

This issue:

- Message from the Chairperson
- Articles
- Useful Websites

About HKSPIN

The HKSPIN group aims to provide a leading forum for open and free exchange of software process improvement experiences and practical ideas. It focuses on promoting disciplined software engineering practices, software process improvement proceedings, software quality, and achieving higher levels of process quality and professional understanding through skills training and information exchange.

Any feedback or suggestions for further topics is greatly appreciated. If you wish to share an article or contribute an original article please write to hkspin@hkcs.org.hk

HKSPIN Website:

http://www.hkcs.org.hk/en_hk/sg/qmsid/hkspin/

Dear Members and Friends,

A new Consortium of IT Software Quality (CISQ) has been formed by the Carnegie Mellon ® Software Engineering Institute (SEI) and the Object Management Group (OMG) to develop an industry standard that can automate the measurement of quality attributes. The primary objectives of CISQ are to:

1. Advise, educate, and be the voice to business and government leaders on the strategic and mission critical importance of IT application quality.
2. Develop standard measures of quality attributes to be used by IT and the business for evaluating the software quality and risk of multi-tier IT applications.
3. Propose methods for using quality measures in negotiating and managing the acquisition or maintenance of IT application software.
4. Develop and promote professional licensing for those providing services to assess the quality of IT application software.
5. Establish an online IT industry forum for addressing IT application quality issues.

The first draft of the IT quality standard is expected to be out by 2010, Q4. Licensing of IT quality service providers is expected to begin in 2011.

Hareton Leung

Articles

Measuring Defect Potentials and Defect Removal Efficiency

There are two measures that have a strong influence on the outcomes of software projects: 1) defect potentials and 2) defect removal efficiency. Defect potential refers to the total quantity of defects that will be found in requirements, design, code, documents, and bad fixes, or secondary defects. Defect removal efficiency refers to the percentage of total defects found and removed before software applications are delivered to customers. As of 2007, the average for defect potentials in the United States was about five defects per function point. The average for defect removal efficiency in the US was only about 85%. The average for delivered defects was about 0.75 defects per function point.

Capers Jones is the president of Capers Jones and Associates, LLC. He is also the founder and former chairman of Software Productivity Research (SPR) where he holds the title of Chief Scientist Emeritus. He is a well-known author and international public speaker, and has authored the books "Patterns of Software Systems Failure and Success," "Applied Software Measurement," and "Software Assessments, Benchmarks, and Best Practices".

<http://www.stsc.hill.af.mil/crosstalk/2008/06/0806Jones.pdf>

Event Calendar

16-18.09.09

SEPG Asia-Pacific 2009
Osaka, Japan

<http://www.sei.cmu.edu/sepqa/p/2009/>

18-20.09.09

2009 Asia Pacific Service
Outsourcing International
Conference
Wuxi, China

5-6.11.09

Hong Kong International
Computer Conference
Hong Kong

Please submit coming events that are of interest to our readers to hkspin@hkcs.org.hk

Executive Committee

Hareton Leung (Chair)
Yvette Lui (Secretary)
Benedict Lam (Programme)
Daniel Wong (Editor)
William Kwan
Roy Ko
George Leung
K. H. Li
Lawrence Lo
Andrew Tang

Contact Us:

hkspin@hkcs.org.hk

Building a Fort: Lessons in Software Estimation

In this article, Steve McConnell compares the experience of building a tree house for his kids with software project. He highlights seven lessons that we can learn from his experience.

McConnell is the CEO and Chief Software Engineer at Construx Software where he writes books and articles, teaches classes, and oversees Construx's software development practices. He is the author of "Software Estimation: Demystifying the Black Art", "Code Complete", "Rapid Development", "Software Project Survival Guide", and "Professional Software Development". He has worked in the desktop software industry since 1984, and has expertise in rapid development methodologies, project estimation, software construction practices, and third-party contract management. He was Editor in Chief of IEEE Software magazine from 1998-2002.

<http://blogs.construx.com/blogs/stevemcc/archive/2007/09/23/building-a-fort-lessons-in-software-estimation.aspx>

Effective Software Sizing

Software size directly relates to development effort: the more accurate your size estimate is, the more accurate cost and schedule estimates will be. But despite all the current IT monitoring of schedules and budgets, project overruns are alarming. Daniel D. Galorath examines both the problems in estimating software size and the solutions. He also examines the estimation techniques of expert judgment, Delphi analysis, analogy, and database comparison, and provides a case study showing these sizing techniques in action.

Galorath has over 35 years of experience in the software industry. He is founder and president of Galorath Incorporated, maker of the SEER® suite of estimation tools. He is one of the principal developers of the SEER-SEM™ Software Estimation Model, and was honored with the Freiman Award, recognizing his long-term contributions to the field of parametric analysis. He is also the co-author, with Michael W. Evans, of "Software Sizing, Estimation, and Risk Management."
www.pmforum.org/library/papers/2007/PDFs/Galorath-407.pdf

Useful Web Site

Learn from a Guru

www.sei.cmu.edu/news-at-sei/columns/watts-new/watts-new.htm

Watts Humphrey has his own column with the SEI called *Watts New?* Being the best-known member of the SEI's technical staff, Humphrey is a guru on process-improvement. A collection of his columns dating back to 1998 is available at www.sei.cmu.edu/news-at-sei/columns/watts_new/watts-new-compiled.pdf.

Topics include: the problem of setting impossible dates for project completion, planning as a team, using the Team Software Process, the importance of removing software defects, applying discipline to software development, and approaching managers about a process improvement effort.