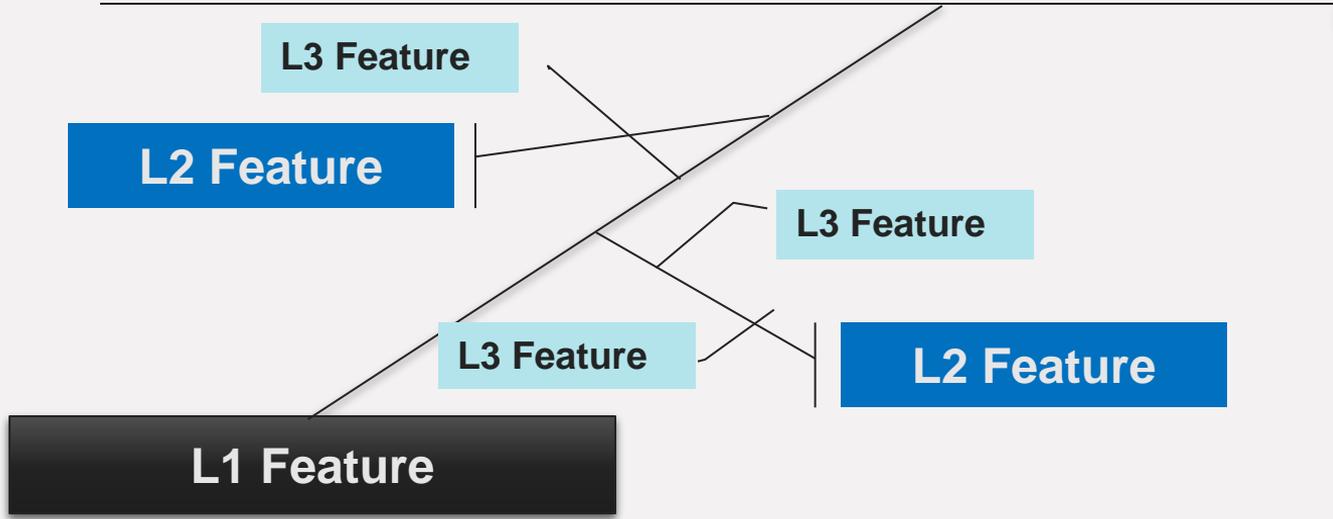


# Business problems & objectives drive the backlog



# Feature Trees can help you organize value

- ▶ A one-page view of all the features
- ▶ Organized into levels of features
- ▶ Used to organize requirements by feature
- ▶ Use naming conventions



