

Newsletter August 2015

Introduction

Welcome to the August 2015 Edition of the ISBSG Newsletter. Topics covered in this edition:

- Message from the CEO;
- 2015 IT Confidence Conference in Florence Italy
- Project Estimating – How can ISBSG Products help?
- ISBSG Technical Committee;
- Special offer on ISBSG products;
- ISBSG members and sponsors.

Message from CEO – John Ogilvie

ISBSG is continuing to focus on finding better ways to fulfil our mission:

“To improve the management of IT resources by both business and government, through the provision and exploitation of public repositories of software engineering knowledge”,

As a first step, we are currently in the process of re-designing our Web presence to make it easier to get to the information our users need to assist in reducing the risk in IT projects.

Continuing receipt of project data from organisations interested in reducing the risks inherent in Software Development projects is key to the services we provide.

We offer a number of rewards for submitting data, so if you have data to submit or are interested in finding out more about the process, please contact admin@isbsg.org

Data can be submitted to us via an Excel spreadsheet (recommended for large volumes of data) or by using one of our Data Collection Questionnaires (ideal for single projects).

Your privacy is **important** to us. We **guarantee the confidentiality** of all organisations that submit data to us. The data cannot be traced back to its originating company.

Although we have over 1,100 projects in our current repository, it is disappointing that the flow of Maintenance & Support data to the ISBSG has all but dried up, yet these costs are still significant.

Why is this so?

- Is it too difficult to submit data?
- Are the data that ISBSG collects the most important in estimating costs?
- Is independent industry data on Maintenance & Support of value in estimating?

Your input would be much appreciated so please join the discussion on the ISBSG Software Support and Maintenance Group on LinkedIn, or send me a note to John.Ogilvie@isbsg.org

I would also invite you to consider becoming a Partner with ISBSG in supporting the Global IT Industry. You will receive exclusive benefits available only to ISBSG partners.

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You will also be joining a group of IT/Metrics professionals striving to improve the management of their software projects.

Details of options can be found at <http://www.isbsg.org>

Finally, this newsletter contains the first of a series of introductory articles on topics related to the use of ISBSG data that will cover:

- Project Estimating
- Benchmarking
- Outsourcing
- Productivity Management
- Project Control (Planning and Managing)
- Sizing
- Maintenance & Support

[The 2015 IT Confidence Conference](#) will be held in Florence, Italy on October 19th.

Once again the conference promises to be a stimulating and informative event. Presentation to be delivered at the Conference:

T.Barbieri, M.Pasquale, *Automated FPA within a Continuous Integration Environment*

A. Fantechi, *Metrics in software verification and validation: some research challenges (Keynote speech)*

T. Fehlmann, *Using the ISBSG Database in an Agile Project Context*

P. Forselius, *Triangle Benchmarking in Practice*

D. Galorath, *Why Are Estimates Always Wrong: Estimation Bias and Strategic Mis-estimation*

C.Gencel, L.Buglione, *The Influence of Poor Planning on Software Team ManPower and Productivity*

G.Lami, *Automotive – Tips for benchmarking a different software*

A. Minkiewitz, *Software Data Collection Supporting Defensible Estimates*

Details of the venue and abstracts of presentations in the program are at <https://itconfidence2015.wordpress.com/>,

ISBSG would like to encourage you to attend and share your expertise and experiences while networking with the global IT Community.

[Project Estimating – How can ISBSG Products Help?](#)

Common questions that arise when estimating:

- It is very early in the project life. How can I get a ball-park estimate?
- How does my estimate compare to industry?
- Am I comparing apples with apples?
- How accurate is my size measure?
- Do I have missing functionality in my size measure?
- My initial estimate is too high. Should I buy a package instead?

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It is very early in the project life. How can I get a ball-park estimate?

The ISBSG Analysis Report: [Early Lifestyle Software Estimation](#) shows how to obtain an estimate of effort from the estimated project size in Function Points.

How does my estimate compare to industry?

It can increase confidence in an estimate to know that it is realistic and not overly optimistic / pessimistic. Comparing to industry can be done in several ways.

- Submit your project data to the ISBSG and you will receive a free [Benchmark Report](#) against similar projects
- Purchase the ISBSG [Industry Data](#) and perform your own analysis. This will enable you to filter the comparison set to match the project being estimated
- Use the ISBSG [Data Portal](#) to purchase a set of data to use as a comparison.
- Use the [ISBSG Reality Check tool](#) to compare your project to industry. This comes free with an [ISBSG Web Subscription](#).

Am I comparing apples with apples?

Questions to consider when selecting projects to compare against:

- What phases of effort have been included?
- It is a similar team size?
- Is the technology and language similar?
- What methodology has been used for development?
- Is the industry a relevant factor in productivity?

- How old is the data? Methods might have changed considerably since that time.
- Is the duration of the projects similar?

How accurate is my size measure?

Projects using functional size estimation techniques are producing the most accurate estimates. For more detailed information on how estimates compared to actual in over 400 projects, the ISBSG Analysis Report [Software Project Estimates – How Accurate Are They?](#) Provides insight that can help make decisions and suggest what to watch out for that caused inaccuracies.

Do I have missing functionality in my size measure?

It is common to uncover missing functionality midway through the project. One way to check is to compare the categories of functionality against the industry standards. This may show for example very low outputs against industry. The ISBSG Book: [Practical Software Project Estimation](#)., contains data to enable this comparison.

My initial estimate is too high. Should I buy a package instead?

The ISBSG Analysis Report [Package Customisation – What to expect](#) shows the difference in size, effort, duration, team size and productivity for the projects involving package customisation and those not.

ISBSG Resources Available:

- [Practical Software Project Estimation](#). This hardback (McGraw-Hill) edition explains how to accurately forecast the size, cost, and schedule of software projects
- If you would prefer a quick snapshot of tools to help with estimation the [Project](#)

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Estimation Report Pack contains 3 ISBSG Analysis Reports:

- Early Lifecycle Project Estimation
 - Project Duration by Size and Effort
 - Software Project Estimates - How accurate are they?
- The ISBSG Comparative Estimating Tool is an MS Excel based tool that is used to generate estimates of software project effort, delivery.

All ISBSG Products mentioned can be purchased on-line at www.isbsg.org

ISBSG Analysis Reports are updated from time to time when new data is received that would alter the findings. When you purchase a report, any update published in the next 6 months will be sent to you free of charge.

Join the technical committee

As a not-for-profit organisation, ISBSG relies on contributions from a network of volunteers that are willing to work on technical issues, such as improving the data collection processes, developing new Analysis Reports, or ensuring repositories evolve in line with new development technologies.

Volunteer contributions will be recognized and documented in any work performed.

The technical committee is chaired by the current president of the Italian Software Metrics Association GUFPI-ISMA (and IFPUG board member) Dr. Luigi Buglione. Please contact the ISBSG

(admin@isbsg.org) if you are interested in joining the technical committee.

Special Offer on Purchased of ISBSG Products

ISBSG is offering to our Newsletter Subscribers a discount of 30% on the purchase of all products via our on-line shop at: <http://www.isbsg.com/>

At checkout just enter the discount code **offer0215** and the 30% discount will be automatically applied.

The offer expires on Friday 30 September 2015.

ISBSG members and sponsors

ISBSG is a not for profit organization that can only exist through the support of its members and sponsors. ISBSG is grateful to the following sponsor and member organizations for their support:

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