

# **Final Learning Journal**

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**Course:** SOEN 6841 – Software Project Management

**Journal URL:** <https://github.com/AYYANARK/SOEN6841-SPM>

## **Final Reflections:**

### **Overall Course Impact:**

I now have a comprehensive understanding of project management from start to finish, beginning with the project charter and concluding with project closure. The process of project planning, risk assessment, and risk mitigation demonstrated how successful project management can lead to effective project outcomes. I also gained insight into the significance of configuration management and budgeting within a project.

The project lifecycle, encompassing design and construction phases, provided a detailed overview of the development process at each stage. The explanation of the end product of each construction phase clarified the type of product created in each stage. Additionally, the importance of project testing and maintenance for long-term project usability was emphasized.

Studying the concept of project closure and resource release was particularly helpful, highlighting the crucial role this phase plays in overall project management. This newfound knowledge has greatly impacted my understanding and confidence in managing projects effectively in the future.

### **Application in Professional Life:**

I extensively utilized the knowledge acquired from this course in our project itself. Specifically, we implemented various aspects such as Project Charter, Project Objectives, Project Scope, Risk Management including Risk Assessment, Risk Identification, Risk Prioritization, Risk Categorization, as well as Configuration Management. Additionally, we focused on Project Planning, Project Budgeting, Project Monitoring, Project Control, and Project Closure.

These elements were crucially applied in our application called “Seek and Share” - a Community Skill Exchange Platform. In my opinion, by following to all these factors in a project, the likelihood of incurring losses decreases significantly. Therefore, I recommend for the incorporation of all these steps in project management for enhanced project performance and governance.

However, I acknowledge that not all projects may necessitate every single one of these steps. For instance, for a temporary application, it may suffice to concentrate solely on key phases of project management rather than implementing all the mentioned steps.

### **Peer Collaboration Insights:**

During our project work, we met nearly five times in the library to brainstorm ideas, which offered us distinct insights into project management. These sessions comprehensively covered all major topics, aiding us in managing everything effectively and devising unique features and functionalities. The face-to-face meetings helped us establish priorities and strategize how to mitigate potential losses.

I distinctly recall extensive discussions during budgeting sessions, deliberating on pricing strategies for tokens and bundles, as well as devising plans to manage initial losses and ensure long-term profitability. These debates were instrumental in shaping our project's financial aspects.

In the analysis poster presentation segment, we delved into the topic "Processes are evolved not designed," conducting thorough research and finding a suitable case study for our project. Although this process was time-consuming, it proved valuable as we gained a deeper understanding of the topic and created impactful posters for our presentation.

Listening to classmates' doubts during class made me curious about certain topics. When someone asked a question, I would quickly look it up on Google. The professor's responses were always helpful and taught me a lot about the course material. It was like having an extra resource to deepen my understanding.

### **Challenges Faced and Personal Growth:**

With our project team of five members, scheduling meetings has become quite a challenge. Sometimes, planned meetings don't happen due to conflicting schedules, making it hard to find a suitable time for everyone. Task allocation also posed difficulties initially, as dividing tasks equally among us was tricky. However, we managed to prioritize tasks and identify dependencies, which helped us work together effectively to complete the project successfully.

During the topic analysis phase, finding a suitable case study took a lot of time and effort. We reviewed around 30 case studies before finding the perfect fit for our topic. Despite the challenge, this process taught us valuable lessons about how major companies evolve their processes over time.

These challenges have been valuable learning experiences, teaching me how to handle project management obstacles and improve my skills in a practical and effective manner.

### **Further Research/Readings:**

In my effort to grasp the course topics better, I delved into the case studies provided at the end of each chapter. This approach was incredibly beneficial as it helped me understand the concepts more deeply and relate them to real-world software project management techniques.

For our project, we dedicated significant time to analyzing our competitors as part of the market analysis phase. This involved thorough readings and research to understand their strengths and weaknesses. It was a detailed process but essential for gaining insights into the competitive landscape.