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SOFTWARE

FIVE COUNTER-INTUITIVE FACTS ABOUT PROGRAMMING

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1
Adding more developers can slow down software delivery

Adding more people to a software project will typically slow it down due to the increased complexity and communication overhead.

Brooks' Law

New team members of a software project often slow down productivity as their training consumes time and pulls existing developers away from their tasks.

Ramp-up time

2
Less is more: fewer lines of codes is often better

Simpler, shorter code enhances readability, easing future developments and reducing potential for errors.

Less Code, More Clarity

Concise and modular code not only speeds up execution but also fosters component reusability across projects.

Efficiency and Reusability

3
Premature optimization is the root of all evil in programming

"Programmers waste enormous amounts of time thinking about, or worrying about, the speed of noncritical parts of their programs"

Donald E. Knuth

**9 times out of 10:
Forget small efficiencies**

Premature optimization leads to complex, hard-to-maintain code without delivering substantial benefits.

4
Complex implementations are almost never good

The simplest explanation or hypothesis is often the best one....

Occam's Razor

... so is the simplest code

Always simplify

Lean towards the simplest solution that solves the problem effectively.
Also less complexity often leads to slimer, more maintainable code.

5
Don't plan too much time buffer for your development

"Work expands to fill the time available for its completion."

Parkinson's Law

Hofstadter's Law

"It always takes longer than you expect, even when you take into account Hofstadter's Law."

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Overcoming these 2 laws

Set the deadline before you start planning a project ...

... and work backwards, pruning out the secondary and lengthy ideas.

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Bonus:
Specifications
always change

Specifications uncertainty

As projects progress and stakeholders gain more information, the initial uncertainty surrounding requirements often leads to the realization of the need for adjustments.

Use Agile methodologies, such as Scrum to gain flexibility and adaptability during your programming projects.

Embracing the change

Stakeholder communication

Schedule regular meetings, feedback sessions, and clear documentation to help manage changes timely and effectively.