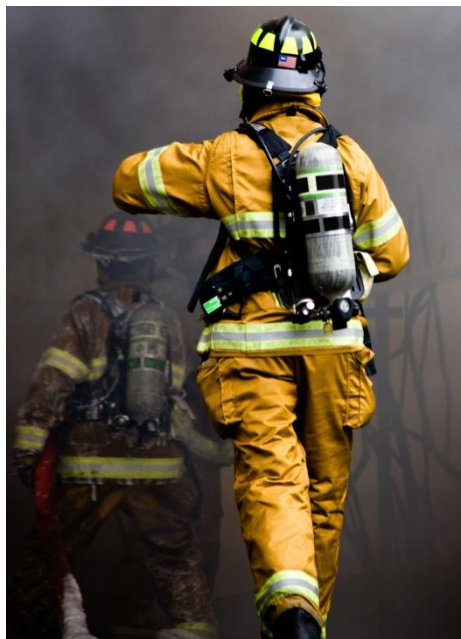


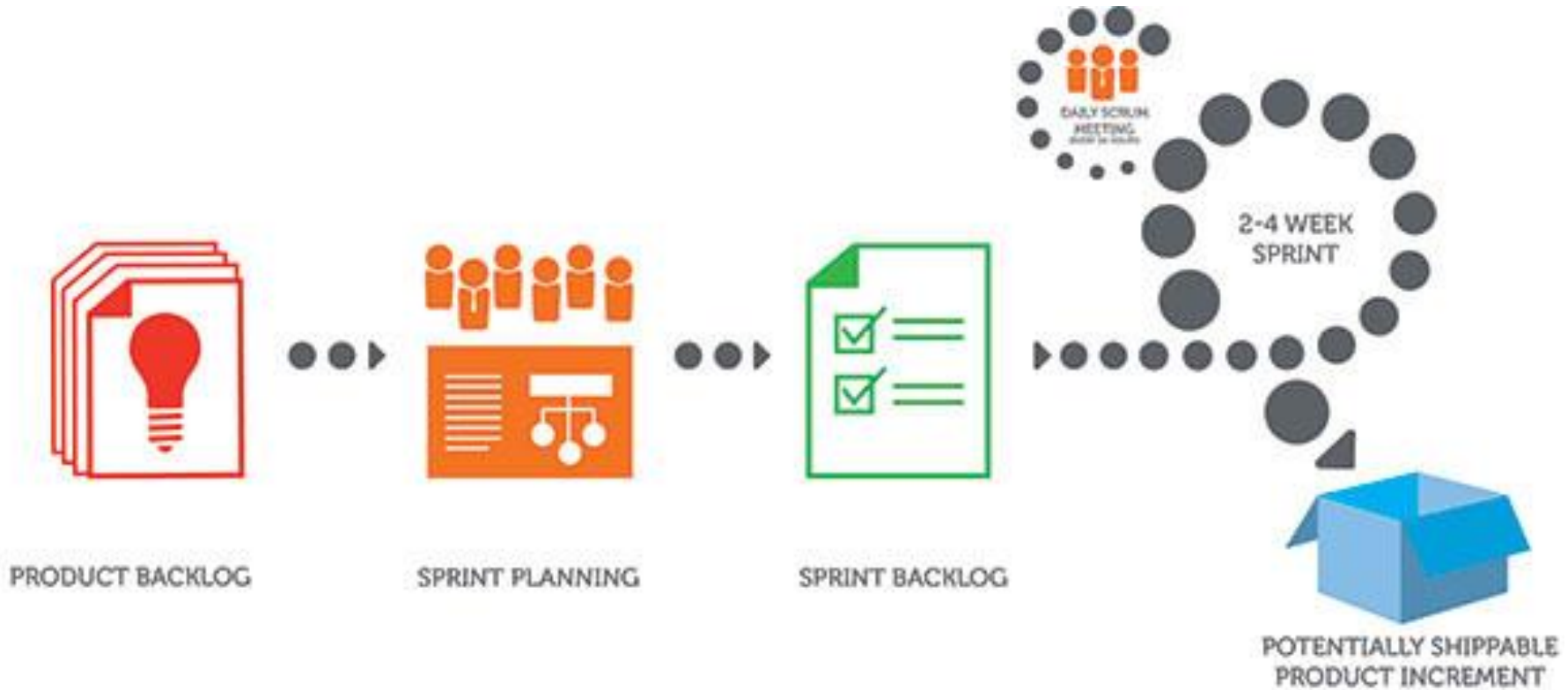
# Our Estimates are Terrible!

