



Need a better way to navigate your projects?

Clear the fog with SLIM tools backed by industry-leading consulting services.



The QSM Advantage

As pioneers and innovators in the management field since 1978, QSM is more than a company; it's the philosophy that defines our mission.

Our goal is to help our clients become world-class project developers so they can deliver world-class projects. QSM provides superior products and services that enable our clients to measure, estimate, and control projects with confidence. QSM tools and methods can help you negotiate achievable goals, set realistic expectations and communicate more effectively with your colleagues and customers.

At the helm of QSM is Larry Putnam, who founded the company in 1978. Larry possesses more than 30 years of experience as a management consultant and has worked on more than 400 client engagements. Considered to be among the top problem solvers in the estimation and measurement field, Larry has authored four books and hundreds of articles. He is sought internationally as a speaker and management consultant.

Headquartered in Washington, DC, QSM also has regional offices in Massachusetts, Texas, Washington, England, France, the Netherlands, and Malaysia. QSM has established itself as the leading total solution provider of choice for analysts in high-performance, mission-critical environments. .

"What distinguishes QSM from the pack is their attitude of customer service. I have yet to experience the level of genuine concern and interest in serving their customers with any other vendor."

-Craig, Telecommunications Company

The QSM Project Database

The QSM database is the cornerstone of our business. We use validated metrics collected from more than 10,000 completed projects to keep our products current with the latest tools and methods. The metrics also allow us to support our benchmarking business, to keep our customers informed as they move into new areas, and to develop better predictive algorithms.

Since we began building our database in 1978, we have collected project data continuously. QSM has added 200-400 validated projects each year during the last five years.

Our primary source of data comes from our clients, some of whom allow QSM to include their project data in the database. QSM also collects data, by permission, through its ongoing consulting work in the areas of productivity assessments, estimates, and cost-to-completes.

SLIM-Estimate[®] Project Estimation Tool

What If Success Y g t g Predictable?

Just imagine: your project is hailed as successful. It is completed on-time, on-budget, and on-target. You get rave reviews from customers and management alike. And you can't wait for the next challenge. To most organizations, it could only happen in dreamland. In the real world, you are constantly pressured to be faster-to-market, do more-for-less and exceed customer demands – predicting success is risky business. What if there were a way to eliminate the guess-work?

Now You Can Stop Imagining

There is a real solution to help you get there. Predictably. Effectively. Precisely. With full control and mitigated risk. It's called SLIM-Estimate from QSM, the company that delivers the intelligence behind successful software projects.

SLIM-Estimate Gives You the Power To...

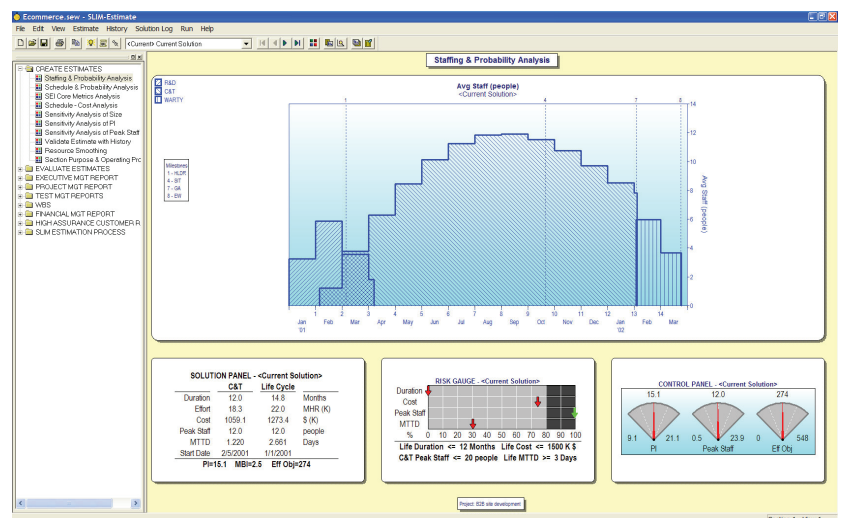
- ~ Estimate the duration, cost, reliability, and risk of your project
- ~ Provide macro-level and detailed estimates in less time and save days in the planning process
- ~ Estimate at the portfolio level using SLIM-MasterPlan[®]
- ~ Tailor your estimate to any design process
- ~ Provide a scope estimate early, before any task level planning occurs
- ~ Sanity check your estimates with industry benchmarks to see what is reasonable for your particular project
- ~ Leverage the largest industry database of its kind and your own history

Sanity Check Your Estimates with Industry and Your Own History

Customer Testimonial

"What used to take me 3 weeks is now accomplished in 2 days and the quality of my estimates is 10 times better."

-Dan, Systems Integrator



SLIM-Control[®] Project Tracking Tool

Who Truly Controls the Lifecycle of Your Project?

Unless you have a strategic software application that allows you to make sense out of your data, chances are that mission-critical criteria such as budgets, timelines, resource utilization, and forecasting are simply being left to chance. Your software success is possible, but not probable.

