

## emotion based

creation pipeline

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Executive Producer, Smilegate Barcelona

#### SENIOR PRODUCER Ubisoft Montréal



### FOUNDER | CREATIVE DIRECTOR arnoovo.com

- → 1st hypnosis in VR in the World > Messmer Hypersensoriel
- → P!nk Concert in Live VR stereo > Festival d'Été de Ouébec 2017

#### **ECONOMIST**

- → M.Sc. ECONOMIC SCIENCES > ULaval & UdM >> Information Economy
- → Economist > Industy Canada >> Spectrum, IT, Telecom
- → Analyst > Ministère Industrie & Commerce >> Multimedia & Video Games





## Team members are the players

In a playtest, how would you score?

## questions

I know what I have to do and where I need to go?
I have clear objectives?
I know the success conditions and how to progress?
I know if I hit or miss a target?
Signs & feedbacks are clear?

I always know my level of progression?

# gameception paradox

















# infinite loop

Feature - Alpha - Beta - Shippable - Playable - Priority - Done

# communication

Sébastien Ebacher #GDC22 • Emotion Based Creation Pipeline







# creation pip

Smilegate®
Barcelona

## IS

a proposal
creation pipeline
practical and proven
imperfect

adapted to game development

Seb's vision of creation process

## IS NOT

a recipe or production pipeline theorical or academic a recipe applicable « as is » one size fit all management trend Ubisoft standard for production

## vision of production



## Vision of Collective Creation

quality of your creative process come from the quality of your debate

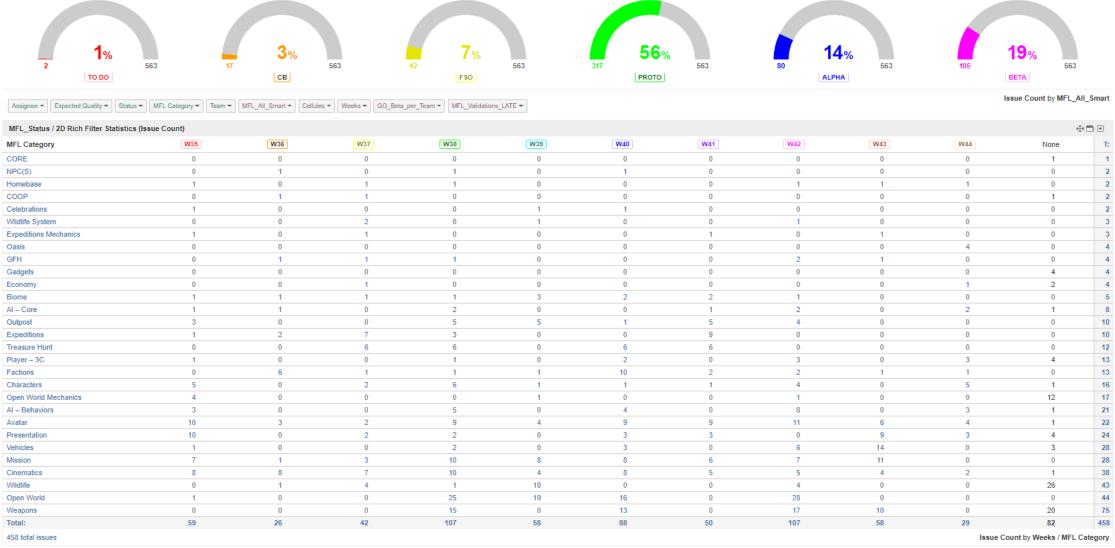


## Far Cry New Dawn

## Key Performance Index

- Quality
  - # of Validations
- On Time / On budget
  - # of Misdirection
  - # of Regression
- Fun!
  - Collective desire to do another one together

# global status



# scope status

status breakdown

# 563

## features

2

**17** 

**42** 

317

**80** 

105

TO DO

CB

FSO

F

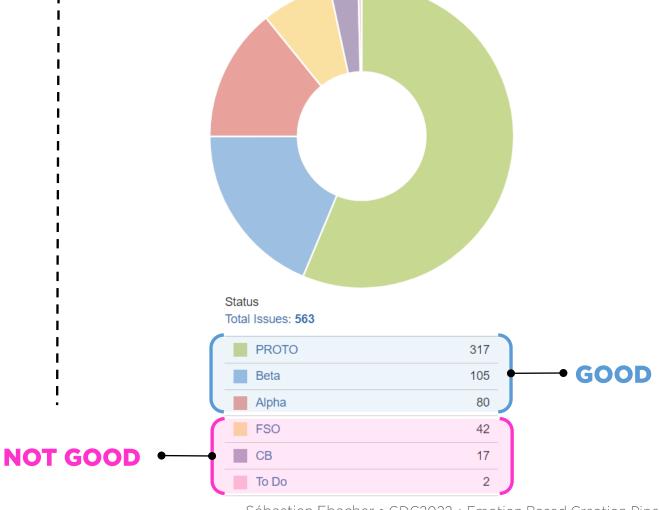
PROTO

] [

ALPHA

BETA





# status definitions

STARTABLE L1

Feature is **MEANINGFUL** & **FEASIBLE** for directors & leads.

DEVELOPABLE L2

Feature is **DEVELOPABLE** for any project members.

ENJOYABLE L3

Feature is **PLAYABLE** & **FUN** by directors of the project.

PLAYTESTABLE L4

Feature is **PLAYTESTABLE** by player outside of the project.

REVIEWABLE L5

Feature is **REVIEWABLE** by a journalists or the market.

# status definitions

STARTABLE **EXCITED** 

Feature is MEANINGFUL & FEASIBLE for directors & leads.

DEVELOPABLE **READY** 

Feature is **DEVELOPABLE** for any project members.

ENJOYABLE **HAPPY** 

Feature is **PLAYABLE** & **FUN** by directors of the project.

