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FUNCTION POINT
USERS GROUP

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USA



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MetricViews

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NOT JUST **TRANSITION,**
IT'S **TRANSFORMATION**



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A NEW VISION

IFPUG has chosen a new image for its website.



In a competition open to all, this image—from Dácil Castello—was selected as representing the future of IFPUG. Entries were of a remarkably high standard, reflecting the importance and significance of a changing IFPUG moving into the future. And further website upgrades are coming.

Further entries – for which we thank all contestants – can be seen deeper inside *MetricViews*.

Change is afoot everywhere.

Our President has some interesting observations as he looks forward. Accepting and moving with change is part of his legacy, and the Future of Function Points is both a constant and a focus for change. A range of viewpoints can be found inside this edition of *MetricViews*.

Message from the President



Joe Schofield

Not Just Transition, It's Transformation

Elected governments are constantly changing based on who's in office and their constituency expectations. Sports teams acquire and lose players to please their constituency—the owners (with investment at risk) and the fans (who have pride at risk and are also a primary revenue stream). IFPUG is not unlike other organizations that endure transition. In addition, the Board has worked to be *transformative* over the past couple of years.

As part of my last *MetricViews* "Message from the President," I trust you weren't expecting a status report or a list of accomplishments that we have all achieved over the past two years. We certainly have much to reflect on (see *Members Make it Happen* in the last *MetricViews*). I want to suggest that much of what we have delivered is *transformative*: new certification (CFPP), new body of knowledge and assets (SNAP), the creation of the CFPS "Fellow" program, and new web content and presentation, all while sustaining the daily operations which we've come to depend on.

Living organisms consume nutrients and dispose of unneeded elements as part of their survival. (Eerily, this notion sounds like the input-process-output paradigm with which we are familiar.) The Dead Sea does not itself sustain life

(continued on next page)

(President's Message, continued from page 2)

because it's missing an outlet or "release." One could argue that the Dead Sea is transformative—in a self-destructive way. Instead I would suggest that the Sea's lack of "product" is the ultimate evidence that it's precisely the opposite—and not transformative!

Getting back to my point, or maybe in search of a point, IFPUG is a living organism. By charter it inherits transitive properties. But as an organization IFPUG can only *choose* to be transformative. We can choose to create our futures or we can allow ourselves to be driven by the momentum of the past and our current circumstances.

I am grateful to the current Board, which has remained intact for the past couple of years and has embraced an attitude of transformation. I am grateful to the committee members that serve so diligently, often pondering if the Board has lost its mind. I am grateful for our membership that honors us with a trust to push forward with an agenda to further each of us and the international measurement community.

We once again enter a period of transition with the election of new Board members this year. Roughly 40 years of Board

experience will be eligible for re-election with three of the four Board members alone: Bruce Rogora, Mauricio Aguiar, and Tom Cagley. Each of them continues to play a vital role in the organism we know as IFPUG. Steve Woodward has served you well over his three-year term. A capable Kriste Lawrence will assume the role of the President of the Board. And so goes the expected and intended transition.

A new Board will determine "who we are" as part of that transition. A calculatedly daring Board may choose to determine "who we will be." My hope is that you encourage us to accept that challenge. Then we can continue to invent our future rather than merely sustaining our past. After all, *it's not just transition; it's transformation.*

Thanks to all of you that make IFPUG what it is today and what it can be tomorrow.

Take care,
Joe Schofield
President, IFPUG

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From the Editor's Desk



Paul Radford

Polite discussion normally implies that all parties have a right to propose their point of view – a balanced approach. But exactly how do you provide a ‘balanced’ approach? Scientific papers are heavily critiqued before publication – yet opposing opinions usually dominate media discussions.

When I asked what was the future of function points, I expected to hear

cries for simpler, more automated measurement. And yes, some were of that ilk, but many opinions touched on points of view far from my initial perception. We have tried to publish the bulk of this variety in this issue – or, at least, touch on it.

So you may not agree with all opinions published in this *Metrics Views* – but it is worth considering and understanding these points of view.

Paul Radford

Communications and Marketing Committee

The Future of Function Points?

by Paul Radford

It is a question that invites a bonanza of answers.

Do function points have a future? How will or should they change to adapt to market place needs? Do they have to be simpler – or is the message just made too complex?

Is their role a part of the constant cycle of change (like Agile), sometimes popular and sometimes reviled? Is the future in some form of automation of what is essentially an analysis process?

We didn't really get answers to all these questions – but we did receive some interesting points of view.

