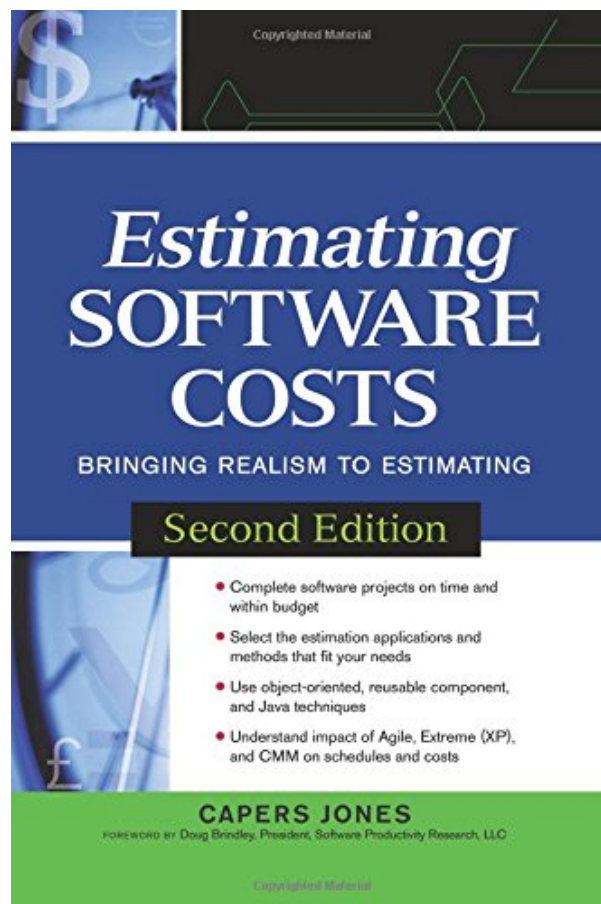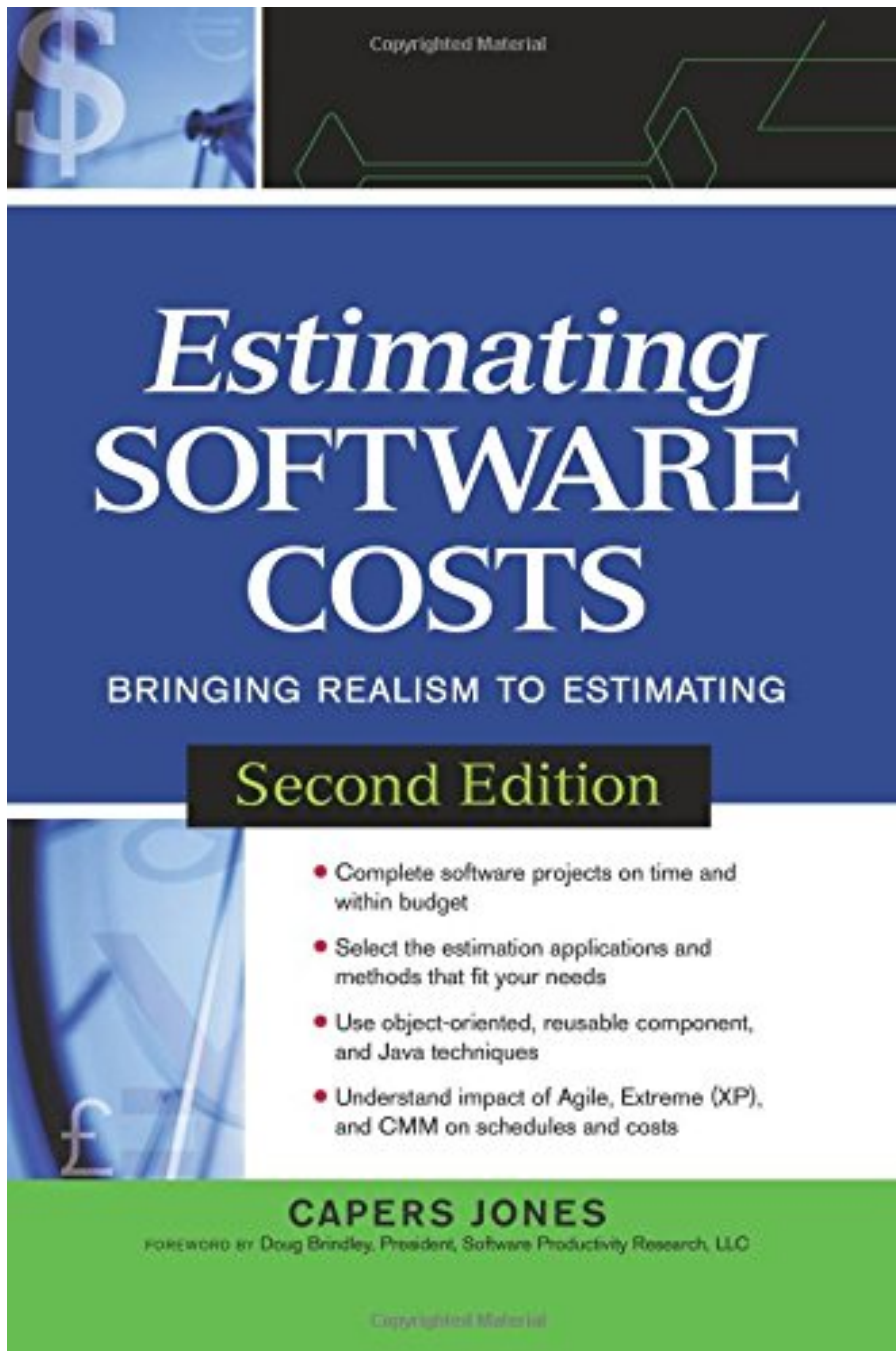# ESTIMATING SOFTWARE COSTS: BRINGING REALISM TO ESTIMATING BY CAPERS JONES