PLAYTESTABLE **CONFIDENT** 

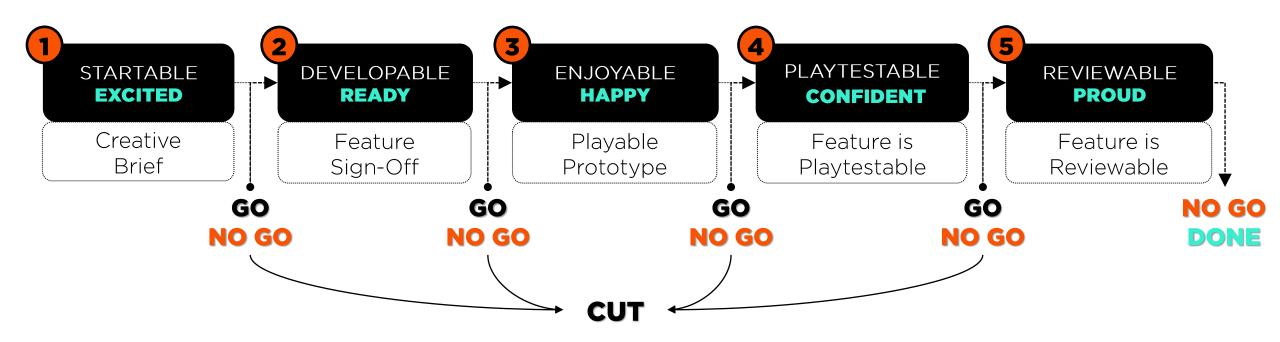
Feature is **PLAYTESTABLE** by **player outside** of the project.

REVIEWABLE **PROUD** 

Feature is **REVIEWABLE** by a journalists or the market.

