

COSC345 Week 19 Notes

I could have chosen to present some technique such as COCOMO II or Function Points in detail.

I chose not to, because I have never found them useful. That's not to say that they are not useful to others, it's just that I've worked on projects with high algorithmic complexity and few or no interactive screens, making function points useless, and in languages for which there is little data, making COCOMO dubious.

So one theme is to trust your own **data** more than anything else, including your own feelings. (This is also one of the key ideas in the Personal Software Process.)

Another theme is that people who haven't done much of it are really quite bad at estimation. That's why I chose to spend what looks like quite a lot of time on an estimation exercise: people have a hard time believing how bad at estimation they are until they are shown. If the students go away convinced that estimation **is** a problem that they will need to work on, the lecture will have succeeded.

There is now a slide showing how well the students did in 2013. The numbers are quite similar to the numbers from previous years.