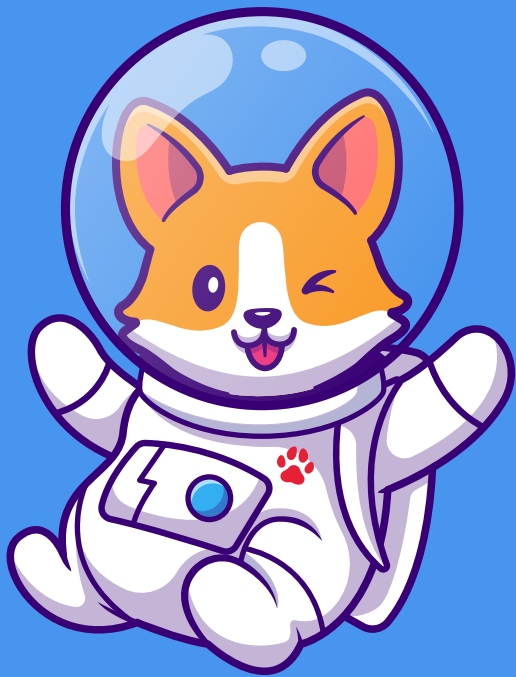


THE EASIEST WAY TO EXPLAIN STORY POINTS



Powered by
Corgis

Common Story Point Misunderstandings



“Story Points are about complexity.”

“How many days is 1 Story Point?”

“You shouldn’t Story Point bugs or things that don’t have any immediate business value.”

“Let’s take the average of all Story Point estimates during Planning Poker.”

Maarten Dalmijn

Why Does This Happen?



Story Points are not difficult to understand.

Story Points are difficult to explain. A poor explanation leads to poor understanding.

Let's fix that by providing an easy explanation using dogs*.

**I first learned from Dog Points from a presentation by Mike Cohn*

Maarten Dalmijn

What's the Size of This Dog?



Tough question.

How do you even estimate the size of a dog? By guessing it's approximate dimensions?

Maarten Dalmijn

Which Dog Is the Most Similar in Size?

A - Chihuahua



B - Border Collie



C - St. Bernard Dog



Maarten Dalmijn

Which Dog Is the Most Similar in Size?

A - Chihuahua



B - Border Collie



C - St. Bernard Dog



Maarten Dalmijn

Now let's agree on Dog Points
together

Chihuahua - 2 Dog Points



Border Collie - 5 Dog Points



St. Bernard Dog - 13 Dog Points



Maarten Dalmijn

How Many Dog Points is a Papillon Dog?

2 Dog Points



5 Dog Points



13 Dog Points



Maarten Dalmijn

How Many Dog Points is an English Mastiff

2 Dog Points



5 Dog Points



13 Dog Points



Maarten Dalmijn

How Many Dog Points is a Golden Retriever?

