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COSC 3380 Database Systems

Jan 23, 2024

Estimating and Planning Papers

The provided text delves into various perspectives and practices regarding estimation in Agile project management, emphasizing the evolving nature of estimation techniques and the importance of aligning estimation practices with the team's objectives and context.

The first section critiques the traditional focus on story points for estimation, suggesting alternative approaches such as defining release scope in terms of features and business objectives, or discussing scope in terms of projected story counts and maximum story durations. The argument is made that these approaches lead to more meaningful conversations with clients and help focus on delivering value.

Another viewpoint presented is the use of relative sizing, such as T-shirt sizing or story counts, instead of story points. This approach aims to simplify estimation and reduce the emphasis on arbitrary point systems, focusing instead on the relative effort required for each story.

Insights from distributed teams are also provided, highlighting the importance of adaptive planning, collaboration mechanisms, and building customer trust in estimation processes. The influence of factors such as team maturity, client agility, and familiarity with the domain on estimation practices is explored.

Additionally, the text discusses the benefits of shifting from story points to story counts, citing improved collaboration, effective planning, and reduced overhead in estimation meetings. It emphasizes the need to revisit the purpose of estimation, explore different estimation techniques, and adapt practices as the project progresses.

In summary, the text underscores the importance of aligning estimation practices with the team's context and objectives, prioritizing collaboration and value delivery over rigid methodologies, and continuously evolving estimation techniques based on feedback and experience.