Estimating a Development

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Version 1.0

Revision 0

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An estimate will be based upon the specification supplied by you for the application. The Specifying an Application document gives guidelines, along with a working example, of how to produce such a specification. Any expenses incurred for on-site visits will be changed at cost.

1   Database Design

Some applications may need to access an existing database. In this situation we would need the creation scripts of the tables that need to be accessed, and possibly some sample data, if available, to run in. We are happy to sign any non-disclosure agreements, and would destroy the scripts, plus any development databases, at the end of the development.

For applications that need to access a new database, a UML data analysis will be performed by us, based on the specification. The analysis would require one or more interviews with the appropriate person(s) in the organisation for the area being analysed. Our norm for estimating this is:

<p style="text-align:center;color:red">10 database tables a day</p>

2   Browser Pages

Our norm for calculating the browser Page development effort is:

<p style="text-align:center;color:red">5 Page designs a day.</p>

This would include:

- Arranging the Page layout of the required fields and controls.,
- Ensuring all the displayed fields are represented using the agreed field type (e.g. checkbox, select list, calendar, image, and so on) and 'look and feel'.
- The coding of all Business Rules for the Page (see next section).
- Ensuring all the controls invoke the correct actions (e.g. open pick list, drill down to another page, scroll up and down tables of data, and invoke custom Business Rules and Logic, and so on).

There would also be an additional interactive day where the overall 'look and feel' is developed.

3   Business Rules and Logic

The Specifying an Application document differentiates between Business Rules and Business Logic.

The cost of Business Rules defined in the specification is included in the Page development costs (see last section).

Business Logic development is very difficult to estimate. The starting point is the Business Logic algorithms and supporting documentation defined in the specification.

However, for anything but the simplest requirements, UML analysis techniques will need to be adopted. As with data analysis, this would require one or more interviews with the appropriate person(s) in your organisation for the area being analysed.

From this, we would do our best to give you an estimate of the number of analysis days and the subsequent number of development days to develop the business logic and integrate it into the application.