# Measuring the functional size of real-time software

#### **Co-authored by:**

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# **Presenter profile**

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  - Director Technological innovations, UQAM-Software Engineering Management Research Laboratory
  - Member of CIM Executive Committee
  - Editor of FFP measurement manual v. 2.0
  - Formerly Corporate Manager of software development in the pulp & paper industry
  - ✓ 13 years experience in the IT consulting market



#### Introduction

- Characteristics of real-time software
- The measurement process model
- Measurement Procedures
- Overview of field tests results
- Conclusion

# Introduction...

#### • Functional size measurement

- Characteristics of Full Function Points
- An analogy

Introduction...

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# **Functional Size Measurement**

• ISO/IEC/JTC1/SC7 Standard #14143 definition:

" Functional Size : A size of software derived by quantifying the functional user requirements"

# **Characteristics of FFP...**

- FFP is a Functional Size Measure
- Focused on the 'User functional view'
- Applied at any time during the software development life cycle
- Derived in terms understood by users
- Derived without reference to:
  - effort
  - methods used
  - physical or technical components.

Introduction...

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# **Characteristics of FFP...**

- Version 1.0 of FFP released in 1997
- Version 2.0 currently under final review
- Major improvements will be outlined using this mark: V 2.0

#### Introduction...

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An analogy...



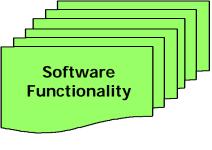
#### 2000 sq. ft.

Software Functionality

**500 FFP** 



#### 4000 sq. ft.





## **Characteristics of real-time software**

- Different types of software
- Real-time or embedded software
- Limitations of IFPUG 4.0 Function Point

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# Different types of software

# BUSINESSMISEmbedded or<br/>Real-time softwareINFRASTRUCTUREUtilityUsers toolsDev. toolsSYSTEM SOFTWARE

## **Real-time or embedded software**

#### ⊙ Timing

- Tight constraints on the rate of execution and on the timing of tasks
- Explicit constraints on timing
- Dedicated components to manage timing
- Correctness of the result is linked to timing

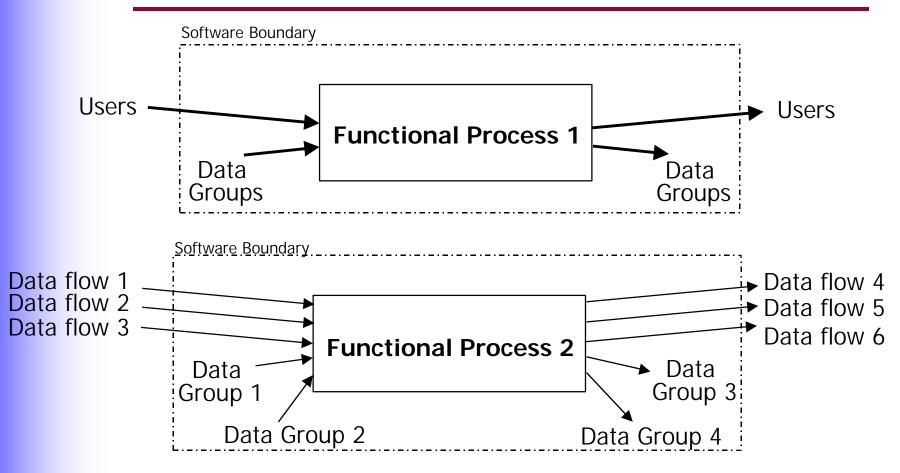
#### **⊙** Interaction with

- Engineered devices
- ✓ People
- Other software applications

# **Limitations of IFPUG 4.0 FP**

- Compared to MIS software...
- USERS People Other software Devices
- DATA Permanently stored (files, DB, ...) Not stored permanently (signals, ...)
- PROCESSES No. of sub-processes varies a lot Processes role is not easily classified as input, output or inquiry

# **Limitations of IFPUG 4.0 FP**

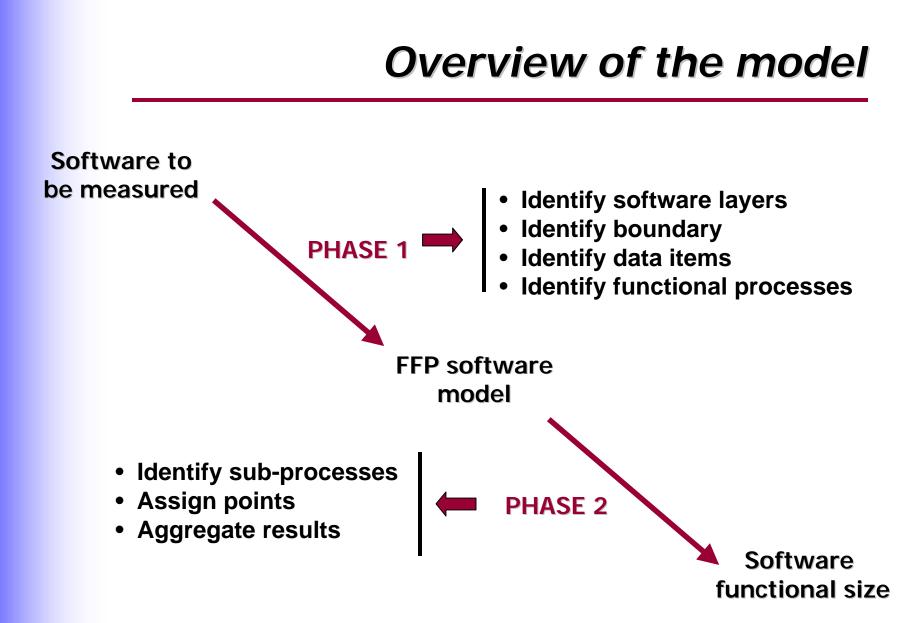


IFPUG Function Points (4.0), do not adequately measure the functional size of real-time software

## The measurement process model

- Overview of the model
- Notes on measurement purpose...
- Notes on measurement strategy...
- Notes on documentation to be used...