**Release 1**

**Custom Radio Player**

**Create Station**

**Rate Songs**

**Modify Station**

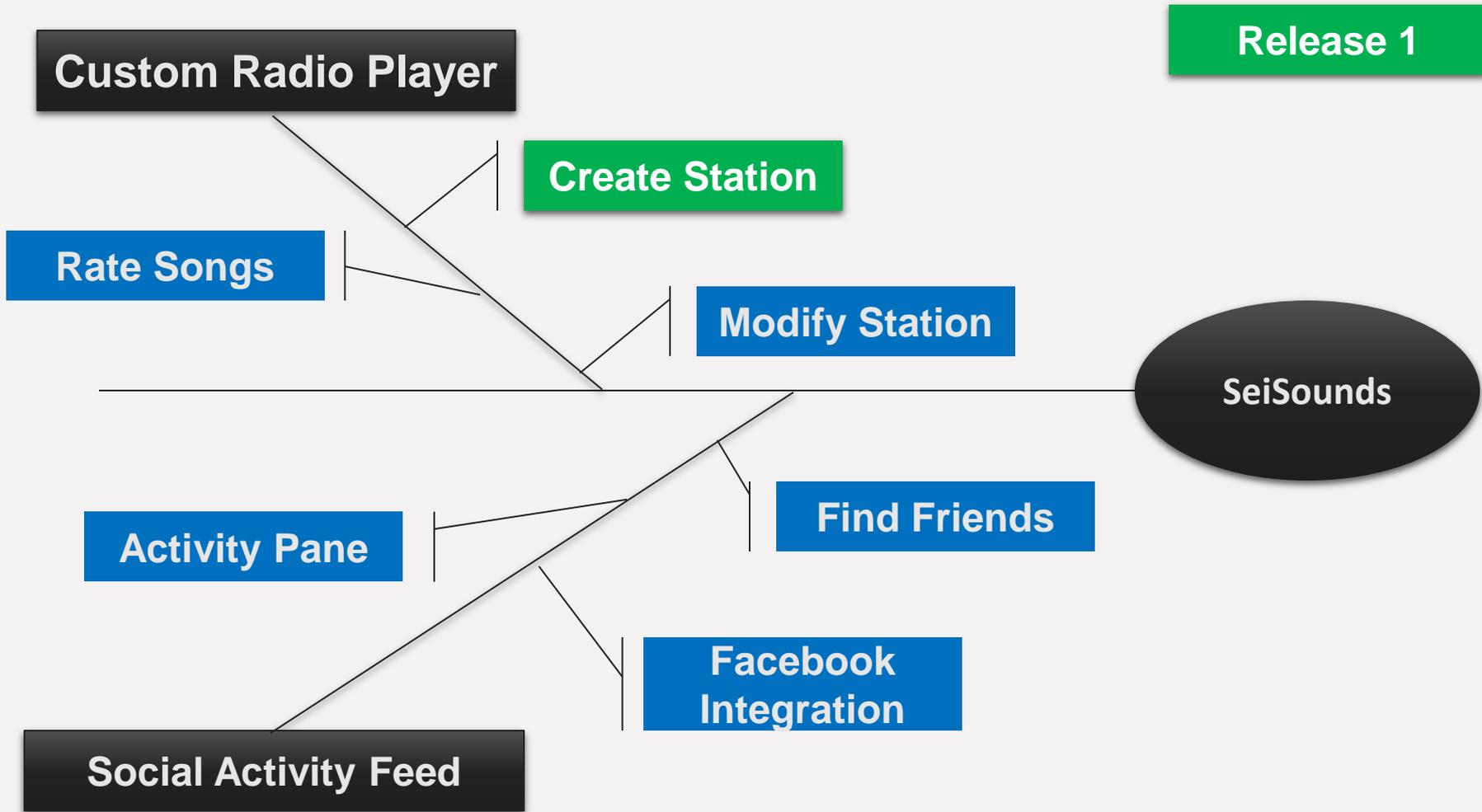
**SeiSounds**

**Activity Pane**

**Find Friends**

**Facebook  
Integration**

**Social Activity Feed**



# High-level features start to become your epics

## Create Station

**As a SeiSounds listener,**  
**I want to create a custom radio station by selecting my favorite artists,**  
**so that I can discover new music similar to the artists I already like**

**As a SeiSounds listener,**  
**I want to create a custom radio station from a song,**  
**so that I can discover new music similar to a specific song I really like**

## User Story: Good but not sufficient

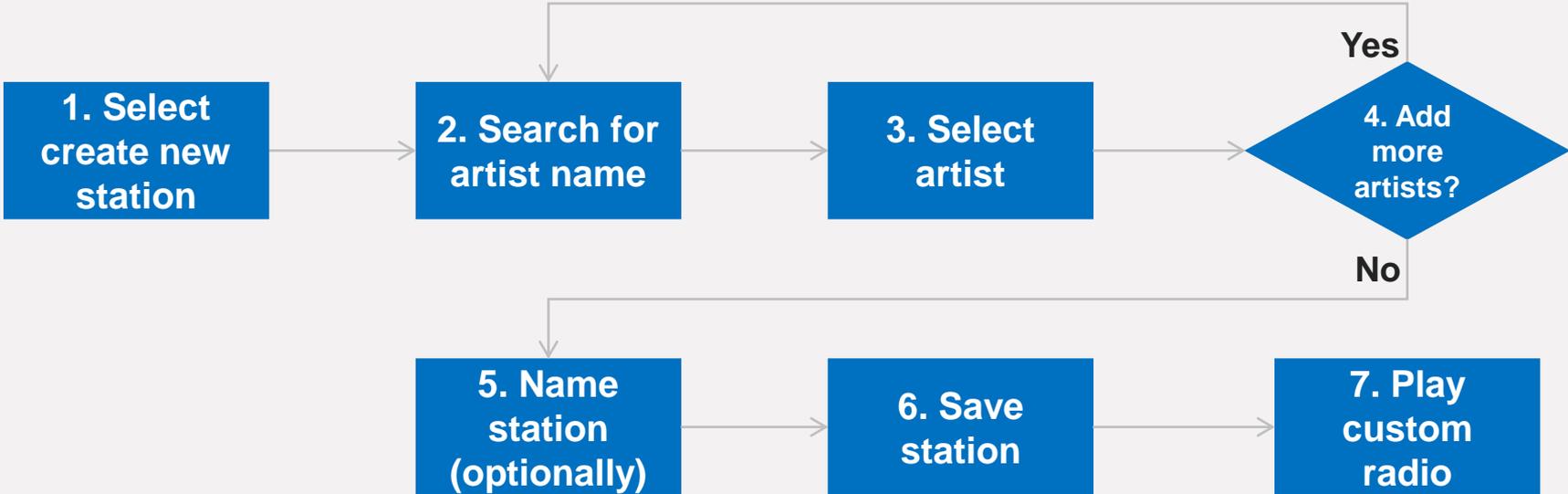
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[As a <>, I want <> so that <>], a promise to have a  
Conversation

