



Estimation for Dummies

Agile 101

Veronika Kabatova
CKI tech lead

Michael Hofmann
CKI infra lead

WELCOME TO AGILE...

**WHERE THE STORIES ARE MADE UP
AND THE POINTS DON'T MATTER**

tldr; estimation in a nutshell

- ▶ define a planning interval
- ▶ estimate task complexity via arbitrary points
- ▶ from completed tasks, determine velocity = points/interval
- ▶ use that velocity for planning
- ▶ ...
- ▶ profit

why

ONE DOES NOT SIMPLY

HAVE NO PLAN



why

hope is not a strategy

- ▶ ~~because we were forced to by our agile people~~
- ▶ it is impossible to plan without knowing how long tasks will take:
 - creation of a **realistic** planning
 - know when tasks will be done
- ▶ thinking about task complexity **before a task is started**

how

When did we start with estimation?

- ▶ officially milestone planning a few months ago
- ▶ did some experimentation before to get a grasp of what may or may not work

How did we start?

- ▶ analyze the type of tasks the team deals with
 - how long do they take in each project, i.e. how granular are they
 - what are the common delays or blockers?
 - how to treat cross-project / cross-subsystem issues?
 - delays a ticket as multiple subsequent changes need to be submitted and these delays need to be accounted for
 - does a single person understand all involved projects? does someone else need to deal with some parts of the issue?

How did we start?

- ▶ pick and adjust the estimation guide that seems closest to how the team works based on the analysis above
 - e.g. if the shortest amount it takes to finish up a task is 1 week and longest 1 month:
 - S=1 week, M=2 weeks, L=4 weeks
 - e.g. if the shortest amount of time is 1 day, we may want to only allow sizes up to 1 work week and split anything larger
 - 1=1 day, 2=2 days, 5=5 days

How do we estimate as a team?

- ▶ interval between review meetings: 2 weeks
- ▶ initial task sizes: 2, 3 (2, 3 days), 5 (1 week), larger sizes need splitting
- ▶ adjust task sizes as needed
 - estimation should be done by person(s) doing the work
 - ask for help with estimation!
- ▶ milestone planning: be very conservative about team capacity
 - PTO, overly optimistic estimates, unplanned work
 - use story points/velocity from previous milestones instead