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## Notes on measurement purpose

- Identify the business issue which needs to be addressed, for instance:
- ...estimating the size of deliverables,
- …allocating supported functionality in maintenance,
- ...measuring functionality required by business activities
- ...establishing replacement costs of software portfolio,
- ... assisting testing strategies layout,
- ... assessing the size of development backlog,
- …establishing mandatory functionality for package evaluation.

## Notes on measurement purpose

- Determine:
  - what questions need to be answered by the size measure,
  - ✓ which software applications need to be sized
  - what components of the software will be included or excluded

## Notes on measurement strategy

#### • Identify:

- ✓ Which software is to be sized,
- ✓ How the sizing will be performed,
- Who will do the sizing,
- ✓ Who will assist as the application expert,
- Which Functional Size Measurement method will be used e.g. Full Function Points (FFP) Version 1.0 or 2.0,
- ✓ When and where will the sizing take place,
- Which software tools, measurement forms, will be used.

## Notes on documentation to be used

#### • Planned Applications (New development)

- ✓ requirements specification
- Iogical design specification
- ✓ report layouts
- ✓ screen layouts
- Iogical data model

#### • Existing Applications (Enhancements)

- ✓ all of the above plus
- 🗸 user manual
- ✓ access to application online

## **Measurement Procedures**

#### • PHASE 1 - MAPPING

- a) Software layers, boundary and measurement scope
- b) Identifying data items
- c) Identifying functional processes

#### • PHASE 2 - MEASURING

- a) Identifying sub-processes
- b) Assigning points
- c) Aggregating results

## **Measurement Procedures**

• PHASE 1 - MAPPING

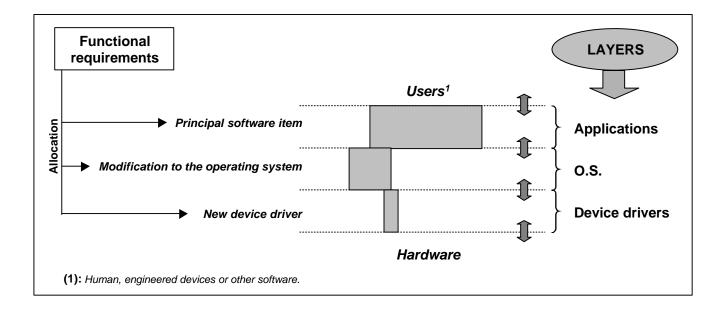
## SOFTWARE LAYERS, BOUNDARY and MEASUREMENT SCOPE

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# Software layers

# V 2.0

• Concept of LAYER :



V 2.0

## Software boundary

#### • Definition of **BOUNDARY** :

'The boundary of a piece of software is the conceptual frontier between this piece and the environment into which it operates, as it is perceived externally from the perspective of its users.

The boundary allows the measurer to distinguish, without ambiguity, what is included inside the measured software from what is part of the measured software's operating environment.'

By convention, a boundary exists between adjacent layers.

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V 2.0

## Software boundary

#### • Definition of USER :

'Human beings, software or engineered devices which interact with the measured application.'

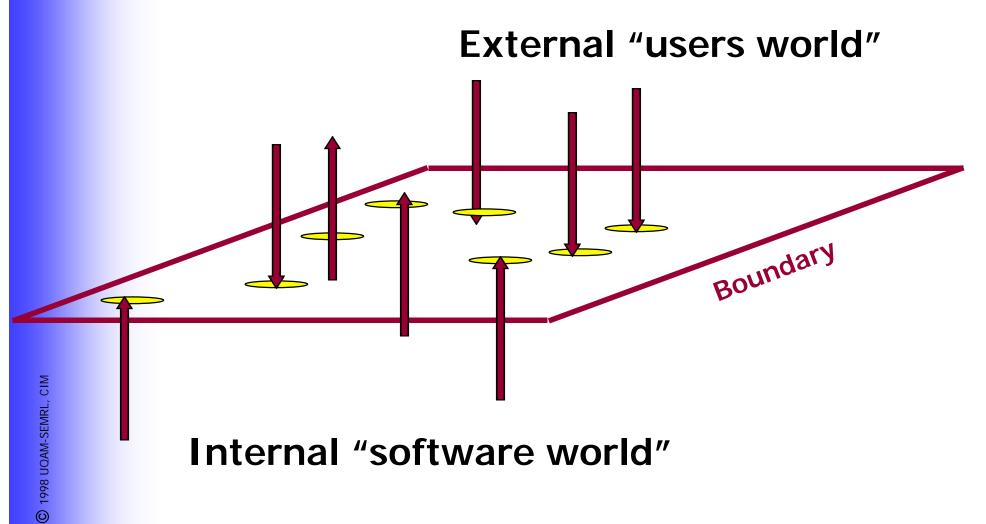
# Software boundary

- Boundary is:
  - a conceptual 'membrane' through which data passes into and out of the software,
  - external limits of the software,
  - point where the software stops and the "external" users world starts.



