Study on decision-making and intertemporal choice in software development

Questionnaire: Focus on the self (English)

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Imagine the following scenario happening in the company you currently work in.

You are working on a project that delivers new functionality for a software system that directly affects end customers. It's the end of the week, and you are ahead of schedule in the current iteration. You will soon meet your team and product owner to discuss plans for the next week. You are expected to suggest what you should do during the next week. You have to choose between two options:

Option 1: Implement the next feature from the project backlog. The feature was originally meant for the following iteration. The feature is estimated to require five person days of effort.

Option 2: Work on a task that is not in the project backlog, but that has been discussed before. This task is to integrate a mature and well-tested library that adds no new functionality but could save some effort over the duration of the entire project. The chance of saving the effort is estimated to be 60% (with a 40% chance that the library will not result in those savings). The integration is estimated to require five person days of effort.

The project is 6 months long and has been going for three months.
How many days of effort savings would you require to prefer recommending Option 2 over Option 1?

_____ days of effort

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The project is 6 months long and has been going for three months.
How many days of effort savings would you require to prefer recommending Option 2 over Option 1?

_____ days of effort

The project is 1 year long and has been going for three months.
How many days of effort savings would you require to prefer recommending Option 2 over Option 1?

_____ days of effort

The project is 2 years long and has been going for three months.
How many days of effort savings would you require to prefer recommending Option 2 over Option 1?

_____ days of effort

The project is 3 years long and has been going for three months.
How many days of effort savings would you require to prefer recommending Option 2 over Option 1?

_____ days of effort

The project is 5 years long and has been going for three months.
How many days of effort savings would you require to prefer recommending Option 2 over Option 1?

_____ days of effort

Demographics

Please help us better understand the data by providing the following personal information.

Gender

- ❑ Male
- ❑ Female
- ❑ Other: _____

Year of birth

_____

Highest completed degree

- ❑ Bachelor
- ❑ Masters
- ❑ Doctorate
- ❑ Other: _____

Field of degree

- ❑ Computer Science
- ❑ Other: _____

How much training in the following areas has there been in your formal education or professional development?

	None or almost none	A little	Some	A fair amount	A lot
Software requirements	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Software design	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Software construction	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Software testing	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Software maintenance	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Software configuration management	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Software engineering management	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Software engineering process	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Software engineering models and methods	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Software quality	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Software engineering professional practice	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Software engineering economics	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

What is your current role in the company you work in?

_____

In which of these areas do you have professional experience? Check all areas for which you have been responsible in your career at some point.

- ☐ Requirements
- ☐ Software architecture
- ☐ Software development
- ☐ Software testing and Quality Assurance
- ☐ Software Configuration Management
- ☐ Project management
- ☐ Software maintenance
- ☐ Other: _____

Total years of work experience with software development

_____

Total years of work experience in current company

_____

Total years of work experience in current role

_____