Function Point Analysis

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What is Function Point Analysis?

- Function Point Analysis (FPA) is an industry best practice software-sizing technique.

- FPA provides a quantitative value of size based on the functions and features being provided to an end user.

- FPA is a well-defined process, which results in a consistent and easily understood measure of size, based on user requirements.

- The resulting size is often viewed as a measure of value to the end user.

How Does it Work?

- Function point sizing considers the functionality that has been requested by an end user and has been provided to that end user.

- The functionality is categorized as pertaining to one of five key components: inputs, outputs, inquiries, interfaces and internally-retained data.

- A Certified Function Point Specialist uses available documentation and expert knowledge to identify the five key components.

- Each of the components is evaluated and given a prescribed weighting, resulting in a specific function point value.

- When complete, all functional values are added together, resulting in a total functional size of the software deliverable.

What are the Benefits of FPA?

Function point analysis has many uses and benefits:

- It allows for a comparative measure of size among various software deliverables.

- It is a key input parameter (along with complexity) to provide more precise project estimates.

- It serves as a normalizing factor for key software measures.

- It serves as a critical measure of evaluating software process effectiveness.

- It provides the ability to make comparisons to industry benchmark data.

- It allows for the proper setting of end user expectations regarding the anticipated size of the software deliverable.

Who Would Benefit from FPA?

- PMOs/ PMs – provides the capability to improve their ability to manage and control project deliverables.

- BAs – provides the ability to 'size' the required features and functions and can be a useful tool in managing customer expectations.

- Software Estimators – provides a key parameter for estimating.

- Performance Measurement Specialists – serves as a normalizing factor when analyzing benchmark data.

- Outsource Governance Managers – provides the ability to measure the cost per unit of work.

What DCG Offers

DCG offers a complete range of FPA services:

- FPA project, applications and portfolio sizing
- FPA training, both on-site and computer-based training
- FPA mentoring
- FPA help desk support
- FP-based Benchmark data
- FP calibration for automated sizing software

In addition, DCG offers a wide variety of white papers, articles and publications on the topic of FPA.

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