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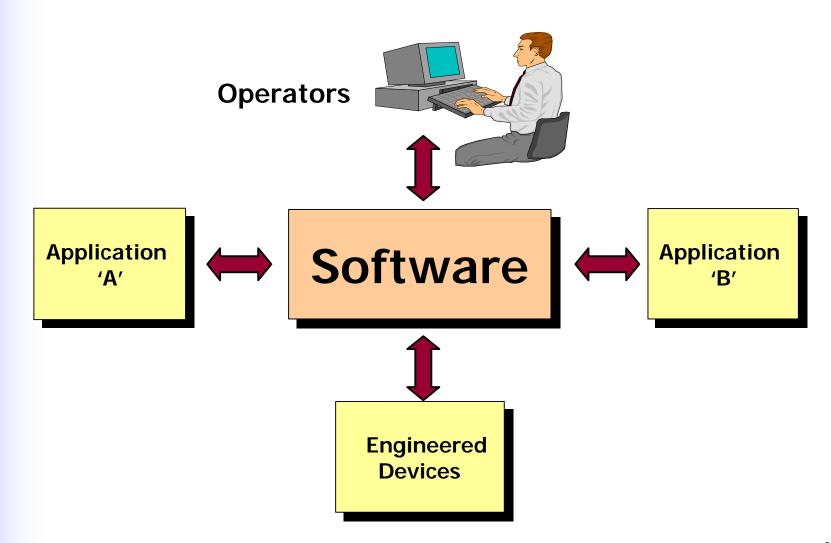
# Software boundary

- Boundary may be illustrated on an application boundary diagram similar to a 'context diagram'
- Identify all major groups of data movements between the boundary of the measured software and:
  - its human user operators,
  - the boundaries of other software
  - ✓ or engineered devices

1 a) MAPPING...

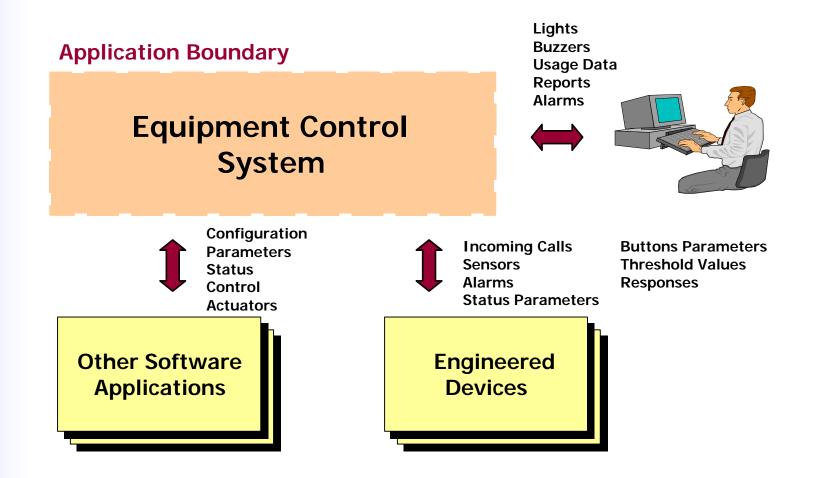
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## Software boundary



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## Software boundary



1 a) MAPPING...

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## Measurement scope

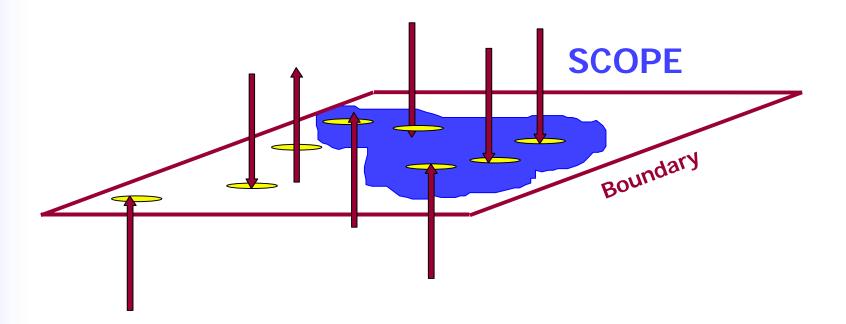
#### • Definition of **SCOPE**:

"The set of functional features, inside the application boundary, for which the size is to be measured"

 Measurement SCOPE is dictated by the PURPOSE of the measurement exercice. 1 a) MAPPING...

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Measurement scope



SCOPE defines a sub-set of the software to be sized

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## **Measurement Procedures**

#### • PHASE 1 - MAPPING

## **IDENTIFYING DATA ITEMS**

1 b) MAPPING...

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# Identifying data items

- Key concepts
- Identification
- Summary

1 b) MAPPING...

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# Identifying data items

#### Key concepts

• Data selection

Which ones are mapped to the software model?

• Data occurrences

How are they organized?

• Data activity

How are data handled by the measured application ?

# Identifying data items

#### **Key concepts - Data selection**

- If a piece of data is processed but not saved or reused, it is not permanent and it is not measured.
- If a piece of data is saved or reused , it is measured.
- A piece of data must exists for more than one transaction<sup>1</sup> to be measured.

(1) Note: a transaction correspond to ONE operation cycle of a functional process (more on this later)

# Identifying data items

#### **Key concepts - Data occurrence**

- Multiple occurrences are groups of data which can have more than one instance of the same type of record. In real-time, multiple occurrences have the same structure than the one found in MIS System.
  - Example: Flight record (black box)

1 b) MAPPING...

### Identifying data items

#### **Key concepts - Data occurrence**

- Single occurrence are groups of data which have one and only one instance of the record.
  - Example: Data related to a time clock for a specific time.

# Identifying data items

#### **Key concepts - Data activity**

• Updated data (UCG)

e.g.: add, change, delete, populate, revise, update, assign, create ...

A data may be updated by more than one software application.

#### • Read only data (RCG)

The data is consulted by the software being mapped without being updated.

The data may be updated by other software.

# Identifying data items

#### Identification

- 1- Select all logically related groups of data that exists for more than one transaction.
  - From a normalization point of view our practice suggests that a logically related group of data could be in second or third normal form.

#### 2- Group data according to their structure

- ✓ Each multiple occurrences group is identified
- Merge all single occurrence together into one group

1 b) MAPPING...