Jagrit S Srivastava & Sanjay Aggarwal thinks it important to firstly remind us of the core objectives behind the initial concept of function points:

“How can an organisation know if its productivity is improving or declining unless it first finds some way to measure it? Albrecht identified five objectives that a successful software development measure should meet:

- 1) It must consistently determine the productivity and productivity trends of development, maintenance, or support activities, or projects, relative to other similar activities at the site, and other development sites.

- 2) It must promote actions or decisions that can improve the output of the development site.
- 3) It must demonstrate the results of the actions taken to improve the output of the development site.
- 4) It must support the estimating process at the development site.
- 5) It must support the management process at the development site.

FPA aims to provide a consistent measure of system size that is independent of the development technology; is simple to apply; can be estimated (reasonably well) from the requirements specification and is meaningful to the end user.”

However, Jagrit and Sanjay are – like most of us—less than enamoured of the current VAF. Rather than do away with it, they suggest a modified VAF based on statistically derived variants.

“Adjusted Function Point calculation should be made as effective as the unadjusted function point calculation. Appropriate mathematical formulation needs to be formulated. Instead of using a single VAF-like multiplier to adjust a function point count, a change of philosophy may be appropriate. It would be best to regard size as having

multiple dimensions, instead of trying to capture it in a single number.”

Krupananda Mannekunta has a number of ideas. He sees a potential of automated sizing based on a standardised structure for capturing requirements:

“As Function Points are counted based on the requirements, then it may be possible to identify a standardised structure for capturing requirements which will facilitate in identifying the FP context entities. This would expedite the counting process and may also lay a foundation for automation of FP counting for projects through the requirements documentation. We may foster a close collaboration with organizations like the International Institute of Business Analysis (IIBA) to see how best requirements can be recommended to be structured to easily perform FP counting.”

However, he also has some complaints on the current process defined by IFPUG for both enhancement sizing (a common complaint – the NEFPUG approach is suggested by this author) and the calculation of complexity for transactions. He offers that: *“.... instead of having steadfast categorization into three (Low, Medium, High), we could actually define an algorithm which will consider the number of DETs, FTRs in data functions and DETs, FTRs and PL in transaction to calculate the FPs”.*

Make it more complex? I am not so sure.

Pablo Soneiro Garcia takes a different view. In his article, he suggests that an agile approach to function points is the way of the future (see *Agile Functional Sizing* below). This is a view of function points as an integral and simple part of every development – but made easier.

Julian Bejarano Francisco

Gomez comes at it from a different point of view. He suggests that IFPUG should be certifying process:

“Many organizations (for example: CMMI® Capability Maturity Model® Integration), offer models which are collections of best practices that help organizations to improve their processes. The next step for the Function Point community may be to develop a new model to help companies to implement the Function Point methodology.”

This new model should provide a comprehensive integrated set of guidelines on how to establish a process driving the Function Point Analysis methodology to achieve the objectives of the companies: estimation, productivity, third-party control & comparison, audit, etc.”

So it seems the future varies according to how you see the world.

Agile Functional Sizing

By Pablo Soneira Garcia

What is the future of Function Points? Scrum / Function Point?

In 1979, Allan Albrecht defined the initial concepts about Function Points and these remain valid today. This is both a strength and a weakness of the Function Point model. It is a strength, because the real value of the benchmarking activity results from applying the same rules and processes to compare performance industry data. But it is also a weakness, in that software engineering has evolved a lot since then. For example, the waterfall model is now often considered a flawed method because it is comparatively rigid and inflexible. Nowadays, much software is created using agile methods.

Automated measurement should help an organization to deliver quickly. The organization could estimate effort quickly and could be agile enough to adapt with the development team to changing

requirements. But the IFPUG community needs to change and improve the Functional Size Measurement Method Procedure. This procedure must be more Agile.

Agile? Could we use Function Point with an Agile methodology? We can take a look inside Scrum.

Scrum is a team-based iterative and incremental Agile methodology. It has its own components, such as the Scrum Team, backlogs, and sprints. But what is the meaning of backlog in Scrum? The product backlog is an ordered list of “requirements,” the product backlog is the “What” that will be built. The backlogs are commonly written in story format. In this way, the development team can identify the user, action and required result in a request and it is a simple way of writing requests in a manner that anyone can understand.

Then we take a look inside the Function Point methodology. The first step in the function point counting procedure is to gather the available documentation. These requirements are very close to definition of backlog: the user requirements specifying what the software shall do, in a language that is common to both user(s) and developers.

The first step in both situations are very similar. However, from there they diverge markedly in approach. I think shortcuts should be introduced into the process to make it even easier. For example, we could measure only Transactional Functions and not Data Functions.

Investigation of improving simplicity and agility would help IFPUG move to the next level.

