Product Backlog Prioritisation while working in Agile / Iterative model of Project Delivery

We have all worked in various formats of Project Delivery viz Waterfall model, Spiral model, Agile / Iterative etc.

Whichever model we choose, our biggest pain area remains in Prioritising our work items which is the Primary requirement before starting any project.

Today, we will look at the simplest way of Prioritising our Work Items (aka Product Backlog) using Weighted Shortest Job First (WSJF) technique.

If you have 3 different ideas/features to work upon in a given time window, and you have to decide which Idea/Feature to work on first, then calculating WSJF value would help you decide that.

For this, you need to list down certain Feature Details that are:

 - Idea / Feature name

 - Business Value (1-10, Ten being highest value)

 - Time Criticality (1-10)

 - Risk of not implementing the Idea/Feature(1-10) (eg: will you lose a customer if Feature not implemented)

 - Duration to implement the Idea/Feature(days)

Formula used to calculate WSJF value :

Business Value + Time Criticality + Risk = Cost of Delay (COD)

WSJF = COD / Duration

Idea/Feature name | BV | TC | Risk | COD | Duration | WSJF

Idea/Feature name	BV	TC	Risk	COD	Duration	WSJF
Feature name 1	6	6	6	18	10	1.8
Feature name 2	7	7	7	21	20	1.05
Feature name 3	3	3	3	9	4	2.25 - This takes Priority for implementation

Higher the WSJF value for an Idea/Feature, Higher is its Priority for implementation.

In Simple words, If you have an Idea / Feature to implement, and it's Business Value is High, Time Criticality is High, Risk of not implementing is also High and if this feature can be delivered in few days then you certainly would want to implement it first.

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