**.....but you need more than just a story**

# Process flows can help break down epics

## Create Station from Artists L2 Process Flow



# Process steps can become user stories

**2. Search for artist name**

As a **SeiSounds listener,**  
I want **to be able to search for artists to create my station from,**  
So that **I can quickly find the artists I like**

**3. Select artist**

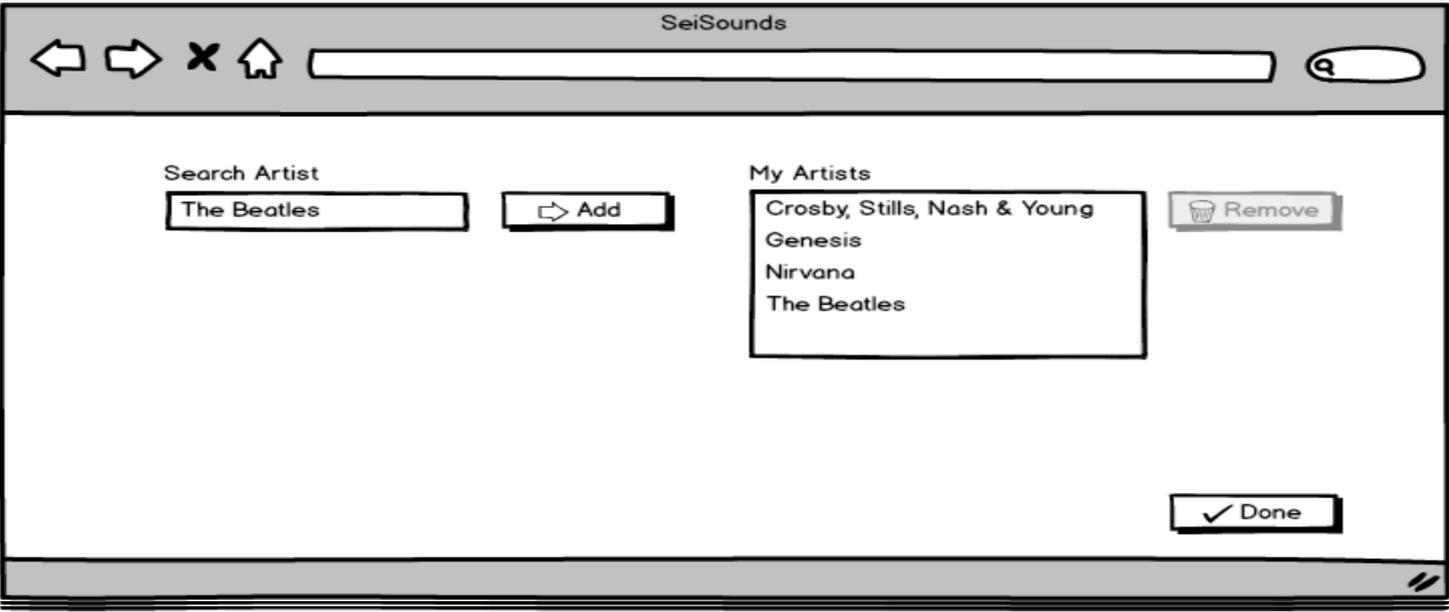
As a **SeiSounds listener,**  
I want **to be able to select an artist to create a custom radio station from,**  
So that **I can hear other songs similar to that artist's songs**

