Best Practice Effort Estimation

1. **Plan for Contingency:**

   - Always plan for a 20-30% contingency in your project timelines and resource allocation. This allows for unexpected challenges, changes in scope, or unforeseen issues that may arise during the project.

2. **Break Down Tasks:**

   - List all important steps of the process to associate an estimated effort with each step. Split the workload into smaller tasks to avoid underestimating the complexity of the project. This provides better visibility and understanding of the project's intricacies.

3. **Consider Access and Data Delays:**

   - Take into consideration potential delays in obtaining required access and development data. Delays and blockers can impact the overall effort, disrupting the planned development activities.

   - Adjust timelines and resource allocations accordingly.

4. **Factor in Developer Seniority:**

   - Consider the seniority and experience level of developers when providing effort estimations. More experienced developers may complete tasks more efficiently, while less experienced ones may require additional time for learning and troubleshooting.

5. **Include Prerequisites:**

   - Always include prerequisites when communicating effort estimations. Clearly outline any dependencies, requirements, or conditions that must be met before the project can progress. This ensures a realistic understanding of the effort involved.

6. **Account for Compliance Considerations:**

   - Determine if the solution is impacted by compliance considerations. For example, if HIPAA Compliance is required, factor in additional steps such as encrypting and decrypting data. Identify all applicable compliance requirements that could increase complexity and impact the overall effort estimation.