



# The Software Measurement Manifesto

Frank Vogelezang  
COSMIC Chair



COSMIC

# Why do we need a manifesto?



- Position Software Measurement as a serious skill in the market
- Easily conveyable message on what good measurement is







# The Software Measurement Manifesto

Strawman version





We, the software professionals and practitioners working on estimating software projects, are uncovering better ways of developing useful software measurements by doing it and helping others to do it. Through this work we have come to value:



**Measurements according to a  
clearly defined goal**



*over*



**measurements on a single aspect of software  
development that is readily available**

That is, while there is value in the items below, we value the items above more.







We, the software professionals and practitioners working on estimating software projects, are uncovering better ways of developing useful software measurements by doing it and helping others to do it. Through this work we have come to value:



**Measurements based on existing  
process attributes**



*over*

**measurements based on data collected  
only for measurement purposes**

That is, while there is value in the items below, we value the items above more.







We, the software professionals and practitioners working on estimating software projects, are uncovering better ways of developing useful software measurements by doing it and helping others to do it. Through this work we have come to value:



**Measurements of value  
delivered to customers**



*over*

**measurements on quantity of software**



That is, while there is value in the items below, we value the items above more.







We, the software professionals and practitioners working on estimating software projects, are uncovering better ways of developing useful software measurements by doing it and helping others to do it. Through this work we have come to value:



**Objective, standard, and comparable  
measurement methods**



*over*

**subjective or technology-dependent  
measurement methods**



That is, while there is value in the items below, we value the items above more.







We, the software professionals and practitioners working on estimating software projects, are uncovering better ways of developing useful software measurements by doing it and helping others to do it. Through this work we have come to value:



**Estimates based on measurements**

*over*

**estimates by analogy or opinion**



That is, while there is value in the items below, we value the items above more.







We, the software professionals and practitioners working on estimating software projects, are uncovering better ways of developing useful software measurements by doing it and helping others to do it. Through this work we have come to value:



**Estimates based on objective and  
standardized measurements**



*over*

**locally defined measurements that have only  
value for teams or individuals**



That is, while there is value in the items below, we value the items above more.







[cosmic-sizing.org/manifesto](https://cosmic-sizing.org/manifesto)

Join the discussion and help us  
professionalize software measurement