

Title of Paper

Test Planning, Estimation & Prediction

Presenter/Company

Colin Cherry, IBM (AU)

Instructional Skill Level

Introductory Intermediate Advanced

Target Group

Test Managers & Strategists

Key Points

- Planning and Estimation must be driven by Requirements; high-level requirements only allow us to produce high-level estimates, so what else can we do when the Requirements aren't sufficient for our purposes. Planning and Estimation must be risk-based and take into account the Implementation Strategy and Goals
 - Prediction is the missing link between Planning, Estimation and Implementation
 - Prediction starts as soon as we start doing something. We need to predict outcomes based upon what we already know (from history) and what we are learning as we proceed through the life cycle. Prediction is easier in a "business as usual" situation where we deliver Software Releases but it is even more important when we are involved in Projects and Programs of Work.
 - Prediction starts with identifying the key drivers and then capturing the appropriate metrics that will impact these as well as the outcome we are striving to achieve. Pattern recognition is fundamental to the success of this model.
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Abstract

This Presentation will demonstrate a Prediction Model that has been developed over the past 5 years (across several industries) and has been successful in predicting the Delivery Date of the first phase of the largest and most complex IT-driven Program of Work to be undertaken in Australia in the last decade. You will see real metrics and real predictions based upon real activities and issues.

This Prediction Model was accurate to within 1 week of the actual Implementation Date for the first phase of a Mega Program 5 months before it happened. This prediction contradicted the estimates of the entire Program Management Team who were reporting that it would be 3 months earlier.

Biography

Colin Cherry has worked in the Software Development industry for the past 30 years and has specialised in Software Testing since 1992. Colin is currently a Senior Test Consultant with IBM Australia and is assisting a client in Stockholm to implement a Public Transport Ticketing System.

Colin has previously spoken at several international Software Testing Conferences in Europe as well as being Co-Chair of the very successful AsiaSTAR Conferences in Australia. Colin has also had several technical papers published in Software Quality journals and magazines both in Australia and overseas. Colin is an accredited Software Testing professional with ISEB and CSTP qualifications.

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