



What are Function Points?

Meaningful Metrics Developed in the late 1970s by Allen Albrecht as a means of measuring software size in terms that are meaningful to end users, function points have become an international standard used to measure software size (ISO 20926:2003).

How They Work

- Function points are a logical size measure (as opposed to a physical size measure like lines of code or objects).
- Function points measure software size based on the functionality requested by and provided to the end user.
- Function points are derived from requirements and are applicable for measurement throughout the entire development life cycle.
- Function points are comprised of inputs, outputs, inquiries, internal data, and external interface data.

Example Metrics

- ✓ Effort per function point (productivity)
- ✓ Defects per function point (quality)
- ✓ Cost per function point (cost efficiency)

Advantages

- Technology, platform, language independent
- Excellent as a basis of estimate for development cost and schedule
- Provides ability to normalize metrics for consistent analysis
- Fully documentable and repeatable
- Assists with requirements management; functional size traceable throughout entire life cycle
- Provides quantitative basis for earned value management

