



**Take a look at these articles which
address various aspects of
Function Point Analysis and Software Measurement!**

**ARTICLES WRITTEN BY CAROL DEKKERS, CMC, CFPS
President, Quality Plus Technologies, Inc.**

1995-Present

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	Topic	Publication	Description
1	Double Duty Metrics – Using Functional Sizing to Gauge Requirements Analysis	Cutter Information Corporation – April 2000	One of the immediate and effective uses of function point analysis (FPA) is not in the one number that all the counting boils down to; but in using the ‘analysis’ in FPA to determine whether the full set of user functional requirements have been documented. This article describes how to use FP analysis to gauge the completeness of the users’ requirements.
2	Using “Backfiring” to Accurately Size Software – More Wishful Thinking than Science? with Ian Gunter of Numerical Science, UK	IT Metric Strategies – November 2000	This article presents the basis between two measures; function points and source lines of code (SLOC), highlighting their differences and distinct advantages; and analysis highlighting why “backfiring” can lead to gross inaccuracies when sizing software.
3	Making Software Measurement Really Work: #1 Aligning Measurement Expectations The first in a series of Measurement Articles	IT Metrics Strategies – April 2000	Proper planning is as critical to your measurement program as it is to your software development efforts. Aligning measurement expectations with the goals of your organization and acknowledging that there are no ‘silver bullets’ to solve your metrics/ business problems, will allow more realistic expectations of your measurement program to be established.
4	Software Quality, Leprechauns and other myths	Cutter IT Journal – November 2000	Ms. Dekkers attended a presentation by Dr. Chuck Engle at the 10 th ICSQ in October 2000. She summarizes his talk and his comparison of Software Quality to other myths, like the Leprechauns.
5	Function Points Enter Prime Time With Year 2000	The Journal of Quality Assurance Institute - October 1999	This is a brief introduction to the software sizing technique called function point analysis. In this article, function points (FPs) as a size measure for software development are compared to the common construction measure of square feet used for a building.
6	Update on Function Points, ISO Standards, ISBSG, and IFPUG Activities	IT Metrics Strategies - April 1998	This article outlines progress on the ISO (International Standards Organization) Functional Size Measurement project, IFPUG’s activities for 1998, and opportunities for your company to participate in the free FP based benchmarking initiative: ISBSG (International Software Benchmarking Standards Group).
7	Measurement is No Silver Bullet	The Cutter IT E-Mail Advisor - December 1999	This article discusses a number of things software measurement practitioners can do to gain software measurement benefits for their organization. Acknowledging that there are no ‘silver bullets’ to solve your metrics/ business problems, will allow more realistic expectations of your measurement program to be established.
8	Tame your Process with Metrics" (aka "Too Many Metrics, Too Little Time -- How to Start a Software Measurement Program)	Enterprise Development - June 1999	Since there are so many measures to choose from and so little time to manage them you need to be sure that whatever your goals for measurement – they should be the same goals that are important to your company. Overall, a properly planned and implemented software metrics program allows you to identify, standardize, improve and leverage software development best practices. Challenges and pitfalls in implementing software measurement are to be expected, and are discussed in this article.

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8430 Egret Lane, Seminole FL 33776