The Future of Function Points: Insights from Historical Analysis

By Don Beckett, Principal Consultant at QSM

Quantitative Software Management, Inc. (QSM), a leading supplier in software process improvement and estimation recently updated the company's database of more than 10,000 completed real-time, IT and engineering projects. As part of that update, QSM analyzed the completed validated function point projects in the company's database since the year 2000, a sample size of 2,231 projects. QSM identified several trends that show how the use of function points has evolved over time – which help to predict what's to come for function points.

Some of QSM's predictions about function points are as follows:

- Function points have staying power in IT. While they are not the only sizing metric used in software, function points are widely used, and will continue to be widely used, especially in IT. QSM anticipates that function point usage in telecommunications software and real-time will continue to be minimal.
- Projects are getting smaller. The median size of a function point project is less than half of what it was 20 years ago. This is partly due to the fact that most function point projects are enhancements, or modifications to existing systems, rather than new development projects.
- Projects are shorter and are using less effort than they did 20 years ago. The average project from the beginning of analysis until implementation into production now lasts a little over 7 months. Though duration appears to have leveled off, projects are requiring less effort than ever before. In fact, projects completed in the most recent time period (2005 to the present) expended one-third less effort than those completed from 1990-1994.

Median Schedule and Effort				
	1990-1994	1995-1999	2000-2004	2005 -
Duration (Mths)	10.06	6.67	6.57	7.13
Effort (Person Mths)	32.00	26.45	23.0	21.6

- Productivity will continue to worsen. Although the tools available to developers are superior to those from 20 years ago, this has not improved productivity. The implication is that to improve productivity, the focus needs to be moved from the developers to other aspects of the software development process. QSM anticipates that schedule pressure, which negatively impacts productivity, will continue to be a challenge as organizations work to complete projects more quickly.

Median Productivity				
	1990-1994	1995-1999	2000-2004	2005+
FP/PM	11.10	17.00	9.21	5.84
FP/Mth	17.10	63.90	29.74	22.10
PI	15.3	16.4	13.9	10.95
Size (FP)	394.0	167.0	205	144

- The most productive projects will dedicate time to analysis and design. Projects that spend over 20% of their total effort in analysis and design, complete sooner, cost less (use less effort), and work better (fewer defects).

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A Discovery of Function Points – a Project Manager's Flashlight

By Colin Hammond

For over twenty years I have been involved in IT projects, sometimes as a developer, more often as project manager. Success has come mostly from experience and just doing a lot of the right things along the way. But when it comes to running a large IT project you cannot rely on just instinct and experience, you need facts!

About four years ago I was introduced to the value of software metrics, and how they can and should be used to estimate, predict, manage and control software development projects. As I began to use these metrics, a cloud of uncertainty began to lift – I can now quote metrics where before there was just “gut feeling”.

At the heart of these metrics is of course, Function Points. Thanks to my colleague, advisor and friend, Lonnie Franks, who has taught me so much in this field, I now feel equipped to control software projects for my clients like never before.

To a project manager, an FP count is a useful measurement of scope but what can be so illuminating is the inference about all aspects of the project that can be derived from the count. Estimates and metrics of resources, requirements, quality, schedule, costs, code, and documentation can all be derived from the FP count.

I have become empowered; I feel like the one-eyed man in the land of the blind.

From there

Editor's Note: Colin Hammond has a bigger story to tell – and we hope to be sharing more of his story in later editions.



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Registration is Now Open for ISMA⁸

By Terry Vogt



July saw the opening of registration for the ISMA⁸ Conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. If you live in Brazil please see BFPUG's (the Brazilian IFPUG Chapter) website at <http://bfpug.wordpress.com/isma-8-in-rio/> for registration instructions. Registration for those outside of Brazil can be made through the IFPUG website at <http://www.ifpug.org>. ISMA⁸ will be held in Rio de Janeiro on October 1st and 2nd, 2013. October 1st will be showcased a new one day format called "Open Space." Open Space is a new forum this year where presentations are chosen by the attendees. At the start, all those who want to speak will provide a brief abstract of their topic, and then the attendees will select a limited number of those to be presented. The opportunity is open to anyone who wants to attend. In addition there will be a lead-off presentation by John Wright from NASA/JPL who will talk about his experiences operating the Mars Rover remotely controlled robotic exploration vehicle.

The Keynote presenters at ISMA⁸ include Nazaré Bretas, Undersecretary of Logistics and Technology for the Brazilian government who will speak on "Software Metrics and Governance Improvement in the Public Sector" and current IFPUG vice president and future president Kriste Lawrence who will speak on "The Future of IFPUG".

This year's ISMA conference will be in a new one-day format emphasizing panel presentations with several speakers.