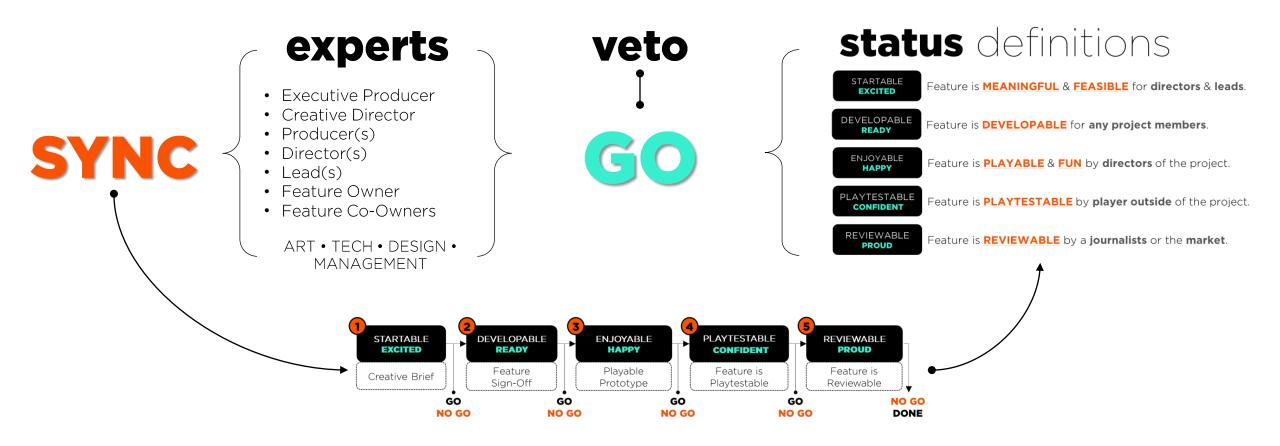
# creation pipeline

## validation process



# creation pipeline

## validation loop



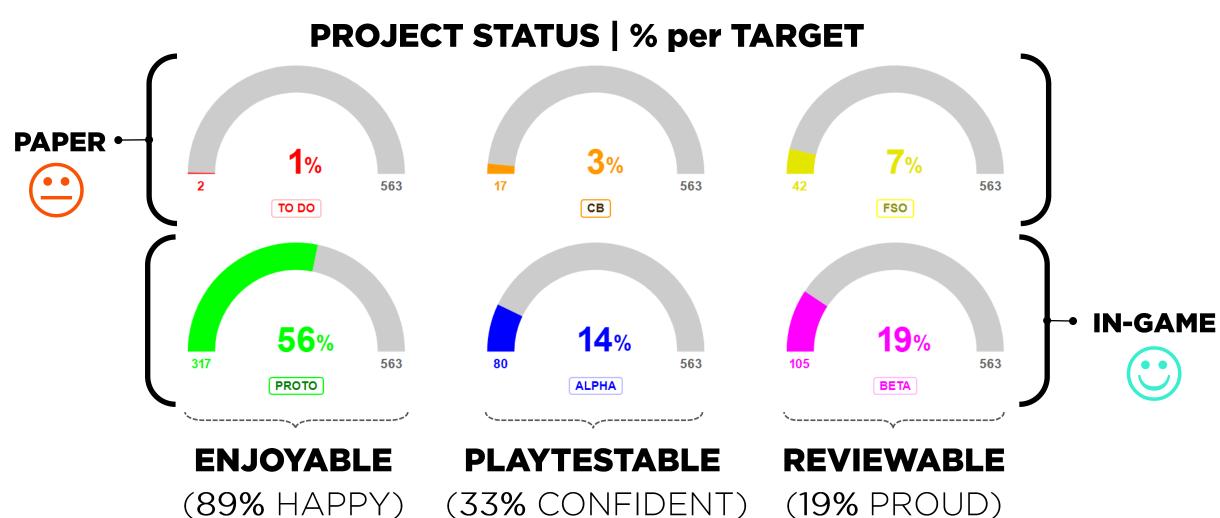
# definition of done

# PROUD = DONE



# project status

global progress in real-time



# project status

67.4%

VALIDATIONS STATUS 1897/2815

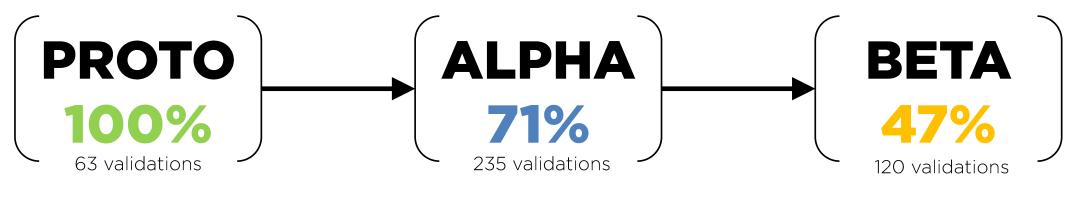
_	-				_
	<b>Validation Status</b>	#	Total	Cumul	
	OPEN	2	0	0	
	STARTABLE	17	17	17	
	DEVELOPABLE	42	84	101	
	ENJOYABLE	317	951	1052	
	PLAYTESTABLE	80	320	1372	
	REVIEWABLE	105	525	1897	
	<b>VALIDATION SCOPE</b>	563	2815	<u>67,4%</u>	
\					

# september objectives



# VALIDATION TARGET 100 validations/week

# october achievements



**ENJOYABLE** 

(HAPPY)

**PLAYTESTABLE** 

(CONFIDENT)

**REVIEWABLE** 

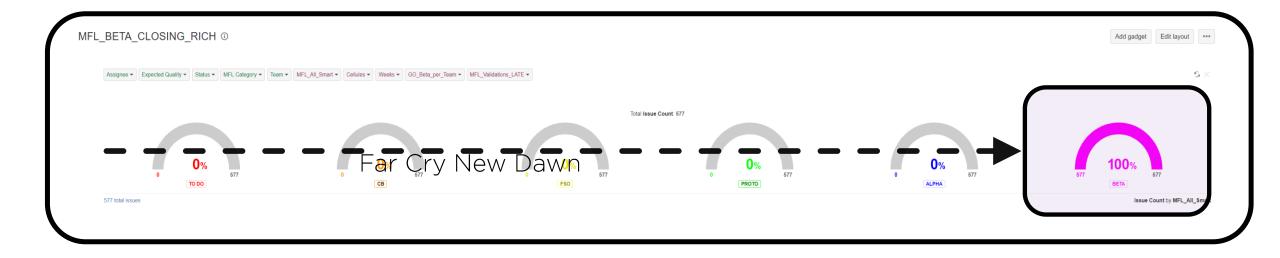
(PROUD)

508

validations

# JIRA project status

At the end of Far Cry New Dawn

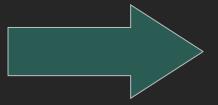


## TEAM was 100% PROUD

## paradigm shift



TASKS COMPLETION



# FEATURES VALIDATIONS

#### change of mindset feature validation task completion opinions directions feedbacks Commitments arbitrage veto collective intelligence individual intelligence politic to influence debate to sync exclusive inclusive **Smilegate®**

Barcelona



#### Scope Management

# A feature is not a task

#### Scope Management

## The Master Feature List

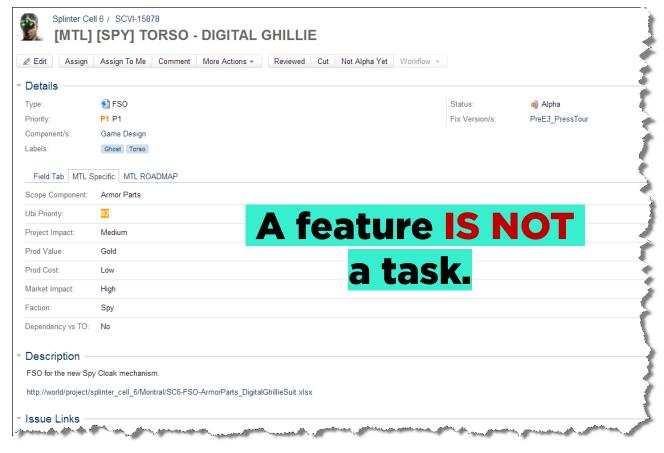
## **Master Feature List**

Start with building your Master Feature List

#### ISSUE TYPE: GAME FEATURE

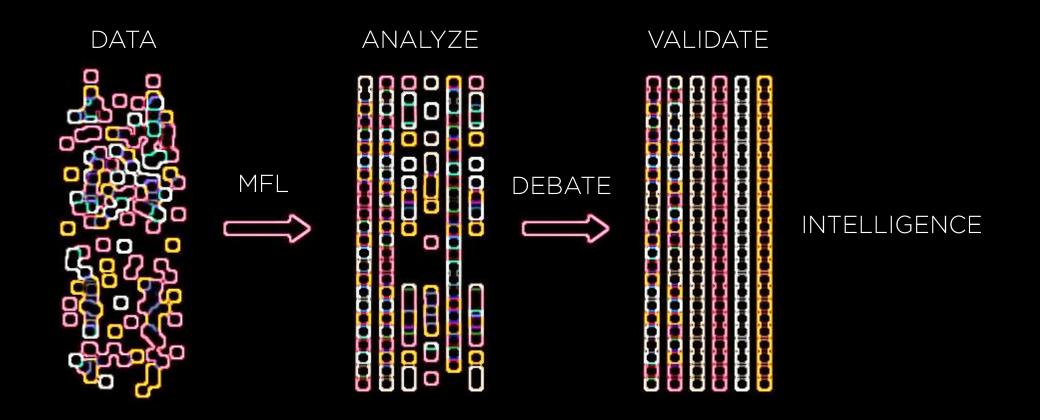
#### SCOPE MANAGEMENT

- Validation Status
- Feature Priorities
- Owners & Co-Owners
- Validation Roadmap
- Validated Designs & Documentation
- Dependancies
- Activities Tracking
- Feature DNA





## Collective Intelligence



#### Scope Assessment Process

COLLECTIVE ANALYSIS & DEBATE on the GAME SCOPE, done by your EXPERTS, to VALIDATE individual FEATURE DNA.

