

President's Message

Mary S. Bradley

IT is an industry based on being at the forefront of change and IFPUG is no exception.

Back in January 1990 IFPUG published Volume 1 Number 1 of the "IFPLUG – Official Newsletter of the International Function Point Users Group".

The President's Message in the issue was:

"The Board of Directors of the International Function Point Users Group (IFPUG) is pleased to publish this inaugural issue of the IFPUG newsletter. In part, this newsletter has resulted from the requests of you, the membership. Many of the evaluation forms submitted at the last two conferences stated a desire for this type of communication, so we are trying to meet your needs.

"It is our intent to use this as a means of informing the membership of the many activities we are engaged in and particularly helping to keep those members up-to-date who are unable to attend the semi-annual conferences. We hope to report on many of our current activities such as:

1. Publication of the updated Counting Practices Manual (*In 2005 we are using CPM 4.2*)
2. Publication of the manual for Function Points as an Asset and Management Tool (*replaced in 2004 by the new improved version of Guidelines to Software Measurement*)
3. Activities of the Scientific Counting Committee (*now the New Environments Committee*)
4. Function Point research project with MIT (*Professor Chris Kemmerer's work is still referred to in 2005*)
5. Work being done to establish Function Point Standards particularly with IEEE and ANSI (*In 2005 IFPUG FP's are not only an IEEE standard but also an ISO standard*)
6. News about the next conference (*New Orleans in September 2005 will be great!*)"

15 years and 30 issues later, the name of this publication has changed to "MetricViews (June 1990) but its mission is still the same – to keep you informed.

But those 15 years have brought a lot of changes. Now you can visit our website every day to find out what is new and what the committees are working on and we can send you an email in an instant to make sure you don't miss the exciting developments and events.

And so much we take for granted has happened since 1990:

- The Certified Software Measurement Specialist (CSMS) Program,
- The Certified Function Point Specialist (CFPS) Certification,
- The Certification Extension Program,
- Certified Training Courses,
- Helpful White Papers too numerous to list here,
- Case Studies 1, 2, 3, and 4,
- IFPUG FP data in the ISBSG database,
- The IFPUG website,
- An expanded Conference focus,
- and much more!

Through it all, the Board and committees serve to support the IFPUG mission (from Vision Plan 2005):

“The mission of the International Function Point Users Group is to be a recognized leader in promoting and encouraging the effective management of application software development and maintenance activities through the use of Function Point Analysis and other software measurement techniques.”

“The International Function Point Users Group serves to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and ideas for improved software measurement techniques and seeks to provide a composite environment that stimulates the personal and professional development of its members.”

And fortunately for us all, one thing that hasn't changed is our members' amazing spirit of volunteerism that keeps IFPUG vibrant. Whether you serve on a Committee, the Board, write articles for our publications, participate in the exchanges on the website bulletin board, or attend and network at the workshops and conferences, your input is what makes IFPUG the world leader in Functional Size Measurement. You can all be proud of your contribution to the field of Functional Size Measurement and I hope you will continue to do so for many years to come. If you are not currently an active participant, I urge you to get involved. Without your participation, there is no IFPUG.

And what's coming up? Well, the Board is working on “Vision Plan 2010” to light our way to the future, the website is being upgraded and updated to make it easier to use, the nomination process for Board Elections is underway, and we are all preparing for the exciting new expanded-topic workshops and conference (the 1st Annual International Software Measurement & Analysis Conference (ISMA 2005) September 18 through 23, 2005 in New Orleans, Louisiana USA. Make sure you read the articles in this issue of MetricViews and check the website for other IFPUG news.

Finally, we know that each year you have more choices of workshops and conferences with measurement components and we continue to work to provide the best, most comprehensive workshops and conference in the software measurement field. IFPUG is your organization – a non-profit, member-run and member-driven organization and we know that you have a limited travel and education budget so everyone at IFPUG strives to provide you with the best education value for your time and money investment. But IFPUG needs your support. Your attendance at these events is important. As your attendance at these events continues to grow, we can continue to grow the content of the events to better serve you.

We hope to see and talk with all of you in New Orleans in September!

Director's Report
Cheryl Oribabor

We are all very excited about IFPUG's 1st Annual International Software Measurement and Analysis Conference (ISMA), which premieres September 18-23, 2005 in New Orleans, LA. As you may know, we renamed our highly successful annual event to reflect IFPUG's growth and diversity in the software metrics arena. We will once again offer a comprehensive conference program addressing major industry and technical issues, trends and applications. An added highlight, this valuable educational/networking conference will now include additional tracks as well as other new features. Please check the IFPUG website for updates.

Exhibitor kits have been mailed. If you are interested in exhibiting at ISMA please contact the IFPUG office at 1-609-799-4900, or email ifpug@ifpug.org, and we will be glad to send you a kit.

Remember, attending ISMA is a great way to expand your knowledge and benefit from the many networking opportunities. So register now for this premiere event!

Additionally, we are equally as pleased to announce that we will be holding the new Certified Software Measurement Specialist (CSMS) Exam again. The CSMS exam was first held in April during the spring workshops. This is a great opportunity for you to obtain another designation and further enhance your career credentials.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our international members for their continued support and for contributing over the years to IFPUG's success. IFPUG prides itself on being a truly a global association and your enthusiasm and participation in our regional exams is greatly appreciated.

Where Do We Go From Here?

The April IFPUG Workshops have had a run of five (count them – FIVE) years in sunny Orlando. This year will mark a close of that tradition. We have decided to move on. The question becomes – to where. Where can we locate the April Workshops where they will be of maximum benefit to the greatest number of function point analysts? That is where your input can help us. What is important to you in selecting where you go to take training integral to your occupation? Please let me know at education@ifpug.org . Sooner is better.

