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# MVI (Minimum Valuable Increment) Cheat Sheet

Quick Reference Guide for  
Adopting the MVI Approach

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## 1. Refocusing Value

MVI encourages shifting from a feature-centric mindset to a business-value-driven approach, ensuring that teams prioritise work based on meaningful outcomes across three types of value:

- ✓ **Functional Value:** Delivers value directly to customers through features or improvements.
- ✓ **Operational Value:** Reduces cost and complexity by improving system reliability and maintainability.
- ✓ **Efficiency Value:** Enhances engineering productivity through process and tool improvements.

## 2. What is an MVI?

**Minimum Valuable Increment (MVI)** is the smallest unit of work that delivers measurable business value.

**Key principles of defining MVIs:**

- ✓ **Focus on Outcomes, Not Outputs:** Prioritise increments that deliver business impact.
- ✓ **Value Beyond Features:** Address operational and efficiency gains alongside functional improvements.
- ✓ **Measure Success:** Ensure every MVI is well-defined and has a measurable impact.

## 3. MVI Template (Core Fields)

- ✓ **Value:** The expected business outcome, starting with a verb. *Example: Reduce downtime by implementing automated alerts.*
- ✓ **Template:** [Expected value] by [change proposed]
- ✓ **Increment:** The specific change being delivered. *Example: Set up a monitoring tool with automated failure alerts.*
- ✓ **Verification:** How to confirm the work is complete. *Example: Alerts are triggered by failures in the staging environment.*

## 4. Optional Fields for Better Planning

- ✓ **Requirement Type:** Functional, Operational, or Efficiency.
- ✓ **Value Dimension:** e.g., Customer Acquisition, Cost Reduction, Risk Mitigation.
- ✓ **Domain Area:** Business area (e.g., Payments, CRM, User Management).
- ✓ **Target Impact:** The measurable outcome.
- ✓ **Effort & Value Score:** For prioritisation.

## 5. MVI Examples

- ✓ **Functional:** Improve user satisfaction with secure password resets.
- ✓ **Operational:** Reduce downtime through automated monitoring.
- ✓ **Efficiency:** Accelerate deployments with automated CI pipelines.

## 6. Backlog Organisation Using MVI

- ✓ **Hierarchy:** Milestones > Goals > MVIs > Tasks.
- ✓ **Single Unified Backlog:** Avoid separating functional and technical backlogs.
- ✓ Tag MVIs with Requirement Type, Value Dimension, and Domain Area.

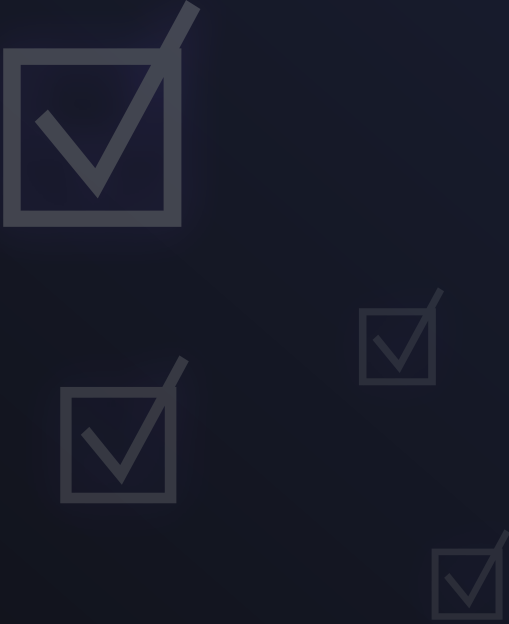
## 7. Prioritisation Guidelines

- ✓ Base priorities on Target Impact, Value Score, and Effort.
- ✓ **Value-Effort Matrix:**
- ✓ **Quick Wins:** High value, low effort.
- ✓ **Strategic Investments:** High value, high effort.
- ✓ **Optimisations:** Low value, low effort.
- ✓ **Reassess:** Low value, high effort.

## 8. Best Practices for Adoption

- ✓ **MVI Fields:** Use the template consistently for Milestones, Goals, and MVIs.
- ✓ **Cross-Functional Collaboration:** Involve teams during backlog refinement.
- ✓ **Review and Adjust:** Continuously adapt based on outcomes.
- ✓ **Keep It Simple:** Focus on clarity and measurable results.

*For more detailed guidance, refer to the full MVI e-book.*



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