



# From Models to Stories: Building your Agile Backlog

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# Agenda



**Why requirements models in agile?**



Finding features & epics



Finding user stories

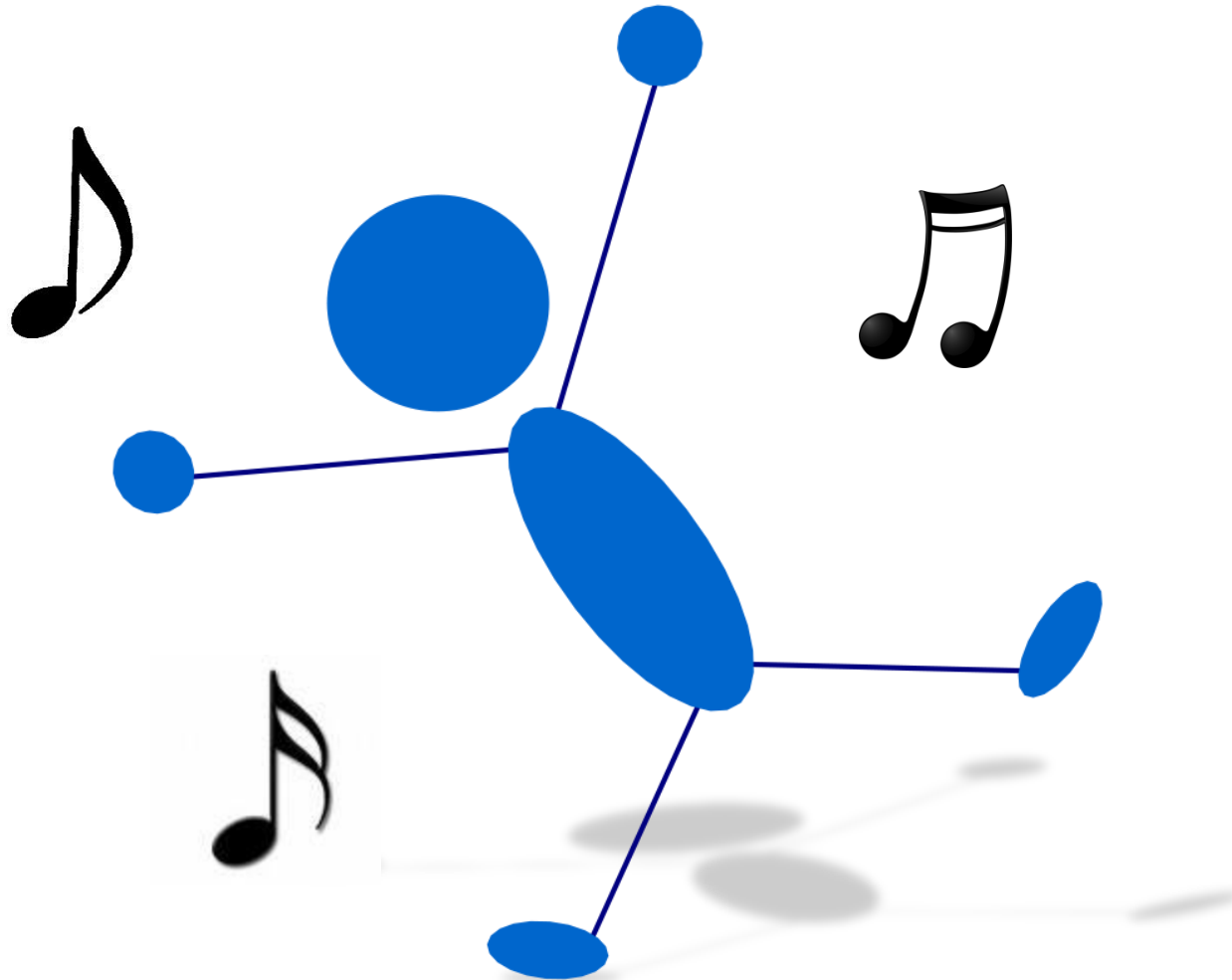


Elaborating user stories

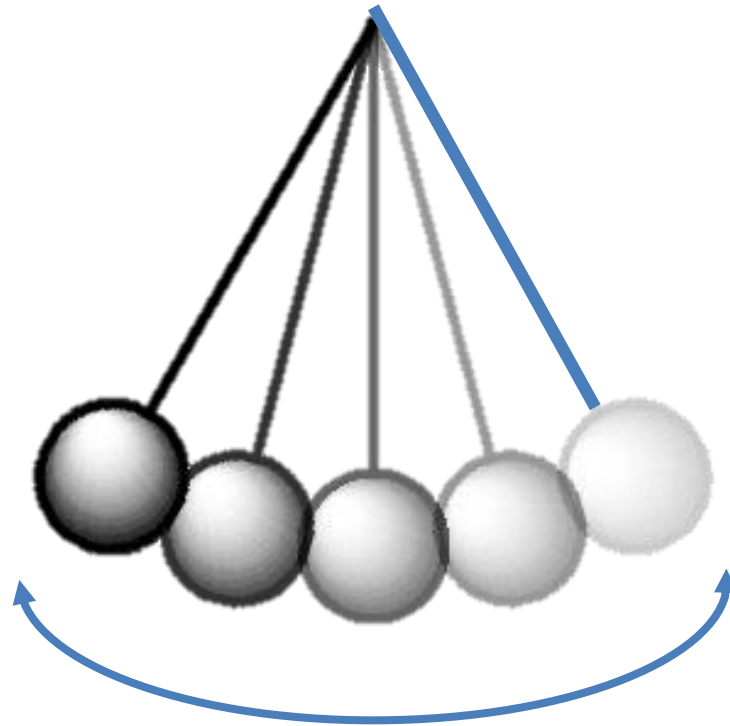


Key take-aways