SLIM-Control Gives You the Power to Predict and Achieve Software Success in Real Time

SLIM-Control is the proven assessment tool of choice by organizations who can't afford to fail. From leading Fortune 500 companies to emerging-growth software companies, across government and commercial organizations, project managers harness the power of SLIM-Control to ensure that projects meet budget and scheduling expectations over the entire lifecycle of the software project and in the predictable future.

With This Powerful Project Oversight and Adaptive Forecasting Tool, You Can...

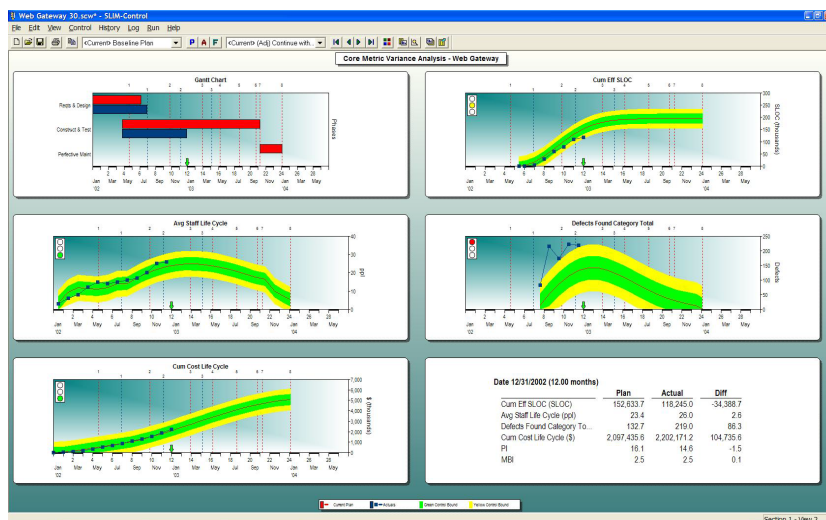
- ~ Provide project oversight and plan versus actual analysis
- ~ Provide a macro-level view of the project's ongoing performance
- ~ Track at the project level and with SLIM-MasterPlan[®] the portfolio level
- ~ Re-Estimate based on changes that occur on the project
- ~ See early warnings with traffic light monitoring when project goals are not being achieved
- ~ Use the API to interface with other tools
- ~ Measure project level productivity and evaluate management alternatives throughout the project lifecycle

Project Oversight and Adaptive Forecasting with SLIM-Control

Customer Testimonial

"I could list dozens of scenarios when the use of SLIM tools helped me avoid catastrophic failures... I have experienced first-hand the tremendous asset the SLIM tool suite has become on so many projects. SLIM tools provide users with the ability to be more proactive, positively impressing the boss and the customer simultaneously! I have come to consider the use of SLIM a 'Critical Success Factor'."

-Jim, Government Contractor



SLIM-Metrics[®] Project Benchmarking Tool

Do You Use Historical Data to Improve the Success Ratio of Your Projects?

You've probably heard that those who don't know the past are doomed to repeat it. Nothing rings more true when you don't have the ability to apply sensible benchmarks that could have helped you avoid costly mistakes and achieve higher efficiencies. You are not alone. Seasoned project managers, just like you, have dreamed about having an intuitive, flexible, and expandable tool that enables you to easily perform historical data collection and analysis. Your search is over.

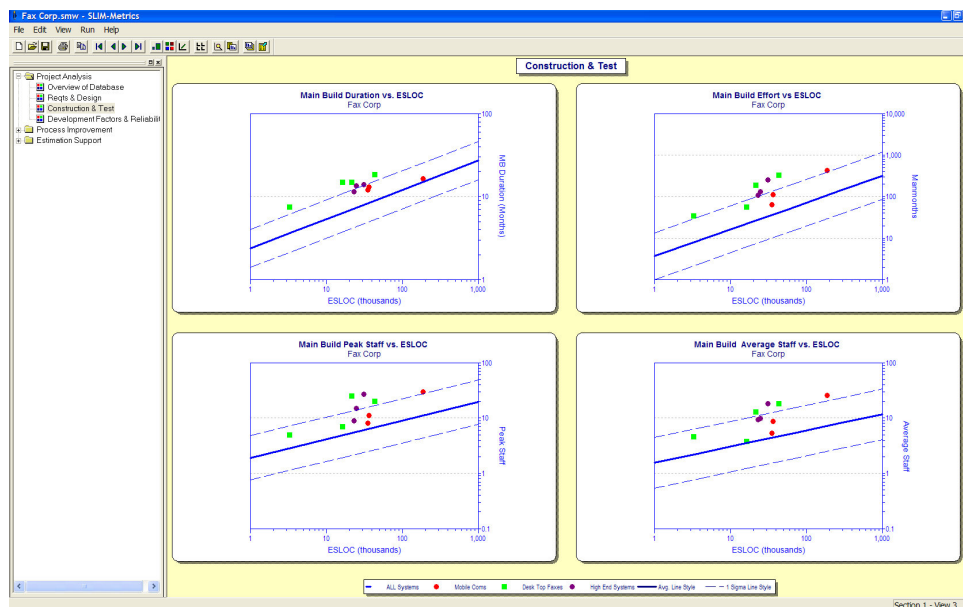
With SLIM-Metrics, You Can Collect Meaningful Data for Unlimited Customized Analyses

From leading Fortune 500 companies to emerging-growth companies, across government and commercial organizations, project managers harness the power of SLIM-Metrics to empower process improvements and enable increased productivity by applying the lessons of past projects to optimize current and future performance.

