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Informatics 43

Small Assignment 1

1. The common disaster of software projects is an overly optimistic estimate of how quickly a project can be finished.
2. Brooks’ Law states that ‘Adding manpower to a late software project makes it later.’
3. The five common reasons for disaster are:
4. Optimism – The idea that “All will go well” pervades programmers and no bugs will be created, and programs will be created fast and efficiently.
5. The Man-Month – Unlike other engineering disciplines where the load of work can be distributed among workers to quicken the pace, software development is inherently an unpartitionable task, and cannot be distributed among many to quicken development, but in fact usually lengthens it.
6. System – Many software developments fail to take in account for testing and debugging of the software created, which usually takes up half of the actual time required to deploy successful software.
7. Gutless Estimating – Since software development is relatively new, it is hard to create a good estimate on the timeframe it takes to develop software, and so estimates are usually based on the needs of the customer and the ‘hunches’ of the project manager.
8. Regenerative Scheduling Disaster – Since software development is an unpartionable task, many project managers fall into the despair of adding more man power to try and finish a project that is slipping behind schedule, which only causes the project to fall behind even more and once again the manager will try to add more man power to fix the issue.
9. One of the issues that comes up in “The Mythical Man-Month” is optimism, and what may cause this could be implied from “No Silver Bullet” with high level programming languages. High level programming languages are now the norm when it comes to programming and with good reason. They are powerful tools that help us program faster and more complicated than ever before. This powerful tool leads programmers and managers to the misconception that the task will be easy and fast to accomplish with only minor bugs. While it cannot be understated that high level programming languages have helped computer programming tremendously, it does cause optimism on what can be accomplished and how fast it can be accomplished.