Master Feature List



**Experts Analysis** 



Scope Assessment

## experts individual analysis

**Master Feature List** 



# **Experts Analysis**



Scope Assessment



**PROJECT IMPACT** 

**PRODUCTION COST** 

**RISK / COMPLEXITY** 

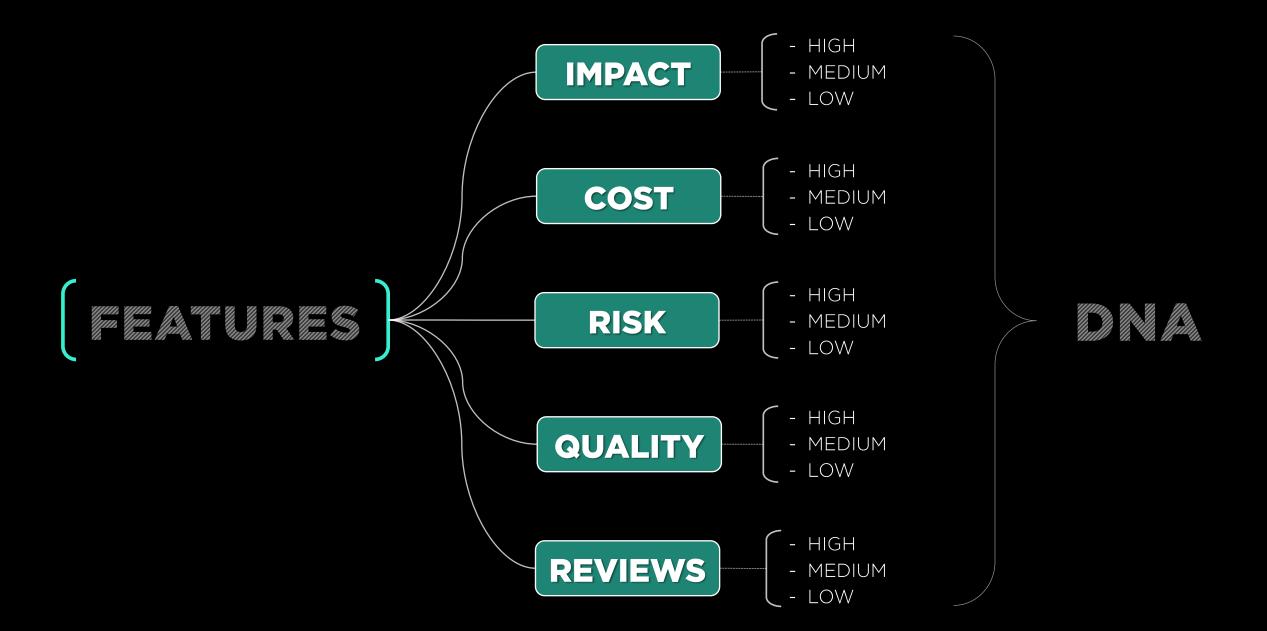
**QUALITY TARGET** 

**METACRITIC / PLAYER XP** 

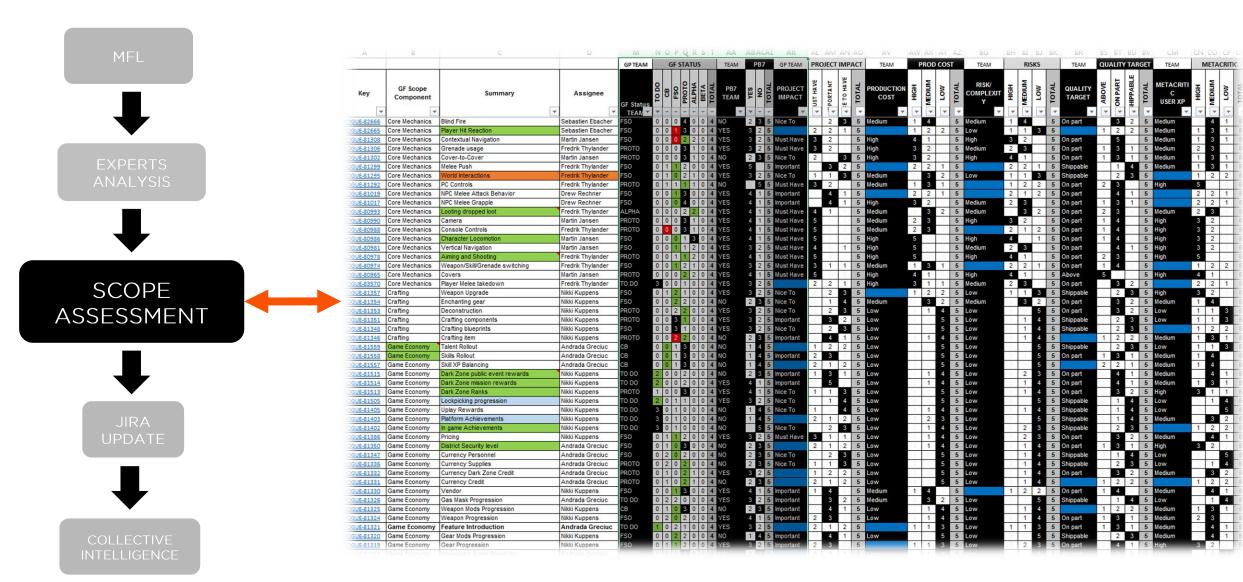


#### Feature DNA

Specific attributes attached to a feature based on expert analysis of selected evaluation criteria.



