

Don't Blame the Estimator!

An Estimating Experiment
For Project Managers

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Today is not too serious

Objectives:

- Examine the role of estimating in project success
- Investigate the accuracy of estimating
- Contribute to some anecdotal research on estimating accuracy

2-parts

A data gathering

B analyse results

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Explanation:

This exercise aims to quantify the benefit of experience by analysing the accuracy of estimates for work to be done.

You probably consider yourself to be a good estimator. (Does a Project Manager need to be? – That's for a different day).

We are only analysing the accuracy of **TIME** estimating

To normalise this experiment, we take the environment out of the workplace.

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Let's get Analytical



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There are Many Estimating Techniques

- Analogous
 - Parametric
 - Heuristics
 - Detail/WBS
 - Best Guess
-
- Project
Component
- Data Records Experience
- WWITWB
ICFIIMW

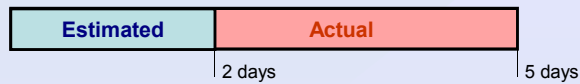
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Today we are looking at evaluating experience by comparing the accuracy of experienced estimates with novice estimates.

BUT:
How do we measure estimating accuracy?

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How is Estimating Accuracy Measured?

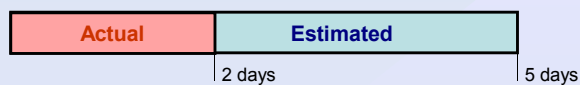


Is the estimating error ...
150%, 60%, 250% ?



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And for an Under-Run?



Is the estimating error ... ?

Multiple schools of thought:

- Compare to the estimate as that forms the budget
- Compare to the achieved result to see how close we estimated
- Whatever suits the occasion

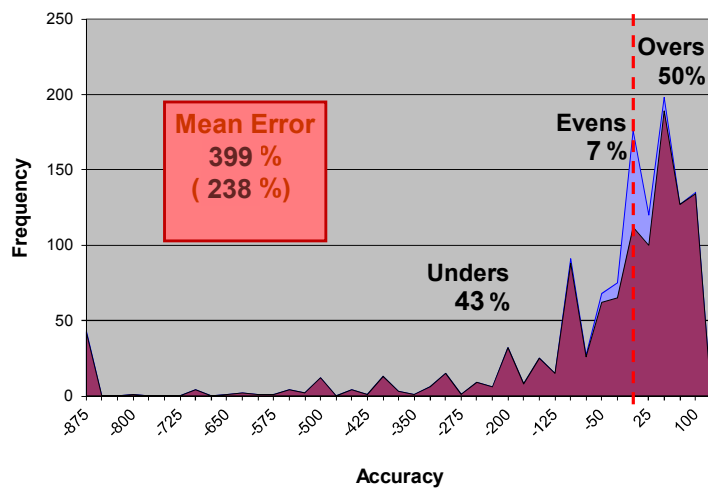
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SO! How Did We Go?