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### Identifying data items

#### Identification

3- Determine the nature of data activity for each identified group

- A <u>UCG</u> is a group of data updated by the application being measured.
- An <u>RCG</u> is a group of data used, but not updated, by the application being measured.

### Identifying data items

#### Identification

4- Verify that Updated Control Group (<u>UCG</u>) and Read-only Control Group (<u>RCG</u>)

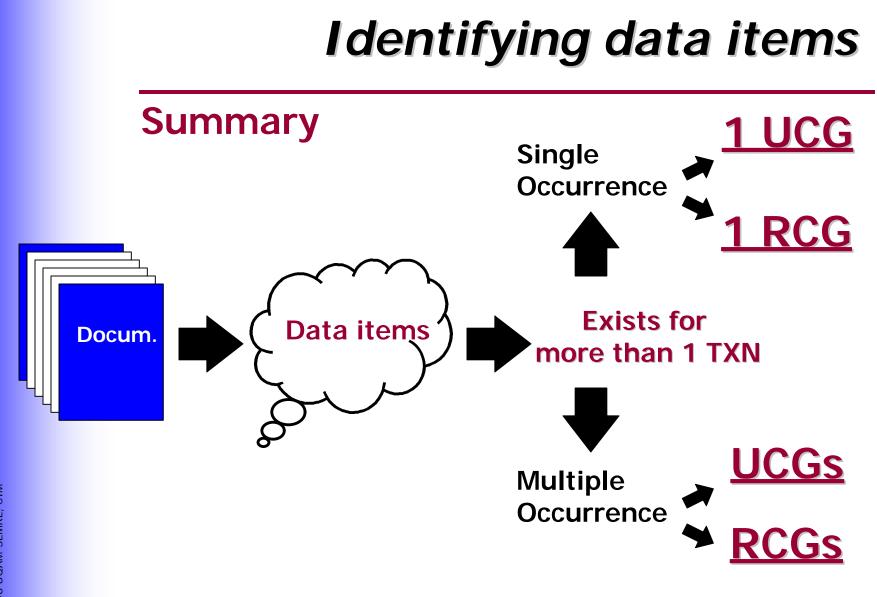
#### ARE

Files maintained by the users

#### **BUT ARE NOT**

- Sorting files
- Index files or secondary index
- Generated files sent to another application

1 b) MAPPING...



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### **Measurement Procedures**

• PHASE 1 - MAPPING

### **IDENTIFYING FUNCTIONAL PROCESSES**

1 c) MAPPING...

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### Identifying functional processes

- Key concepts
- Identification
- Summary

1 c) MAPPING...

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### Identifying functional processes

Key concepts

• Trigger

- Functional process
- Transaction

### Identifying functional processes

### **Key concepts - Triggers**

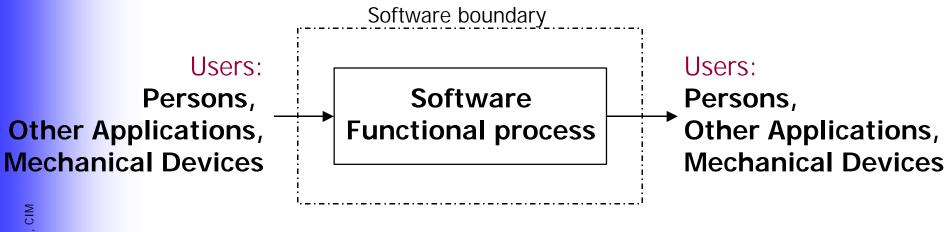
- An event initiating a functional process from a the perspective of the software users,
- An event occurring outside the software boundary,
- When an event occurs, data usually enters the software boundary,
- Clocks and timing events can be triggers.



### Identifying functional processes

#### **Key concepts - Functional process**

"A set of operations or activities which acts on input data to produce a result."



1 c) MAPPING...

### Identifying functional processes

- **Key concepts Transactions**
- A transaction is an instance of a functional process,
- A transaction includes all processing associated with the occurrence of an external trigger.

**Example:** in a watch, each tick of the timing crystal is a trigger. All processing associated with each new tick is a separate transaction.





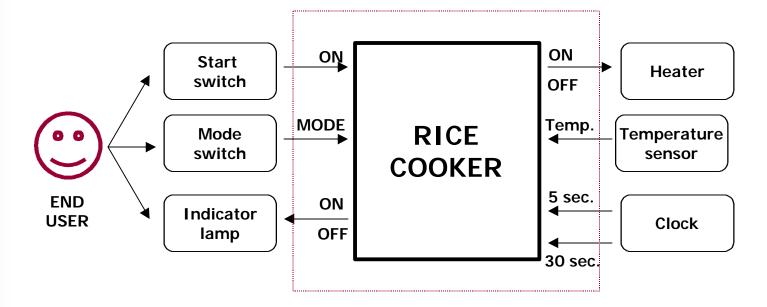
Using the Case Study document:

- What is the purpose of the measurement exercise ?
- · Identify the boundary of the application
- · Identify the data items
- Identify the functional processes





- PURPOSE: Practice FFP measurement
- BOUNDARY:





### **Exercise**

Temperature data	Selected cooking mode	sed time	Target temperature	Indicator lamp (ON/OFF)	Heater (ON/OFF)	e switch	switch	Temperature sensor	30 sec. clock signal	
Temperat	Selected (	Elapsed time	Target ter	Indicator	Heater (O	Mode switch	Start switch	Temperat	30 sec. cl	-

TRIGGER FUNCTIONAL PROCESSES

#### MODE SWITCH PRESSED

MODE SELECTION CONTROL

#### START SWITCH PRESSED

ELAPSED TIME CONTROL

30 sec. CLOCK SIGNAL

TARGET TEMPERATURE CONTROL

5 sec. CLOCK SIGNAL

COOKING TEMPERATURE CONTROL

- (1) Multiple occurrence RCG
- (2) Single occurrence UCG
- (3) Single occurrence RCG

