The International Software Benchmarking Standards Group (ISBSG)

The global and independent source of data and analysis for the IT industry
ISBSG 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 that are standardised, verified, recent and representative of current technologies.”
To deliver the mission

The ISBSG has established and now grows, maintains and exploits two international repositories of IT history data:

- **Software Development & Enhancement**
  - Over 6,000 projects

- **Maintenance & Support**
  - Over 1,000 applications
ISBSG repositories

A new body-of-knowledge with the potential to transform the processes, relationships, structure and performance of the Software Engineering Industry
The ISBSG is unique

- The only international data repositories accessible to all for a modest fee
- All ISBSG data is...
  - Validated and rated in accordance with its quality guidelines
  - Current, independent and trusted
  - Captured from a range of organisation sizes and industries
- Industry leaders around the world contribute to the ISBSG’s development, offering the highest metrics expertise worldwide

www.isbsg.org
Current members of the ISBSG represent eleven IT and Metrics Associations from eleven countries: Australia, China, Finland, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, UK, USA.
How does the ISBSG work?

1. Collects data
2. Analyses data
3. Packages research results
4. Shares knowledge through products and services
ISBSG customers

- **IT professionals**
  - Require metrics data to support their business decisions (including estimating, outsourcing, off-shoring, benchmarking and/or migration to new technologies)

- **IT providers**
  - Use the ISBSG data for estimation and benchmarking and to validate project deliverables and cost when tendering

- **Software metrics practitioners**
  - Use the ISBSG data for benchmarking, sizing and reality checking

- **Academic researchers and educational institutes**
  - Use the ISBSG data to support their teaching and for research work
Over 6,000 projects
Probably represents top 25% of industry
36% since 2005
Data from a wide range of countries, organisations, application types and development types
Offers users the ability to improve project performance through estimation, benchmarking, trend awareness and comparison of platforms, languages and tools
Maintenance & Support Repository

- Over 1,000 applications from 12 countries

Balance of activities:

- Corrective/Preventative: 40%
- Adaptive/Perfective/Management: 24%
- Support: 36%
Data Collection Process

- Anonymity and security procedures
- Validation procedures
- Repository entry
- Project Benchmark Report
- Rating comments
- Re-submission
- Re-rating and project/application update
Incentives for submitting data

- Free Project Benchmark Report for valid data
- Free ISBSG publications for 5+ projects/applications
- Free copy of the ISBSG Repository data and free Benchmark report for 50+ projects/applications
- Ability to benchmark organisation’s projects/applications against others in the Repository
Sharing knowledge

- ISBSG Web Subscription Services offering valuable reports, charts and tables
  - Maintenance & Support
  - Development & Enhancement
  - Corporate
- Special Analysis Reports
- Industry Data
- Estimating and Analysis Tools
- The Benchmark (books)
- Practical Project Estimation (book)
- Project Benchmarking Service
- Estimation Course (training material)
- Data available for research

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The value of ISBSG industry data

Best Practice
- Substantial capability to compare ‘like’ projects/applications

Benchmarking
- Project/Application benchmarking available free of charge
- Good organisational benchmarking data

Outsourcing
- Most contracts based upon outputs (functional units)
- Use of $$ per functional unit approach
ISBSG - Summary of value

- Benchmark performance against the world's best
  - both individual projects/applications against similar ones, and organisations against the industry
- More accurately estimate size, effort, time and cost
- Verify completeness of requirements
- Lower development risk - check reality of estimates
- Manage the progress of projects
- Reduce "time to market"
- Increase productivity
- Build an experience database of an organisation’s productivity
- Acquire custom-built software on a price per functional unit basis