QSM Offers SLIM-Metrics Packaged with SLIM-DataManager[®] for Metrics Analysis, Benchmarking, and Data Repository

- ~ Analyze projects once they are completed
- ~ See which projects need improvement and which are leading the pack
- ~ Capture history and create custom metrics for your organization
- ~ Use the API to interface with other tools
- ~ Create custom trendlines, queries, and views to analyze your projects
- ~ Show your project return on investment and provide a better understanding of organizational capabilities

Benchmark with Industry and within Your Own Organization



SLIM-Collaborate from QSM

SLIM-Collaborate is the “light and lean” cloud-based version of QSM’s flagship project estimation, tracking, and benchmarking suite. With a streamlined structure and simplified user interface, the product endows more people in more positions at more places in an enterprise with sophisticated project estimation intelligence – improving visibility, transparency and global collaboration.

SLIM-Collaborate Gives You the Power to:

- ~ Estimate duration, cost, reliability, and risk via the Web using only minimal inputs
- ~ Allow all stakeholders to make informed decisions based on empirical data
- ~ Estimate at a project and organizational level while operating as a secure hosted application
- ~ Designate access controls to project files across multiple levels within the organization
- ~ Tailor your estimates to any design process
- ~ Import project files from SLIM desktop application
- ~ Leverage cutting edge industry benchmark analysis

Feasibility Service

Provides initial baseline estimates using high level inputs like budget, time constraints, and project scope. Designed to identify high risk proposals before they enter the organization’s project portfolio.

Estimation Service

Creates more detailed estimates or refines baseline plans produced with the Feasibility Service. Alternative planning scenarios can be easily evaluated and stored for later analysis.

Closeout Service

Records the schedule, effort, size and reliability information for a selected project to be used for future estimation, benchmarking, and productivity analysis. Once this information has been recorded, you can view the project against your own or industry benchmark trends and generate a Five Star performance assessment.

Benchmark Service

Assesses data from the Closeout Service to evaluate selected groups of your completed projects against relevant industry or internal benchmark trends. Compare schedule, effort, or quality ratings for your projects using SLIM-Collaborate’s Five Star ratings or use the composite ratings for an overall assessment of selected projects.

Portfolio Service

Analyze feasibility assessments, estimates, and completed projects. Uses Gantt or Aggregate Time Series charts to show performance or resource expenditures over time. Summarizes and groups your data with pie charts or histograms and uses the various graphical views to analyze performance, quantify process improvements, and assess competitive position.

QSM[®] Consulting Services

Why hire consultants? Consultants are an important part of good corporate governance of any organization because they can provide an objective point of view and offer expertise that is difficult to retain in-house. QSM has specialized expertise in managing systems and software projects at the project, program and portfolio level. This expertise is valuable not only to the CIO but to the entire enterprise, as many management problems are related to projects that do not meet the needs of stakeholders and/or were delivered late and over budget.

Why hire QSM? QSM has unique differentiators that enable us to help you solve your problems more efficiently than in-house staff or competing consulting firms.

~ **World's Largest Benchmark Database.** The QSM historical database is a cornerstone asset that we utilize in all our consulting service engagements. It is the largest, most complete and validated set of historically completed software projects in the world. QSM has invested over 100 man years of effort collecting, validating and analyzing this data. We started in 1978 and as of the end of 2011 we have assembled over 10,000 validated projects. On average we are adding approximately 200-400 projects per year.

~ **30 Years of Experience.** QSM has over 30 years of experience working with numerous clients on hundreds of consulting engagements. Our experience spans many application domains (e.g. IT, engineering, real-time), industry sectors (finance, telecom, medical, aerospace, defense, etc.), technologies and methods (object-oriented, COTS/ERP, RAD, iterative, agile etc.) and geographic locations across the globe.

~ **Seasoned Professionals.** QSM consultants are published authors, conference speakers and/or hold certifications such as certified Project Management Professional (PMP), Certified Software Measurement Specialist (CSMS) and Certified Function Point Specialist (CFPS). Our decades of experience allow us to understand your business challenges quickly and identify an effective solution.

~ **Industry Leading Tools.** QSM consultants begin each engagement equipped with the SLIM tool suite - proven estimation, project tracking, and performance benchmarking tools and methods. QSM has invested over 108 man years of research and development in these tools which enable us to deliver your solutions quickly and cost effectively.