# Meet Blue, the SeiSounds Product Owner



# Sometimes the pendulum swings too far



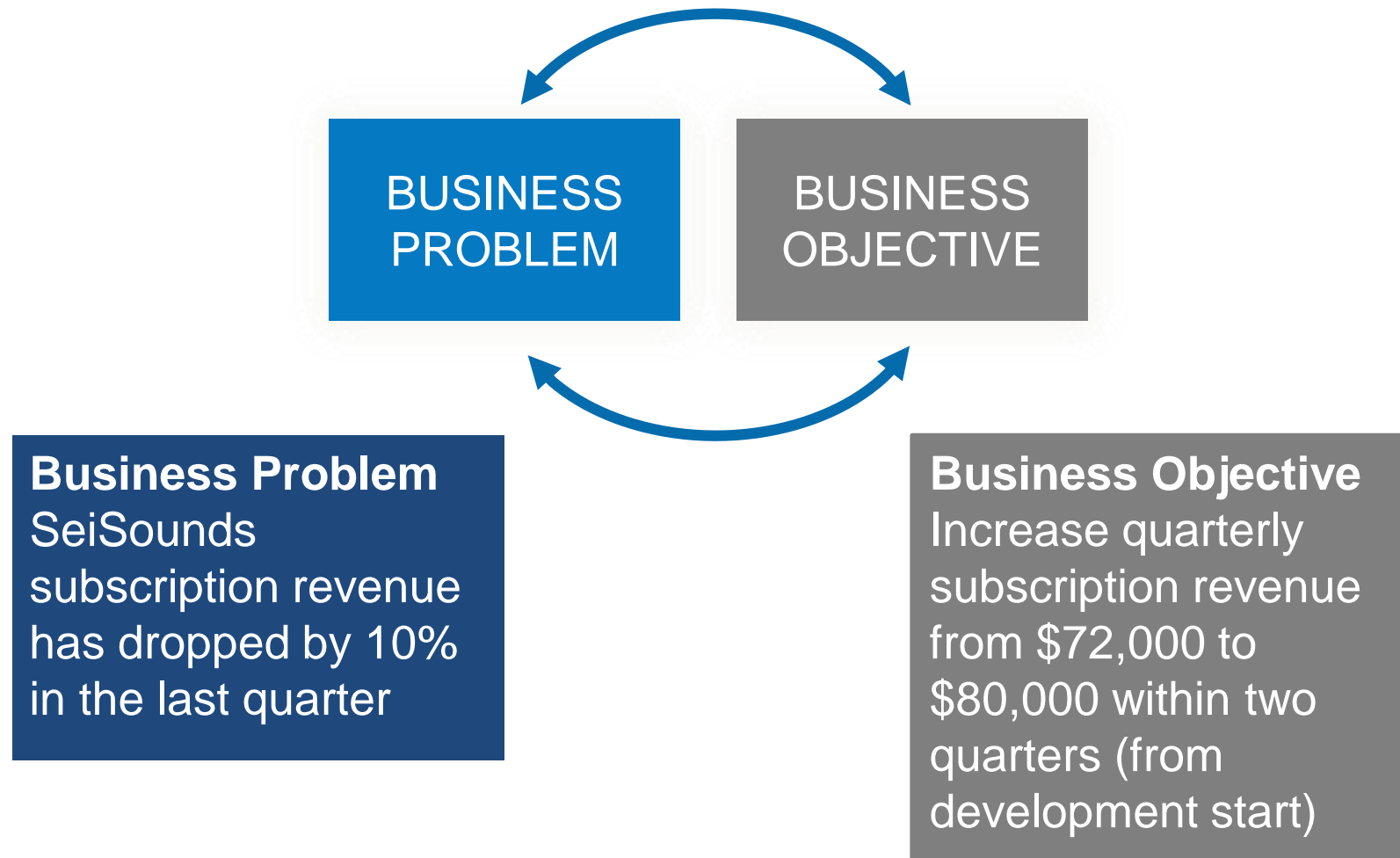
# The measure of success is working software (not comprehensive documentation)



# Chat Poll

- **Agile or waterfall or both?**
- **What models do you use?**

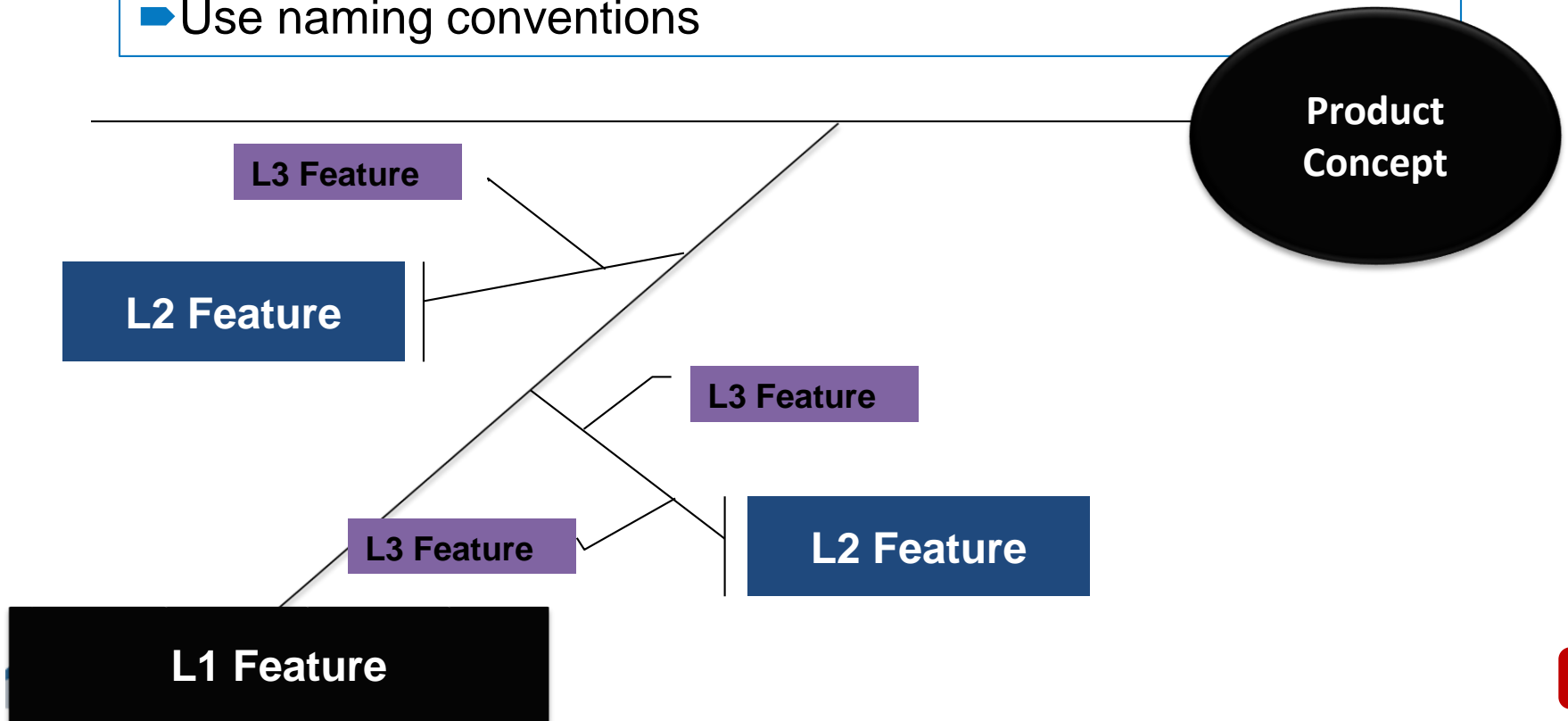
# Business problems & objectives drive the backlog





