



Agile Estimation That Works

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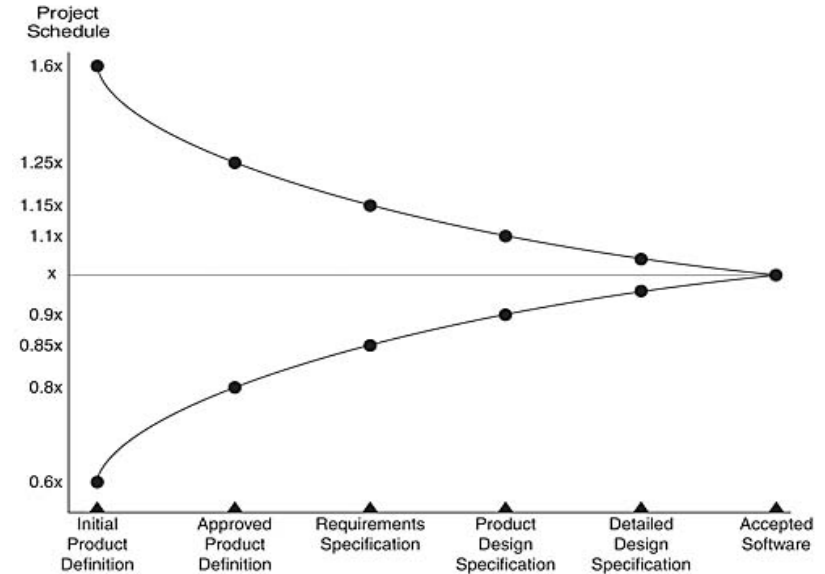
SOFTWARE consultancy...



Agile Estimation

- Don't throw something out just because it's difficult
- “Responding to change over following a plan” - Agile Manifesto
- Align business needs with engineering needs

Boehm's Cone of Uncertainty



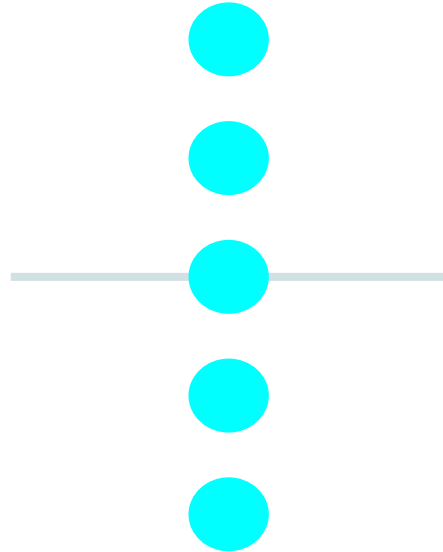
How many days will it take to finish this project?





The Process

1. Align the Team
2. Prioritize Your Workflows
3. Create Estimate *Ranges*
4. Prioritize User Story Estimates
5. Refine



Step 1: Align the team

- Make sure the team understands what you know already
- Align the team on top priority goals
- Discuss and outline all risks and assumptions



Step 2: Prioritize Your Workflows

- Break your product into discrete workflows
- Rank your workflows based on value to the company, value to the user, and technical feasibility
- Outline your plan for product development



Step 3: Create Estimate Ranges

- Estimate based on perfect developer days
- *Then* add % certainty (account for “but...”)
- Add in time for meetings, distractions, and everyday items that are not spent directly coding



Step 4: Prioritize User Story Estimates

- Priority 1 - Need to Have
- Priority 2 - Nice to Have
- Priority 3 - Could wait until after launch



Step 5: Refine

- Revisit your estimates on a monthly basis
- Revisit your estimates when speaking about scope increase or product pivots
- Revisit your estimates when talking about your roadmap





Helpful Resources

1. Loren Davie: <https://www.estim8r.com/>
2. Agile Estimating and Planning by Mike Cohn
3. AgileEstimates.com



Thank You!

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