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Course: SOEN-6841: Software Project Management

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Key Concepts Learned:

In these two weeks, we discussed fundamental concepts in Software Project Management, focusing on the various phases of a project including project initiation, planning, monitoring & control, and closure. We explored how these phases contribute to managing the project from start to finish, with a specific focus on software projects.
I learned about the Project Charter, which explains the purpose of the project, and the Project Scope, which defines what the software product will include and what it won't. We also discussed how to set goals using the SMART framework (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound) to make sure they are clear and realistic.
We also went over different methods for estimating effort, like function point analysis, Wide Band Delphi, and COCOMO, which help project managers predict the effort, cost, and schedule for a project. These techniques help make better decisions and adjust plans as the project progresses. We also talked about the role of the project manager and how different resources, people, technology, and tools work together to ensure a successful software project.

Application in Real Projects:

The concepts covered in both weeks 1 and 2 have provided me with valuable insights into the essential elements required to kickstart a project. Understanding the importance of documentation, the role of the project manager, and how project components integrate into the overall process has been crucial. Additionally, the emphasis on proper cost and effort estimation has highlighted key factors that contribute to the success of a project. With this knowledge in mind, I am confident that our team will be able to effectively move forward with the project, ensuring that these concepts are properly implemented and adhered to throughout the project's lifecycle.

Peer Interactions:

This week, I had some productive discussions with my classmates about forming our project team. Once the team was set, we started brainstorming project topics and their objectives. We realized that defining the objectives first would help us choose the right topic. After exploring a few ideas in areas like health, education, and accessibility, we decided to move forward with the **Sign Language Translator** project. This idea really resonated with us, as it aligns with our goals to create something impactful and accessible. We're excited to dive into this project and start working on it as a team.

Challenges Faced:

This week, one of the challenges I faced was deciding on the project topic. We had a few interesting options but narrowing them down was a bit confusing at first. However, once we started discussing the project objectives as a team, it became clearer. Aligning the objectives with potential project topics helped us select the **Sign Language Translator** project, as it resonated with everyone.

Additionally, I faced a few challenges while studying the concepts of project management and estimation techniques. One of the main difficulties was understanding the different effort estimation techniques, such as function point analysis and COCOMO. Although I understood the basic concepts, applying them to a real-world project scenario is still a bit tricky for me. I'd like to explore more about how these techniques are practically used in actual projects, particularly when it comes to estimating effort, cost, and time accurately.

Personal development activities:

Apart from my university courses, I actively focus on improving my skills by taking online courses on platforms like Udemy. Currently, I'm learning Java and Spring Boot. Java is enhancing my understanding of object-oriented programming and backend development, while Spring Boot is helping me build efficient, scalable applications. Both technologies are essential for modern software development, and I believe they will play a significant role in my future projects and career.

Goals for the Next Week:

- Deepen my understanding of effort estimation techniques like Function Point Analysis and COCOMO, focusing on their real-world application.
- Learn more about defining project scope to ensure our project stays aligned with its objectives.
- Enhance my team collaboration and communication skills, which will be important for the success of our project management.
- Conduct more research about the Sign Language Translator project to gather additional insights and refine our approach.