Estimating SOFTWARE COSTS

BRINGING REALISM TO ESTIMATING

Second Edition

- Complete software projects on time and within budget
- Select the estimation applications and methods that fit your needs
- Use object-oriented, reusable component, and Java techniques
- Understand impact of Agile, Extreme (XP), and CMM on schedules and costs

CAPERS JONES

FOREWORD BY Doug Brindley, President, Software Productivity Research, LLC

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From the Back Cover

Get a handle on skyrocketing software costs. Are your software costs spiraling out of control? Do your projects chronically run late, exceed budget, and go out the door bug-laden, if at all? Have you discovered a commercial software cost estimating tool that works for your situation? Are you even familiar with how these increasingly sophisticated tools operate? Capers Jones, a pioneer and innovator in the field, probes the fundamental issues involved with the notoriously tough task of software cost estimation. Rather than provide simplistic manual formulas that lack the accuracy needed for contracts and serious business purposes, he explores in great detail the mutifaceted variables that cause estimates to be higher or lower than average. The result for you: A clear, complete understanding of how to estimate software costs, schedules, and quality far more effectively than you may have thought possible. You'll learn the technical details of how software cost estimates are produced...what kinds of commercial tools are available...how these tools work within various project management suites...and how to troubleshoot and solve typical problems, such as: sizing the project before requirements are firm; dealing with creeping requirements; handling excessive schedule pressure; taking international factors into account; planning for contractual and legal concerns.

About the Author

Capers Jones is a leading authority in the world of software estimating. He was the founder and chairman of Software Productivity Research, where he currently serves as chief scientist emeritus.

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Deliver bug-free software projects on schedule and within budget

Get a clear, complete understanding of how to estimate software costs, schedules, and quality using the real-world information contained in this comprehensive volume. Find out how to choose the correct hardware and software tools, develop an appraisal strategy, deploy tests and prototypes, and produce accurate software cost estimates. Plus, you'll get full coverage of cutting-edge estimating approaches using Java, object-oriented methods, and reusable components.

- Plan for and execute project-, phase-, and activity-level cost estimations
- Estimate regression, component, integration, and stress tests
- Compensate for inaccuracies in data collection, calculation, and analysis
- Assess software deliverables and data complexity
- Test design principles and operational characteristics using software prototyping
- Handle configuration change, research, quality control, and documentation costs

"Capers Jones' work offers a unique contribution to the understanding of the economics of software production. It provides deep insights into why our advances in computing are not matched with corresponding improvements in the software that drives it. This book is absolutely required reading for an understanding of the limitations of our technological advances." --Paul A. Strassmann, former CIO of Xerox, the Department of Defense, and NASA

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Most helpful customer reviews

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.
Still valid and applicable, with some gaps
By Mike Tarrani
This is one of the most comprehensive books on software estimation techniques and supporting statistics in print. True, this book is deficient in object-oriented estimation, but that gap is filled by the definitive text on that subject, "Object-Oriented Design Measurement" ISBN 0471134171.
One thing the author is noted for is backing up assertions with statistics and data. This book is no exception. The full spectrum of estimation techniques is covered in great detail, and the scope of this book starts with background material on estimating, and then addresses all of the major techniques.
It is the scope of this book that makes it so valuable six years after publication. Techniques drawn from software project management, methods using coefficients and adjustment factors (i.e., COCOMO and Rayleigh Curve), and function points are covered in detail, as are other methods. In addition to software development estimating, the coverage extends to documentation estimating, and maintenance estimating - two areas not commonly addressed in the same detail and depth into which this book goes.
Weighing in at 700 plus pages this book is still applicable to most project and development environments, with the only outdated material related to tools and information resources. Most of the techniques cited are tried and true and will work in most contemporary environments and settings.
Despite some of the shortcomings noted above this book is an essential resource for project managers and SQA professionals who are involved in either the estimating process or tracking key performance metrics throughout application and system lifecycles.

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful.
Lots of Data for the Price of a Book
By MAURICIO AGUIAR
This book contains lots of useful data on the software development process -- including productivity -- using both LOC and IFPUG Function Points. It includes basic rules of thumb for estimating schedules and effort. It is a good starting point for organizations that do not have their own historical data to base their estimates on. An excellent reference to have within reach if you work with software measurement.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.
A must-read for every Y2K and IT project manager
By Amara D. Angelica (amaraa@techweek.com)
The software industry has an abysmal record of slipped schedules and cost overruns. With their fixed deadline, multimillion-dollar Y2K mitigation projects--the most complex in history--push the envelope of uncertainty and disaster.
Estimating Software Costs, just released from McGraw-Hill, should help. Written by T. Capers Jones, the

pioneer and leading authority in the field, this 724-page book is the definitive encyclopedic reference and a must-read for every Y2K and IT project manager. It covers all aspects of the problem, including commercial software tools, handling excessive schedule pressure, international factors and contractual and legal concerns. Jones' lucid writing style makes this otherwise leaden subject come alive. END

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