# 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



# Custom Radio Player

Create Station

Rate Songs

Modify Station

SeiSounds

Activity Pane

Find Friends

Social Activity Feed

Facebook  
Integration

# 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

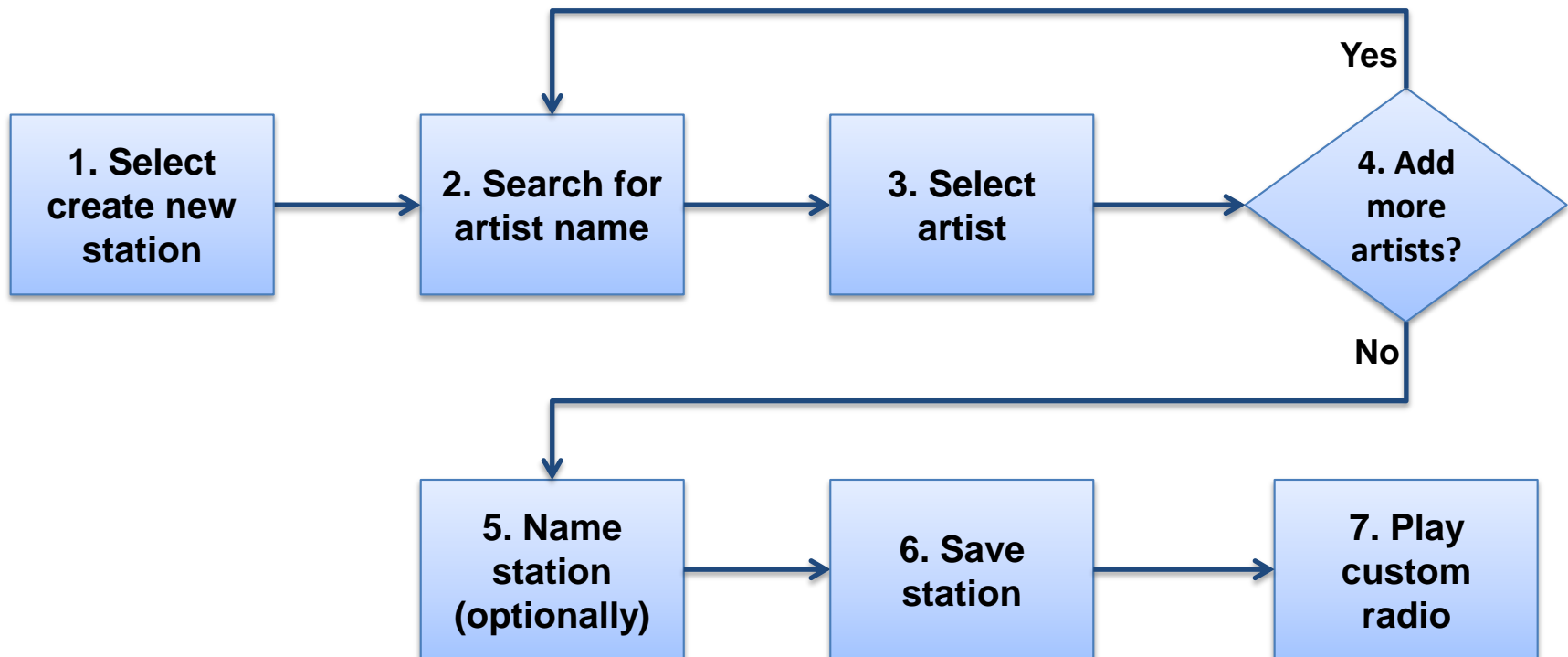
[Title], for a story small enough to fit on a **Card**

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

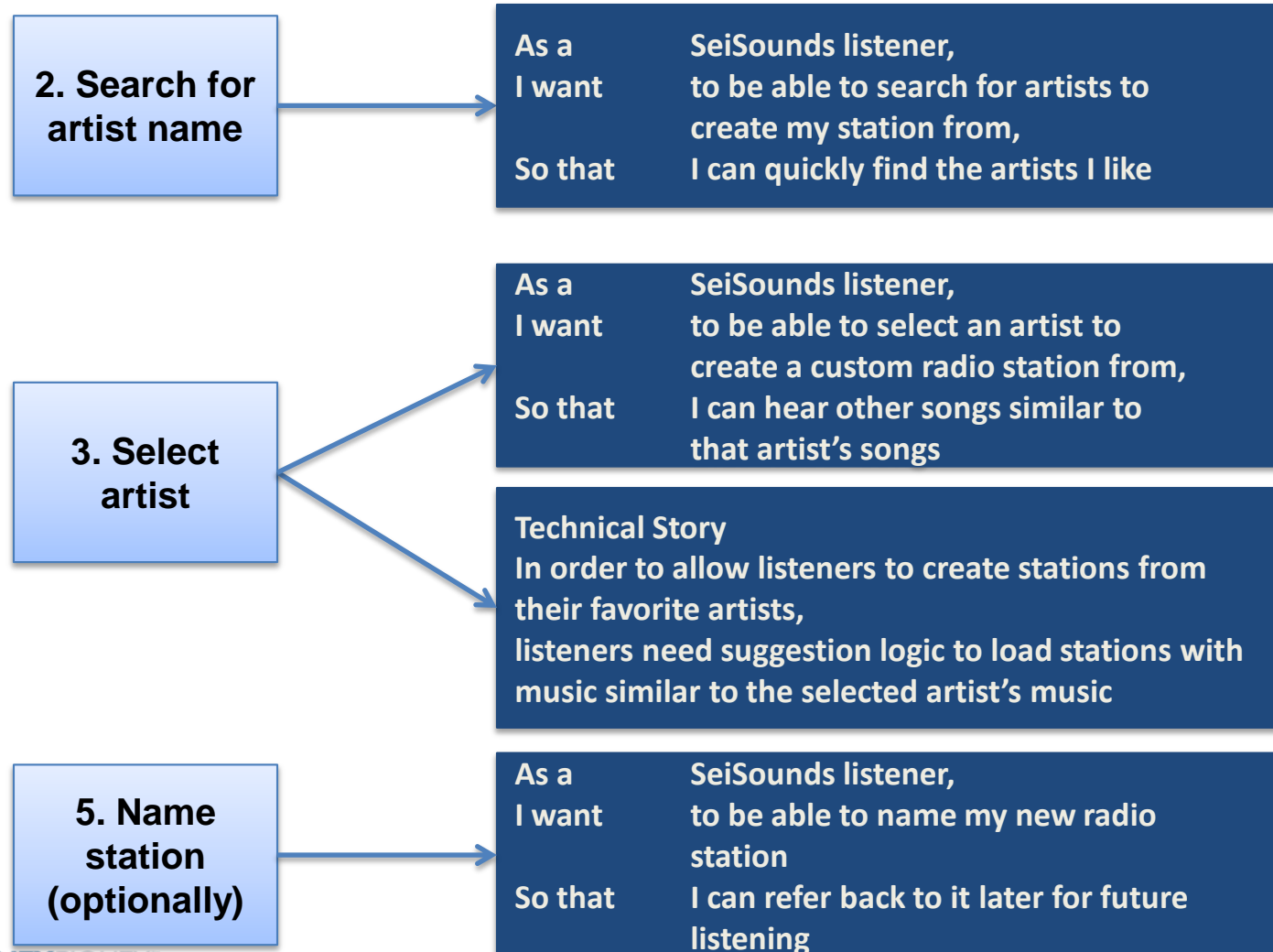
[Given<>, when<>, then<>], **Confirmation** with acceptance criteria and test results for the story

