



Software Estimation Quick Reference

This material is adapted from *Software Estimation: Demystifying the Black Art*, by Steve McConnell (Microsoft Press, 2006).

	What's Estimated	Size of project	Development Stage	Iterative or Sequential	Accuracy Possible	Chapter
Calibration with Industry-Average Data	Size, Effort, Schedule, Features	S M L	Early-Late	Both	Low-Medium	8
Calibration with Organizational Data	Size, Effort, Schedule, Features	S M L	Early-Late	Both	Medium-High	8
Calibration with Project-Specific Data	Size, Effort, Schedule, Features	S M L	Early-Late	Both	High	8
Changing to More Accurate Estimation Techniques Later in the Project	Size, Effort, Schedule, Features	- M L	Early-Late	Sequential	High	16
Comparing Estimates to Actuals	Size, Effort, Schedule, Features	S M L	Middle-Late	Both	n/a	9
Compute	Size, Effort, Schedule, Features	S M L	Early-Middle	Both	High	7
Computing Best and Worst Cases from Standard Deviation	Effort, Schedule	S M L	Early-Late (S) Middle-Late (M-L)	Both	Medium	10
Count	Size, Features	S M L	Early-Late	Both	High	7
Decomposition by Feature or Task	Size, Effort, Features	S M L	Early-Late	Both	Medium-High	10
Decomposition by WBS	Effort	- M L	Early-Middle	Both	Medium	10
Dutch Method	Size, Features	S M L	Early	Sequential	Low	18
Estimate Refinement based on Project-Specific Data	Size, Effort, Schedule, Features	S M L	Early-Late	Both	High	16
Estimating in Ranges	Size, Effort, Schedule, Features	S M L	Early-Late	Both	High	9
Estimation by Analogy	Size, Effort, Schedule, Features	S M L	Early-Late	Both	Medium	11
Estimation Software Tools	Effort	S M L	Early	Both	High	19
Estimation Software Tools	Schedule	- M L	Early	Both	High	20
Function Points	Size, Features	S M L	Early-Middle	Sequential	High	18
Fuzzy Logic	Size, Features	- M L	Early	Sequential	Medium	12
Group Review	Size, Effort, Schedule, Features	- M L	Early-Middle	Both	Medium	13
Industry Average Effort Graphs	Effort	S M -	Early	Sequential	Low-Medium	19
Informal Computation Based on Past Projects	Effort	S M -	Early	Both	Medium	19
ISBSG Method	Effort	S M -	Early	Sequential	Low-Medium	19
Jones First-Order Estimation Practice	Schedule	- M L	Early	Sequential	Low	20
Matching Presentation Style to Estimate Accuracy	Size, Effort, Schedule, Features	S M L	Early-Late	Both	n/a	22
Standard Components	Size, Effort	S M L	Early-Middle	Both	Medium	12
Standardized Estimation Procedure	Size, Effort, Schedule, Features	S M L	Early-Late	Both	High	17
Story Points	Size, Features Effort, Duration	S M L	Early-Middle	Both	Medium-High	12
The Schedule Equation	Schedule	- M L	Early	Sequential	Medium-High	20
T-Shirt Sizing	Effort, Cost, Schedule, Features	- M L	Early	Sequential	n/a	12
Use of a Structured Individual-Judgment Estimation Process	Effort, Schedule, Features	S M L	Early-Late	Both	High	9
Use of an Estimation Checklist	Effort, Schedule, Features	S M L	Early-Late	Both	High	9
Use of Multiple Estimation Approaches	Size, Effort, Schedule, Features	S M L	Early-Late	Both	High	15
Use of Software Estimation Tools	Size, Effort, Schedule, Features	- M L	Early-Middle	Both	High	14
User Interface Elements	Size, Features	S M L	Early	Sequential	Low	18
Wideband Delphi	Size, Effort, Schedule, Features	- M L	Early	Sequential	Medium	13