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Practical Software Estimation: Function Point Methods for Insourced and Outsourced Projects

M. A. Parthasarathy

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"A clearly written book that is a useful primer for a very complicated set of topics."
--Capers Jones, Chief Scientist Emeritus, Software Productivity Research LLC
Practical Software Estimation brings together today's most valuable tips, techniques, and best practices for accurately estimating software project efforts, costs, and schedules. Written by a leading expert in the field, it addresses the full spectrum of real-world challenges faced by those who must develop reliable estimates. M. A. Parthasarathy draws on the immense experience of Infosys, one of the world's largest and most respected providers of IT-enabled business solutions, to bring you the only book with detailed guidance on estimating insourced and outsourced software projects, as well as projects that blend both approaches. He demonstrates how to successfully utilize Function Point (FP) methods, the industry's leading estimation model. Then, using real case studies, he systematically identifies pitfalls that can lead to inaccurate estimates--and offers proven solutions.
Coverage includes

- How to estimate all types of software projects, including "fresh" development, reengineering, and maintenance
- How to incorporate the impact of core project elements on estimates: scope, environment, experience, and tools
- FP analysis from start to finish: data and transaction functions, general system characteristics, and more
- FP methods for any platform or business function
- Innovative re-estimation methods to track progress
- How to quote RFPs and prepare contracts: fixed price, time/material, and project execution lifecycle models
- Alternatives to FP: Delphi, COCOMO II, and COSMIC-FFP
- How to choose the right estimation tools

Practical Software Estimation is the definitive reference for anyone who must estimate software projects accurately: project and IT managers, individual developers, system designers, architects, executives, consultants, and outsourcers alike.

List of Figures
List of Tables
Foreword
Preface
Acknowledgments
Chapter 1: Introduction
Chapter 2: Role of Estimation in Software Projects
Chapter 3: A Study of Function Point Analysis
Chapter 4: Data Functions
Chapter 5: Transactional Functions
Chapter 6: General System Characteristics
Chapter 7: Size, Effort, and Scheduling of Projects

Chapter 8: Estimation Flavors
Chapter 9: A Sense of Where You Are
Chapter 10: Tips, Tricks, and Traps
Chapter 11: Insourcing versus Outsourcing
Chapter 12: Key Factors in Software Contracts
Chapter 13: Project Estimation and Costing
Chapter 14: Other Estimation Methods
Chapter 15: Estimation Tools
Chapter 16: Estimation Case Study
Appendix A: Reference Tables: Transaction Function Counts
Appendix B: Reference Tables: Data Function Points
Bibliography
Index

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