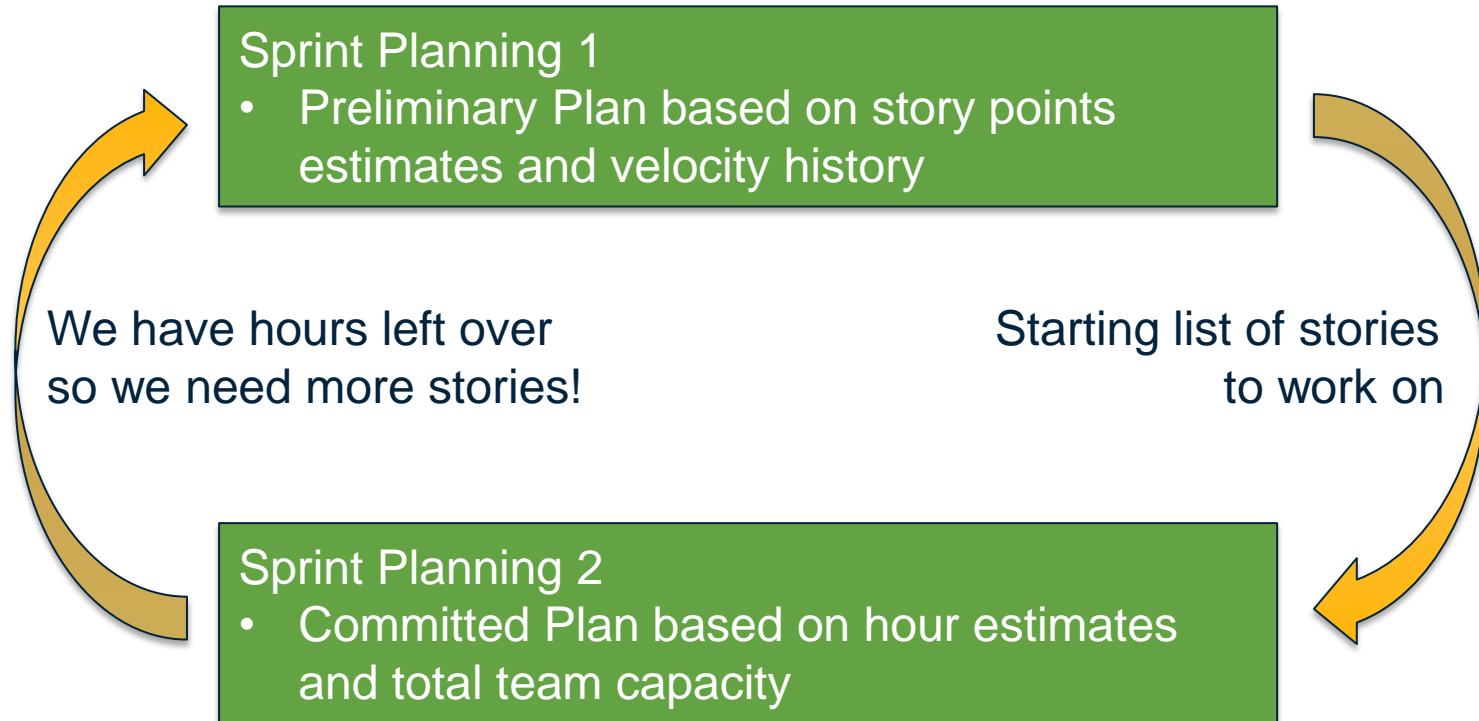
Hans Samios



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**Result: Over-commitment!**



Product Development Process / ... / How do we improve our point based estimates and resultant velocity?

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## What estimation practices can we try?

Added by Samios, Hans-peter, last edited by Samios, Hans-peter on Jul 14, 2014 (view change)