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### **Measurement Procedures**

#### • PHASE 2 - MEASURING

### **IDENTIFYING SUB-PROCESSES**

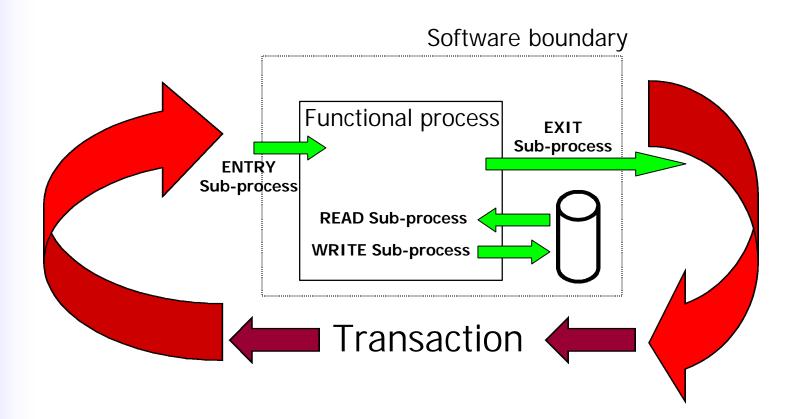
#### **Key concepts - Sub-processes**

- An FFP sub-process is a functional elementary data movement occurring during the execution of a functional process.
- There are four types of FFP sub-process: entry, exit, read and write.
- The object of an elementary data movement is either a multiple occurrence data group or a single occurrence data attribute.
- An FFP sub-process is equivalent to ISO Basic Functional Component types (BFC).

#### **Key concepts - Sub-processes**

- Identified from a functional perspective,
- Single sub-processes; duplicates removed,
- A sub-process moves only one group of data.

#### **Key concepts - 4 classes of sub-processes**

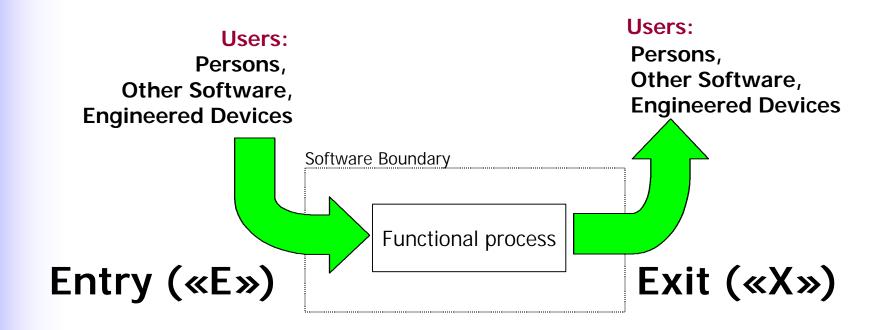


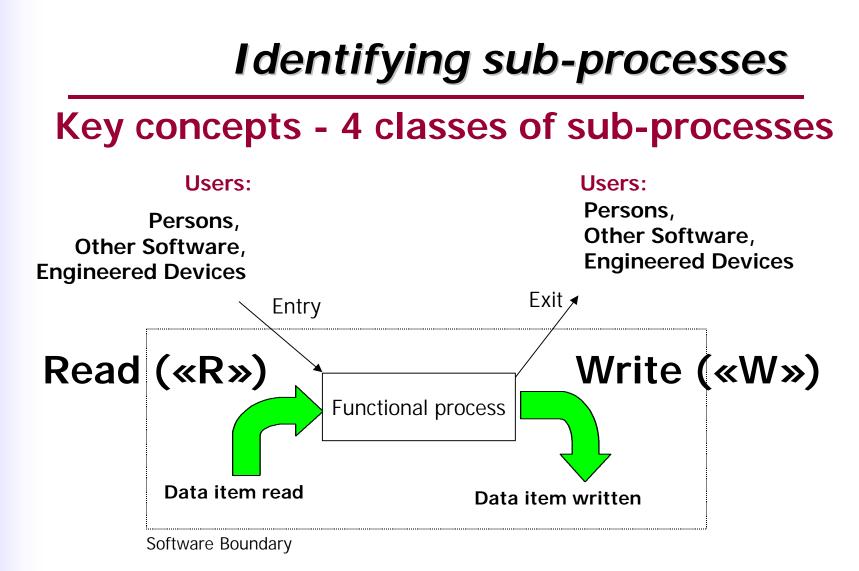
2 a) MEASURING...

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### Identifying sub-processes

#### Key concepts - 4 classes of sub-processes





#### **Identification rules: Entry**

- The sub-process receives a data item from outside the software boundary,
- The sub-process is associated with only one data item,
- The sub-process does not exit, read, or write data items,
- The sub-process is unique: processing and data items identified are different from other Entries within the same functional process.