This will be followed by a moderated discussion, and audience participation will be encouraged. Panels will include the following:

Non-Functional Requirements & SNAP: Challenges and Opportunities. A sample topic includes "SNAP - Past, Present and Future"

Rules of the Game: Establishing Initial Condition for Price-per-FP Contracts. A sample topic includes "Can a Fixed Price 6,000 Function Points Project be Successful?"

The Future of Software Measurement: New Technologies, New Buzzwords, New Hopes: Disruptive Change? A sample topic includes "Automated Function Points—Threat or Opportunity"

The ISMA conference this year is being paired up with the ISBSG annual conference to stimulate discussions among attendees of both organizations and encourage support and cooperation among participants of both of these allied organizations.

All these activities will be made even more enjoyable by the backdrop of Rio de Janeiro, future site of the World Cup and the Olympic Summer Games, and one of the most spectacular settings in the world. We hope you will join other software measurement professionals there for stimulating discussions and a memorable experience.



Behind the Scenes

By Elizabeth Bertolotti, Association Coordinator

Welcome to the Behind the Scenes portion of *MetricViews*, where we provide our members with a glimpse of what is happening here at Headquarters. The Headquarters office works toward providing the members of IFPUG with the services they require, enrollment assistance, answers to questions on membership and certification, conferences and workshops, and purchases of publications.

We have a lot of exciting new things going on here, including preparation for the new SNAP certification (which will be known as the Certified Snap Practitioner) and the upcoming Board of Directors elections. We've also been processing many membership renewals, and if you haven't renewed yet – now is the time! Remember – in order to receive member benefits, including valid certification, your membership must be up to date. If you have any trouble with this process, please be sure to contact us at Headquarters right away!

Speaking of our new SNAP certification, we'll be launching our first official exam this September in Rio de Janeiro! It will be held September 30, right before ISMA Rio. You can find more information on registering for the exam on www.ifpug.org. We also recently held a virtual SNAP workshop this July where attendees were able to get a better, more hands-on look at SNAP in action.

We've also uploaded one of the presentations from our Ottawa Symposium on our website. You'll see other presentations rotate on the website over the coming weeks, so if you weren't able to attend (or even if you were only able to attend remotely), you'll have the opportunity to view the material covered this past May. You can also find many helpful resources by logging into the Members Services Area of the IFPUG website. Have a question that the website doesn't seem to answer? Visit the [IFPUG ISMA Insights Bulletin Board](#) to interact with fellow professionals. You can even join or start individual groups to discuss specific areas of interest!

We're very excited about this upcoming year, and we hope you're equally excited to be a member. As always, we look forward to hearing from you at ifpug@ifpug.org.



Joe Bauer, CCEA with Price Systems LLC being presented his 1st prize gift by Mauricio Aguiar.

IFPUG at ICEAA New Orleans

ICEAA Conference

The Functional Sizing Standards Committee was in attendance at the ICEAA conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA in June. Many of the conference attendees are involved in long term government contracts (defense, government agencies), while some were corporate such as United Healthcare, so this was a good venue for IFPUG to have a table in the Exhibit Hall. Peter Thomas and Tammy Preuss presented an education session "Introduction to IFPUG" in addition to staffing the IFPUG table. IFPUG ended the event with a drawing for prizes (Conference pass to ISMA⁸, "The IFPUG Guide to IT and Software Measurement," Phone Charger & Travel Clock.) Mauricio Aguiar attended the conference and provided great support. This was an excellent opportunity for IFPUG to gain visibility in other areas.



Tammy Preuss at the IFPUG table.



IFPUG in Hawaii at IEEE SoSE

by Steven Woodward, Cloud Perspectives

I was requested by Dr. Ricardo Valerdi of the University of Arizona to consider speaking as a keynote at the June 2-6, 2013 IEEE 8th International Conference on System of Systems Engineering in Maui, Hawaii on the subject area of Cloud Computing Cultural Perspectives and Progress.

The IEEE SoSE conference committee offered table space and visibility for IFPUG during the event. This provided IFPUG an opportunity to refine and organize marketing material, while informing the academia community regarding opportunities at IFPUG.

We had a drawing for IFPUG sponsored prizes, which included a mobile solar charger won by Professor Saeid Nahavandi from Deakin University of Australia, who also presented on "Factories of the Future." "The IFPUG Guide to IT Software Measurement" book was won by Professor Stephen Cook from the University of South Australia, who presented "Achieving Action to Improve the Framework for Defense Strategy and Execution." The

Grand prize of a one-day ISMA-Rio pass was won by John Wright of Jet Propulsion Laboratory who presented "Updates to the Rover Driving Tools for Curiosity." John is one of the "Mars Rover Drivers" at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. John and I had great conversations during the conference and I think that this must be one of the "coolest" jobs ever!

