

# CSSE 372 – Software Project Management

## Case Study 3

### Objective

To read article entitled, “Software Estimation: An Overview” to get a historical perspective on estimation and gain confidence that the techniques are sound. The discussion should help formulate your mental model of what to expect from an estimation approach, the limitations, and the benefits of using tools.

The paper presents a historical perspective that to this day still holds regarding estimation. While the techniques have been rendered in better tools, the underlying approach to doing estimation remains sound. Some of the language is necessarily showing the paper’s age, but getting past that, there are some interesting observations that we can contrast with today’s software project landscape.

### Due Date

In Class on, Thursday, Week 3, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

### Tasks

1. Read the article “Software Estimation: An Overview” by Richard Stutzke (Article available via link in Schedule page).
2. Please prepare a brief write-up of your impressions regarding the case study article target observations about then now and then perspective. The write-up must be reasonably well-organized/written and should be about a 1/2 page in length. In the write-up please address the following questions:
  - a. What is the main thrust or message of the paper (briefly summarize in a sentence or two)?
  - b. What are some of the reasons that estimation can be challenging?
  - c. Why is accuracy of the estimates converging as a project progresses? If they were not converging, what would it mean?
  - d. How has estimation changed over the years?
  - e. What skill do you need to become a good software project estimator?

### Submitting Your Work

Please hand-in your Case Study write-up in class as a single, type-written document with your Name, Date, and Campus Mailbox number at the top of the page. Please add any notes from the class on the page as I will be look at them too and returning the write-up after grading.