Phone (727) 393-6048

Fax (727) 393-8732

9	It's the People who Count In Measurement -- The Truth about Measurement Myths	Crosstalk - June 1999	The most overlooked aspect of software measurement is the effect on the people involved. This article debunks ten of the most common management myths related to measurement and takes a realistic look at how people issues can ultimately cripple a measurement program or lead to its resounding success.
10	The Secrets of Highly Successful Measurement Programs	Cutter IT Journal - April 1999	Nearly 80% of software measurement programs fail within the first two years. Organizations that are successful with software measurement generally possess at least one of the eight secrets which are revealed in this article.
11	Overcoming the Myths of Measurement	Software Quality Professional - March 1999	Ten common myths about software measurement by software developers are identified and discussed in this article. The rationale for software measurement is presented, and recommendations are made for establishing a software measurement success.
12	Managing (the Size of) Your Projects - a Project Management Look at Function Points	Crosstalk - February 1999	Function Points are compared to the common construction measurement, square feet, to demonstrate their usefulness as a tool to assist with managing your projects. This article discusses some of the basics of FP counting as well.
13	Software Measurement and IT Conferences – A Practitioner's Report. This article profiles September through December 1998 conferences.	IT Metrics Strategies – February 1999	Seven (7) conferences attended by the author in late 1998 are reviewed and rated.
14	Function Points and Use Cases -- Where's the Fit	IT Metrics Strategies – January 1999	Lack of project control is often caused by poor requirements management. Use cases and FPs can be used together effectively to achieve requirements and project management success. This article outlines how practitioners can improve the software product through use cases and function point analysis to quantify and control aspects of software requirements.
15	Demystifying Function Points- Clarifying Common Terminology	IT Metric Strategies - March 2001 - October 1998	The popular article, first published in October 1998, updated to reflect information about "new" technologies. Function Point analysis is an approach to sizing software that forces practitioners to think in terms of logical user requirements. This article identifies some commonly misunderstood terms, and explains the differences in meaning between their use in information technology and in function point counting.
16	Function Points Enter Prime Time With Year 2000 also in: And IT Metrics Strategies - July 1998	Managing Systems Development - August 1998	This is a brief introduction to the software sizing technique called function point analysis. In this article, function points (FPs) as a size measure for software development are compared to the common construction measure of square feet used for a building.
17	Function Points and Measurement What's a Function Point?	QAI Journal - January 1999	This article describes what functional size of a software application means, what function points are and how long the concept has been around, what the FP counting process is, how one can use FPs, and how software metrics and function points fit into a measurement program.
18	Alleviate Software Development Challenges through Functional Sizing	IT Metrics Strategies - March 1998	Where does functional sizing fit in with the main three problems plaguing our development shops? Namely: Requirements Management, Project Estimation and Change Management. Find out where the link is and how to use functional sizing to alleviate and solve these major issues.
19	Function Points Focus: Requirements are (the size of) the Problem	IT Metrics Strategies - October 1997	What's the point of doing function point analysis? It's to size the logical user requirements for software. The problem is that too often developers do not do a great job of requirements – this article demonstrates how function point analysis can ease the requirements problem rather than add to it!
20	FP Basics – Clearing Up Common Misconceptions	IT Metrics Strategies - May 1996	This article is another primary article that addresses WHAT function points are and are not, in clear, non-technical language.



21	Function Points Alone Do Not a Measurement Program Make! Part 1- What is Functional Size Measurement?	IT Metrics Strategies - October 1996	This is a primer article introducing readers to the concepts and principles behind functional measurement of software (function points). It precedes Part 2 published in March 1997
22	Function Points Alone Do Not a Measurement Program Make! Part 2- How and When Does Functional Size Fit into a Measurement Program?	IT Metrics Strategies - March 1997	Function point analysis is definitely an important sizing mechanism for comparing productivity, quality and other aspects of software development – BUT, it is not the only measure one needs to capture. This article follows on from part 1 – and addresses the whole issue of software measurement beyond mere functional sizing.
23	Outsourcing and Function Point Based Measurement: Mistakes and Recommendations	IFPUG's The Voice - Spring 1997	See April above
24	Function Point Focus: Mistakes to Avoid when Contracting with FPs	IT Metrics Strategies - April 1997	Outsourcing is difficult to begin with without measurement and function points getting involved. This article addresses how and where function point analysis makes sense (and where it doesn't!) to achieve harmony and realism in outsourcing arrangements.
25	What's New With IFPUG Including ISO Standards and ISBSG	IT Metric Strategies - November 1999	The International Function Point User's Group (IFPUG) was very busy during 1999 and this article describes their accomplishments for the year as well as briefly listing some of their plans for 2000.
26	Function Point Update on the Web	IT Metrics Strategies - May 1996	1996 was the 10 th anniversary of IFPUG. Web sites related to function points are listed.
27	ISO Standards and Function Points Part 1: An Introduction to the ISO Standards Development Process	IT Metrics Strategies - July 1996	Part 1 is an introduction to the hierarchy and development of the software engineering standards by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). It touches on how the U.S., other countries, and official liaison groups participate within the ISO framework, and how documents proceed through to becoming an International Standard.
28	ISO Standards and Function Points Part 2: The Functional Size Measurement Project	IT Metrics Strategies - August 1996	Part 2 takes a look at the Function Point related projects currently underway within ISO and what the software industry can expect in the way of timelines and deliverables out of these projects.
29	IFPUG Organization Shepherds Standards (with Paula Jamieson)	Application Development Trends - April 1996	The International Function Point Users Group is a software metrics organization focused on function point metrics. They maintain the function point counting standards through a set of published, standard, counting rules. IFPUG is a formal organization of over 500 U.S. members and a dozen foreign metrics organizations committed to function point use.
31	The Proof is in the Ratios: Turning Raw Data into Meaningful Software Metrics	Journal of Quality Assurance Institute - July 1996	Software metrics can make sense of the chaos in information technology, by clearly identifying productive processes and improvement opportunities. This article profiles how one company was able to prove their process improvement successes in spite of the chaos through the use of "normalized" software metrics.
32	Software Industry Averages – What They Mean and how to insure Apples to Apples Comparisons	IT Metrics Strategies - June 1997	The haste of many managers to get comparable data and benchmark information can lead to situations of "apples" to "oranges" comparisons. This article addresses how to ensure that you are comparing LIKE things so that you can avoid the problem of incomparable results.
33	Function Point Industry Averages – Be Careful to Compare Apples to Apples	IT Metrics Strategies - July 1996	The purpose of this article is to clear up some common measurement misconceptions, and to identify issues critical to the search for relevant and comparable industry averages. Understanding the issues involved in developing software measurement ratios will make it clear why comparisons against industry data or other organizations should be done with due care.



