



david consulting group



ESTIMATION

DCG's experience and industry database provides you with knowledge and objective information you need to develop a tailored Estimation process or improve the one you have now. We can help you answer key questions such as:

- Who estimates
- When in the SDLC cycle do you estimate
- How often do you estimate
- What are the estimate metrics and measures
- Where are the metrics stored
- Who reports the metrics and to whom
- How do we compare to industry

DCG offers functional sizing training, estimation model development and process guideline support to create an Estimation methodology that fits your organization. No matter what the state of your estimation practices are, DCG can help you improve to a best practice level that contributes to better time to market and more efficient resource utilization. We work with you to develop an Estimation model using the following multi-step approach:

- Stage 1: Estimation Model Project Planning – This is a project planning meeting, facilitated by DCG, to define the goals and objectives of the Estimation model project, identification of key software development leadership for inclusion and includes a review of a draft Estimation implementation plan (prepared ahead of time by DCG).
- Stage 2: Estimation Model Workshop – This is a DCG facilitated workshop where the selected key software development leadership and others participate in defining an Estimation Model and accompanying procedures suitable for the organization and culture. We start from your current estimation practices and define a path to feasible best practices that fit your organization.

This workshop helps participants understand the issue of using internal historical data or industry data and how this effects estimation. Also, the topic of functional sizing using use case points, functions points or lines of code is discussed in light of the organization's past experiences. The different mathematical and algorithmic approaches of estimation are reviewed and the participants are guided to select an approach that fits the organization and culture.

Finally DCG briefs the participants on the pros and cons of outsourcing estimation to a third party, developing an Estimation Center of Excellence or using a distributed estimation approach. Based on the selected approach, DCG guides the participants in developing process guidelines and procedures which all participants can agree with and implement within their development groups.

The outcome of the workshop is a detailed rendition of the Estimation Implementation Plan with participant buy-in. DCG's experience in CMMI[®] implementation can also be leveraged to adapt the Estimation Model and procedures to be CMMI[®] compliant.

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- Stage 3: Estimation Model Pilot – This is a client internally run pilot project, with DCG support, where the draft Estimation model is exercised on one or more of your Projects. Actual data from the projects are captured and compared to estimates to validate and calibrate the Estimation model.

This stage may optionally include training in the DCG FP Lite™ methodology, which provides just-in-time and good enough training in functional sizing for your software development practitioners. The DCG White Paper, "FP Lite™ – Is It a Statistically Valid Method of Counting?" by David Herron, DCG Founding Principal, is available free upon request.

The organization can opt out of this training and outsource functional sizing to DCG to avoid the cost of functional sizing capability development.

Alternatively, the organization can opt in to receive more in-depth functional sizing training in function point analysis or use case point analysis to build up its capability.

Estimation Tool: If appropriate, DCG can provide a custom configured version of its Predictor tool for enterprise wide use as part of this engagement. Pricing is separate from the consulting services.

- Stage 4: Estimation Model Rollout – This is a client internally run pilot project, with DCG support, where the Estimation model, along with process procedure, is rolled out, in a phased calendar approach, to all software development teams. DCG consultants provide hands-on coaching and mentoring during the roll-out to assist the different development teams as they implement the Estimation process.

Interested in next steps? Contact DCG at 610.644.2856 or e-mail us at

info@davidconsultinggroup.com to schedule a conference call and discuss how DCG can help you further. Also visit the DCG Web-sites to learn more about Estimation, functional sizing and industry data

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