

Per Cost Estimating Body of Knowledge (CEBoK) Module 1 Cost Est. Basics:

- A Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) establishes a **common frame of reference** for relating job tasks to each other and relating project costs at the summary level of detail
 - It provides a consistent and visible framework for specifying the objectives, labor, materials, and contracts of the system/program.
 - The structure is used to define the total program/system by providing detailed definitions of individual elements required (via a WBS Dictionary)
- A WBS should be tailored for each system or program for the purpose of **capturing all the idiosyncrasies** endemic to each system/program
- Estimate uses a WBS that is at a level of detail appropriate to ensure that **cost elements are neither omitted nor double-counted**
- Estimate is presented in a WBS fully **traceable to the system specification**
- WBS structure is **aligned to organizational structure performing the work**; WBS element tasks are traceable to data, which is traceable back to the respective source documents