#### **Identification rules: Exit**

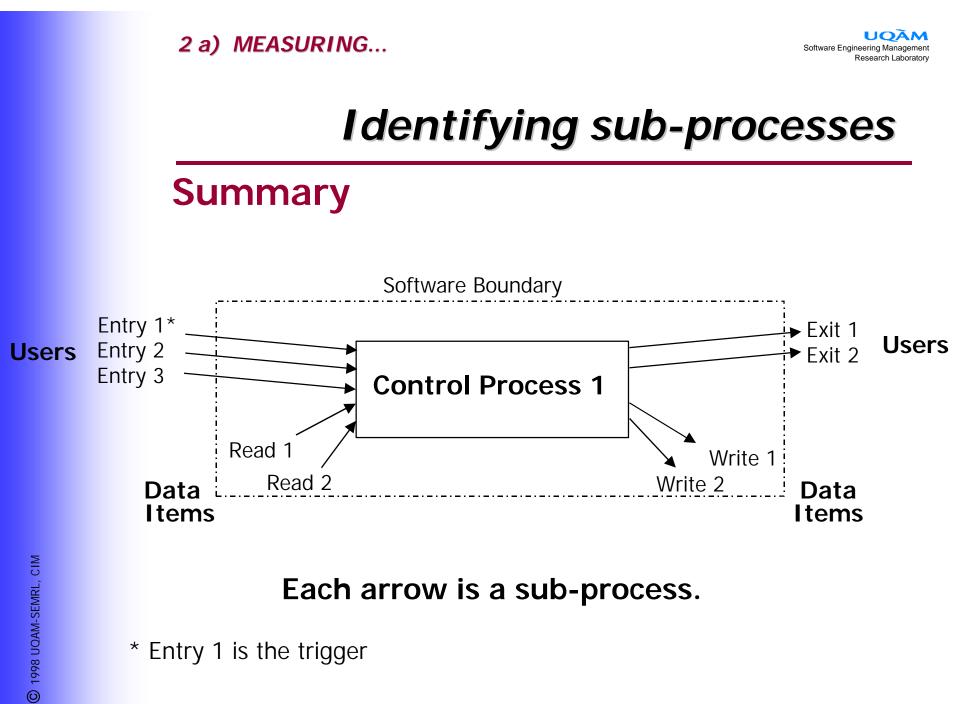
- The sub-process sends data outside of the software boundary.
- The sub-process sends only one data item.
- The sub-process does not receive, read, or write data item.
- The sub-process is unique: processing and data items identified are different from other Exits in the same functional process.

#### **Identification rules: Read**

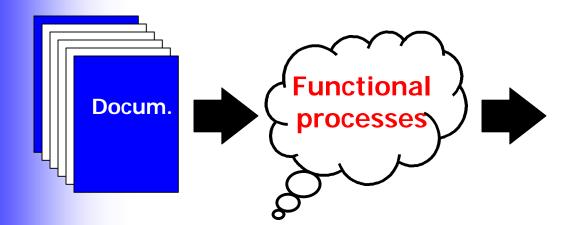
- The sub-process reads a data item.
- The sub-process reads only one data item.
- The sub-process does not receive, exit, or write data items.
- The sub-process is unique: processing and data items identified are different from other Reads in the same functional process.

#### Identification rules: Write

- The sub-process writes to a data item.
- The sub-process writes to only one data item.
- The sub-process does not receive, exit, or read data items.
- The sub-process is unique: processing and data items identified are different from other Writes in the same functional process.



#### Summary



- Trigger 1
  - Functional process 1
    - Sub process 1.1
    - Sub process 1.2
    - ≻ ...
    - Functional process 2
      - Sub process 2.1
      - > Sub process 2.2

#### • Trigger 2

- Functional process 1
  - Sub process 1.1

— ...

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#### Using the Case Study document:

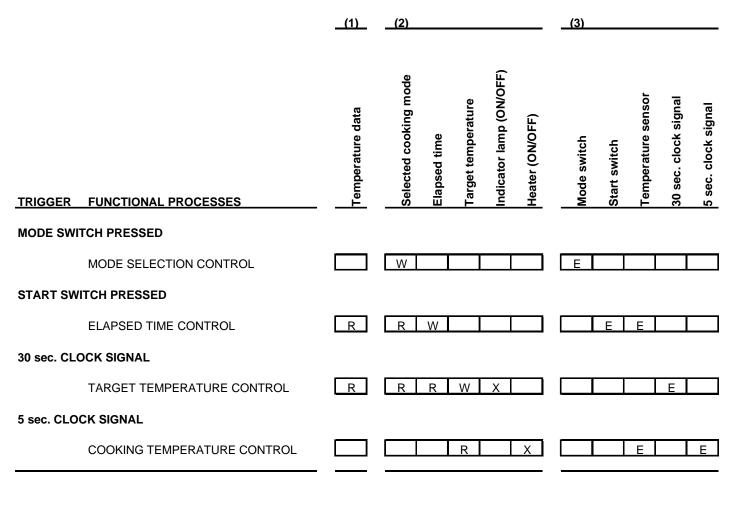
Identify the sub-processes

•

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### **Exercise**



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### **Measurement Procedures**

#### • PHASE 2 - MEASURING

#### **ASSIGNING POINTS**

2 b) MEASURING...

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Assigning points

V. 1.0 V 2.0

Data itemsYesTo be<br/>determined

Functional processes Yes Yes

### Assigning points

- Data items (v. 1.0 only):
  - key concepts
  - measurement functions
  - Ouick validation tips
- Functional processes:
  - measurement functions
  - Quick validation tips

2 b) MEASURING...

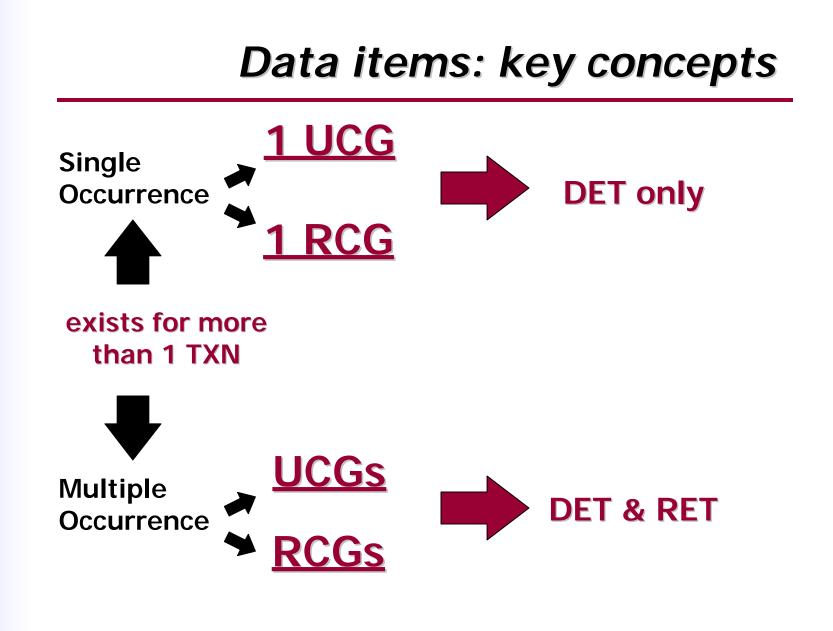
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### Data items: key concepts

Points are assigned to data as a function of two characteristics:

**DET:** The number of data elements

**RET:** The number of user recognizable subgroup of data elements



2 b) MEASURING...

