

Project Management

This quarter we asked SURF participants to rate their skill level on estimating project time and cost. As Figure 9.0 shows, 9% feel they are very skilled, but an astounding two-thirds feel they are moderately to poorly skilled. These figures are very important to project success or failure. How skilled one is at estimating time and cost has a direct impact on time and cost overruns.

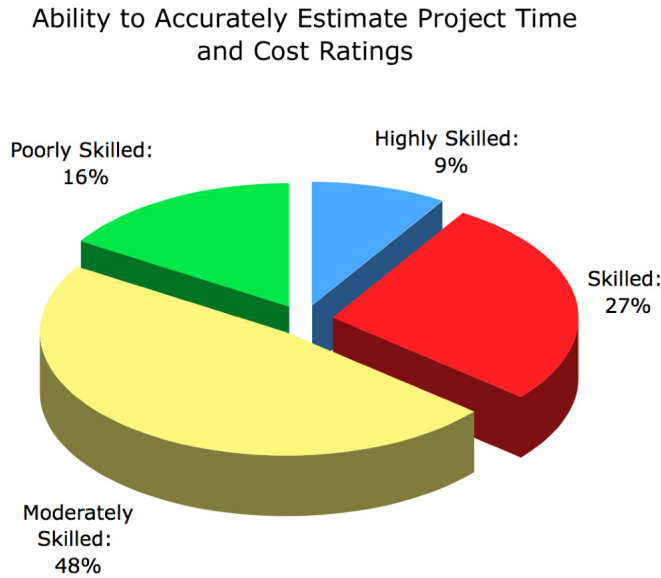


Figure 9.0

We asked our SURF members, “How would you rate your organization’s ability to focus on the real needs of your users?” The majority (63%) rate themselves as skilled to highly skilled, 31% feel they are moderately skilled, and 6% feel they are poorly skilled in this area. However, when we asked them to rate their organizations’ ability to use analogies to improve communication between users and developers, we found they are split nearly straight down the middle.

Scope has a big effect on project success and failure. We asked SURF members to rate their organizations’ ability to contain project scope creep. This is an area that could use improvement, with 28% stating they are poorly skilled in this area and another 41% saying they are moderated skilled. This could be a key factor in many companies’ struggles with having good time and cost estimations.

Having the ability to maintain a formal methodology might help, yet our respondents do not rate themselves highly in this area either. Twenty percent rate themselves as poorly skilled when it comes to maintaining the use of a formal project methodology, and another 31% consider themselves only moderately skilled.