What's really exciting is that John Wright has accepted our invitation to present in Rio de Janeiro Tuesday, October 1st as part of a new innovative open format that will help direct the future of IFPUG. It's a great fit, having John present on the Mars Rover Program and Future Manned Missions to Mars from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology. The future is here!

Sensor and transducer based systems have always been something I enjoyed analyzing throughout my career, and the program was tremendous to the point where as tempting as it was, I didn't make it to the beach!

I want to extend a special thank you to the organizers of the IEEE SOSE conference for giving IFPUG the opportunity to improve visibility in academia. Dr. Ferat Sahin of the Rochester Institute of Technology provided IFPUG good prime visibility and Dr. Mo Jamshidi, University of Texas – San Antonio and SoSE Founder was a gracious host and I appreciate how the IEEE SoSE community made me feel welcome. Of course I cannot forget to thank Dr. Ricardo Valerdi who extended the invitation for me to present to such an esteemed community.

I left beautiful Maui with new friends, but also an appreciation that IFPUG needs to improve partnering and collaboration with organizations such as IEEE and other ISO/IEC communities to improve awareness and ensure the IFPUG method remains valuable and practical in the complex System of Systems world that we now live in.

Ottawa Metrics Half Day Symposium and Meetings – Success and Preparing for More!

By Steven Woodward, CFPS, Director of Conference and Education

I was really pleased that the IFPUG Board of Directors made the trip north to my home town of Ottawa. Ottawa is the capital of Canada and is also known as "Silicon Valley North".

This was a preliminary pilot to investigate new formats and channels to offer conference content. The event was available onsite, streamed live and recorded for future playback. Instructions to playback the recording will be available soon.

The condensed half-day format May 1, 2013 in Ottawa included Information Technology leaders from Canada in conjunction with IFPUG board members. This provided a tremendous variety of speakers with innovative software measurement insights.

Timothy Grayson, director at ePOST of Canada Post (the Canadian Postal Service) presented and was Master of Ceremonies; helping educate, provoke interesting discussions and entertain the attendees. Timothy did a great job and has helped motivate the IFPUG community to continue maturing the software communities related to governance and software measurement. As Timothy's book, titled "Spaces in Between" infers, there are lots of spaces that can be filled by appropriate software measurement.

Other Canadian information technology experts included: **Stuart MacKay**, CTO Government Services HP Canada, provided insights regarding the complex estimation and integration challenges being faced today.

(continued on next page)

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Cloud
Perspectives



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John Cousens, Public Sector Canada Salesforce.com, presented new agile SaaS models and where function points have quantified realized cost savings.

Charles Bokor, Strategic Management Consultant, and University software performance measurement evangelist discussed “Black Hole, Super-Sized Projects.”

The IFPUG board speakers included:

Joe Schofield, Certified CMMi instructor, after a 31 year career at Sandia Laboratories, highlighted the need for “fidelity metrics” to resolve common pain points in the software industry.

Tom Cagley, of DCG, provided innovative insights with an agile twist!

Lori Holmes of Q/P Management Group, provided a real-life outsourcing case study where ongoing metrics provided the data to make difficult decisions.

Christine Green of HP, highlighted non-functional software sizing considerations in 2013.

Mauricio Aguiar of ti Métricas, provided updates from Brazil, the leading country in Software Metrics!

Steven Woodward of Cloud Perspectives, highlighted cloud computing metrics concepts and progress.

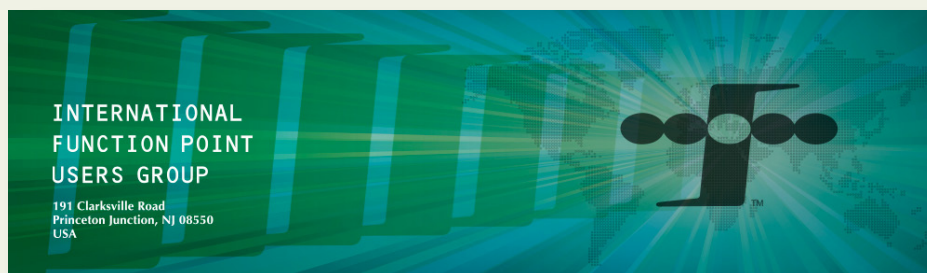
Special thanks to our sponsors: ti Métricas, our featured gold sponsor; Q/P Management Group, Salesforce.com and Cloud Perspectives as silver sponsors; and Leda MC, our bronze sponsor.

The regional event format has already generated requests to host similar events in Asia and Europe.