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### **Measurement function**

Single occurrence Updated data (UCG):

• Point assignment is based on the number of data element types (DET)

• Points = (number of DET / 5) + 5

Note: There is only one single occurrence UCG within a piece of software. It includes all the single occurrence updated values within the software being measured.

### **Measurement function**

# Single occurrence Read-Only Data (RCG):

 Point assignment is based on the number of data element types (DET)

• Points = number of DET / 5

Note: There is only one single occurrence RCG within a piece of software. It includes all the single occurrence read-only values within the software being measured. 2 b) MEASURING...

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### **Measurement function**

#### Multiple occurrence RCG and UCG:

DETs RETs	1 - 19	20 - 50	51 +
1	L	L	Α
2 - 5	L	А	н
6 +	Α	Н	н

2 b) MEASURING...

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### **Measurement function**

#### Multiple occurrence UCG and RCG:

	UCG	RCG
L = Low	7	5
A = Average	10	7
H = High	15	10

2 b) MEASURING...

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### **Quick validation tips**

**Check if:** 

• All data exist for more than one transaction,

- Repeated fields have been measured only once,
- Data updated in more than one software has been measured in each software

### Functional processes: measurement function

### V. 1.0

- Based on the number of DET moved by the sub-process:
  - 1 to 19 DET moved: 1 point,
  - 20 to 50 DET moved: 2 points,
  - 51 DET + moved: 3 points.

### V 2.0

- Yardstick: 1 FFP = 1 elementary data movement,
- Therefore all identified sub-process received 1 point.

### **Quick validation tips**

- Check that each functional process :
  - ✓ has at least one Entry (E),
  - has at least one Exit (X) or one Write
    (W),
  - does not have duplicate sub-processes.

### **Measurement Procedures**

#### • PHASE 2 - MEASURING

### AGGREGATING RESULTS

# Aggregating results

- FFP results can be aggregated at the desired level of detail by arithmetically adding the points assigned to sub-processes.
- There is no upper limit to the functional size of a functional process.
- The aggregation function is fully scalable when using V 2.0





#### Using the Case Study document:

Calculate the functional size of the Rice Cooker



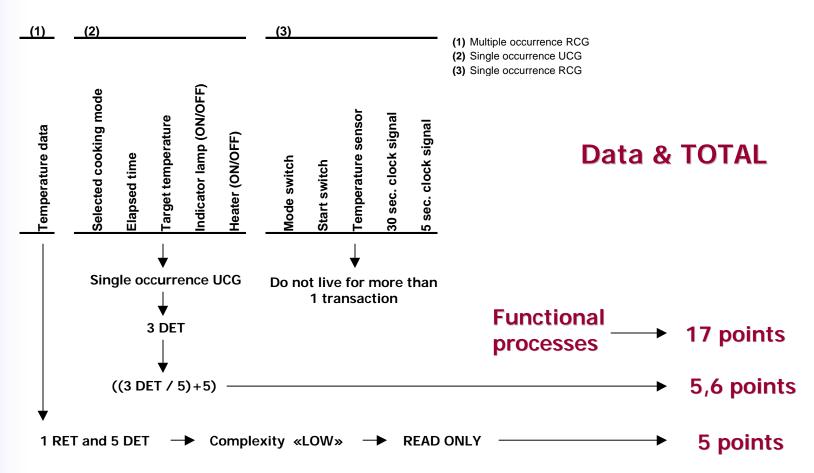
### **Exercise**

	(1)	(2)					<u>(3)</u>							
Functional processes	Temperature data	Selected cooking mode	Elapsed time	Target temperature	Indicator lamp (ON/OFF)	Heater (ON/OFF)	Mode switch	Start switch	Temperature sensor	30 sec. clock signal	sec. clock signal	ENTRY	READ	WRITE
TRIGGER FUNCTIONAL PROCESSES	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Ξ	Ĕ	<u>_</u>	Ĩ	<u> </u>	ي. ا	Ĕ	ЭС	2	<u> </u>		
MODE SWITCH PRESSED														
MODE SELECTION CONTROL		W					Е					1		1
START SWITCH PRESSED														
ELAPSED TIME CONTROL	R	R	W					Ε	Ε			2	2	1
30 sec. CLOCK SIGNAL														
TARGET TEMPERATURE CONTROL	R	R	R	W	Х					Е		1	1 3	1
5 sec. CLOCK SIGNAL														
COOKING TEMPERATURE CONTROL				R		Х			Ε		Ε	2	1 1	
												6	26	3
<ul><li>(1) Multiple occurrence RCG</li><li>(2) Single occurrence UCG</li><li>(3) Single occurrence RCG</li></ul>												17	FF	Ρ

(3) Single occurrence RCG







Functional size: 27,6 FFP (v 1.0)

82

### **Overview of field tests results**

### **Overview of field tests results**

Sources of data

- First set: comparing FPA and FFP
- Second set: relevance and usability
- Third set: further comparisons FPA/FFP



