Was Your Last Software Project Late?

If your last software project was late, you need Costar, an interactive software cost estimation tool that will help you plan and manage your next project. Costar is based on the COCOMO model described by Barry Boehm in *Software Engineering Economics*.

COCOMO is used by hundreds of software managers to estimate the cost, staffing levels, and schedule required to complete a project—it's reliable, repeatable, and accurate.

Costar estimates are based on 15 factors that strongly influence the effort required to complete a project. Each factor can be adjusted independently for each module in your system.

Personnel Attributes
- Analyst Capability
- Analyst Experience
- Programmer Capability
- Programming Language Experience
- Virtual Machine Experience

Product Attributes
- Required Software
- Reliability
- Database Size
- Product Complexity

Costar is a complete implementation of the COCOMO "detailed" model, so it calculates estimates for all phases of your project, from Requirements through Coding, Integration, and Maintenance. Costar puts you in control of the estimation and planning process, and provides full traceability for each estimate. User definable cost drivers and a wide variety of reports make Costar flexible and powerful.

You can use Costar during the definition of your project to get early estimates, and then produce more and more accurate forecasts as you refine your knowledge of the system being developed. Costar updates its estimates immediately as you supply more information about your system's structure or alter assumptions about the personnel assigned to each module. Costar is unmatched in performing such sensitivity analysis.

Costar also provides extensive support for "what-if" analyses. You can explore alternative project plans, and compare them side-by-side. Any number of project plans may be entered, edited, compared, and displayed.

In addition to side-by-side comparisons of project plans, Costar also provides a summary of each of your project plans, a recommended schedule, and estimated staffing levels and costs as outputs.

You can use your site's previous experience to tailor Costar to your own software development environment.

Costar runs on any MS-DOS computer. (IBM PC, Compaq, Tandy, Wang, etc.)

A single-CPU license for Costar is $800, and includes the Costar program, a 120 page User's Manual, and 1 year's support & enhancements. Site licenses are available.

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