Technical Story  
**In order to allow listeners to create stations from their favorite artists, listeners need suggestion logic to load stations with music similar to the selected artist's music**

**5. Name station (optionally)**

As a **SeiSounds listener,**  
I want **to be able to name my new radio station**  
So that **I can refer back to it later for future listening**

# Mockups can help you start to elaborate your story



# As you elaborate, you can document acceptance criteria textually

**As a** SeiSounds listener,  
**I want** to be able to select an artist to create a custom radio station from,  
**So that** I can hear other songs similar to that artist

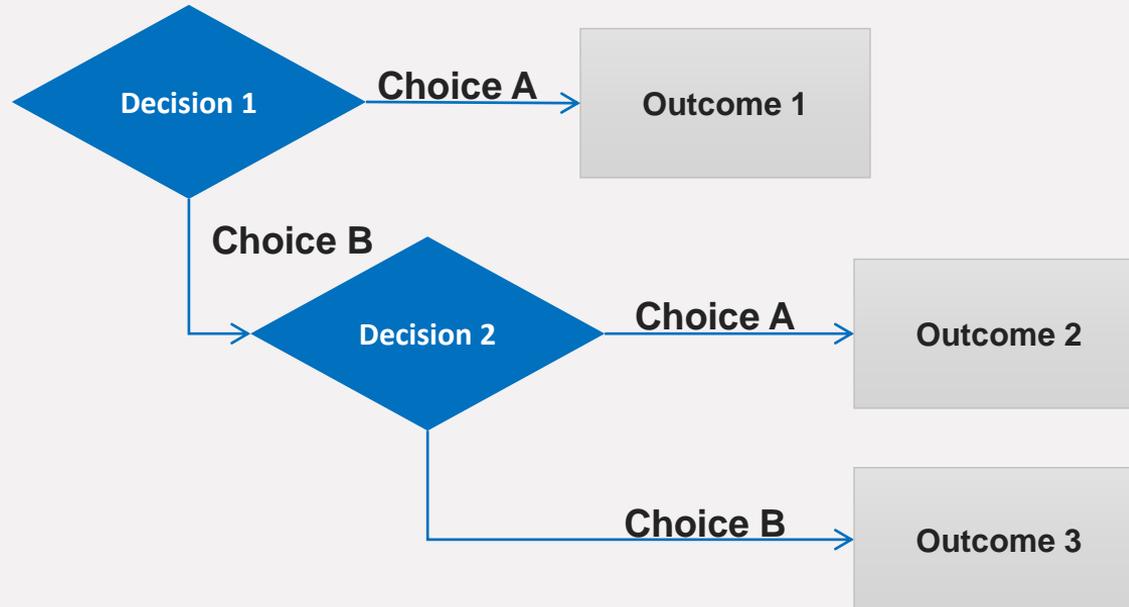
**GIVEN** that a listener has initiated a new station,  
**WHEN** they view results from an artist search,  
**THEN** the listener can select an artist for the station from the results

**GIVEN** that a listener is viewing results from an artist search,  
**WHEN** they select an artist for the station,  
**THEN** the listener can select up to 4 additional artists