Stay tuned for information to access the Ottawa May 1, 2013 recordings and for information regarding future regional conferences in 2014.

BANNER CONTEST SUBMISSIONS

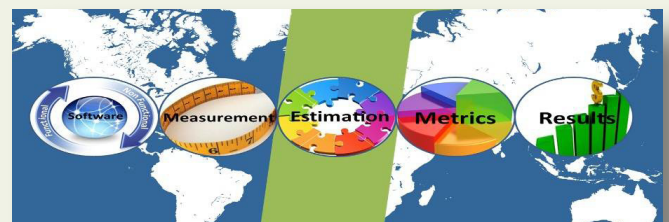
The IFPUG Board of Directors is pleased to share the entries submitted for the IFPUG New Banner Contest.



First Place – submitted by Dácil Castelo



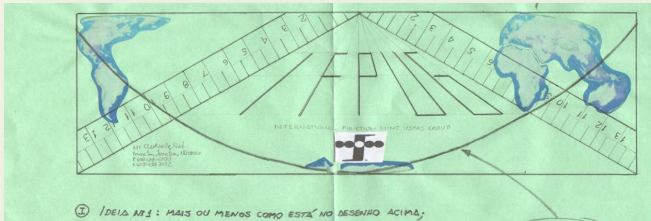
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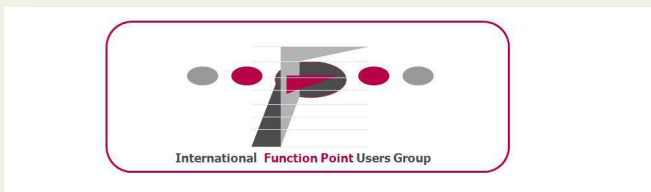
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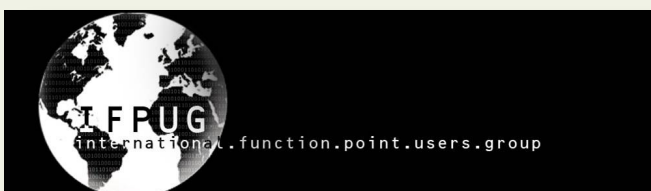
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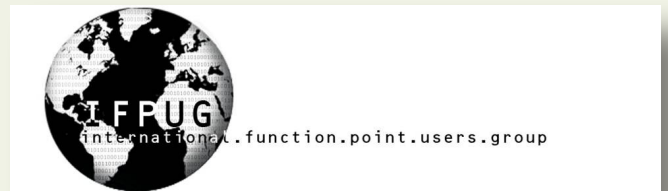
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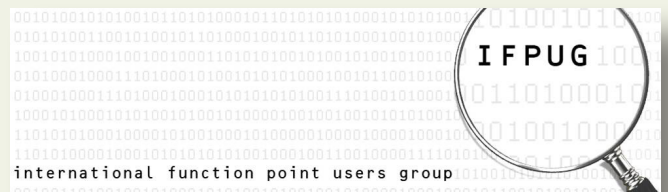
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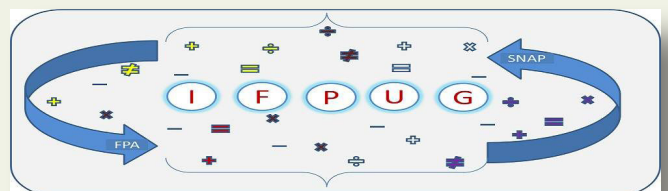
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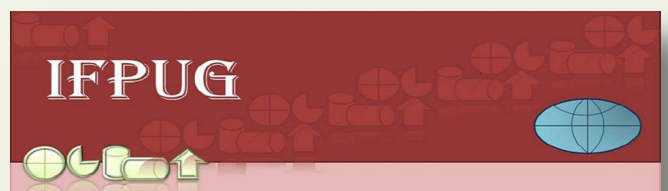
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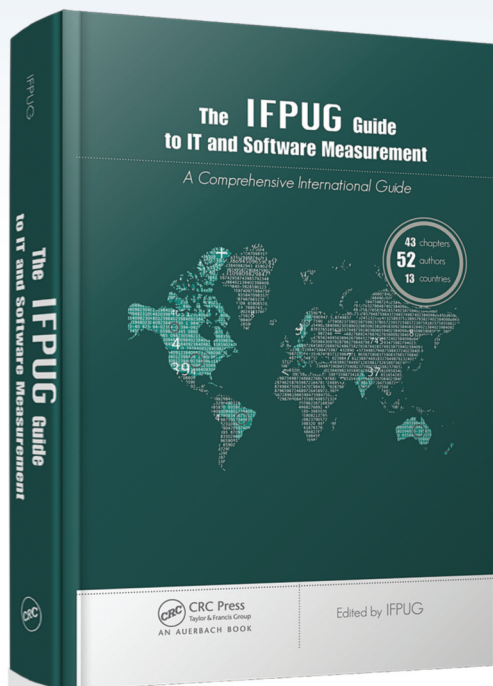
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"Although the themes running through the chapters in this book are measurement and metrics, the application of these themes is to the practical issues faced by project managers, CIOs, sales people, testers, QA personnel, outsourcers, bid evaluators, and IT managers. This volume should be a close-at-hand reference for all these people."