2 Dog Points



5 Dog Points



13 Dog Points



Maarten Dalmijn

Congratulations! You can now estimate the size of
any dog with Dog Points

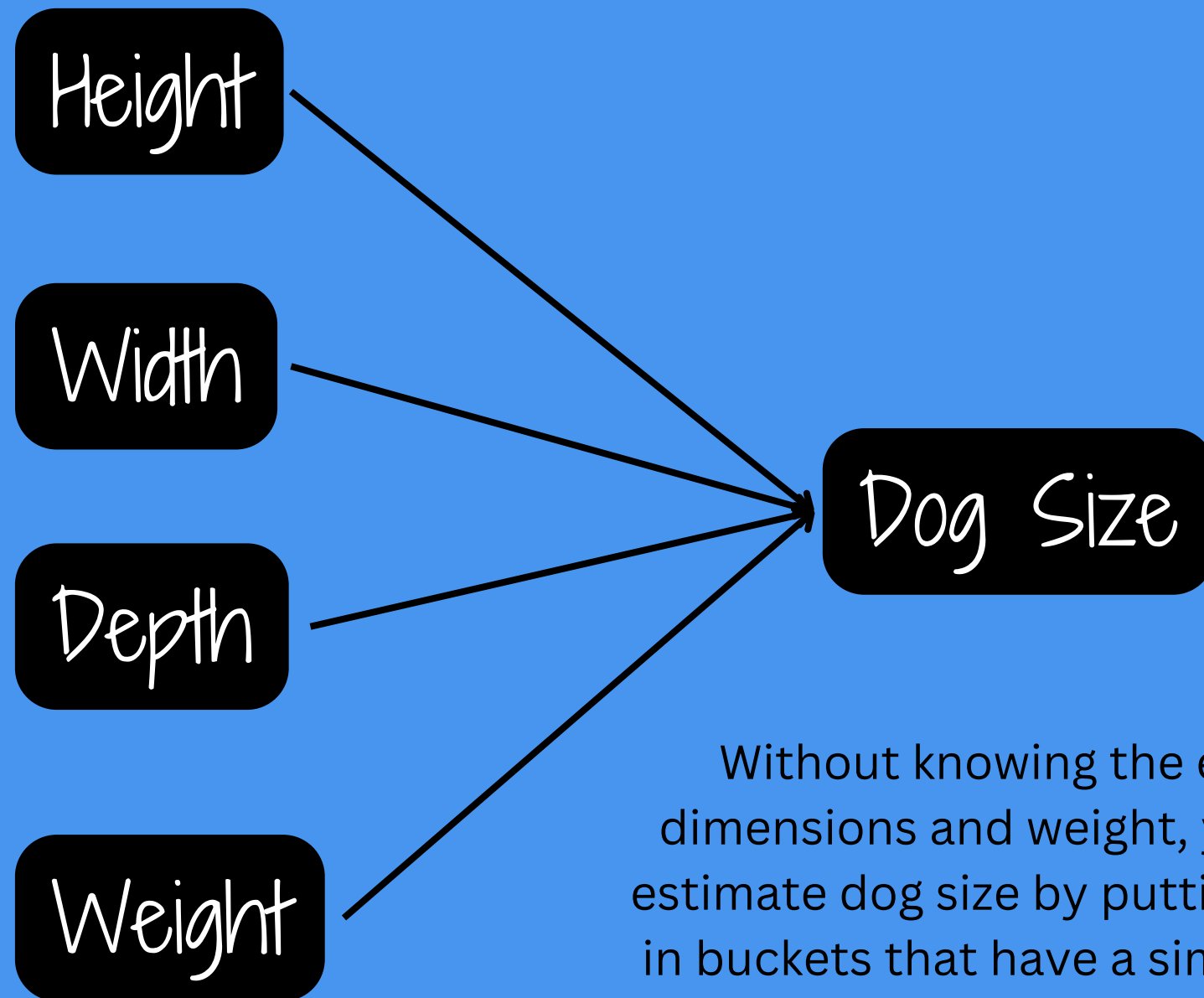


You don't know the
exact dimensions or
size of the dog.

All you know it is that
it's roughly similar to
the size of another
dog.

Maarten Dalmijn

Dog Points Visualized



Without knowing the exact dimensions and weight, you can estimate dog size by putting them in buckets that have a similar size by using dogs you're familiar with.

Maarten Dalmijn

Story Points Work the Same Way



You take previously completed work and agree together a number of Story Points for this work.

You then guess the size of new and upcoming work by comparing it to previously completed work.

Maarten Dalmijn

Story Points Work the Same Way

Feature A - 1 Story Point

Feature B - 3 Story Points

Feature C - 8 Story Points

Feature D - 13 Story Points

Feature X - ? Story Points

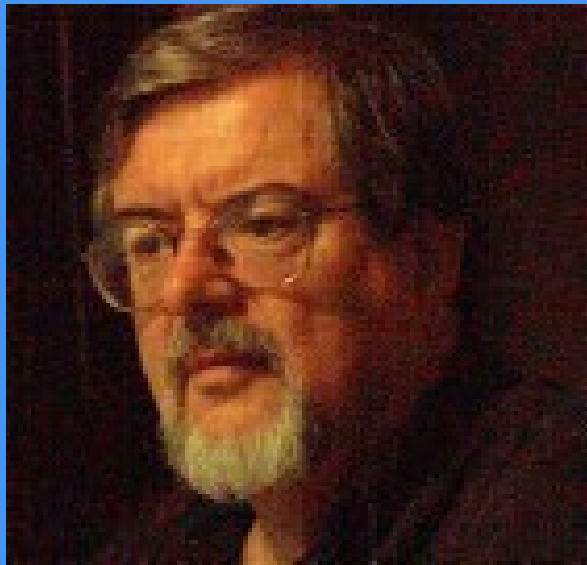
Feature X is the most similar in size to previously completed work A, B, C, or D?

Maarten Dalmijn

Remember, Story Points Still Represent Time

Initially Story Points = Ideal Days * 3

"We multiplied Ideal Days by a "load factor" to convert to actual implementation time. Load factor tended to be about three: three real days to get an Ideal Day's work done.



