A World of Information

The Quarterly Newsletter of the International Function Point Users Group

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SAVE THE DATE!

3rd Annual ISMA Conference

**Sunday, September 14 - Friday, September 19, 2008
Washington, DC**

Westin Arlington Gateway Hotel

Registration for ISMA3 begins on May 19, 2008

Dear Frank,

In this issue, learn about the next release of the IFPUG Counting Practices Manual (CPM 4.3), planned for release in January 2009 by the Counting Practices Committee. The New Environments Committee has been working on several white papers, including one on GUI and the "Technical Size Framework" project is underway by the IT Performance Committee.

We hope you enjoy this issue brought to you by the Communications and Marketing Committee.

CFPS Automation Is On The Way!

Become an IFPUG Volunteer

Join Our Mailing List

CFPS's - We Need Your Help!

The MultiMedia Study Group (MMSG) was tasked to put together a survey to the membership to find the common practices for applying the IFPUG rules to implementations where transactions have variations of media involved. The MMSG is in the final stages of putting together the survey questions and now needs your assistance. A general rule is that no survey is any good if there are no participants. That is where you come into the picture. If you are a Certified Function Point Specialist, we will need your feedback on how to count various situations. We will give you the situation, some standard selections that represent some interpretations, plus an area to tell us if you interpret the situation in a different manner. This is not an election with the most popular responses being elected the new counting practice. It is an opportunity for an understanding of the way the current counting rules are being applied in practice.

The survey is tentatively scheduled to begin in mid-May for a three-week period. If you are a current CFPS, you should receive a post card and an electronic communication prior to then instructing you on how to access the survey and the precise survey dates. This information will also be available on the IFPUG web site. If you do not receive the post card and/or electronic communication, please contact the IFPUG office so that we can update your contact information.

Thank you in advance for your contribution.
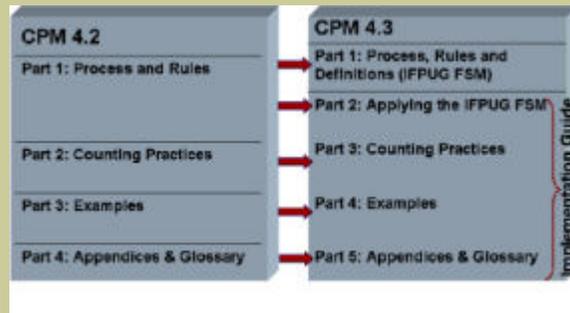
Counting Practices Committee
by Bonnie Brown and David Garmus

The IFPUG Counting Practices Committee (CPC) is working on the next release of the IFPUG Counting Practices Manual (CPM 4.3), planned for release in January 2009. The revisions for CPM 4.3 result primarily from the creation of the new version of the IFPUG ISO Functional Size Measurement (FSM) Method. IFPUG's current FSM Method expires shortly and must be replaced with a version that fully complies with all aspects and requirements of the current ISO Standard including ISO's specific format, structure and wording requirements.

The primary source of content for the new version of the IFPUG ISO FSM Method is IFPUG CPM 4.2.1 - Part 1. While the rules themselves have only minor (primarily wording) changes, the content has a different look and feel. The wording, format and order have changed, and repetition has been eliminated to comply with ISO. IFPUG's new ISO FSM Method consists primarily of definitions and rules, together with a minimum of examples and notes for illustrative purposes. IFPUG's new ISO FSM Method will:

• be a definitive document that summarizes what was previously Part 1 of the CPM

• be an excellent teaching aid and introduction to the IFPUG FSM method

• provide an unambiguous statement of the rules

• allow better interpretation of the rules

CPM 4.3 continues to be a multi-part document, structured similarly to CPM 4.2.1. IFPUG's ISO FSM becomes Part 1 of CPM 4.3 and replaces CPM 4.2.1 Part 1 - Process and Rules. The remainder of the existing CPM (CPM 4.2.1) is revised to align with the wording of the IFPUG FSM (i.e., CPM 4.3 - Part 1) and becomes known as the Implementation Guide. CPM 4.3 is a single, bound document consisting of both sections. The IFPUG CFPS exam, once updated for the new release, will be based upon CPM 4.3 in its entirety (i.e., IFPUG FSM + Implementation Guide). Please refer to the figure below for a visual representation of the transition from CPM 4.2.1 to CPM 4.3.