One of the ideas that we are playing with for future workshops includes holding them at an institution of learning rather than a resort. That would get rid of the concept of the "Workshop Hotel" and the accompanying headaches of guest room guarantees and minimum food dollars. If you have an area institution of higher learning that would like to sponsor the classrooms for the Workshops, please get in touch with me or Jen Perrera at the IFPUG Office.

Of course, this April we are still in sunny Orlando – with the full complement of classes that are for the most part only offered at the April IFPUG Workshops. Another array of classes will be available in September at the International Software Measurement & Analysis Conference. Of course, for those of you who enjoy taking exams, we now have two – the Certified Function Point Specialist exam AND the Certified Software Measurement Specialist exam.

See you at the Workshops!

Steve Keim

Chair – IFPUG Education Services Committee

New Environments Committee

The New Environments Committee is continuing efforts to develop white papers that relay useful information on applying function point analysis techniques to alternative computing technologies. The current projects include the application of function point analysis to:

- Data Warehouse applications
- GUI environments
- Reusable Components
- Middleware applications
- Web based applications

I would like to thank all of the members and vendors who shared their ideas on applying function points to Data Warehouse applications. These contributions have been instrumental in the development of the white paper. We are also working with the Management Reporting Committee to develop white papers that document how to account for and report the contributions of new environments.

I would like to welcome Tammy Preuss, of Cingular and Dan French of GEICO to the New Environments Committee. Tammy and Dan both have extensive experience in function point analysis and will be valuable assets to our efforts going forward.

Committee Members:

Dawn Coley, EDS – Vice Chair

Dan French, GEICO

Roger Heller, Q/P Management Group – Committee Chair

Deb Maschino, EDS

Tammy Preuss, Cingular

Steven Woodward, Q/P Management Group

Management Reporting Committee Report

Congratulations to those who participated in the first sitting for the Certified Software Measurement Specialist exam offered at the IPFUG Spring Workshops. Many of those who "sat" for the exam are busy preparing for the second part of the certification, the credit packet by which one of three certification levels may be awarded after review by the Management Reporting Committee. The MRC hopes to celebrate the first wave of new CSMS certifications at the fall ISMA Conference in New Orleans this September.

We are pleased to announce that two "sittings" of the CSMS exam will be offered at the ISMA Conference. As Greg Allen suggests: "The exam is based on the updated Guidelines to Software Measurement (GSM) that you can obtain on the IFPUG web site (IFPUG: Guidelines to Software Measurement Manual Updates). If you plan to obtain this certification you should plan on studying GSM. Even if you don't plan to obtain the certification the GSM can be very helpful for anyone involved in metrics programs across their organization." Keep in mind that the exam, in multiple choice format, tests general knowledge about the GSM as well as requiring the application of measurement values. While the exam is not "open book", a reference card with the measurement formulas is provided.

The second part of the certification credits applicants for relevant professional experience, training, contributions, teaching, and publishing. The specific credit values with examples and definitions are on the IFPUG website (<http://www.ifpug.org/certification/csmsCategoryTemplates.htm>). More general information about the CSMS is also available online (<http://www.ifpug.org/certification/csms.htm>).

The MRC is excited that the GSM is being translated from English into Italian and Portuguese and we expect the CSMS exam to be offered in Italy and Brazil respectively within the next year. With the guidance of the Board of Directors, the MRC will be pursuing additional partnerships with organizations that share a vision for the improvement of software measurement.

The MRC members including Greg Allen, Barbara Beech, Heidi Belkofer, Betsy Clark, Dawn Coley, Al Hoefler, Bill Hufschmidt, John Sautter look forward to seeing you in September. A presentation on the current and likely future state of the CSMS will be offered on Tuesday evening; it will also give you an opportunity to meet MRC members and to have your specific questions answered, to the degree that we can have an answer.

New Orleans has long been known as a city of celebration and festivity--seems like an appropriate setting for staging the next steps for the CSMS and for the inaugural ISMA conference. Beads anyone?

On behalf of the MRC,
Joe Schofield, Chair

Counting Practices Committee

David Garmus

The Counting Practices Committee (CPC) recently met in Orange Park (outside of Jacksonville), Florida to continue its work on many items, which had commenced at previous meetings or offsite. As a result, the following projects were completed:

- Release 4.2.1 of *the Counting Practices Manual* (CPM) was completed. Since this release is intended only to correct minor typographical errors in Release 4.2, an Errata document was also prepared that will enable individuals to apply the changes to their current copies of the CPM 4.2. Both the new release and the Errata document are available on the member side of the IFPUG Website. Printed copies of the new release are available for purchase from the IFPUG office.
- Additional background information was provided to the IFPUG Board on the *Practical Guidelines for Identifying Unique Elementary Processes*, which addresses multiple media and similar transactions. At the time this was written, the Board was reviewing the document for release.
- We also proposed posting a video clip on the IFPUG Website that explains the [Framework for Functional Sizing](#). The CPC is currently working with the Communications & Marketing Committee to make this video available on the website.

On-Going Activities by the CPC

- Monitor the IFPUG Website Bulletin Board, and respond to counting questions.
- Continue the CPM Revision Process to ensure the CPM conforms to ISO Guidelines. Plans are to release a new manual in 2007.
- Review White Papers created by the New Environments Committee.
- Continue update of IFPUG case studies.

Questions or counting issues can be submitted to the CPC via the IFPUG Bulletin Board.

Committee Members

Valerie Marthaler, David Consulting Group, Chair

Bonnie S. Brown, EDS

Martin D'Souza, Holistic Software Metrics

E. Jay Fischer, JRF Consulting, Inc.

David Garmus, David Consulting Group

Adri Timp, Interpay Nederland

Eddy van Vliet, York International, Ltd.