## scope assessment



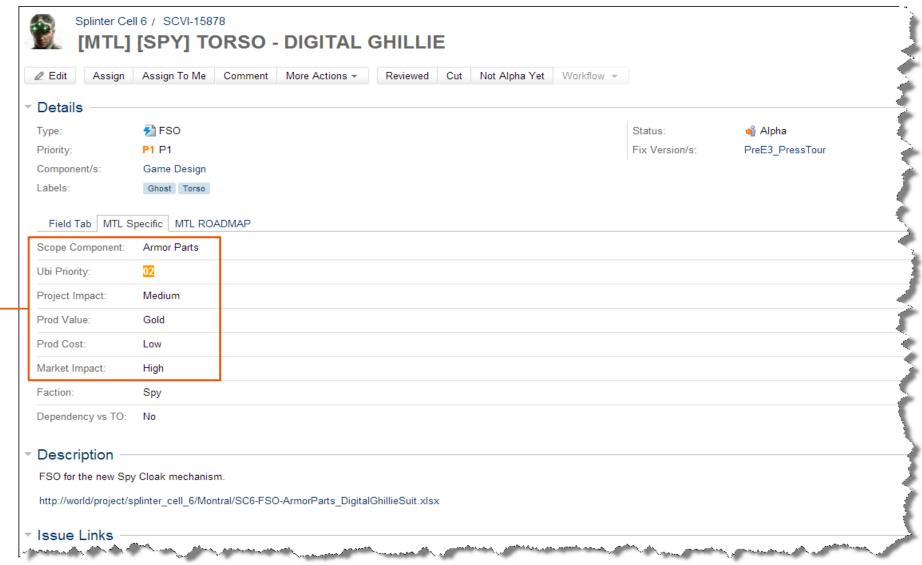
## scope assessment

#### Example (5 experts)

		TEAM	PRO	JECT	IMP	ACT	TEAM	P	ROD	CO	ST	TEAM		RIS	KS		TEAM	QU	ALITY	TARG	ĒΤ	TEAM	ME	TACR	ITIC
Scope Component	Summary	PROJECT IMPACT	MUST HAVE	IMPORTANT	NICE TO HAVE	TOTAL	PROD COST	нівн	MEDIUM	ГОМ	TOTAL	RISK	нвн	MEDIUM	LOW	TOTAL	QUALITY TARGET	ABOVE	ON PART	SHIPPABLE	TOTAL	METACRITIC USER XP	нівн	MEDIUM	TOTAL
Core Mechanics	Blind Fire	Nice To	0	2	3	5	Medium	1	4	0	5	Medium	1	4	0	5	On part	0	3	2	5	Medium	0	4 1	5
Core Mechanics	Player Hit Reaction		2	2	1	5		1	2	2	5	Low	1	1	3	5		1	2	2	5	Medium	1	3 1	5
Core Mechanics	Contextual Navigation	Must Have	3	2	0	5	High	4	1	0	5	High	3	2	0	5	On part	0	5	0	5	Medium	1	3 1	5
Core Mechanics	Grenade usage	Must Have	3	2	0	5	High	3	2	0	5	Medium	2	3	0	5	On part	1	3	1	5	Medium	2	<b>3</b> 0	5
Core Mechanics	Cover-to-Cover	Nice To	2	0	3	5	High	3	2	0	5	High	4	1	0	5	On part	1	3	1	5	Medium	1	3 1	5
Core Mechanics	Melee Push	Important	0	3	2	5		2	2	1	5		2	2	1	5	Shippable	0	1	4	5	Medium	1	3 1	5
Core Mechanics	World Interactions	Nice To	1	1	3	5	Medium	0	3	2	5	Low	1	1	3	5	Shippable	0	2	3	5		1	2 2	5
Core Mechanics	PC Controls	Must Have	3	2	0	5	Medium	1	3	1	5		1	2	2	5	On part	2	3	0	5	High	5	0 0	5
Core Mechanics	NPC Melee Attack Behavior	Important	0	4	1	5		2	2	1	5		2	1	2	5	On part	0	4	1	5		2	2 1	5
Core Mechanics	NPC Melee Grapple	Important	0	4	1	5	High	3	2	0	5	Medium	2	3	0	5	On part	1	3	1	5		2	2 1	5
Core Mechanics	Camera	Must Have	5	0	0	5	Medium	2	3	0	5	High	3	2	0	5	On part	1	4	0	5	High	3	2 0	5
Core Mechanics	Console Controls	Must Have	5	0	0	5	Medium	2	3	0	5		2	1	2	5	On part	1	4	0	5	High	3	2 0	5
Core Mechanics	Character Locomotion	Must Have	5	0	0	5	High	5	0	0	5	High	4	0	1	5	On part	1	4	0	5	High	3	2 0	5
Core Mechanics	Vertical Navigation	Must Have	4	0	1	5	High	5	0	0	5	Medium	2	3	0	5	On part	0	4	1	5	High	3	2 0	5
Core Mechanics	Aiming and Shooting	Must Have	5	0	0	5	High	5	0	0	5	High	4	1	0	5	On part	2	3	0	5	High	5	0 0	5
Core Mechanics	Weapon/Skill/Grenade switching	Must Have	3	1	1	5	Medium	1	3	1	5		2	2	1	5	On part	1	4	0	5		1	2 2	5
Core Mechanics	Covers	Must Have	5	0	0	5	High	4	1	0	5	High	4	1	0	5	Above	5	0	0	5	High	4	1 0	5
Core Mechanics	Player Melee takedown		2	2	1	5	High	3	1	1	5	Medium	2	3	0	5	On part	0	3	2	5		2	2 1	5

## Feature **DNA**

MFL UPDATE [JIRA]