# Process flows can help break down epics

## Create Station from Artists L2 Process Flow



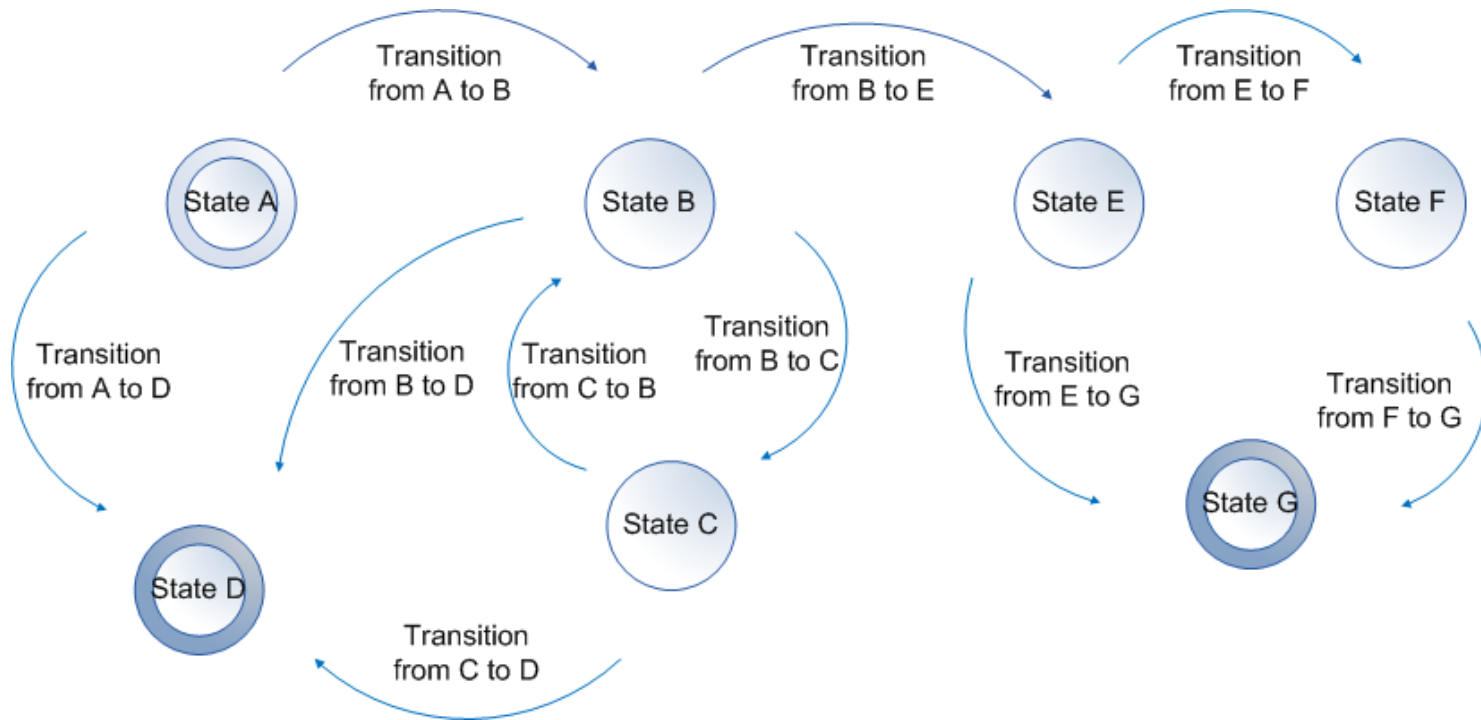
# Process steps can become user stories



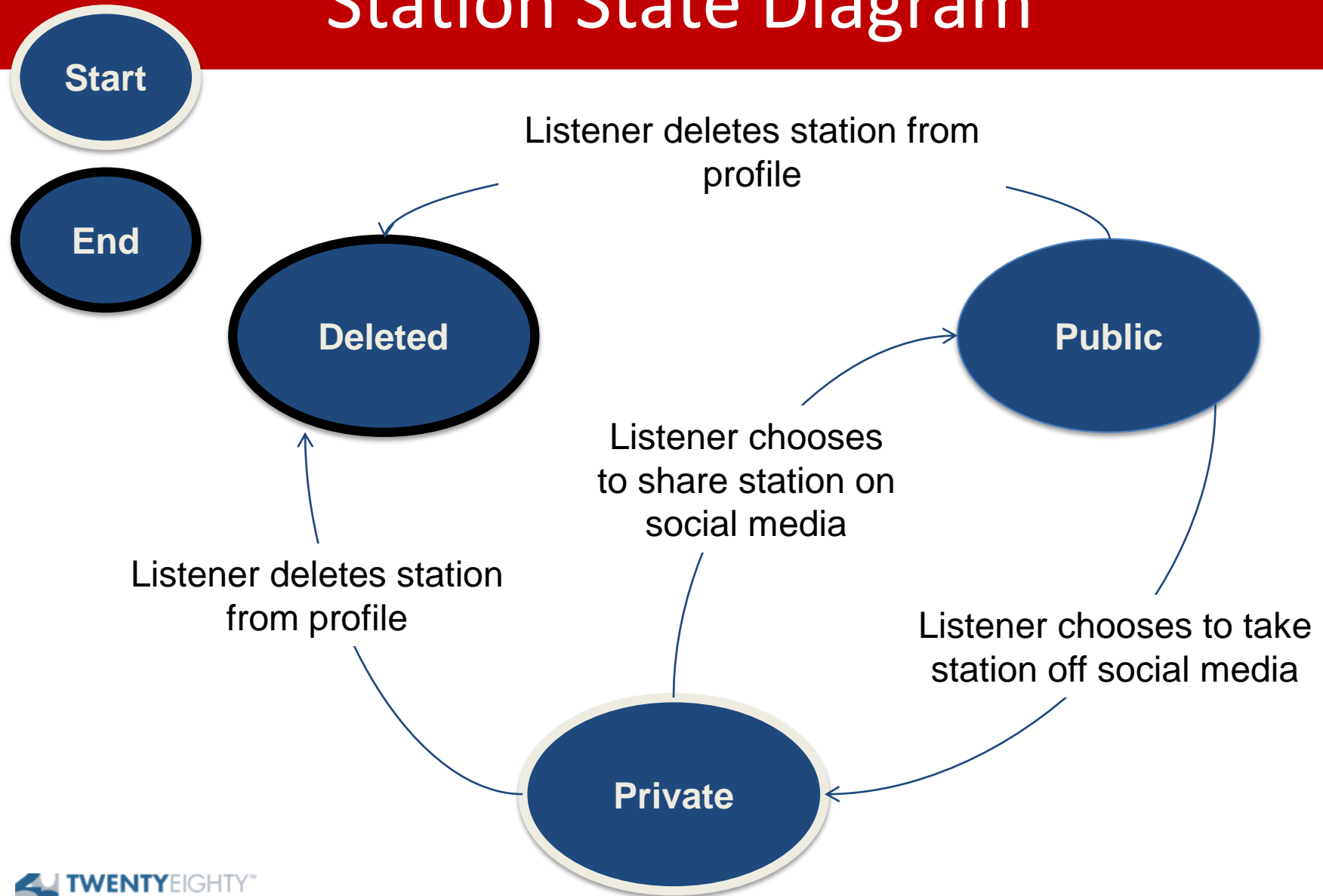
# State models help find stories

| Initial State | Target State |                              |                        |                        |                        |                        |                        |
|---------------|--------------|------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
|               | State A      | State B                      | State C                | State D                | State E                | State F                | State G                |
|               | State A      | no<br>Transition from A to B | no                     | Transition from A to D | no                     | no                     | no                     |
|               | State B      | no                           | Transition from B to C | Transition from B to D | Transition from B to E | no                     | no                     |
|               | State C      | Transition from C to B       | no                     | Transition from C to D | no                     | no                     | no                     |
|               | State D      | no                           | no                     | no                     | no                     | no                     | no                     |
|               | State E      | no                           | no                     | no                     | no                     | Transition from E to F | Transition from E to G |
|               | State F      | no                           | no                     | no                     | no                     | no                     | Transition from F to G |
|               | State G      | no                           | no                     | no                     | no                     | no                     | no                     |

