

Three Steps to Improve Your Development Process

I'm Jim

I do PM & QA stuff

I do .NET

I do Agile

(And cry when I can't)

What's Wrong
With My Process?

(Oh, I need a
process?)

On Time?

On Target?

(What the Client Expected?)

(Or really needed?)

Howz Yur Kwality?

Budget?

(I'm Agile!
Just give me
\$\$!)

Yes, you do need
a process!

Communication

What Three Things?

Stand Ups

Retrospectives

Estimation

Standups

1st Best Thing For A Better Process

What Is It?

Communication

Kumbaya

Not

Daily View of Project

Entire Team

Strictly Timeboxed

Brutally Concise: 3 Points

Yesterday

Today

Issues

SIDEBARS

SIDEBARS

SIDEBARS

Track Progress

PM / ScrumDude / etc.

Close Loop on Churn

Speaking Token, FTW

Timeboxing is
CRUCIAL

Etherpad.com or
Titanpad.com

Skype / Tokbox

Retrospectives

2nd Best Thing For Process

Communication

ID & Fix Problems

One per iteration

(After Iteration's
done)

Brainstorm,
Organize,
Vote,
Resolve

Timeboxing is
CRUCIAL

Phase 0: Brainstorm

Three Topics

Good

Bad

Confusing

1 Topic per Card

No Wrong Topics

Phase B: Organize

Group Collaboration

SILENCE!

Organize by Similarity

TIMEBOX

Phase III: Vote

x Votes Per Person

1..n Votes per Group

Final Phase: Resolve

Top Three Groups

Self-Organize

Take Ownership

Fix by Next Iteration

Smooth Out Iterations

Twiddla.com



Good
Good Automation
framework/organization already in
place.

Good
Writing Automation!

Good
Broken Automation tests fixed!

G: expanding test cases

B: gathering stats / metrics for weekly
reports

B: workflow getting things to offshore
team

B: test plan still in Excel

C: pipeline of work unclear

B: too many tickets still with no
acceptance criteria!!

C- 5.6 Vrs
6.0
backlog?

Good-dailys with development team
gives

Good- Early start on
regression testing prior to
major release

Good- customer issues
addressed via support and
services pd meeting

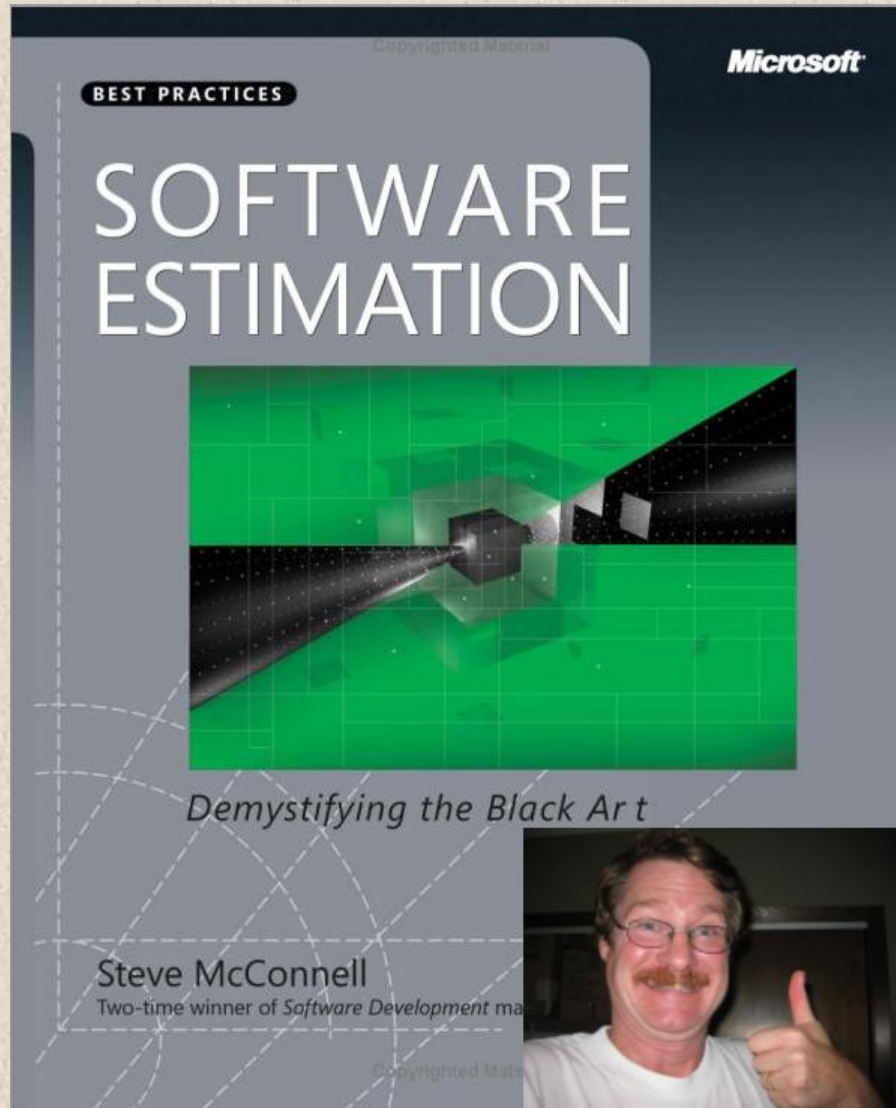
Good- new QA server

G: nice exposure & comments from
management
G: qa server up!

Estimation

Let's Talk Estimation!

The Real Estimation Bible



**(Steve McConnell
didn't really put me
on the cover)**

Does Estimate Accuracy Matter?

We'll just do the
Scotty Factor!

Oops. Too much \$\$.
We didn't win the bid.

Low estimates



Problems in Estimating

It's Hard

(Duh)

Unknown Domain

Vague Requirements

Ginormous Requirements

Some Help!

But first,
ground rules

Estimates are always
WRONG

(It's
ESTIMATION,
not
EXACTIMATION)

Fail Fast

Honesty & Transparency

Communication

Problem: Unknown Domain

Assumptions, FTW!

Discovery Phase,
FTW!



Problem: Unfamiliar Technology

Spikes

Smallest Possible Feature

Problem: Vague Requirements

Assumptions, Again!

Agile, FTW!

Discovery Phase

Problem: Ginormous Requirements

Big Rocks Into Little
Rocks.

Problem: Estimating's Hard

Track History

Experience

More Eyes

~~is~~

~~R~~

Are

Critical

Theory's Fine.
HOW??

1: Prepare for Estimating

Break into small work
items

1 – 3 days

1 day optimal

5 days is absolute line
in sand

Estimates are for end-
to-end work!

(Discovery, Dev, QA,
Release)

Estimates include
ALL work!

(Infrastructure, dev,

2: Do the Estimating

Estimating Game

Estimate Tasks

Break down large tasks

Hours

Risk

A2		fx										
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	
1		Risk Factor										
2		L	1									
3		M	1.5									
4		H	2									
5		Jim		Joe		Ethel						
6		Hrs	Risk	Hrs	Risk	Hrs	Risk					
7	Task								Avg	Risk	Weighted	
8	task 1	8	M	4	L	16	H		9.333333	1.5	14	
9	task 2	16	M	10	M	24	M		16.66667	1.5	25	
10	task 3	4	L	4	H	4	H		4	1.666667	7	
11												

Group's Average

Estimators get THEIR
Estimate!

Wrapping Up

Stand Up!

Do the Retrospective Thing

More Better Estimations

Communication

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Q & A?