# Scope DNA

BUILD PROJECT BACKLOG



DIRECTORS
PRE-ANALYSIS



SCOPE ASSESSMENT



JIRA UPDATE



COLLECTIVE INTELLIGENCE

Scope Component	SUMMARY	PROJECT IMPACT	PRODUCTION COST	RISKS/COMPLEX	QUALITY TARGET	DEPENDANCY	METACRITIC/ USER XP
Gadgets	[MTL] [MERC] ADV Frag Grenades	2 - IMPORTANT	2 - MEDIUM	2 - MEDIUM	2 - COMPETITIVE	2 - MEDIUM	2 - MEDIUM
Gadgets	[MTL] [MERC] ADV Incendiary Grenade	2 - IMPORTANT	1 - HIGH	1 - HIGH	2 - COMPETITIVE	2 - MEDIUM	2 - MEDIUM
Gadgets	[MTL] [MERC] ADV Tear Gas Grenade	2 - IMPORTANT	2 - MEDIUM	1 - HIGH	2 - COMPETITIVE	2 - MEDIUM	2 - MEDIUM
Gadgets	[MTL] [MERC] Ammo Pack	3 - NICE TO HAVE	3 - LOW	2 - MEDIUM	2 - COMPETITIVE	2 - MEDIUM	2 - MEDIUM
Gadgets	[MTL] [MERC] Flashlight	2 - IMPORTANT	1 - HIGH	1 - HIGH	1 - ABOVE COMPETITION	1 - HIGH	1 - HIGH
Gadgets	[MTL] [SPY] EMP Grenade	1 - MUST HAVE	1 - HIGH	1 - HIGH	1 - ABOVE COMPETITION	2 - MEDIUM	2 - MEDIUM
Gadgets	[MTL] [SPY] Escape Bomb	3 - NICE TO HAVE	2 - MEDIUM	2 - MEDIUM	1 - ABOVE COMPETITION	2 - MEDIUM	2 - MEDIUM
Gadgets	[MTL] [SPY] Sticky Concussion Mine	2 - IMPORTANT	3 - LOW	3 - LOW	2 - COMPETITIVE	2 - MEDIUM	2 - MEDIUM
Core mechanics	[MTL] 1st Person 3Cs CQC	1 - MUST HAVE	1 - HIGH	1 - HIGH	1 - ABOVE COMPETITION	3 - LOW	3 - LOW
Core mechanics	[MTL] 1st Person 3Cs GEO Interactions	1 - MUST HAVE	2 - MEDIUM	2 - MEDIUM	2 - COMPETITIVE	2 - MEDIUM	2 - MEDIUM
Core mechanics	[MTL] 1st Person 3Cs Navigation	1 - MUST HAVE	1 - HIGH	1 - HIGH	1 - ABOVE COMPETITION	1 - HIGH	1 - HIGH
Core mechanics	[MTL] 1st Person 3Cs Rush/Sprint	1 - MUST HAVE	2 - MEDIUM	2 - MEDIUM	2 - COMPETITIVE	2 - MEDIUM	2 - MEDIUM
Core mechanics	[MTL] 1st Person 3Cs Shooting	1 - MUST HAVE	1 - HIGH	1 - HIGH	1 - ABOVE COMPETITION	1 - HIGH	1 - HIGH

#### Collective Intelligence

### JIRA becomes your experts knowledge database

## Creating Intelligence

JIRA becomes an EXPERTS KNOWLEDGE DATABASE

## **Potential analysis**

- Priorisation
- ROI analysis
- Risks analysis
- Business Intelligence Projections
- Custom KPI

#### Use Case • Collective Intelligence

## scope assessment to avoid the priority trap

## PRIORITY TRAP

## pri·or·i·ty /prīˈôrətē/ ◄)

noun

noun: priority; plural noun: priorities

- a thing that is regarded as more important than another. "housework didn't figure high on her list of priorities"
- the fact or condition of being regarded or treated as more important.
   "the safety of the country takes priority over any other matter" synonyms: prime concern, most important consideration, primary issue
- the right to take precedence or to proceed before others.
   "priority is given to those with press passes" synonyms: right of way More

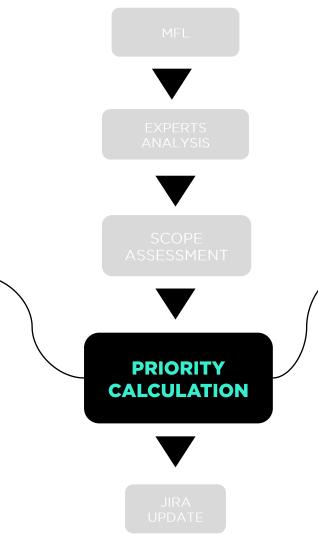
#### PRIORITY TRAP

- Importance ≠ Chronology
- No Definition = No Constraints
- Result > Everything is PO

## PRIORITY CALCULATION

- PROJECT IMPACT= x/25
  - Must have = 25
  - Important = 15
  - Nice to have = 5
- PRODUCTION COST= x/15
  - High = 15
  - Medium = 10
  - Low = 5
- RISKS= x/15
  - High = 15
  - Medium = 10
  - Low = 5
- QUALITY TARGET= x/20
  - High = 20
  - Medium = 10
  - Low = 5
- METACRITIC= x/25
  - High = 25
  - Medium = 15
  - Low = 5

**MAXIMUM SCORE = 100** 



Scope Component	SUMMARY	PRIORITY
Gadgets	[MTL] [MERC] ADV Frag Grenades	05
Gadgets	[MTL] [MERC] ADV Incendiary Grenade	04
Gadgets	[MTL] [MERC] ADV Tear Gas Grenade	05
Gadgets	[MTL] [MERC] Ammo Pack	08
Gadgets	[MTL] [MERC] Flashlight	02
Gadgets	[MTL] [SPY] EMP Grenade	02
Gadgets	[MTL] [SPY] Escape Bomb	06
Gadgets	[MTL] [SPY] Sticky Concussion Mine	07
Core mechanics	[MTL] 1st Person 3Cs CQC	04
Core mechanics	[MTL] 1st Person 3Cs GEO Interactions	04
Core mechanics	[MTL] 1st Person 3Cs Navigation	01
Core mechanics	[MTL] 1st Person 3Cs Rush/Sprint	04
Core mechanics	[MTL] 1st Person 3Cs Shooting	01