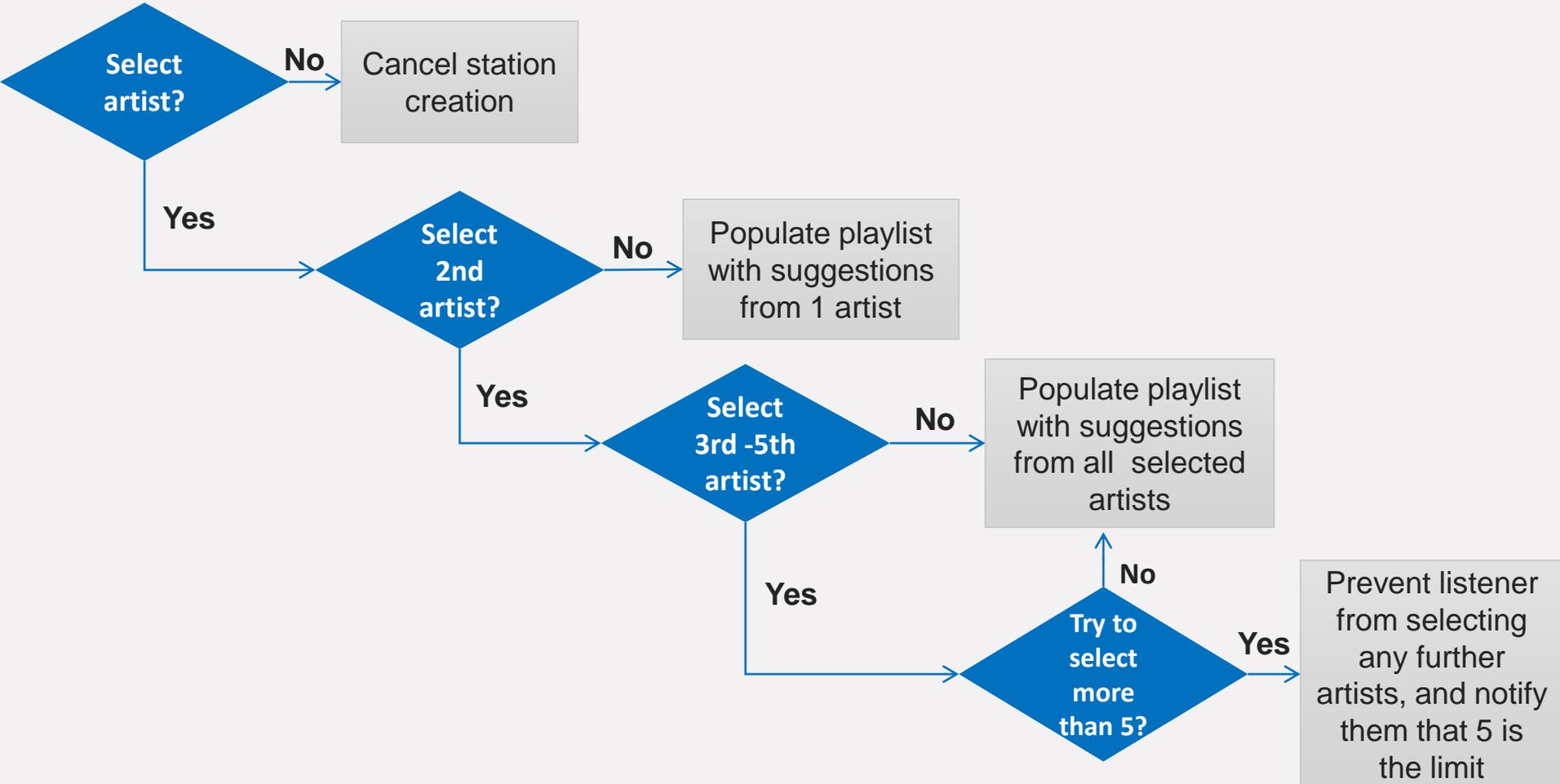
**GIVEN** that a listener has initiated a new station,  
**WHEN** they have selected 1-5 artists for the station,  
**THEN** populate the radio playlist with songs similar to songs of the selected artists

# Decision Trees help you consider all scenarios

- Model branches of “if” statements to break down process flows or use cases
- Help think through all possible conditions and outcomes
- Visually support acceptance criteria



# Decision models can supplement Acceptance Criteria



So which models do I need to use? Well...

If you've seen one agile project, you've seen one agile project.

# Examples of what models to use and when

## Find features & epics

- Business Objectives Model
- Feature Tree
- L1 Process Flow

## Find stories

- L2 Process Flow
- State Diagram
- Ecosystem Map

## Elaborate stories

- Decision Table
- Business Data Diagram

Questions?

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