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David Garmus, Janet Russac, and Royce Edwards

"... a comprehensive guide for the International Function Point Users Group (IFPUG) Functional Size Measurement method. ... written to prepare practitioners planning to take the IFPUG Certified Function Point Specialist (CFPS) exam."

—Research Book News

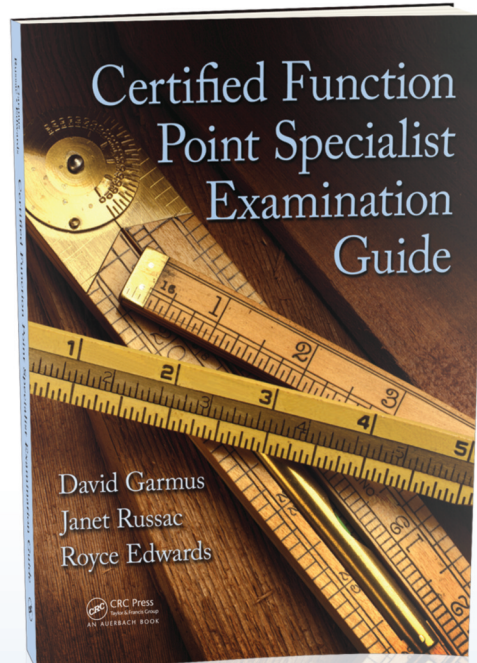
"The authors are all qualified for the work at hand, and indeed have contributed to the function point counting methodology."

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- Contains questions and answers in each chapter with specific references to version 4.3 of the Function Point Counting Practices Manual
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Communications and Marketing Committee

Website Member-Maintained Content Updates Continue; New Page Banner Selected

Following the conversion in the spring of 2012 of the web hosting environment from vendor-maintained to member-maintained, we have continued to add content via pages and posts to bring updated information to the website users. This spring the CMC organized and ran a “Design-a-New-Banner” contest, inviting the membership to submit proposed new designs for the website banner. We received 19 submissions, and the IFPUG Executive Board selected one of them as the contest winner. Congratulations to Dácil Castello who sent the winning design, and won the \$500 prize.

Additionally, we embarked on a project to re-design the website look and feel, to make it more visually appealing, dynamic, and modern in appearance. To that end we solicited from the Executive Board, Committee Chairs, and Vice-chairs, lists of desired changes that would achieve these goals. We received nearly 100 recommended changes, some of which were so obviously needed that we implemented them immediately. The remainder were cataloged, analyzed, and turned into two lists: a list of functional requirements; and a list of non-functional requirements. These lists are currently being prioritized by the Executive Board, and once that is done, we will use the requirements to develop a design document that will be the authoritative source for programming the new layout.

ISMA⁸ in Rio is coming up at the beginning of October and we are gathering our focus to provide publicity via the website, our mass emailings, and spontaneous short communications from members of our IFPUG Immediate Broadcasting Network of social media users.

Stay tuned for more from the Communications and Marketing Committee.

Certification Committee

In September of 1993 the first Certified Function Point Specialist (CFPS) exam was held in Denver, Colorado, USA. During the 20th anniversary of the CFPS designation, IFPUG Certification Committee would like to salute the pioneer CFPSs who were the first to pass the CFPS exam.

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Since 1993 there have been more than 5000 individuals from 28 countries that have passed the CFPS exam. These individuals have helped to make the IFPUG CFPS designation the worldwide “platinum standard” for the recognition of individuals with a specialized level of knowledge and expertise in the area of functional size measurement (FSM). IFPUG, as the leading international certifying body for FSM, takes great pride in all who have achieved the CFPS designation and encourage other FSM practitioners to strive for CFPS designation.

Interested in the CFPS? Detailed information about the CFPS designation may be found on the IFPUG Web Site: www.ifpug.org/certification. If you have questions you may contact the Chair of the Certification Committee at certification@ifpug.org.