- Conducted by the research team in 1997,
- 3 RT or embedded products measured,
- 2 industrial partners participated,
- **○** GOAL: Compare FFP with FPA (IFPUG 4.0)



#### **Results...**

	PRODU	PRODUCT 1		JCT 2	PRODUCT 3		
	TXN <sup>3</sup>	Points	TXN <sup>3</sup>	Points	TXN <sup>3</sup>	Points	
<b>FPA</b> <sup>1</sup>	54	256	9	38	32	123	
FFP <sup>2</sup>	753	777	40	46	468	479	

Note 1: Using IFPUG 4.0 CPM, processes only Note 2: Using FFP 1.0 CPM, processes only Note 3: Number of processing transactions for which points are assigned



#### **Observations:**

- FFP results close to FPA when processes contain small number of sub processes,
- FFP yield larger size measures when processes contain large number of sub processes,
- Both methods require similar measurement effort



- Conducted <u>without assistance</u> from the research team in 1997,
- Operational real-time products measured,
- 1 industrial partner,
- GOAL: Evaluate FFP for <u>relevance</u> and <u>usability</u>



#### **Observations:**

 Functional coverage established at 97%, based on expected number of functions to be measured.

#### • Concepts and procedures are:

- ✓ Clear,
- Easy to understand,
- Usable without assistance of specialists



 4 industrial partners in North-America and Australia participated,

#### • 10 software products measured:

- ✓ 8 products related to the telecom business
- 1 product related to power utility
- 1 product related to the military sector
- All products measured by the same individual (CFPS, 12 years exp. in FSM)



#### 1st GOAL: Compare IFPUG 4.0 and FFP

#### RESULTS

Product	Туре	FPA size	FFP size
А	Real-Time	210	794
В	Real-Time	115	183
С	Real-Time	N / A	2 604
D	Real-Time	43	318
E	Mostly MIS	764	791
F	MIS (batch)	272	676
G	MIS	878	896

Size is similar when measuring typical MIS software products



#### 1<sup>st</sup> GOAL: Compare IFPUG 4.0 and FFP

#### RESULTS

Product	Туре	FPA size	FFP size
А	Real-Time	210	794
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# One real-time software could only be sized with FFP



#### 1<sup>st</sup> GOAL: Compare IFPUG 4.0 FPA and FFP

#### RESULTS

Product	Туре	FPA size	FFP size
A	Real-Time	210	794
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Larger functional size for software products with numerous R-T processes (A, B and D); even for MIS with fewer direct user interactions (F).



#### 1st GOAL: Compare IFPUG 4.0 and FFP

#### What does it mean?

	MIS product	RT product
FPA	200	200
FFP	~ 200	>> 200

Obviously, when considering RT products, FFP is measuring functionality that is not measured by IFPUG 4.0.



#### 2<sup>nd</sup> GOAL: Explore key economic ratios

RESUL	TS	These 3 software products are all R-T softwar						
Product	Size (FFP)	Effort (ph)	Duration (mth)	Unit effort (ph/FFP)	Sched. del. Rate (FFP/mth)			
Н	205	3 913	26	19	8			
1	138	6 580	16	48	9			
J	198	7 448	14	38	14			

Until further data is available to allow statistically significant analysis, these should be interpreted as "order of magnitude" figures.

## **Conclusion**



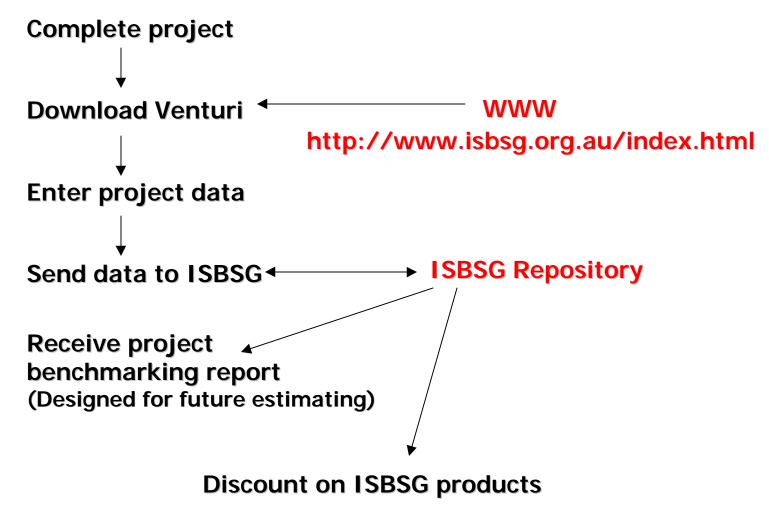
- International recognition
- Benchmarking your results
- The future of Full Function Points
- Available resources
- Final remarks
- Acknowledgements

# International recognition

In the Spring of 1998, FFP was accepted as a valid functional size measure by ISBSG<sup>\*</sup>, an international benchmarking organization.

#### ISBSG: International Software Benchmarking Standards Group

# Benchmarking your results



# **The future of Full Function Points**

- Looking for more industrial partners for field testing,
- Looking for more industrial partners for data collection,
- International Measurement Standards Committee,
- ISO 14143 certification to start in 1999.

# Available resources

#### Complete documentation on the Web

- Concepts and definitions,
- Measurement Manual,
- Publications,
- http://www.lrgl.uqam.ca/ffp.html

#### • Support available

- ✓ Case Study
- On site custom training
- Consulting support

## Final remarks...

- FFP addresses a problem identified since 1986,
- FFP was designed for ISO compliance,
- FFP has been designed FOR the industry, WITH the industry,
- FFP is an open and transparent initiative, fully documented and easily available,
- FFP is already helping organizations manage their non-MIS software.

# **Sources of Funding**

Developing FOR the industry, WITH the industry, FFP industrial partners...



Bell Canada, CANADA



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