High-Level Summary of Changes

All sections of CPM 4.3 contain wording changes in order to be consistent with the reorganization of Part 1 and/or to comply with the updated ISO FSM standard (ISO/IEC 14143-1:2007). At a high-level, the changes to the IFPUG method can be characterized as clarifications and simplifications of the method. A more detailed list of changes will be communicated in the future, but examples of the changes include:

- *Added definitions for consistent state, self-contained, sorting and arranging.*

- *A common set of DET and FTR rules for all transactions.*

- *Uniqueness Test (i.e., same DETs, FTRs & Processing Logic) removed from EI/EO/ EQ rules & stated once.*

- *Part 2 (NEW!) - The Bridge - Applying the IFPUG Functional Size Measurement Method which provides guidance in applying the process and rules as defined in the ISO standard (NEW Part 1).*

- *Part 3 - Counting Practices - Includes new chapter (Data Conversion Activity) in the Counting Practices section. This new chapter addresses the functionality to be evaluated when there are requirements to migrate or convert data in conjunction with a new development or enhancement project or to move an application to a different platform.*

- *Part 4 - Examples - Clarifies existing examples and provides several new examples to illustrate additional counting scenarios.*

- *Appendices & Glossary - Includes new appendix (Adjusted Functional Size) that contains guidance on applying the General Systems Characteristics and Value Adjustment Factor, which were removed from Part 2 (NEW).*

High-Level Tasks/Status
The bullets below provide a high-level list of the tasks and current status of each.

- ***IFPUG FSM** - Created; Reviewed internally; Reviewed externally by 14 reviewers including ISO experts, individual IFPUG Committee members, vendors and corporate representatives - Completed - 2007*

- ***IFPUG FSM** - Created; Reviewed internally; Reviewed externally by 14 reviewers including ISO experts, individual IFPUG Committee members, vendors and corporate representatives - Completed - 2007*

- ***IFPUG FSM** - Approved by IFPUG Board - March 2008*

- **IFPUG FSM** - *Submit to ISO - In Progress (6 month ballot period)*

- **IFPUG FSM** - *Incorporate feedback from ISO - 3rd/4th QTR 2008*

- **CPM 4.3 - Implementation Guide** - *Created/Revised; Reviewed internally; Review externally - In Progress*

- **CPM 4.3 - Implementation Guide** - *Incorporate feedback from reviewers - May 2008*

- **CPM 4.3 - Implementation Guide** - *Obtain IFPUG Board Approval - 2008*

- **CPM 4.3 (IFPUG FSM + Impl Guide)** - *Conduct Impact Study - 3rd/4th QTR 2008*

- **CPM 4.3 (IFPUG FSM + Impl Guide)** - *Publish - 1st QTR 2009*

For additional information on CPM 4.3, please refer to the CPC's presentation during the 2007 ISMA Conference on the IFPUG web-site
2007 ISMA Conference - CPC Presentation.

CPC Members
Adri Timp, Equens - Chair

Bonnie S. Brown, EDS - Vice-Chair

Martin D'Souza, Ministry of Transport, New Zealand

E. Jay Fischer, JRF Consulting

David Garmus, David Consulting Group

Valerie Marthaler, David Consulting Group
Peter Thomas, IBM

New Environments Committee News
by Steven Woodward

The New Environments Committee (NEC) is pleased to announce that the "GUI" White Paper is now posted at the IFPUG website member area. We intend to have follow-up GUI papers as more specific, complex examples are resolved.