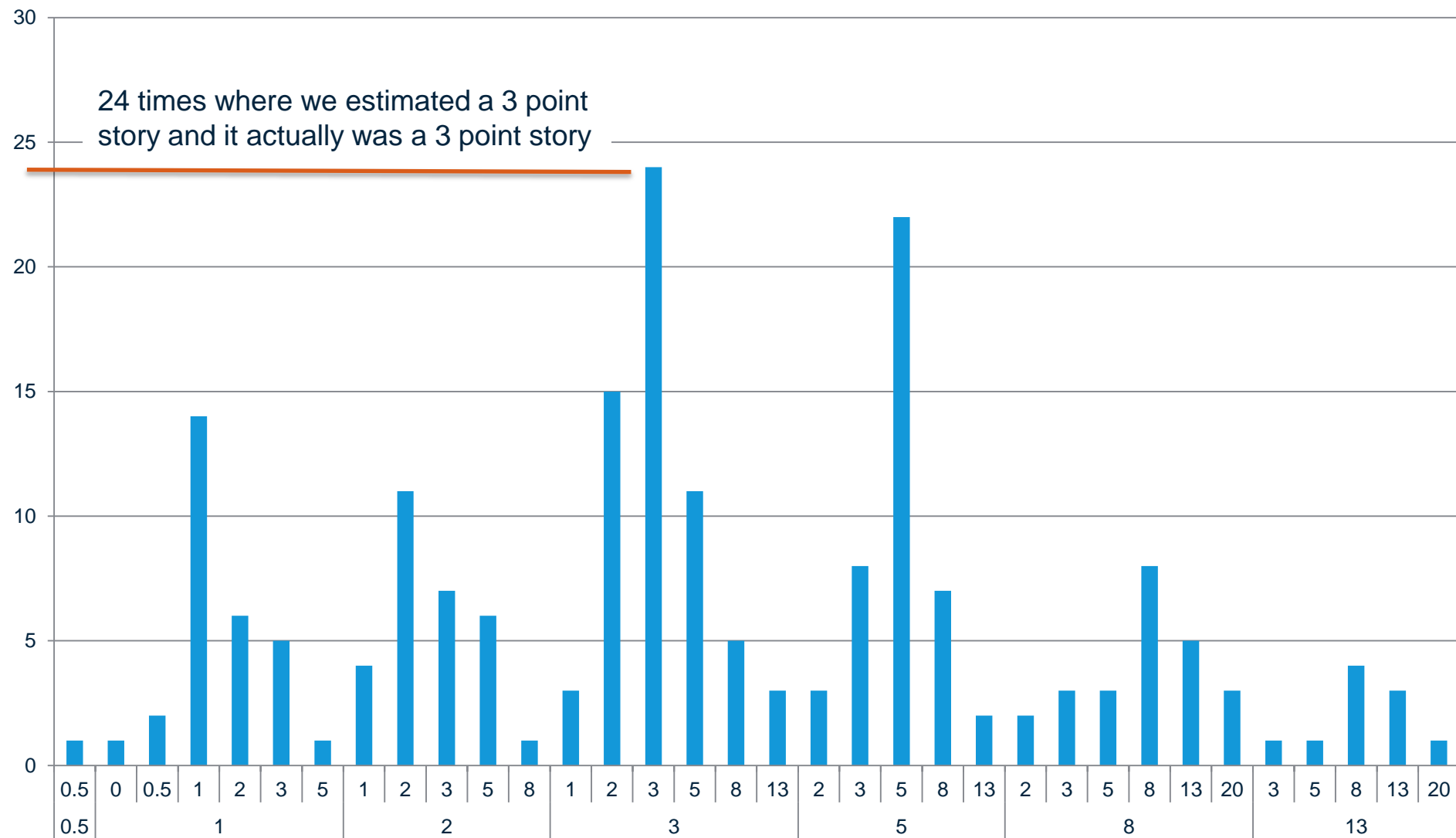
Here is a list, in no particular order of things that someone has tried or suggested as a way of improving something about the estimation process:

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### 18 Child Pages

- Approach - Establish a "done" definition for a story to be READY for the team
- Approach - Establish a Keystone User Story.
- Approach - Establish known size to known definition of done for all work
- Approach - Establish points guidelines for each point value
- Approach - Establish things that matter matrix
- Approach - Give default estimates for classes of work and work exceptions
- Approach - If it involves work, then it should have a non-zero estimate
- Approach - Just because Jira doesn't track information does not mean we should not figure out a way to track it
- Approach - Only use Fibonacci sequence numbers
- Approach - Review all the 5s to see that they represent the same relative size of work
- Approach - Split Every Story to a Common Small Relative Size
- Approach - Story Points represent reality based on current knowledge of the relative size of the work
- Approach - Team has right to reject stories for estimation that are not ready