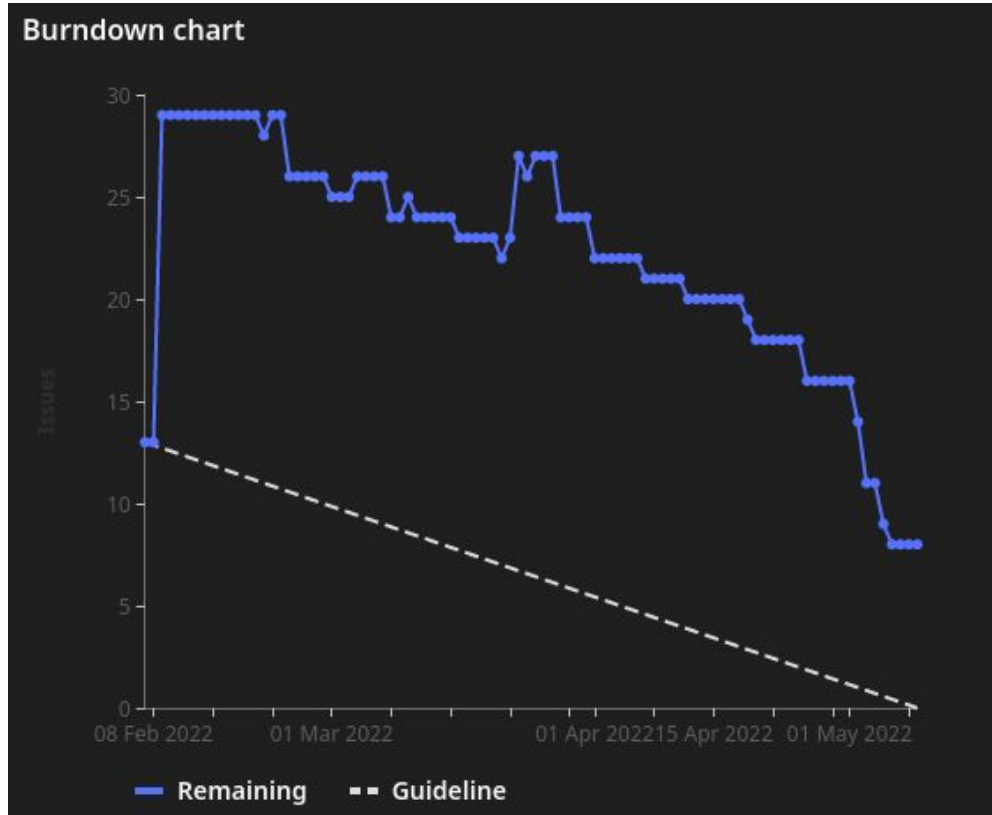
WE'LL ASK FOR ESTIMATES

**AND THEN TREAT THEM
AS DEADLINES**

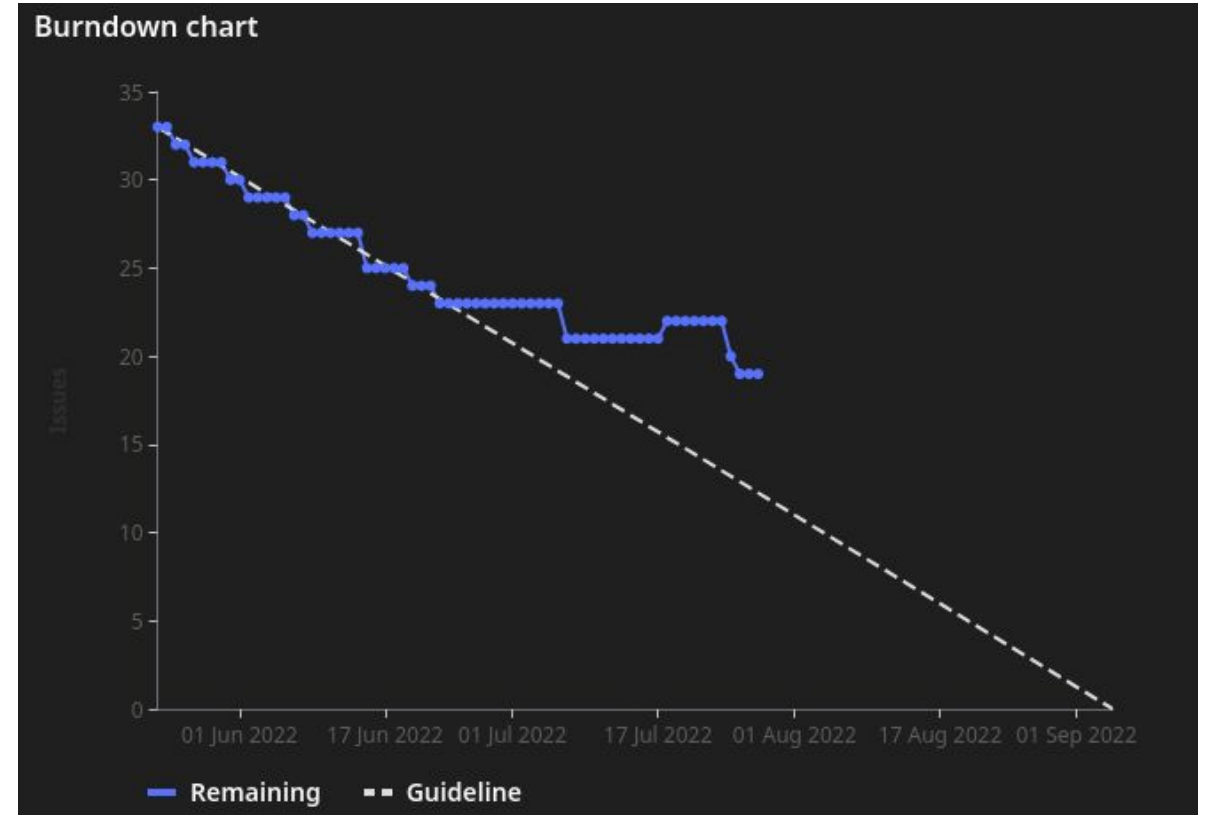
What benefits do we gain from estimation?

- ▶ CKI has 3 milestones per year
 - linked to conferences: Plumbers/DevConf.cz/Summit
 - end of year shutdown, summer PTO, sick leaves, ...
 - long interval, hard to plan
- ▶ more accuracy, less stress
- ▶ better stakeholder communication