34	If You Don't Know Your Data – Query Tools Won't Help (Or Query Tools Won't Fix Broken Data)	IT Metrics Strategies - January 1997	The data “mining” industry touts that you can take any two pieces of data and arrive at meaningful results. This article addresses the pre-requisite understanding needed to make sense of your disparate data – and presents recommendations about how to make the data and mining tools work for you.
35	Metrics Futures	IT Metrics Strategies - January 1997	Measuring software processes is a relatively unexplored and expanding area of software development. This article was part of an expanded article set in the January issue of editor Howard Rubin's new year – and it explored author Dekkers' insights about where measurement should and may go in the next few years.
36	Stand Up and Be Counted Where's the Fit Between Software Measurement and Total Quality Management?	Managing System Development Applied Computer Research - 1995	Measurement in IS is a new concept that is gaining support and delivering benefits to management willing to make the investment. The answer to IS aligning itself with TQM concepts lies in the application of measurement or software metrics. The IS shroud of mystery and intrigue is being lifted and we must be able to stand up and be counted through measurement.
37	Software Measurement Won't Sell Itself – Recommendations to Gain Participation from Your Developers	IT Metrics Strategies - December 1997	The biggest challenge with software measurement often lies in the resistance of developers, managers and customers to embrace change. This article is loaded with tips and creative ideas on how to overcome the resistance “obstacles” and succeed with measurement.
38	It's the People Who Count in Measurement - The Truth About Measurement Myths (with Mary Bradley)	IFPUG's VOICE - Spring 1996	The most overlooked aspect of software measurement is the effect on the people involved. This article debunks ten of the most common management myths related to measurement and takes a realistic look at how people issues can ultimately cripple a measurement program or lead to its resounding success.
39	We are Different, You Can't Measure Us – The Truth Behind Developer's Myths (with Mary Bradley)	Managing System Development Applied Computer Research - February 1996	This is a whimsical and real look at how software developers view measurement initiatives. Besides the myths, author Dekkers presents recommendations to overcome the misconceptions so that measurement has a chance of success.
40	Software Measurement Reality Versus Perception	IT Metrics Strategies - September 1996	This article addresses the gap between what customers and developers assume that measurement data will show --- and the results presented by the core measurement teams. It is intended for metrics practitioners and readers who are confused when their organizations do not embrace the great measurement work that they do.

The following are Special Reports available by contacting Quality Plus Technologies, Inc. consulting@qualityplustech.com:

Function Points: Tools for Project Management Metrics	Cutter Consortium Special Report - \$75	A compilation of seven (7) Articles on Function Point Analysis and applicability to project management.
Unleash the POWER to Improve	Software Quality Professional (SQP) – December 2000	Ms. Dekkers introduces the POWER to improve concept: Predisposition, Outlook, Wherewithal, Evaluation, and Resources.