Assignment 1



Spring 2025 CSE-406 Engineering Project Management

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"On my honor, as student of University of Engineering and Technology, I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance on this academic work."

Submitted to:

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CASE STUDY 1: WORKING WITH AI

1-13. In what ways do machines add to the work of managers and other employees (instead of replacing them)?

Machines and AI support managers and employees by:

- Providing data analysis to help in planning and decision-making (e.g., Al predicts customer preferences at H&M).
- Automating routine tasks, freeing managers for strategic planning.
- Enhancing monitoring and control, like AI analyzing customer calls at SEB.
- Improving physical capabilities using technology (e.g., Hyundai's wearable robots).
- Helping managers monitor performance and disseminate information, aligning with the Informational Roles (Monitor, Disseminator, Spokesperson) from Chapter 1.

1-14. How might Al change a manager's job in 2030?

By 2030, AI will:

- Take over routine decision-making, leaving managers to focus on creative, strategic, and leadership roles.
- Enable real-time performance tracking and predictive analytics.
- Act as an information resource, supporting the Monitor and Disseminator roles.
- Managers will need strong conceptual and diagnostic skills to interpret AI data and apply it strategically.
- Al will enhance time management by handling scheduling and reminders.

1-15. What kind of skills or tasks are least likely to be done by machines or computers in the future? Tasks requiring:

- Emotional intelligence (motivating teams, conflict resolution).
- Creativity (developing innovative solutions).
- Complex decision-making in uncertain situations.
- Negotiation and leadership. These align with the Interpersonal Roles (Figurehead, Leader, Liaison) and Decisional Roles (Negotiator, Disturbance Handler).

1-16. What can you do to make yourself more valuable to companies so they need you (and not a machine) to get work done?

To stay valuable:

- Develop interpersonal skills to lead and motivate teams.
- Build conceptual skills to understand the big picture and apply AI insights.
- Improve decision-making skills for complex, uncertain situations.
- Focus on diagnostic and communication skills to interpret data and explain it to others.
- Continuously learn and adapt, combining technology knowledge with human creativity and emotional intelligence.

CASE STUDY 2: NIKE INC.

1-17. What makes Nike's focus on the customer different from most companies?

Nike's focus stands out because:

- They use real-time customer data from apps (like SNKRS) to predict demand.
- They offer personalized experiences, such as Nike Live stores with community-specific products.
- They directly interact with customers, skipping traditional retailers.
- They combine digital insights with physical store experiences.

This demonstrates the planning and organizing functions of management, where Nike sets customerfocused goals and arranges resources (data, stores, staff) to meet them.

1-18. If you were in charge of taking Nike's focus on the customer to the next level, what would you do? I would:

- Use AI chatbots to provide personalized recommendations online.
- Expand virtual try-on features using AR technology.
- Create membership programs with personalized product drops based on user history.
- Use customer feedback to directly influence product designs, enhancing two-way communication.

This aligns with the decision-making and leading functions of management—creating new ideas (Entrepreneur role) and motivating teams to implement them.

1-19. What advantages of online shopping and in-person shopping do Nike Live stores try to combine? Why (or why not) do you think they will be successful?

Nike Live stores combine:

- Online benefits: Personalized product recommendations from app data.
- In-store benefits: Try-before-you-buy, instant service, and community events.

This hybrid model is likely to succeed because it meets both the need for convenience (online) and experience (in-person). It applies the management process functions: Planning (personalization strategy), Organizing (store setup), and Controlling (feedback monitoring).

1-20. What do you think a focus on the customer will look like for companies in 2025?

By 2025, customer focus will include:

- Predictive services, anticipating customer needs based on Al data.
- Hyper-personalization, where every customer gets tailored offers and experiences.
- Seamless integration across apps, websites, and physical stores.
- Sustainability and ethical focus, aligning with customer values.
- Augmented reality (AR) for immersive shopping experiences.

This reflects managers' planning and leading, aligning organizational resources to provide superior customer experiences.