

Software cost estimation demo

For the latest version, go to Moodle course: „Software Quality (Tarkvara kvaliteet)”

Alternate download: tepandi.ee

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1. You are developing a small-size software system / component
 - 1.1. Propose the customer, supplier, system. Pick a task where the team members have a least some experience.
 - 1.2. Discuss the difference between effort (eg, person-months) and duration (eg, months). Example: during three months, four people work with half load – what is the duration and what is the effort?
 - 1.3. Discuss the goal of the estimation. Usually the goal is to develop as realistic estimation as possible given the currently available information. Give examples of other possible goals.
 - 1.4. Discuss the difference between an estimation in the team and in the classroom setting.
2. Evaluate yourself or using planning poker
 - 2.1. Each estimator is given one deck of the cards etc, with unit values: 0, ½, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 20, 40, 100
 - 2.2. The units are agreed. Units can be duration days, man-days, story points, etc (please see also point 1.2 above).
 - 2.3. A Moderator, who will not evaluate, chairs the meeting.
 - 2.4. The Product Manager provides a short overview + questions + discussion recorded by the Project Manager
 - 2.5. Each estimator lays a card face down representing her estimate. During discussion, numbers must not be mentioned in relation to the estimate to avoid anchoring
 - 2.6. Each estimator opens her card simultaneously by turning it over
 - 2.7. People with high estimates and low estimates justify their estimate
 - 2.8. Repeat the estimation process until a consensus is reached. The developer who was likely to own the deliverable has a large portion of the "consensus vote"
 - 2.9. The Moderator may initiate the timer. When it runs out all discussion must cease and another round of poker is played
3. Evaluate using SystemStar
 - 3.1. Install SystemStar demo, if it is not already installed (<http://www.softstarsystems.com/>), start
 - 3.2. Input size (SystemStar - Size) and other parameters, watch the estimations

- 3.3. Compare with previous estimation
4. Variations
 - 4.1. Use function points
 - 4.2. Propose cost drivers, e.g. non-functional requirements, team capability, platform experience, use of software tools, etc
 - 4.3. Add more functionality to the system, eg logging, reporting, etc
 - 4.4. Compare
5. See how calibration might be done (<http://www.softstarsystems.com/calico.htm>)
6. Remark: demo version limit is 5000 SLOC.