

Who: Solutions team, project managers, senior developers, account managers.

When: During presales or discovery for each engagement.

What: Combine systematic and engagement-specific risk for heuristic pricing governance.

Output: Engagement risk index (pure) or blended β (hybrid), feeding the CAPM minimum margin and a comparison against the proposed deal margin.

ENGAGEMENT RISK SCORING

| FACTOR | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|--|----------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Client Track Record Relationship history and reliability | 1 Long-term | 2 Repeat | 3 New, vetted | 4 Unvetted | 5 Red flags |
| Scope Clarity How well-defined are requirements | 1 Detailed | 2 Outlined | 3 Partial | 4 Vague | 5 Undefined |
| Technical Complexity Stack familiarity and unknowns | 1 Standard | 2 Minor | 3 Some new | 4 R&D | 5 Experimental |
| Internal Capacity Team bandwidth and availability | 1 Dedicated | 2 Comfortable | 3 Tight | 4 Stretched | 5 Over |
| Contract Type Risk allocation in contract structure | 1 T&M | 2 Capped | 3 Hybrid | 4 Fixed+pad | 5 Fixed tight |
| Political Complexity Stakeholder alignment and authority | 1 Single | 2 Small | 3 Committee | 4 Multi-org | 5 Adversarial |
| Timeline Pressure Deadline flexibility and driver | 1 Flexible | 2 Reasonable | 3 Firm | 4 Aggressive | 5 Immovable |

CAPM DECISION CALCULATOR

BASE MARGIN / AGENCY R_f ?

10 %

PORTFOLIO MARGIN / R_m ?

22 %

L1 ADJ. FACTOR ?

—

DEAL PRICE

0 \$

ESTIMATED DELIVERY COST

0

\$

Hybrid: $E(R) = R_f + (\text{Engagement } \beta \times \text{L1 Factor}) \times (R_m - R_f)$ – then compare the proposed deal margin against $E(R)$

| ENGAGEMENT SCORE | ENGAGEMENT β | BLENDED β | REQUIRED MARGIN $E(R)$ | PROPOSED MARGIN |
|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| — | — | — | — | — |
| of 35 | score / 21 | \times L1 factor | required return | enter price and cost |
| MARGIN GAP | MIN. DEAL PRICE | | | |
| — | — | | | |
| proposed - required | needed to clear $E(R)$ | | | |

Pure approach: Use the engagement score (– of 35) as a risk index to size per-project contingency. The implied portfolio-wide minimum margin is —: $E(R) = R_f + \text{L1 Factor} \times (R_m - R_f)$, and the proposed deal margin should still be checked against that hurdle.

Hybrid approach: Blended $\beta = (\text{Engagement Score} / 21) \times \text{L1 Factor}$. This feeds directly into the CAPM formula for a per-engagement minimum margin.

Governance note: This hybrid calculator is a heuristic decision tool, not a statistically correct pricing engine. Its main value is internal alignment, presales discipline, and postmortem calibration.