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