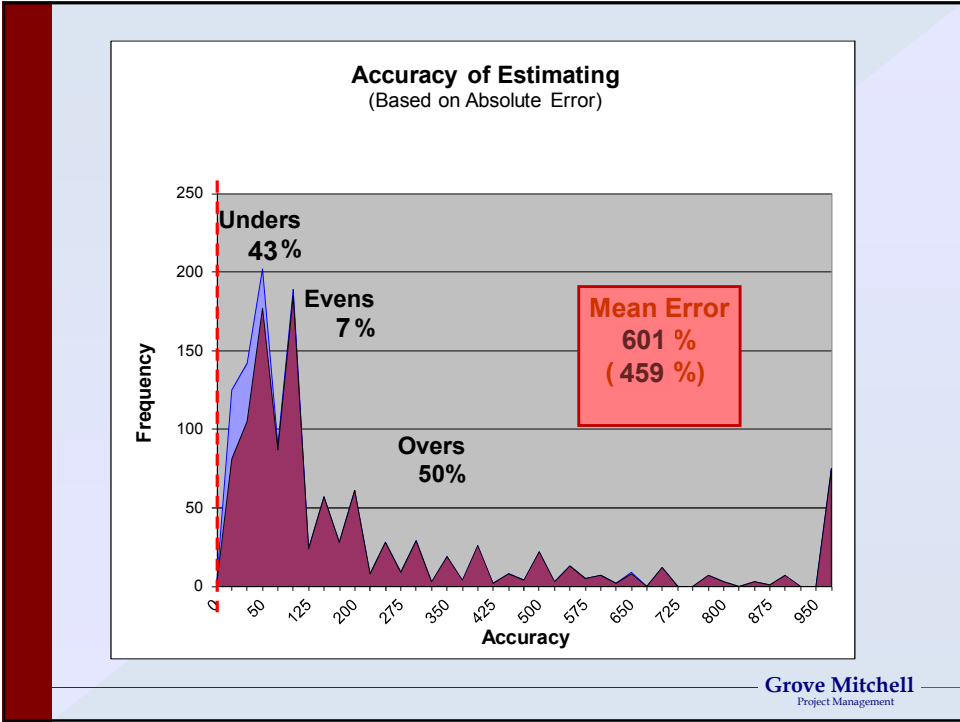
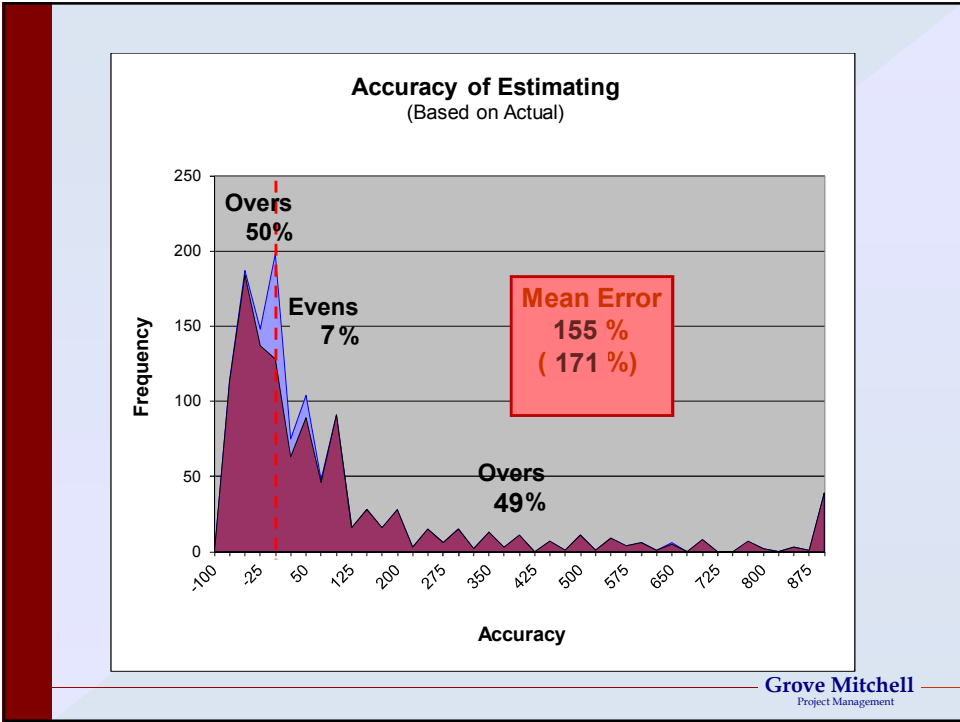


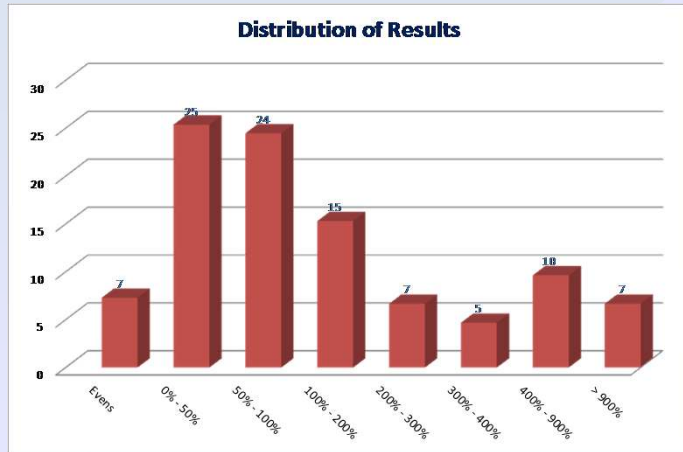
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Accuracy of Estimating (Based on Estimate)



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What can we take away?



Estimates based on definition but little or no research and development are likely to be around 450% wrong –

On AVERAGE

And have a reasonable chance of being greater than 1,000% or more wrong

Uninformed people are more likely to OVER estimate than UNDER estimate

What can we take away?

The best person to estimate work is the person who expects to do the work – PROVIDED there is a methods and standards basis

Estimating is probably a minor factor in project overruns. More significant factors include:

-
-
-
-



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**Thanks for
participating**

**Any further
questions?**

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