## Return On Investment analysis

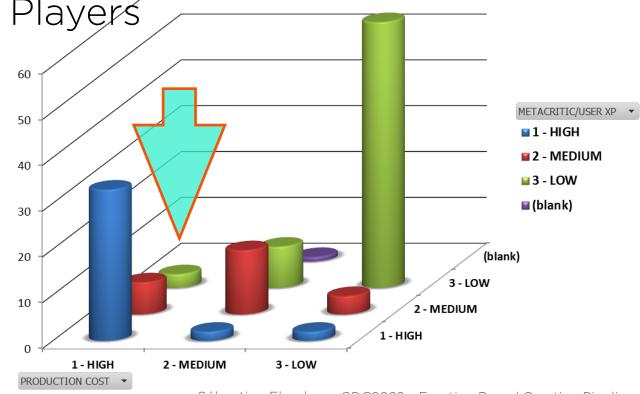
**ROI** analysis using Scope **DNA** attribute:

• **COST** <HIGH> Production Costs

• REVIEW <LOW> Metacritic / Players

#### **HIGH COST + LOW METACRITIC**

FEATURES	PRIORITY
GameMode: Team Deathmatch	07
Projected Elements	06
1st Person 3Cs CQC	04

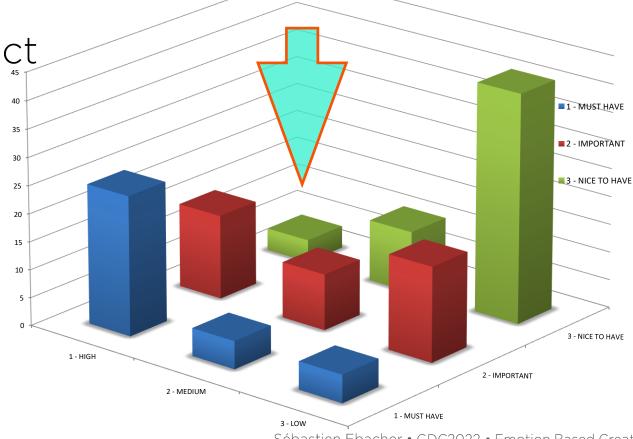


## **RISK** analysis

**RISK** analysis using Scope **DNA** attribute:

RISK <HIGH> complexity

IMPACT <LOW> on project



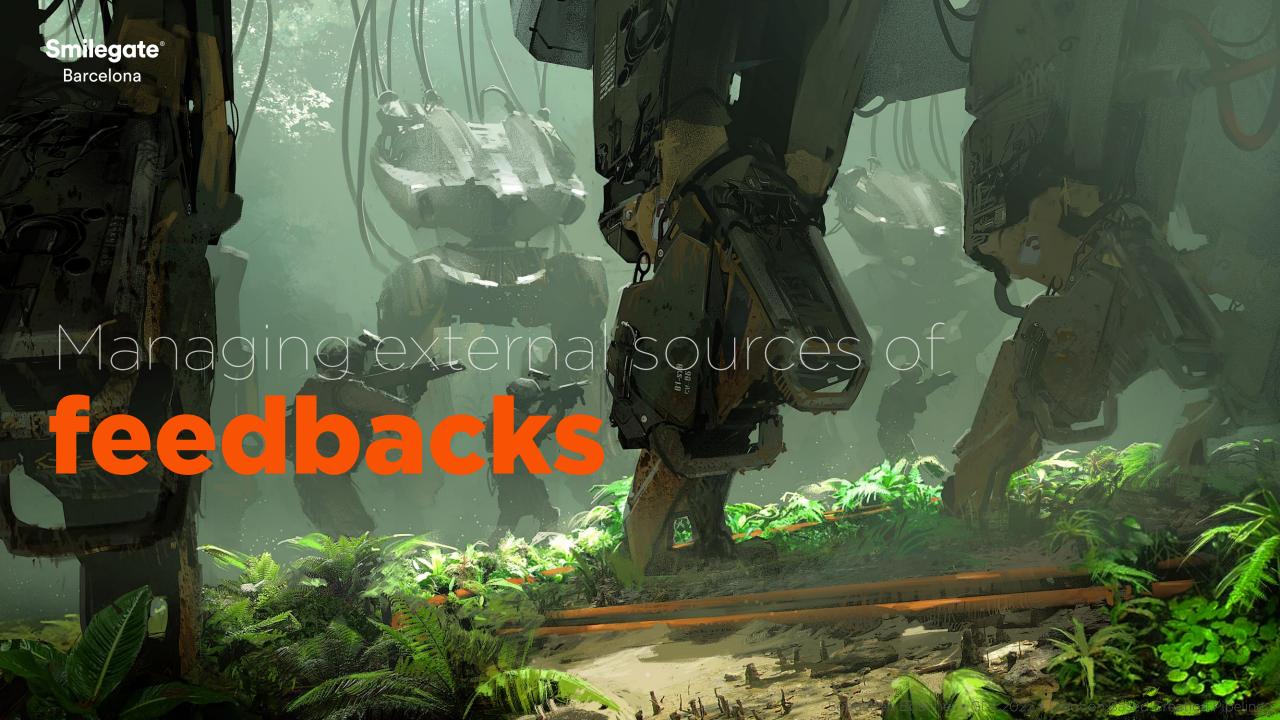
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# Game KPI status INTEGRATING new potential PROGRESSION STATUS in JIRA

#### **Potential progression status**

- Retention
- Acquisition
- Monetization
- Marketability
- Game Pillars
- MFL Project Status

•



#### Managing External Feedbacks

## A greatly underestimated workload

- < Lots of different sources >
- < Hard to manage & track >
- < No official tracking tool or process >

