



Michelin transforms their information system with function point analysis

CIO Insight French Edition Edition of 18/06/2009 - by Vivien Derest (translated)

Michelin presented its findings on internal system transformation on Tuesday, June 16th and on their experiences in using function point analysis, a measurement method method, during a Paris Conference on topic "Reducing your Expenses of computer Applications Permanently. Michelin IT leadership representatives making the presentation included Thierry Fraudet (Representative Methods and Tools) and Thierry Badel (representative Performance Applicative),

Michelin's IT organization is segmented into to two regions, explained Thierry Fraudet. First, the worldwide level, MASC (for Master Resolution Center application) is devoted to the comprehension of resolutions with local business units.

Michelin initiated a program of transformation in 2005 designated SIMPLE PERCENTAGE / IT, implemented in an evolutionary method in several phases, which measures the activities of IT through by the use of function points. Function points is a universal software size metric (acknowledged by ISO), which allows to express the functional size of a system of information, from the point of view of the user. It is independent of technology and techniques implemented for realization and working of the system.

It is a method which is often considered as heavy and complicated. " Function Points is a most poor indicator, except for all the others ", sums up Mike Harris, president of David Consulting Group (DCG), a consulting firm specializing in function points. There are however quicker ways to count function points to allow faster analysis results.

Michelin chose a method to count function points suited to their purposes. One of the first objectives of the introduction of this method was to show that IT



brought something to the greater Michelin firm. “We had to give proof that our means were used well”, explains Thierry Badel. But besides this usefulness of measure of performances, function points also supports project planning, measuring project progress and support setting priorities based on size and scope.

Function points are applied to 3 IT domains: The development of applications, deployment, and plans. This last domain follows a different technique of measure and has the benefit of providing comparison with the other two domains..

Thierry Fraudet explains that it is not employees of Michelin that do the counting, but of outside experts. A choice which does not pose problem because the standardization of the function point analysis allows outside certified counters to produce accurate results even among different counters.

Michelin manages directly these IT teams to coordinate the process across the business units. All of the coordinators come to an agreement on what they are going to measure. Thierry Badel also adds that results remain anonymous so as “not to create competition between different entities”

Michelin thinks that 50 % of the annual portfolio are covered by this method of analysis, what represents 280 000 counted functions, and 145 000 points-functions produced a year.

In reply to the question of one of the participants, Thierry Fraudet explains that the Return on Investment (ROI) is difficult to estimate. “It is the shape of organization’s feedback”, he specifies. ROI is to estimate SIMPLE PERCENTAGE on the whole transformation / IT.

<http://www.cio-online.com/actualites/lire-michelin-transforme-son-systeme-d-information-avec-l-analyse-point-fonction-2266.html>