Software Project Management

Learning Journal

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Course: Software Project Management

Journal link: https://github.com/AdarshPawar/LearningJournal.git

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Overall Course Impact

The course, Software Project Management has left a significant impact on me as an individual who aims to work in the software field in the upcoming years. Before taking up this course and working as software developer in the IT field, I used to view the art of project management through the perspective of a software developer and could not comprehend and appreciate the harmonious working of various gears in motion required to complete a project successfully.

Week after week, throughout the course, I felt like I was truly peeling away the complex layers of project management, much like peeling layers of an onion and gaining a significant understanding of how projects work like in the real word. The course has constantly made me question my beliefs about processes, dependencies that I previously believed in. I realized I was right in only a few situations, but very wrong in a lot of other situations. I still vividly remember being absolutely wrong about stakeholders in the project and how I was corrected by the professor and used the learnt knowledge to tackle a similar situation in the project.

This process of realization was only made possible by going through not only the textbook, but various other case studies and reference material. I also received significant help from both the professor and my peers who constantly helped resolved my doubts and confusions.

Upon completion of the course, I truly believe if I were to be put into the shoes of a project manager in the middle of a project, I feel that I would be able see the project through for a significant amount of time albeit a couple of hiccups. I do realize that this subject is highly vast and still have a lot of learn and therefore will be investing a lot of time in doing so. But thankfully due to this course, I'm a lot higher on the ladder of learning.

Applications in Professional Life

The learnings from this course has helped establish a solid foundation for me to further purse my dream of working in the software field after my graduation. The most crucial learning that I've had in the course has be the risk management procedures. Software projects nowadays have a lot of expectation from them to keep up with the demand of the market and, as a result, the complexities in the projects always keep going up. This is where the learnings from the course can help navigate such challenging situations in a planned and controlled manner to ensure successful delivery of the project. The strategies discussed for detection, prevention and mitigation of risk will absolutely be pivotal when I tackle projects in the real world when I work in the software field.

Every company in the industry have different work culture and as a result, tend to follow different methodologies when it comes to tackling projects. The knowledge acquired about the various software methodologies used in the industry from the course however, can help me easily get settled comfortably into any team and work culture. Having understood the inner workings and procedures in the project management cycle from the chapters, can definitely give me an edge compared to the competition.

Before taking the course, one of the concepts that had baffled me for the longest time was the cost estimation process in a software project. When we were being taught about it class, I made sure to go through the textbook and multiple references about each and every technique mentioned and made a list of questions to ask the professor and get my doubts cleared. Doing so, helped me gain a deeper understanding of the concept and I'm sure I will be able to put it great use in the future.

Peer Collaboration Insights

Peer collaboration has significantly heightened my understanding of the course content especially during the project and posterthon. One major aspect of peer collaboration that stood out to me was the different perspectives that different people tend to have on things. I remember during the initial phases of the project, as a team of 5, each of us interpreted the problem differently and we had 5

different solutions to pursue. Out of the 5, I would've never been able to think of the 2 without the help of my teammates.

It was only during the brainstorming sessions that I had with my project mates, did I understand their thought process behind their solutions and helped me gain a greater understanding of the problem at hand. Such collaborations not only helped broaden my understanding of the subject as a whole but also built a sense of camaraderie and teamwork in me.

Apart from project and posterthon, I was able to learn a lot from my classmates during the class hours where we as a group of 5, met together every 2 weeks and discuss additional reference material of the course. Doing so helped gain a clean and in-depth understanding of topics, especially for the project planning and software design management chapters. I made some really great friends and I'm sure we will continue to keep in touch and grow together.

Personal Growth

Each and every week of the course has been very challenging for me. This was my first semester with 12 credits and it felt impossible to balance all the course's workload and keep up with the coursework during the first 2-3 weeks. During class, the professor advised me to learn and study the chapters before coming to class to tackle this issue and I decided to try it out. This one advice absolutely saved me and changed my entire perspective on the course workload.

By reading the chapters in advance meant I had a crystal clear idea on what was being discussed in the class, I could have a list of doubts to ask the professor in case I had any, and could get started on the assignments very early and only have to revise what I'd learnt before the exams. This saved me an incredible amount of time while getting work done faster and gain a understanding of the subject.

I later decided to do the same with my other subjects and could see the same results. I have since then, decided to follow the same mantra for whatever I learn or study in the future. One more habit I've picked upon is reading various case studies related to the chapter. The case studies helped me relate the course content to real-world experiences and this has become a game changer in the way I learn.

Even though each and every week of the course has been very challenging, I find myself excelling.