Learning Journal – Week 1

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Course: Software Project Management

Journal URL: https://github.com/Amanpreet1304/SOEN6841-Software_Project_Management

Dates Rage of activities: 16th January 2025 – 22nd January 2025

Date of the journal: 19th January 2025

Key Concepts Learned:

This week, I explored the fundamentals of project management, focusing on the definition of projects, the initiation process, and the roles involved. Highlights included the following:

- **Project Management Basics:** Projects are temporary, goal-oriented, and constrained by resources and time.
- **Tasks in a Software Project:** Requirement management, Design management, Source code building, Software testing, Software deployment and Software maintenance
- **Project Management and Software Project Management:** Learned how software project management is a specialized form of project management, combining general principles with software engineering practices to deliver high-quality software efficiently and cost-effectively.
- **Importance of Software Projects:** Understood the critical role software plays in the global economy and society, highlighting its necessity in modern life.
- **Becoming a Successful Software Project Manager:** Explored how combining technology, human involvement, and measurable outputs can enhance project management efficiency.
- **Management Metrics:** Examined how progress is evaluated at each project stage using metrics, from initiation to closure.
- **Estimation Techniques:** Understood the importance of estimating project size, effort, costs, and schedules to create a robust project plan.
- **Initial Project Planning:** Recognized the value of stakeholder feedback during project initiation to align the development process with success criteria.
- **Key Roles:** Differentiating between a leader, manager, scrum master, and project manager.
- **Project Charter and Scope:** Discovered how well-defined goals and realistic scopes significantly impact project success rates.
- **SMART Objectives:** Goals should be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-constrained.
- **Initiation Process:** It involves creating a project charter, defining the scope, and estimating budgets and schedules.
- **Project Objectives:** Project objectives are specific, measurable outcomes that should be achievable within a defined timeline.

Application in Real Projects:

- The learned concepts can be applied to track, evaluate, and predict project outcomes. For instance, using management metrics during project initiation ensures realistic schedules and budgets, while version control helps manage ongoing changes effectively.
- Data from ongoing projects can be analyzed to improve success rates or mitigate potential issues during software development.

Peer Interactions:

- Collaborated with peers on real-world examples of project initiation and scope definition, enhancing understanding through group discussions.
- Discussed the difference between **Project Charter** and **Project Scope** with classmates, which helped clarify their unique roles in project management.

Challenges Faced:

- Initially I found it difficult to differentiate between Project Charter, Project Scope, and Project Objectives. But Reviewing case studies and examples provided clarity.

Personal development activities:
- Starting of Learning Journal was a great development activity, which motivated in implementation of a personal journal and maintaining a calendar for courses and other personal matters.
- Writing Learning Journal motivated me for tracking progress.

Goals for the Next Week:

- Research real-world examples of project initiation documents to strengthen practical knowledge.
- Focus on time management to improve the speed of learning and understanding new concepts.