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Course: Software Project Management - SOEN 6841
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Week 2: Jan 28- Feb. 3
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## Key Concepts Learned:

This week, we studied 'Software Project Effort and Cost Estimation' topic which is crucial in Software Project Management. The main concepts covered included various techniques for estimating project effort and cost, such as COCOMO, Function Point Analysis (FPA), and Wide Band Delphi method. We explored how effort estimates are foundational to setting project schedules, costs, and resource requirements. Chapter 3 on software project effort and cost estimation directly builds upon last week's foundational concepts such as Project Charter, Project Scope, and Quality Planning, emphasizing the importance of managing Scope Creep and incorporating quality from the project's start. It illustrates how early planning is essential for accurate estimation, connecting the Iterative Model's approach of breaking large projects into manageable cycles with the practical application of making precise effort and cost predictions.

## Reflections on Case Study/Course Work:

Engaging with the case study on a SaaS vendor transitioning to a larger development team to accelerate their product development offered practical insights into the challenges and strategies for software project estimation. It highlighted the significance of considering outsourcing and the impact of team size on development speed and overall cost. This case study reinforced the theoretical concepts by applying them to a real-world scenario, particularly emphasizing the importance of iterative estimation and risk management as projects evolve.

## Collaborative Learning:

This week, our team meeting helped both our project and our grasp of the course topics, especially on Software Project Effort and Cost Estimation and Risk Management. Talking with my peers offered many different views and practical advice on these important areas, mixing book knowledge with real-life examples. We talked about more than just our project work, diving into how effort estimation and risk management work in real projects. We shared our roles and what we do in software development, from writing code to testing, which highlighted the kinds of problems and solutions we come across in managing projects. This sharing of ideas and personal experiences really improved my understanding of the topics. Working together like this not only helped me learn more about the subjects but also showed how valuable it is to look at project issues from different angles. This was a key part of my learning this week.

## Further Research/Readings:

For further knowledge about the topic, "Software Project Effort and Cost Estimation" I researched online about the topic and identify how project managers handle it on their real-life industrial projects. I also see some videos regarding these where project managers discuss about it. Furthermore, me and my peers discuss in our weekly project meeting where everyone shared their previous experience (if they have any).

## Adjustments to Goals:

Reflecting on my initial goal to grasp the fundamental project management concepts, I find myself increasingly drawn towards mastering estimation techniques due to their critical role in project success. Consequently, I aim to further refine my skills in applying these techniques through additional practice and by seeking out more complex case studies in the coming weeks.