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

**Journal URL:** [https://github.com/AishwaryaShinde07/SOEN-6841\\_LearningJournals](https://github.com/AishwaryaShinde07/SOEN-6841_LearningJournals)

**Dates Range of activities:** Feb 08 to Feb 21, 2025

**Date of the journal:** Feb 23, 2025

**Key Concepts Learned:** Over the past two weeks, my focus was primarily on revising Chapters 1 through 6 of the course in preparation for the midterms. This revision provided me with a deeper understanding of several core Software Project Management concepts, including project management basics, risk management, configuration management, project planning, supplier and communication planning, and quality planning.

Alongside midterm preparation, we also worked on developing our project pitch, where I took responsibility for conducting market analysis to identify competitors, and market gaps. Using WBS and critical path analysis, we shaped a detailed project plan.

**Application in Real Projects:** The principles learned over the past two weeks are directly applicable to real-world software projects. For instance, risk management practices can help mitigate potential delays or budget overruns by anticipating issues early. Similarly, using a Configuration Management System ensures that all team members are working with the latest, correct project versions. Breaking down complex projects using WBS helps in managing workloads effectively, while critical path analysis can assist in prioritizing tasks that are vital for timely project completion.

**Peer Interactions:** During the preparation for the project pitch, my team and I collaborated closely, dividing tasks and sharing insights. I worked alongside a teammate focusing on ensuring our research and plans aligned with the project's goals. In addition to the project pitch, my peers and I also discussed the upcoming midterm exams. We exchanged notes and strategies for revising key topics, such as risk management and project planning, and helped each other clarify any uncertainties in the course material. These peer interactions emphasized the importance of communication, teamwork, and collaboration, both for the project and exam preparation, contributing to our overall success in managing the course workload effectively.

**Challenges Faced:** One challenge I encountered was managing the complexity of project planning, particularly when it came to task scheduling and prioritizing risks. Using the Critical Path Method (CPM) was more challenging than I anticipated, especially when accounting for task dependencies and potential delays. Additionally, balancing midterm preparation with refining the project pitch required careful time management. The midterm exam, which covered critical topics such as Project Management, Project Initiation, Risk Management, Configuration Management, and Project Planning, went well overall.

Although it was challenging to recall all the details under time pressure, the preparation I did in reviewing these concepts helped me feel more confident and perform well on the exam.

**Personal Development Activities:** To improve my understanding of project management concepts, I revisited resources on risk management and project scheduling, specifically focusing on iterative project models. I also practiced applying WBS and critical path analysis to further enhance my project planning skills. These activities have improved my ability to manage complex projects and better identify critical tasks.

**Goals for the Next Week:** For the upcoming week, my primary goals are to review and improve our project pitch presentation and refining the project plan. I also plan to begin studying Chapter 7, which covers project monitoring and control, to learn how to effectively track project progress and make necessary adjustments. Additionally, I aim to continue enhancing my understanding of task scheduling and risk management, focusing on applying these concepts more efficiently in future projects to ensure smoother execution and better handling of challenges.