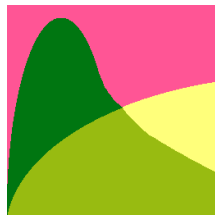


# **The Naked Truth About Software Engineering**

**Revision 5**

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## Preface

The purpose of this document is to provide the 4 things that people want to see the most:

- The characteristics that have the most impact on software defects
- The characteristics that most impact late software deliveries
- How much will it cost to implement changes that will reduce software defects?
- How long will it take to implement changes that will reduce software defects?

Once the above questions are answered this document will also present

- A model to predict software defects during testing and after delivery
- A model to predict the probability of a late software delivery
- A cost model to indicate the relative cost and time to implement for each software development practice that is employed

Unlike the plethora of other papers written on the subject, this paper has hard facts established from statistical analysis of actual fielded defects on several dozen real software projects and 604 characteristics associated with software development.

Revision History:

- Version 1 of this document – January 2000
- Version 2 of this document – July 2000
- Version 3 of this document - February, 2002
- Version 4 of this document - January, 2004

Related documents:

“Software Reliability Toolkit for Predicting and Managing Software Reliability” describes the statistical model that resulted from this software reliability study. This document can be ordered at [www.softrel.com](http://www.softrel.com).

“The Naked Truth About Software Engineering: Advanced Statistics ” describes advanced statistics such as the inter-correlation tables between each of the 604 software development characteristics. This document can be ordered at [www.softrel.com](http://www.softrel.com).