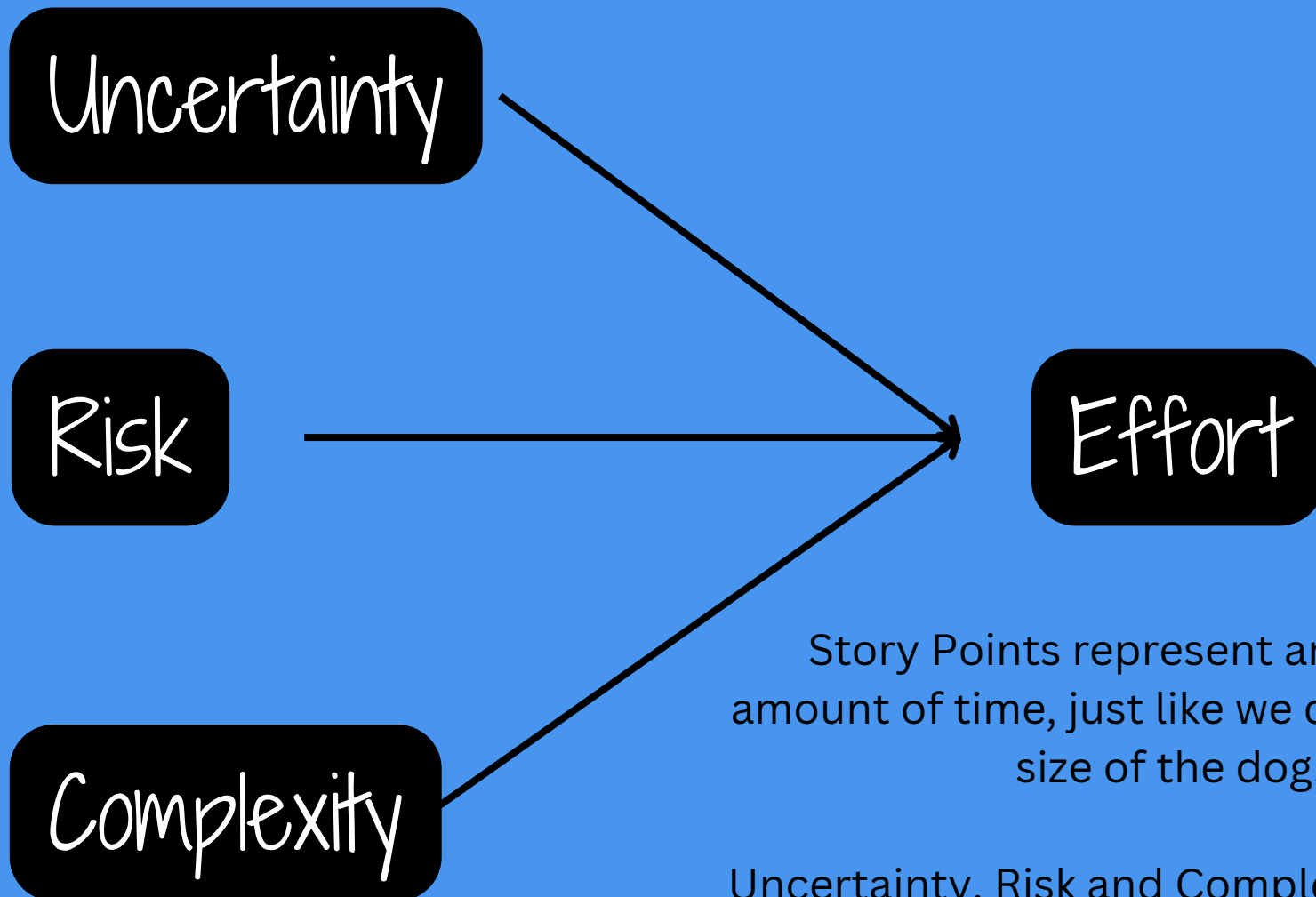
**Ron Jeffries,
Inventor of Story Points**

We spoke of our estimates in days, usually leaving "ideal" out. The result was that our stakeholders were often confused by how it could keep taking three days to get a day's work done, or, looking at the other side of the coin, why we couldn't do 50 "days" of work in three weeks."

- Ron Jeffries, Story Points Inventor

Maarten Dalmijn

Story Points Are Not Complexity



Story Points represent an unknown amount of time, just like we don't know the size of the dog.

Uncertainty, Risk and Complexity influence effort, but each alone is not alone to determine effort.

Something can be simple, yet still take a lot of time.

Maarten Dalmijn

DON'T SWEAT THE STORY POINTS



No matter what you do, your estimates will be wrong.

The conversations around different estimates help with establishing common understanding.

More Story Points completed, doesn't mean you delivered more value.

If Story Points cause problems, consider giving Ideal Days, Capacity-based Planning or #NoEstimates a shot.