**Which is more expensive, software development or software maintenance? Argue**

**Introduction**

Whencomparing the costs of developing software against the costs of maintaining software, it is evident that maintenance often results in higher spending over the course of the software's lifecycle. To argue on this, the distribution of costs and the characteristics of the upkeep   
are taken into consideration.

On average, the costs connected with the software development process account for approximately forty percent of the entire expenditures involved with that lifecycle. This covers tasks such as engineering, design, implementation, and testing performed at the beginning of the process (Braintly, 2024).   
Maintenance costs, on the other hand, can account for as much as sixty percent or even more of the total expenditures incurred throughout the lifecycle of a software application. The cost of maintenance may account for as much as ninety percent of the entire cost of ownership during ownership, according to some estimates (Dehaghani, (2013); Andreev, 2022). This comprises actions that are ongoing, such as the correction of bugs, the installation of updates, and the adaption to new surroundings or technology.   
  
Long-Term Commitment: Software maintenance is not only about patching bugs; rather, it encompasses a full set of actions that are aimed at maintaining the software's functionality, ensuring its security, and ensuring that it is aligned with the changing demands of the business. Corrective, adaptive, perfective, and preventive maintenance are all examples of this type of maintenance (Dehaghani, (2013)).   
Maintenance can continue anywhere from 15 to 20 years, which greatly extends the period during which expenditures build. Development may take a few of years, while maintenance can last anywhere from 15 to 20 years (Dehaghani, (2013)).   
  
**From the Perspective of Continuous Development**   
According to the opinions of a few knowledgeable individuals, the distinction between development and maintenance is becoming less significant. When it comes to contemporary software methods, development is frequently regarded as an ongoing process in which maintenance operations are included into continuing development efforts. According to this point of view, the development lifecycle includes all the work that is done after the product has been released, including the correction of bugs and the addition of features Nevertheless, even if one adopts this perspective, the expenses that relate to the upkeep and development of software might still be rather large (Agarwal, 2005).   
  
 **Conclusion**   
As a conclusion, although the initial development of software relates to large expenditures, the continuous expenses that are related with software maintenance are typically higher over the course of a longer period. The significance of planning for maintenance as an essential component of software lifecycle management is brought into further focus by this trend.

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