

PROJECT MAINE

A Newsletter of the **Maine Chapter, Project Management Institute**

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www.pmimaine.org

207-766-5511

Out with SW estimating myths

It doesn't have to be clumsy, expert will tell PMI Maine Sept. 17

The vital area of project software estimating will be aired by an expert during the Sept. 17 meeting of PMI Maine. There are tentative arrangements for a panel of working area information technology project managers to discuss their experiences with cost estimating.

The presentation, "Software Cost Estimation for the Working Project Manager," will be given by John Amacker, senior cost consultant for Cost Expert Group, Inc.

While project managers have used parametric software cost estimation tools, models and concepts successfully for more than 20 years, many view it as simply too cumbersome to be of practical use on any but large government projects. Time-to-market pressures and/or constantly changing requirements make cost estimation seem a luxury to many project managers.

Amacker's presentation focuses on a simple explanation of software estimated. It provides working project managers with several key skills they need in order

to apply cost estimation techniques in every phase of the development life cycle.

He will explain the advantages of parametric cost estimation and the importance of size metrics and environmental factors. Then he will go over causes of poor estimates and discuss estimation best practices for today's project manager.

The presentation will draw from the PMBOK Guide and give real-world examples.

John Amacker has more than 10 years' experience in software project management and cost analysis.

He leads the Cost Xpert Group Consulting Team in providing project control and oversight services, independent cost analysis, contractor management and cost estimation training. For four years, he has been the lead analyst on public-sector and commercial projects totaling more than \$1.25 billion.

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Chapter Web site adds features, looks for more

At the June annual Strategic Planning meeting there was a lively discussion of improvements to our website, and we generated some great ideas. They will go a long way toward the goal of making the website a useful tool for you, whether you are a leader or member of the chapter.

As webmaster, I informed the group that a few enhancements to the online Library listing had either been made or where underway. As of August, the additions in the library section include:

- * Improved content – the contents of several CDs are now individually listed; Dennis Carignan is updating the list to assure it is accurate and complete.

- * Search capability – find by any keyword, author, topic, etc.

- * Online comment capability – post your "mini review" of any of the resources in our library, or scan the comments of your fellow project management experts before deciding on the best resource.

Other potential improvements include:

- * Support for a "new member welcome" process – this has been initially researched. It needs a volunteer to help create the process and to manage it as an on-going service. Contact the webmaster if you are game!

- * Project Management Bulletin Board System – to foster knowledge sharing.

- * Formalize & post advertising and meeting sponsorship policies – the webmaster has some starting examples and some data. Contact him if you want to help finalize these.

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Email newsletter available

You now have the option of receiving the PROJECT **MAINE** newsletter by email, or continuing to get it by postal mail.

To go to the email delivery, and/or complete or update your entry in the chapter's database, visit www.pmimaine.org.

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Software cost estimating demystified

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The presentation may be followed by a panel discussion of cost estimating experiences by area information technology project managers. There also will be a software demonstration.

The meeting will be held at the Sweetser facility in the Saco Administration building on Industrial Park Drive. Directions to the meeting site from Maine Turnpike Exit 5

are: First right off the exit onto Industrial Park Road; Sweetser is next right. Parking on the side of the building; enter in front.

The meeting will open at 5:30 p.m. with networking, an inexpensive buffet and a brief chapter meeting. The presentation begins at 6:30, and opens to questions 45 minutes later. The meeting ends by 8:30 p.m. Advance registration is encouraged at pmimaine.org.

Webmaster seeks input for continuing improvement

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- * Announcement capability on the home page
- * Ability to suggest a meeting topic via an online form
- * Capability for someone who is not a website member to register for meetings (similar to the current method for website members)
- * Website feedback form
- * Ability to see who else has registered for a meeting

* A "remember me" option - to automatically log in returning website members

If you have any comments or other suggestions, please contact me.

There are email links on every page of the site.

-- David Johnson
Webmaster, PMI Maine
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PMI Maine Meetings 2003

*Meetings are at Wright Express,
South Portland,
unless otherwise specified.*

Sept. 17

Software Cost Estimation for Working Project Manager

With project managers' experience & software demo
Presenter: John Amacker, Cost Xpert Group, Inc.

Host: Annette Cardullo

Special Location: Sweetser, Saco

October 15

Corporate Competency of PM

Host: Steve Odden

November 19

Building Project Requirements

Mindjet Software Demo

Host: Jim Stevens

December 17

2002 Project of the Year

Presenters: The Co-Winners

Host: Jim Milliken

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