

# Ross Collard's Realistically Estimating Test Projects

## **Duration**

2 days

## **Instructor**

Roland Stens

## **Class Limit**

20 students

## **Prerequisite**

None

## **Price**

On-site:

Please contact SPC for pricing (contact information on page 2)

Public Training:

\$995 (2 days)

\*Discount available for early registration

## **Materials Provided**

- Student manual containing the course slides
- Student handouts with class exercises and class studies

In general, our track record in estimating systems projects is poor. A 1996 ComputerWorld study stated that less than 5% of all systems projects deliver on time and on budget and that this track record had not materially improved in 20 years. Estimation is hard work and requires good thinking. Accurate estimating involves time, analytical techniques and good information, which provide a convenient excuse for tolerating sloppy estimates. The objective of this seminar is to strengthen the estimating skills of the participants, so that they can develop realistic, defensible estimates.

This seminar will introduce a practical estimation process for testers, describe the major estimating techniques and explain how to use them on testing projects. Participants will review rules of thumb for estimating the time, resources and budgets needed for software testing projects. Through a series of exercises, this seminar will provide participants with practical experience in developing and refining estimates.

## **Intended Audience**

This seminar is intended for systems testers and quality assurance professionals, systems analysts and designers, software engineers and programmers, project leaders, auditors, and users who are involved in systems testing.



TRAINING

## Realistically Estimating Test Projects

### Instructor

*Ross Collard* is president of Collard & Company, and specializes in software testing and quality assurance. His consulting assignments have included strategic planning for technology, managing large software development projects, and development of software engineering practices. His clients have included Amazon.com, American Express, Boeing, General Electric, Hewlett Packard, IBM and NASA. Ross has an MS in Computer Science from the California Institute of Technology and an MBA from Stanford University.

*Roland Stens* is an independent consultant based in Vancouver who specializes in QA and testing—particularly performance and robustness testing. His broad background in programming, system analysis, database and network management, testing and project/test management enables him to relate to all the issues that play during the software development lifecycle.

### Outline

- Overview of Estimating Techniques
- Attainable Levels of Accuracy
- What You Need to Know to Estimate
- Guideline for the Estimating Process
- Components of a Complete Estimate
- Assumptions & Uncertainties
- Time Needed for Developing Estimates
- The Use of Checklists
- Allowing for Overhead
- The Basics of a Test Estimating Formula
- Estimating Adjustment Factors
- Setting the Factors of Safety
- Exercise: Developing the Ball Park Estimate
- Estimating the Number of Test Cases
- 10 Estimating Rules of Thumb
- Estimating the Test Automation Effort
- How the Estimation Software Tools Work
- Using Early Feedback to Adjust Estimates
- Building Your Own Estimating History Database
- How Human Behavior Affects Estimates

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For more information on this or other SPC Springboard courses, please visit [www.spcspringboard.com](http://www.spcspringboard.com) or e-mail SPC at [info@spc.ca](mailto:info@spc.ca)

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