- Diagram helps us visualize allowed transitions
- Show only valid transitions

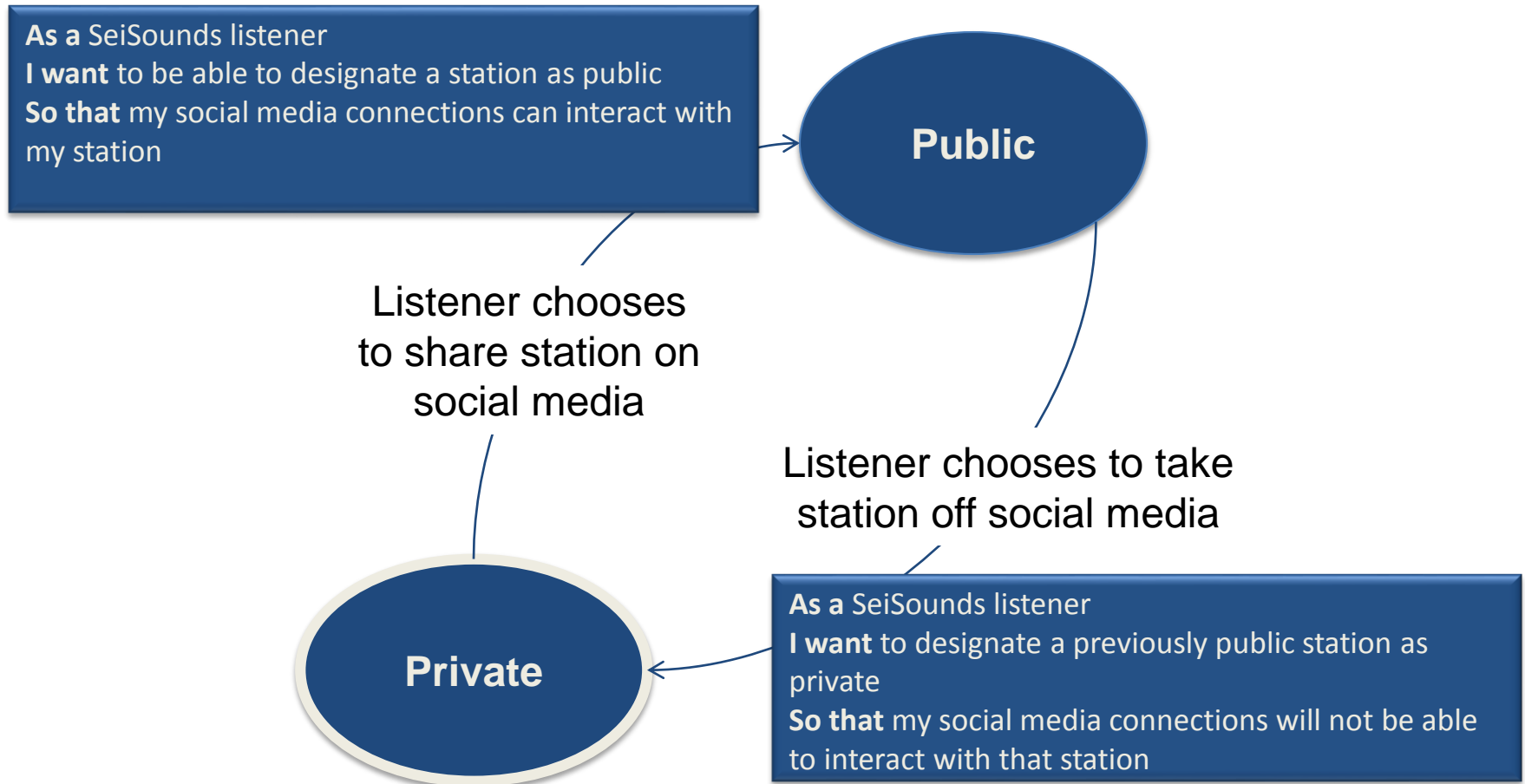


# Station State Diagram

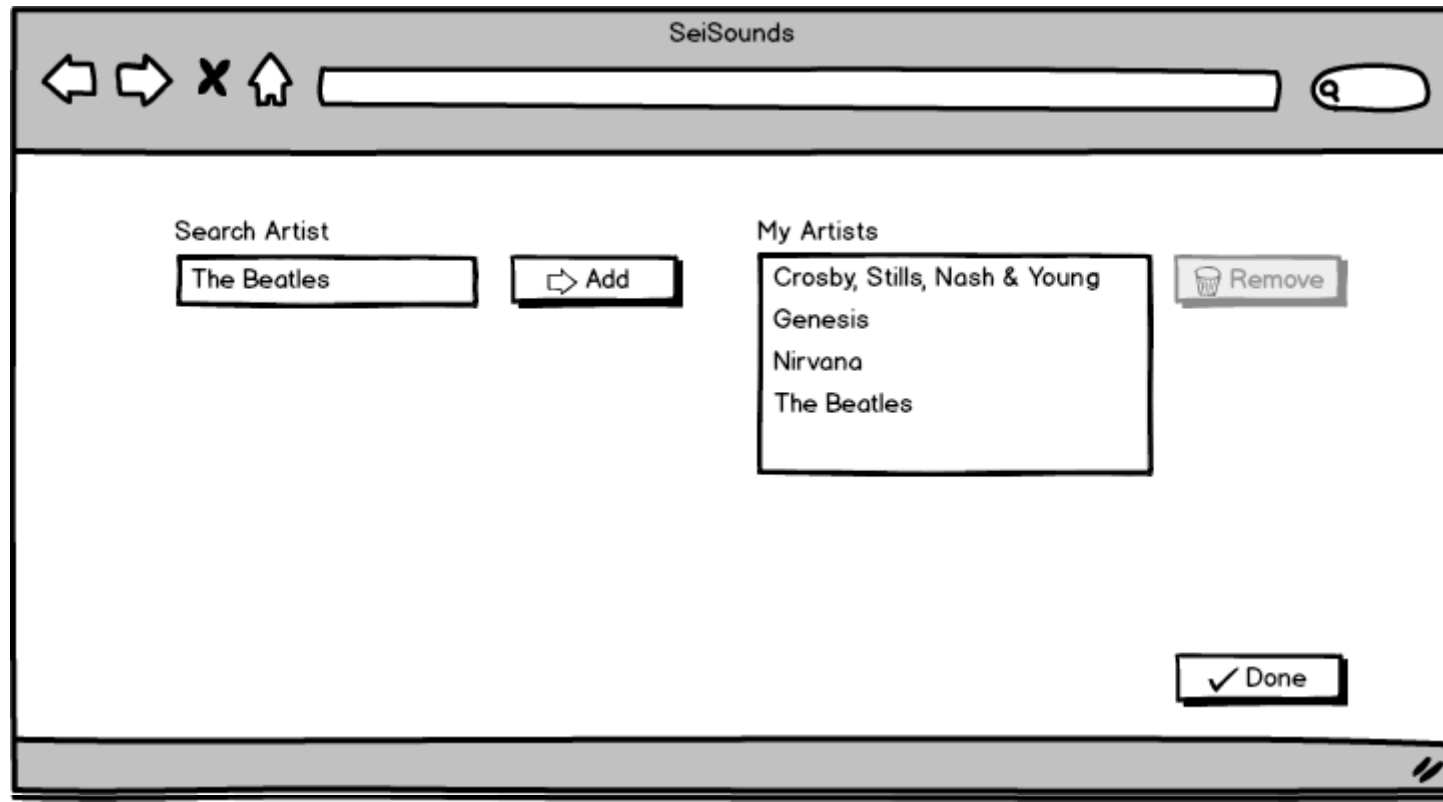




# Derive stories from state transitions



# 