## Estimated vs Actual (Count of actual for each estimate)



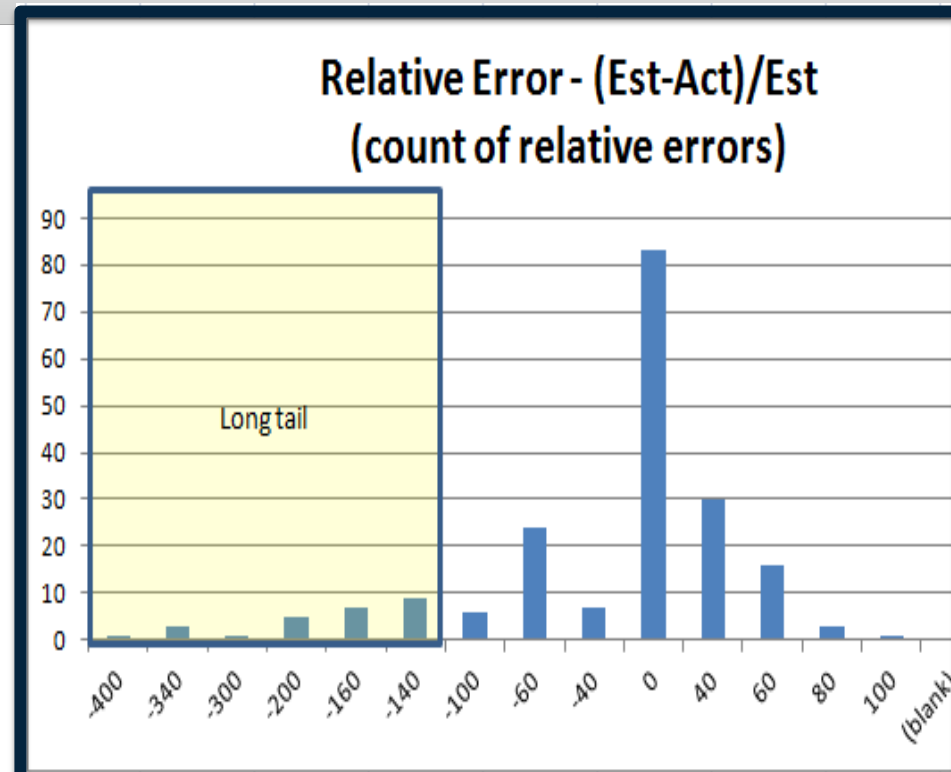
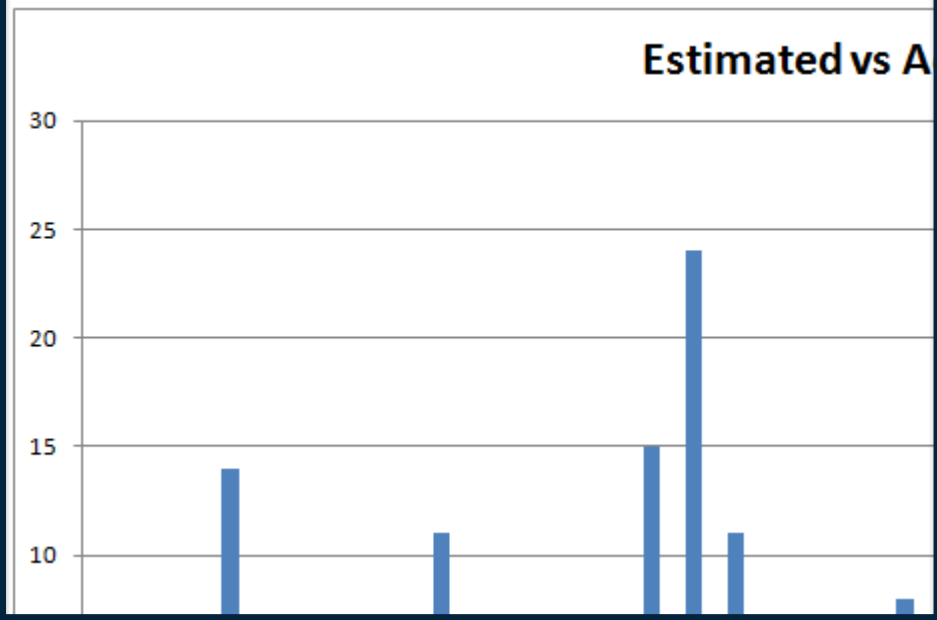


Scrum Rollout / 2013 / August / 27  
 2013-08-27 - Our Estimates are Terrib

1 Added by Samios, Hans-peter, last edited by Samios, Hans-peter on Sep 19, 20

I've had a number of conversations with teams recently where people star  
 But do we really have a problem?

One team, the [Bootleggers](#), were concerned enough that they wanted to  
[@Jackson, Jeanne G \(Jen\)](#) prepared a data-set of estimates and resulta  
 estimate provided by the team and the subsequent actual story points rec



If this was "Gaussian" (normal) distribution, the number of items below -100 should  
 Actually have 26 cases (or 13%)  
 Interestingly majority of the errors (42%) band around 0 relative error (ie a lot of est  
 Implication we have long tail distribution.  
 Long tails deprive systems of consistent predictability; Waterfall (serial workflows)  
 Long tails imply we have a "complex" system (cynefin) where appropriate action is p



Questions?

**SMARTER**DECISIONS