Experience with the Function Points MkII approach within software development efforts that use Relational Databases

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Most relevant conference topics
- Comparative experience of introducing FPA
- Further development of FPA and cost estimating

Abstract

This paper reports the experience of applying the Function Points MkII approach within several software development projects. Those projects were built using different relational databases. The main objective of the experiment was, among others, to check for the validity of the FP MkII. Thus, a post-mortem strategy was used. Several “finished” (under regular usage) projects were selected, for which the corresponding efforts and schedule were known. The estimators obtained by the application of the FP MkII were compared with the actual values and conclusions drawn.

The effort of learning and applying this approach was quantified and is referred. Some pitfalls, mainly in the counting process, are mentioned. A tool for helping the attribute counting was developed. It uses the relational schema expressed in the SQL DDL (data definition language). Reasons why such a tool is fundamental, specially when adopting an incremental development life-cycle, are discussed.

The paper also describes the work done to refine the Technical Complexity Adjustment factors' evaluation process, thus reducing the inherent subjectivity. The weights' calibration process and its drawbacks are brought up.

Further work is identified to make the usage of FP MkII easier. This includes the problem of automation, namely by using CASE dictionaries.