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

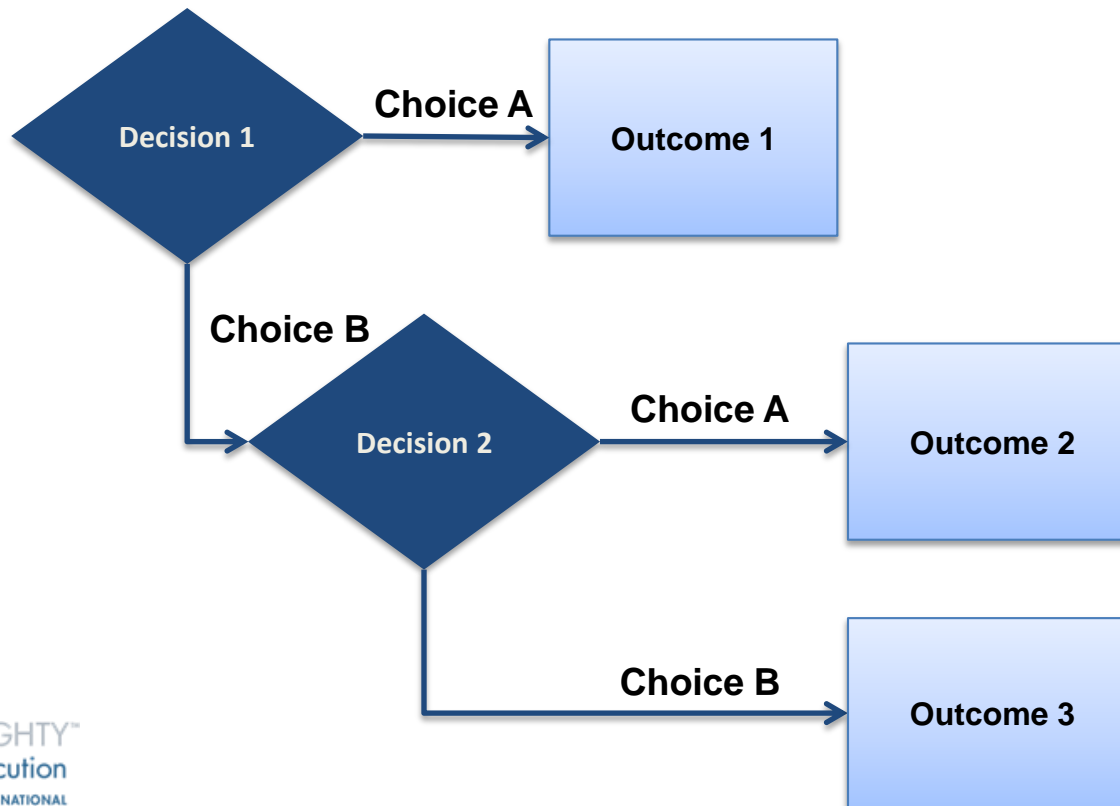
**GIVEN** that a listener has initiated a new station,  
**WHEN** they view results from an artist search,  
**THEN** the listener can select an artist for the station from the results

