

READY TO DELIVER from page 15

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Possible Uses	Explanation
Maintenance Effort Estimation	Use change rate and rework effort information to estimate required maintenance resources.
Process Improvement	Track common causes of changes to identify process changes that might eliminate rework.
Project Management	Focus management interest and development effort on configuration items, subsystems, or feature areas with high numbers of total or remaining changes.
Delivery, Ship, or Release Decision	Set readiness criteria, e.g., no remaining high-severity problems, maximum number of remaining problems, or maximum defect density, prior to product delivery.
Rework Management	Prioritize software changes according to severity and customer priorities.
Schedule Prediction	Use recent closure and identification rate trends to estimate when the software product will meet test or release criteria.
Test Readiness	Set readiness criteria, e.g., no remaining high-severity problems, maximum number of remaining problems, or maximum defect density, prior to field testing.

Table 1. Software product maturity uses.

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Jim Russell, a former Air Force captain, served as chief of Software Evaluation Methods, Education, and Automation, Software Analysis Division, AFOTEC at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M. He was responsible for evaluating Air Force systems for software maintainability, supportability, and maturity. He also led the

team that improved current evaluations, researched new evaluation methods, coordinated software training requirements, and headed the office's automated software evaluation efforts.

Russell is a graduate of the Air Force Software Professional Development Program at AFIT, and has a bachelor's degree in computer science from Loyola Marymount University. He is currently working toward a master's degree in engineering management from the University of Colorado.

Russell currently works for Honeywell, Inc. in Phoenix, Ariz.

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References

- Hermann, Brian G., AFOTEC Pamphlet 99-102, Vol. 6, "Software Maturity Evaluation Guide," March 1, 1996.
- Goel, Amrit L. and Brian G. Hermann, "Software Maturity Evaluation: When Is Software Ready for Operational Testing or Fielding?" presented at the Software Technology Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah, April 1997.
- Foody, Michael A., "When is Software Ready For Release?" *UNIX Review*, March 1995.

Coming Events

'98 Software Engineering Institute Symposium

Dates: Sept. 14-17, 1998

Location: Pittsburgh, Pa.

Subject: This symposium provides a forum to articulate currently applicable practices that software practitioners can use to improve *what* they build by improving *how* they build.

Sponsor: Software Engineering Institute

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Call for Participation: Thirteenth International Forum on COCOMO (COConstructive COSt MOde) and Software Cost Modeling

Theme: Software Sizing

Dates: Oct. 6-8, 1998

Location: Los Angeles, Calif.

Subject: This year's forum particularly solicits presentations on software sizing, e.g., object points or other graphical measures, function points, UML-based or other object-oriented measures, alternative sizing techniques, comparison of software size measures, and usage and calibration of size measures in the COCOMO II submodels and other cost models.

Sponsor: University of Southern California Center for Software Engineering and the Software Engineering Institute

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