

Learning Journal – Week 1

Student Name: Anuja Ajay Somthankar

Course: SOEN-6841 Software Project Management

Week 1: 18th January, 2024 to 24th January, 2024

Date: 23rd January, 2024

Key Concepts Learned:

This week we begun with the basics of what is a project, the processes involved in a project, the role of a project manager and so on. In the 2nd half of the lecture, we began with chapter 2 which discussed the 'project initiation' step, like creation of charter, scope and objectives of a project. New terms introduced were 'charter,' 'scope,' 'objectives', and project initiation.

Application in Real Projects:

Projects can be seen all around us, and as such, project management skills are always applicable, whether the project be a software project or not. Whenever there is a goal or an objective to be achieved, specially for a client, a project can be kickstarted by the company to achieve this goal. A project manager and a project team will be appointed, and discussions with the stakeholders will occur to initiate the project, draw up a project charter, objectives and scope. These then serve as a guide to what needs to be done to get through the planning and execution process.

Peer Interactions:

As it was the very first week, I interacted with new and old faces who have also taken up the subject with me. I met my project team and discussed how we wanted to proceed with the project. Our project is an Intelligent Tutoring System, which required much thought as to how to move forward.

Challenges Faced:

As it was only the beginning of the term, the concepts were pretty basic to understand, however, I expect there to be much more difficulty in understanding moving forward into the next few weeks. This week, the one challenge I faced was to distinguish between what can be called a project and what is considered a 'job.' It was also challenging to understand the difference between a project charter, project objectives and project scope.

Personal development activities:

To completely understand and imbibe the concepts learnt within the lecture, I read through chapters 1 and 2. Along with that, I finished exercises 1.1, 1.2, 2.1 and 2.2 from the textbook. It was very interesting to learn about real life projects and relate the concepts learnt to them.

Goals for the Next Week:

In the upcoming week, I want to focus on chapters 3 and 4. More ambitiously, I want to also cover chapter 5. I want to thoroughly understand all the concepts described and I want to revise chapters 1 and 2 again. Apart from that, I will be going through the case study to see real life applications and begin with the project initiation and market analysis phase of my project with my teammates.