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

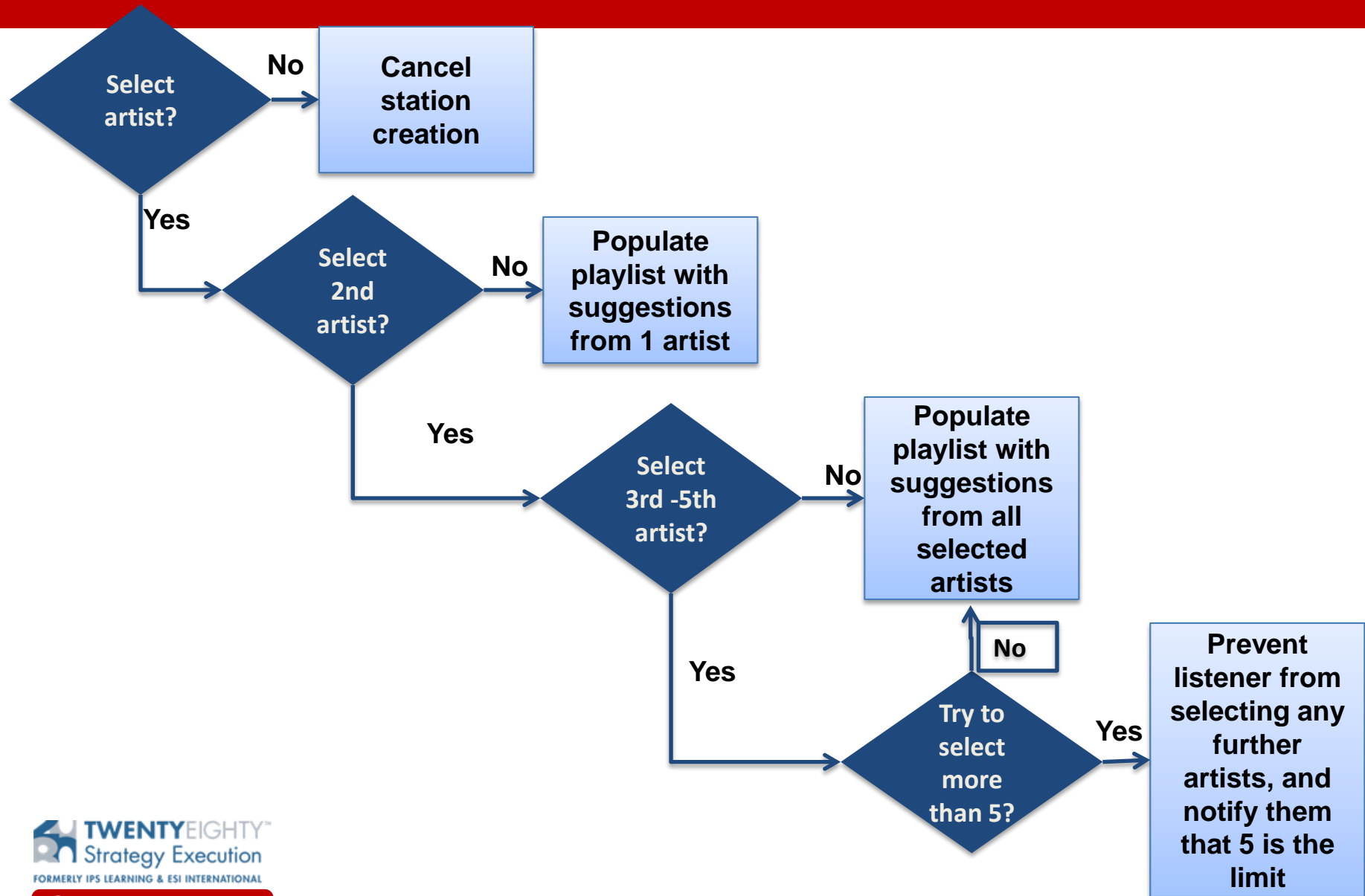
**GIVEN** that a listener has initiated a new station,  
**WHEN** they have selected 1-5 artists for the station,  
**THEN** populate the radio playlist with songs similar to songs of the selected artists

