

## CISQ: Establishing a global standard for software structural quality – with you

Currently there are no standards for measuring the structural quality of software from the source code. Establishing a global standard for software structural quality is an important step for enabling these measures to be used in acquiring IT applications from suppliers or for apples-to-apples comparison in benchmarking applications.

The Consortium for IT Software Quality™ (CISQ™) is an IT leadership group that develops international standards for automating the measurement of software size and structural quality from the source code. The standards written by CISQ enable IT and business leaders to measure the risk IT applications pose to the business, as well as estimate the cost of ownership. CISQ was co-founded by the Object Management Group® (OMG®) and Software Engineering Institute (SEI) at Carnegie Mellon University.

Paul Bentz, CISQ Director of Government and Industry Programs, is speaking about why global standards for structural quality matter, how CISQ is establishing these standards and how organizations and practitioners can participate.

<http://it-cisq.org>

The CISQ Automated Quality Characteristic Measures were written using definitions in ISO/IEC 25010, the international standard that defines eight software quality characteristics and elaborates them into sub-characteristics. The CISQ measures supplement ISO/IEC 25023, the standard that enumerates measures of the various sub-characteristics. However, ISO/IEC 25023 provides measures primarily at the behavioral level and does not enumerate or measure specific weaknesses in the source code that cause undesirable behaviors.

The CISQ measures were written to be quantified from the automated analysis of architectural and coding weaknesses in source code, since manual review is infeasible for large multi-layer, multi-language, multi-platform systems.