A successful Candidates recent (Feb 2009) experience and comments with the new IFPUG CFPS automated exam

You are provided with:
- Booth with side panels
- Excellent support
- Online calculator

BUT-
- Online calculator did not work correctly
- No food or drink are allowed (not even water)

Exam Structure and online help:
- All documents for reference are accessed via a drop-down list, but access requires multiple steps:
  - Select the document
  - Ask to open it
  - Enter what you want to find
  - Or scroll with scroll bar

Each step must be repeated for each question, since it closes automatically when you move on.
- Reference documents are in .pdf format
- Find function is more like the old .pdf tool. A lot of the time, it did a ‘find next’ ok, but didn’t highlight what was found. It may take less time to scroll instead of using ‘Find’ and there are no hyperlinks
- It was noted that V4.2 of the IFPUG CPM Part 4 was supplied (not V4.2.1 with 6 pages of errata fixed)
- Each part of the IFPUG CPM is a separate document to select
- FTR/DET tables are in a separate document in the drop-down list of documents
- Quick Reference card is difficult to read due to the size of the font
- When moving from question to question the current open reference document will automatically close
Part 1:
- This section is straightforward (however, due to the search facility it can be a little difficult in choosing the exact phrase)
- There are some long questions with simple answers
- There are some GSC questions where the answer is mostly found within the question
- There are several Control Data questions
- There are several Code Data questions

Part 2:
- For this section you will need a sound understanding of Code Data
- There are 2 to 3 GSC calculations
- Some questions have long descriptions and then ask you to classify the EPs
- Some questions require counting of dets and ftrs to determine the complexity
- There are no 'carry forward' questions unlike the paper exam

Part 3:
- This section can be confusing at first as you are given several possible answers and have to mark the irrelevant ones 'N/A'. Make sure you read everything and take your time as some can be tricky
  - E.g. listing 'login' as a potential EP when it is not described, (although it probably exists), and listing the same process twice, just because it is mentioned in 2 places in the text. They want to see if you understand not to double-count but it is not always clear. Especially when they describe processes from 2 applications in full detail, then list the possible EP's in both, but only ask you to choose the ones for one application. So if you go too quickly, you will have 5 wrong answers immediately.
- Ensure that you scroll to the bottom of all the questions to make sure you have read it all as some can be lengthy
- In total there are 177 questions, however, the system will randomly choose 10 for you to answer and then list them for review once you have completed.
- Each selected question has several sections to be answered – about 5 on average.