# 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

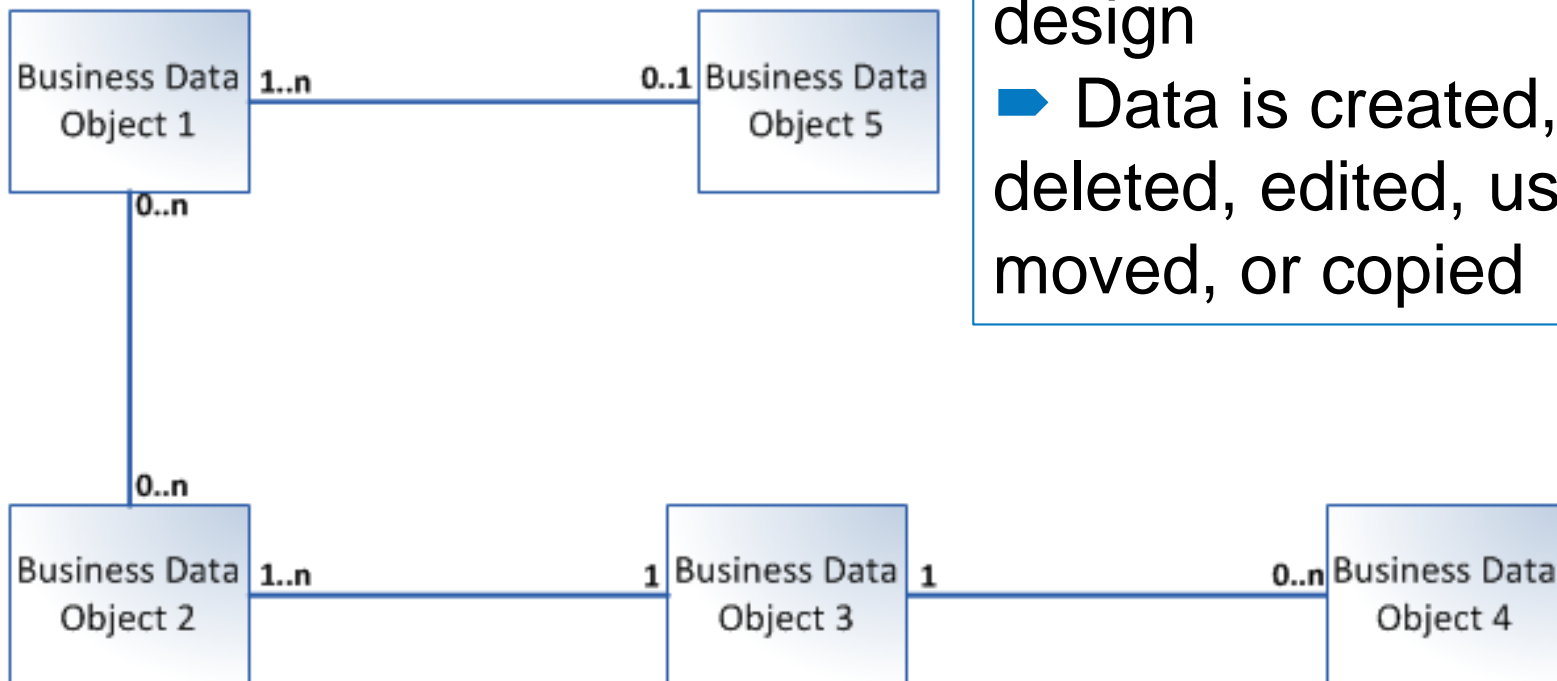


# Decision models can supplement Acceptance Criteria

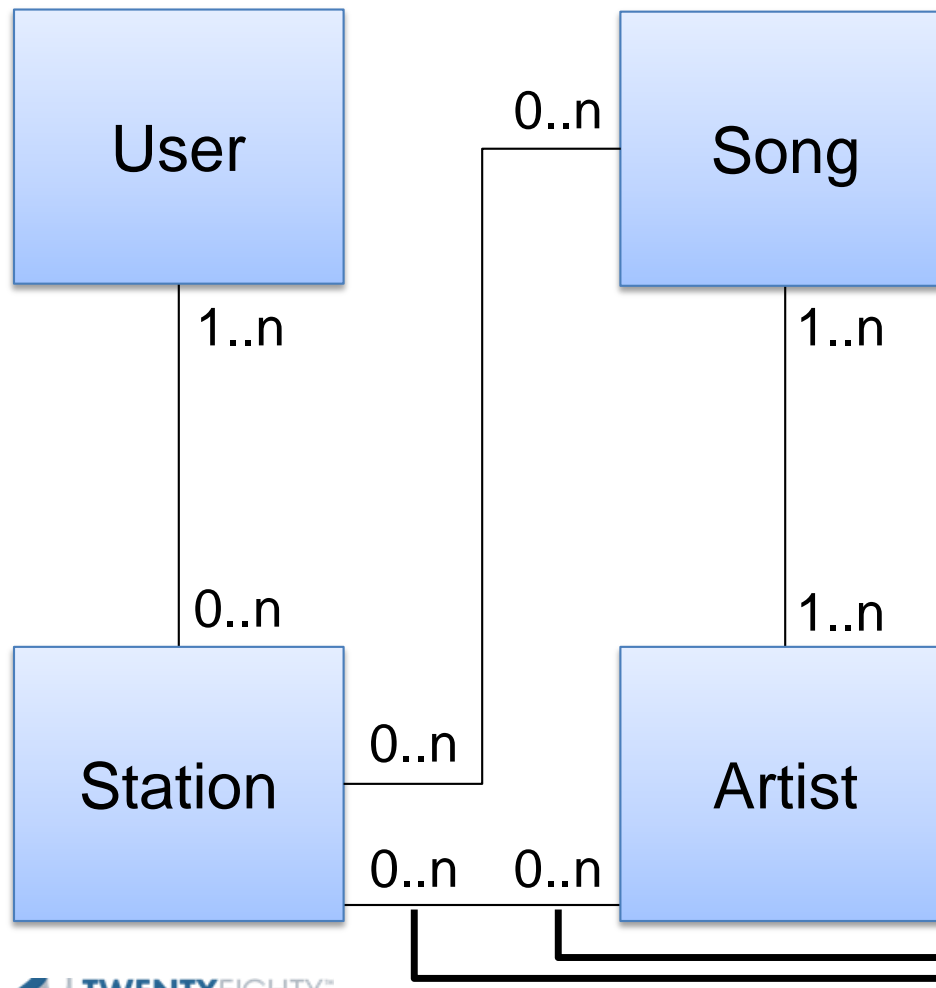


# Business Data Diagram (BDD)

- Show all **business** data objects
- Not a database design
- Data is created, deleted, edited, used, moved, or copied



# Elaborate with Business Data Diagrams



**Given** that a listener has added an artist to a station  
When the listener selects to play that station  
**Then** that station is populated by similar songs as defined by the selection logic

**Given** that a listener has added an artist to a station  
**When** the listener adds the same artist to a different station  
**Then** the different station is populated by similar songs as defined by the selection logic without change to other stations

# Chat Poll

- **Did you think of any other models?**



# Agenda



Why requirements models in agile?



Finding features & epics



Finding user stories



Elaborating user stories



**Key take-aways**

# 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

To read more: <http://www.seilevel.com/MA-agile-models/>



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# Questions?

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