adjustments need to be made to the actual data being used to estimate the project more accurately. Ideally, the projects selected are similar in platform, language, business functionality and size. If no suitable in house candidate projects exist with the requisite actual data, then external industry data sources such as the International Software Benchmarking Standards Group (ISBGS) (https://www.isbsg.org/) can be used. Under no circumstances, however, should the data be used with out proper analysis and adjustment, regardless of source. If not the primary method to estimate the project, analogous is a quick, relatively simple method to validate estimates using other methods.

Step 6: Estimate cost and schedule based on analogous size and linear assumption

Once the appropriate analogous estimate has been completed, the result is a ROM estimate providing at a minimum, a cost, schedule, and effort for the project being estimated. As mentioned earlier, use of other estimating techniques such as parametric estimating or expert judgment, can be used to provide a check against the estimate and increase its confidence and defensibility. The key is the proper use of actual data, analysis of the data to make adjustment to account for differences between the project being estimated and the projects providing the data used, to ensure a reasonable ROM software project estimate.

Conclusion

Development of ROM estimates for software projects early in the SDLC, regardless of development and estimating methodologies, uses present the estimator/cost analyst with significant challenges. However, using the IFPUG SFP software sizing method, in combination