

#### Personas

#### · Characters based on data collected on users

- Usually there are multiple for a software system
- Each persona represents a type of use
- Purpose is to increase empathy
  - Change the focus from users to people
  - User stories flow forward more easily
  - Separate out market segments

## Examples

- A self-check out system for a grocery store
  - Like ones used at Loblaws
- Multiple personas needed
  - 2 store employees
  - 2 customers





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### Perils of Using Personas

- Beware of creating stereotypes and caricatures
  - More human, not less
  - Rely on data (where possible)
- Becoming hostage to personas
  - Descriptions not more important than the people themselves
- They are not objective truth
- Cannot be used with disruptive technologies

## **Elements of Personas**

- Gender
- Age
- Personality
- Family
- Appearance
- Skills
- Environment
- · Attitude towards technology, domain, etc.
- · Goals when using the system
- 1-2 pages

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# Your Turn

- Find a partner
- Create a persona for one of the following
  - TTC Wheel-Trans rider using an online booking system
  - A person who has the Toronto Star delivered every day
  - Grocery Gateway shopper

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