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Systems Analysis and Design

INT 4202 - 1952-202310\_INT4203\_M

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**Week 3 Assignment**

**Why is the critical path important? Why would a task be on the critical path?**

I believe that to find out why the critical path is important; we must know what the critical path is. The critical path in a project is a series of tasks in order from the project start to the project end which determine when the project has been completed (Tilley, S. p. 85). The critical path is important because not only does it determine when the project is complete it also means that if any of the parts of the critical path are delayed or changed the entire project will be delayed or need to have timings modified in other tasks to stay on track (Tilley, S. p. 85).

To determine the critical path the project manager must look at and calculate all of the tasks in the project determining which is most vital and must be completed one after the other until the project is completed. This means that a task will be on the critical path if it is a part of the series of tasks needed to be done to complete the project, for example task 5 is the final task, this must be the final step in the critical path, however, there is a task 3 and 4, the third one is not vital for the completion of the project however the fourth one is and must be a part of the critical path (Tilley, S. p. 86). Another reasoning which will determine if a task is a part of the critical path is if it has slack time or not (Tilley, S. p. 87).

**What is the role of a Project Manager?**

The role of a project manager is extremely important and vital for a project’s success. The project manager is often someone who is in a leadership position and must demonstrate strong leadership capabilities so that they are able to lead the project. The project manager’s usual tasks are to handle project planning, scheduling, monitoring, and reporting (Tilley, S. p. 76).

Project planning – Within project planning the project manager is supposed to figure out all of the project’s tasks and calculate completion time of each of the tasks as well as the cost of each (Tilley, S. p. 76).

Project scheduling – For project scheduling the project manager is supposed to create a timetable, like a gantt chart, which is meant to show all of the tasks as well as their dependencies, what must be completed before or after another task, as well as determining the critical path. Project scheduling, however, is not limited to this and is meant for scheduling staff members, their schedules of when they are supposed to be working, and assigning tasks (Tilley, S. p. 76).

Project monitoring – A project manager is also supposed to monitor the project which involves guiding the team, supervising, determining workloads, watching the progress of the project to ensure nothing is differing from the calculated times, evaluating results to determine if everything is being completed on time and is being successful without error, and performing corrective actions where necessary (Tilley, S. p. 76).

Project reporting – Project reporting includes giving regular, up-to-date progress reports to management as well as who the project is intended to be for and making sure that the team members are up-to-date with the progress of the project (Tilley, S. p. 76).

References

Tilley, S. (2020). Systems analysis and design (12th ed.). Cengage.

I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in completing this work, nor have I presented someone else's work as my own.

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