

Automated Function Point Counting: Threat or Opportunity?

Joe Schofield, yhs

joescho@joejr.com

Key Points

- WTFp
- Can't count FPs like you can't count LOC; [reference](#)
- The source is logical, not physical (1 of 3 Albrecht tenets)
- A challenge for “designless code” (as is vs. as intended)
- IEF / TI approach
- Cross-language issues, cross-platform, cross-technology
- I can still write more FPs like I can write more LOCs if I know that size matters and size is measured
- The **ONLY** way to verify the correctness of automated counting is with a manual count – do we find this ironic?

Closing Thoughts

- Automation is here to stay; it's the reason we work in this profession
- Sizing and measurement are here to stay; they provide insight into our own performance
- Capitalism is here (for now) – the incentive to accumulate wealth; expect entrepreneurs to invest in more automated measurement in the future
- Does automated counting shrink “our pie” (fragile) or increase the size of the pie for all of us (antifragile)?
- How long will it be before SNAP is automated?
- How long is 10 minutes?

About the Author & Further Readings



Joe Schofield is the President of the International Function Point Users Group. He retired from Sandia National Laboratories as a Distinguished Member of the Technical Staff after a 31-year career. During twelve of those years he served as the SEPG Chair for an organization of about 400 personnel which was awarded a SW-CMM® Level 3 in 2005. He continued as the migration lead to CMMI® Level 4 until his departure.

Joe has facilitated over 100 teams in the areas of software specification, team building and organizational planning by using lean six sigma and business process reengineering. Joe has taught graduate courses since 1990. He was a licensed girl's mid-school basketball coach for 21 seasons--the last five undefeated, over a span of 50 games.

He has over 80 published books, papers, conference presentations and keynotes—including contributions to the books *The IFPUG Guide to IT and Software Measurement (2012)*, *IT Measurement*, *Certified Function Point Specialist Exam Guide*, and *The Economics of Software Quality*. He is a CMMI Institute-certified Instructor for the Introduction to the CMMI® and two other CMMI Institute courses, Certified Software Quality Analyst, Certified Function Point Specialist, and a Certified Software Measurement Specialist.

Joe is a frequent presenter in the Software Best Practices Webinar Series sponsored by Computer Aid, Inc. Joe completed his Master's degree in MIS at the University of Arizona in 1980. By "others" he is known as a independent consultant, husband, father, and grandfather.

<http://joejr.com/presentd.htm> (~55)

<http://joejr.com/publishd.htm> (~36)