Functional Sizing Standards Committee

The FSSC promoted function point analysis and software estimation at the International Cost Estimation & Analysis Association (ICEAA) Conference in New Orleans this June. In addition to 3 days of committee meetings reviewing and discussing upcoming iTips, uTips, and white papers on items of interest to our association, the FSSC presented IFPUG, Function Points and SNAP Points to an eager audience of ICEAA attendees interested in learning more about software sizing methods. We also promoted IFPUG through a table in the exhibition hall and a raffle. This is the first year of partnership with ICEAA and it is hoped this is the start of a long and mutually beneficial relationship.

The first half of 2013 has been a busy time at the FSSC. We completed three (3) iTips (*Help!*, *Charts/Graphs*, *Logon*) and one (1) uTip (*Using FPA in COTS Software Acquisitions*). iTips and uTips are free and can be found at www.ifpug.org. Click on the heading for iTips/uTips.

The second half of 2013 looks even more exciting as we produce our first YouTube series on Counting Practices Manual lessons and tips. Look for white papers on Agile and Big Data as well as uTips or iTips on early estimation, conversions, and testing.

We appreciate hearing from the membership. Please email us at fssc@ifpug.org with your feedback or suggestions for future topics.

ISO Committee

The International Standards Organization (ISO) Committee is working on behalf of IFPUG members to advance Function Points as an international Software Engineering Standard through ISO/IEC JTC1 SC7. The Committee also participates in the development and review of other related Software Engineering Standards related to software lifecycle, software measurement, software process improvement, and benchmarking.

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee has been pursuing a number of opportunities to expose IFPUG to potential new members. In March 2013, Dácil Castelo delivered a function point focused presentation at the American Business Corporation Conference in Columbia. This was the first exposure to function points for many of the attendees. We are also working to organize an IFPUG-focused conference in South Asia in 2014. This is a tremendous opportunity to broaden IFPUG's exposure throughout the world. The IFPUG archive is being implemented and we hope to have it available to the membership in the near future. We have a number of initiatives in the works that we believe will be valuable to the membership. We will update you on our progress in future releases of *MetricViews*. The success of our committee is tied to how well IFPUG supports your needs. To that end we have established a bulletin board area in IFPUG Insights where you can submit questions and contribute ideas. Visit the bulletin board and let us know if there is anything we can do on your behalf to help make your participation in IFPUG more valuable. Please feel free to contact us through the Membership Committee group on IFPUG ISMA Insights or through the IFPUG office.

Non-Functional Sizing Standards Committee

SNAP method of non-functional sizing continues to evolve

- More than 650 copies of the APM (The SNAP Assessment Manual) were downloaded from IFPUG On-Line Store.
- APM release 2.1 was issued in April. This release contains more clarifications, based on questions and comments of users. In addition, the sizing of Coda Data was inserted into the relevant sub-categories.

- A certification examination for SNAP (SCP exam) will take place during ISMA⁸ in Rio.
- A virtual training Webinar of SNAP was held in July. Participants of this workshop will be able to implement SNAP and size the non-functional requirements in their projects / organizations.

SNAP helps settle a dispute between client and a software supplier

Recently, a Brazilian Government Agency did not agree with a software supplier Function Point count. Upon review of the count, the client cited several enhancements as non-functional and therefore should not be considered in the Function Point count. This situation took place in a "price-per-FP" environment and involved a significant amount of money. After several discussions and still no agreement the client referenced the SNAP manual (The APM) and was able to prove that the enhancements were non-functional. (The requirements in dispute were mentioned in the APM as examples). The dispute was settled; it saved the client a significant amount of money.

SNAP Team includes members from North America, South America, Asia and the Middle East

The NFSS Committee has broadened our reach to South America and Europe.

Information Technology Measurement and Analysis Committee

Greetings to the IFPUG Membership from the Information Technology Measurement and Analysis Committee (ITMAC).

The ITMAC is responsible for providing guidance, based on a sound collection of software measurement data, that assists IFPUG members in understanding, planning, collecting, managing, reporting and improving software engineering processes and practices.

ITMAC has been defining the processes and procedures that will be used to create various deliverables that will be helpful to the membership regarding using data to drive real business decision-making. We continue to pursue a strong, collaborative relationship with the International Software Benchmarking Standards Group (ISBSG).

Be on the lookout for more from us as we will be seeking your input on what specific topic areas you would like to see addressed by the committee.

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University News

By Juan J. Cuadrado-Gallego

The IFPUG University member University of Castilla-La Mancha, Spain, has developed FPA-CAD. This is a free, open source, Java-based tool under development in a Final Year Project directed by Professor Pablo Bermejo. It is designed to be used mainly in educational environments,

to provide a GUI tool to students so that they can draw and connect all the necessary FPA elements for functional size estimation while the count is automatically managed by the application. More information is available at the IFPUG Universities website.

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