## feedbacks management



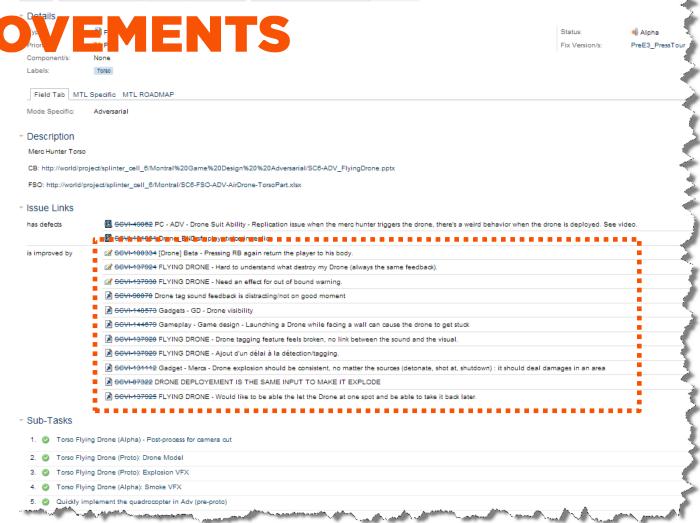
### ISSUE TYPE: IMPROVEMENTS

#### All Feedbacks from

- HQ & Top Management
- Playtests & Playsessions
- Other Teams & Consultants

#### To Track & Manage

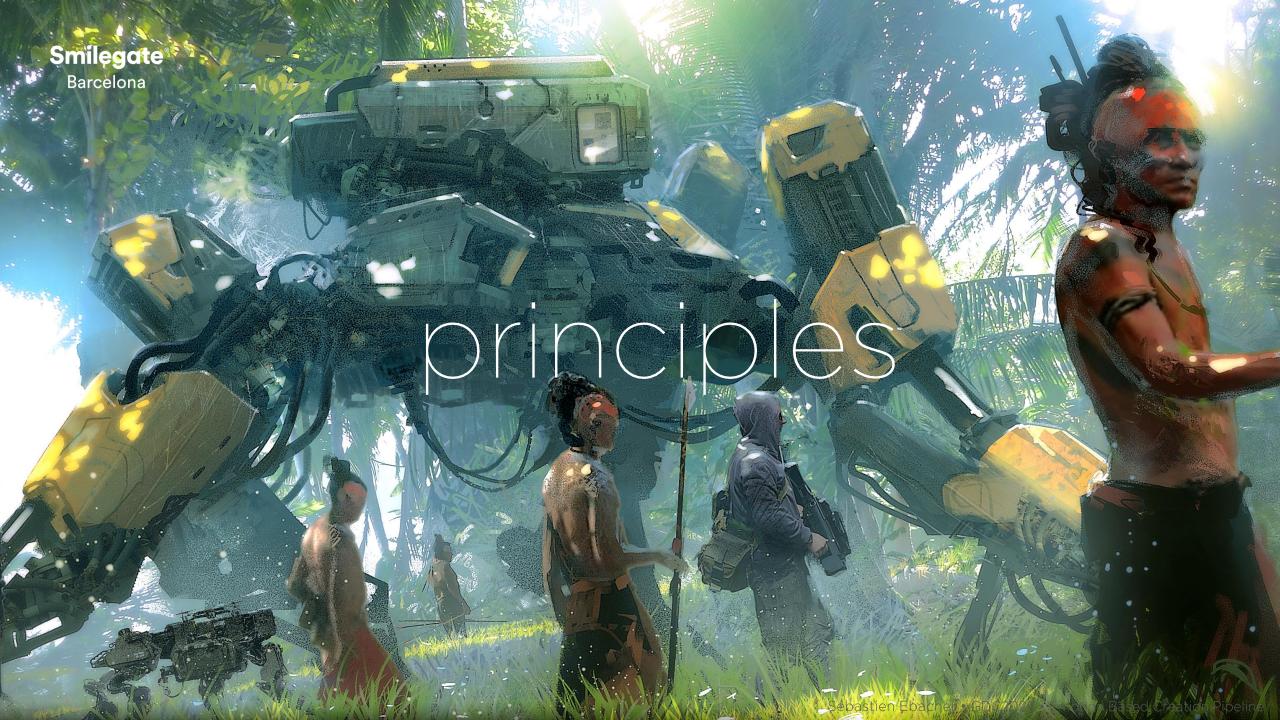
- Who? What? When? (history)
- Priorities
- Link to Features in Backlog
- Decisions (actions)
- Closing requirements



## Improvements Tracking

#### **Benefits**

- Transparency with HQ Integration to Creation Pipeline
- Track Duplicates Track Contradictions
- Better Prioritization of feedbacks
- Officialize Decisions and/or Actions on feedbacks
- Project Closing Criteria
- Feedback are included in the definition of DONE



#### Communication

## Use a common vocabulary

### vision of production



#### scope management

## Start with your MFL and protect it!

### Validation Based Creation Pipeline

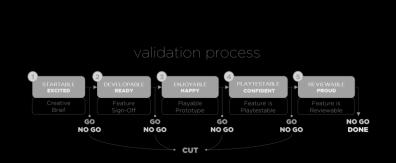
## The validation scope is the project scope

67.4%

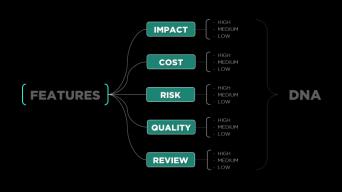
VALIDATIONS STATUS 1897/2815

#### vision

# structure project debates to make them professional & productive







Status Validation

**DEBATES** 

Scope Assessment

#### Counter intuitive

No Go <=> Great!

#### Definition of Done

#### VETO • Meetings

## Communication become the winning strategy

### Gameception Philosophy

« Make game fun, fun to make »

## Secret Sauce



## question?

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# did not cover

- Creation Pipeline JIRA Integration
- Production Cycle Sprint & Milestone Planning
- Team Velocity Calculation
- Validation Roadmap & Planning
- Validation Meetings Structure & Logistic
- Pre-Validation Process
- Managing the process changes with your the team