The paper "Accounting for Reuse" was reviewed by the Management Reporting Committee and their suggestions are being reworked into this paper, with a planned distribution to IFPUG membership by fall 2008.

The "Component Based Development" paper was reviewed by the Counting Practices Committee and changes are being considered, based on the feedback. Planned distribution to IFPUG membership is fall 2008.

Some of our other papers in progress include: Middleware, WEB, Interactive Voice Response (IVR) and Measurable Software Architectures (using the IFPUG FSM with modern UML / OMG practices).

This year, at the 2008 fall conference, the NEC will present an overview of our activities and progress to the IFPUG membership. The NEC has been approached by the Education Committee to have a workshop on "Analyzing Weird Software". This will give membership a chance to demonstrate that the IFPUG method really can be used to provide meaningful information for various types of software, not just traditional business applications. This workshop format will be very interactive so that real concerns and situations can be expressed to the NEC.

The NEC looks forward to a busy 2008. We will continue to demonstrate that the IFPUG Functional Sizing Method can be applied to all domains of software.

We welcome your ideas and participation as reviewers and/ or subject matter experts.

NEC Members
Steven Woodward, Q/P Management Group of Canada (Chair)
Tammy Pruess, AT&T (Vice-Chair)
Dawn Coley, EDS
Dan French, GEICO
Roger Heller, Q/P Management Group
Deborah Maschino, Q/P Management Group
Charles Wesolowski, Lockheed Martin

IT Performance Committee News
by Dan Bradley

2008 will be an exciting year for IFPUG, the ITPC, and many member volunteers, but let me start with a recap of the year since our last update.

The IT Performance Committee's goal is to provide services based on a collection of software metrics data that assist IFPUG members in understanding, planning, managing and improving software engineering processes and practices. In keeping with this goal, the ITPC concentrated on three major activities during 2007.

- *Project Attributes Study - Some of you may have participated in this study by filling out our survey. Thank you. The purpose of this study is to better understand those factors that influence development project productivity. The results of this study will be used to support the 2008 project I'll tell you about soon.*

- *MS-222 "Principles of Estimating and Benchmarking Using Industry Data" - This course is the only workshop created and taught by an IFPUG committee. Christine Green and I presented the course last Fall in Las Vegas. The material was very well received and the class will be presented again in Washington DC.*
- *ISBSG Liaison - The ITPC acts as the liaison to the International Software Benchmarking Standards Group. It was a very good year for this partnership. I attended the annual meeting where ISBSG members put the final touches on a benchmarking standard that will now make its way through the ISO process. The ITPC contributed and commented on the standard, and thanks to Carol Dekkers (IFPUG ISO Committee) the benchmark standardwill continue its journey through ISO.*

Breaking News! IFPUG Board approves the "Technical Size Framework" project. The ITPC proposed and the Board accepted a project charter for developing a framework to assess a project's technical size. The purpose of this project is to address issues surrounding the sizing of technical development requirements currently not reflected in functional size. This initial project will define a framework in which the technical size (an addendum to the existing functional size measure) can be supported by both the IFPUG Board and IFPUG Members.

Upon approval, the ITPC asked for project volunteers and received an outstanding response. We had more than 80 members that offered to be a part of the team. Out of these we selected a core team that consists of Christine Green (EDS) - Project Manager, the ITPC, a representative from the CPC and theNEC and an international team of 15 key individuals. We are also developing a team of project reviewers that will keep us focused.

The team meets twice monthly via conference calls, and we are currently reviewing proposals for the possible framework and have received many great ideas. Our goal is to present the proposed framework at ISMA 2008. You will hear a lot more about the project during the coming months. We plan to present regular updates as progress warrants. Thank you all for your interest!

I look forward to seeing you at ISMA or, maybe, even in MS222!

ITPC Members
Dan Bradley - Chair
Christine Green - Vice Chair
Wendy Bloomfield
Talmon Ben-Cnaan
Sheila Dennis
Loredana Frallicciardi