without estimation

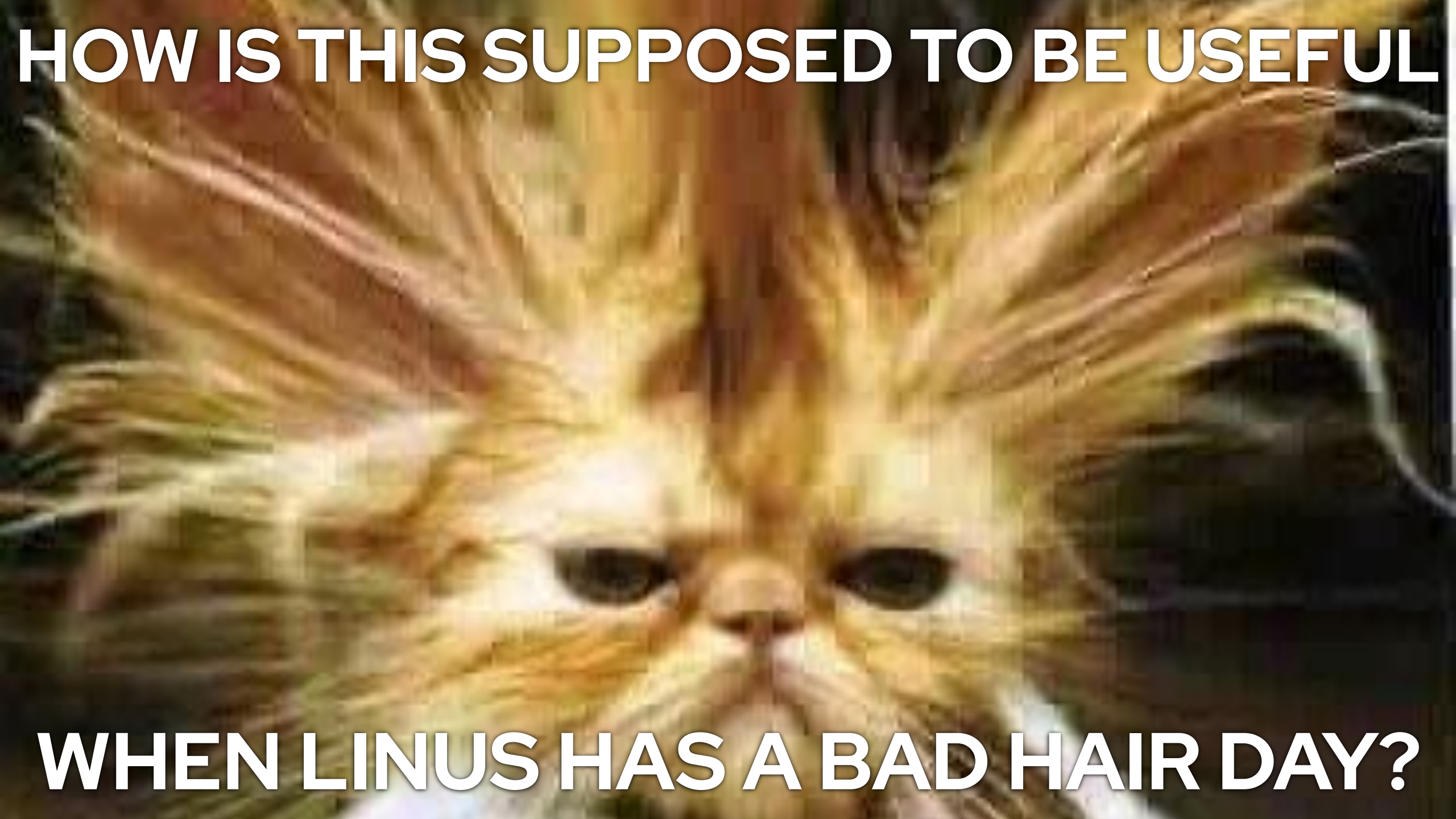


with estimation



further things to look out for

HOW IS THIS SUPPOSED TO BE USEFUL



WHEN LINUS HAS A BAD HAIR DAY?

A man with a goatee and sunglasses, wearing a dark shirt, is holding a handgun with both hands in a ready position. He is in a dimly lit casino setting with blurred lights in the background. The image is overlaid with white text.

EVERY PRODUCT OWNER

**WHEN ESTIMATES IN TICKETS
ARE NOT UPDATED**

A close-up photograph of a woman on the left and a young boy on the right. The woman has dark hair and is looking towards the boy. The boy is wearing a light-colored, striped shirt and has a serious expression. The background is a textured, brownish wall, possibly made of mud or clay. The text is overlaid on the image in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

**SO YOU'RE TELLING ME
WE STAND FOR 15 MINS EVERY
DAY**

WE'LL BE MORE EFFECTIVE

I HAVE ALTERED THE PRODUCT SCOPE



PRAY I DON'T ALTER IT FURTHER

thank you!

BRACE YOURSELVES

QUESTIONS ARE COMING

