

Student Name: Dhruval Shah

Course: COMP6841 Software Project Management

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Dates Range of activities: 10 Feb 2025 to 23 Feb 2025

Date of the journal: 23 Feb 2025

Key Concepts Learned:

For this week, I prepared for the exam, i.e., the first 6 chapters of the book. Here is a cumulative learning I gained from each chapter of the book:

1. **Introduction to Software Project Management:** I learned how to plan, execute, and oversee software projects to achieve goals within time, cost, and quality constraints.
2. **Project Initiation Management:** I learned how to define project objectives, identify stakeholders, and secure approval to start a software project.
3. **Software Project Effort and Cost Estimation:** I learned techniques to estimate the effort, time, and costs needed to complete a software project accurately.
4. **Risk Management:** I learned how to identify, assess, and mitigate risks that could negatively impact the project's success.
5. **Configuration Management:** I learned how to control and track changes to software artifacts to maintain project integrity and version history.
6. **Project Planning:** I learned how to create detailed project plans, including schedules, milestones, and resource allocations, to guide the development process.

Application in Real Projects:

1. **Introduction to Software Project Management:** I learned how managing projects effectively ensures that apps like mobile banking or e-learning platforms are delivered on time, with the right features, and within budget.
2. **Project Initiation Management:** I learned that properly initiating a project helps tech startups define their product vision, gather investor support, and set clear goals before development begins.
3. **Software Project Effort and Cost Estimation:** I learned that accurate estimation prevents budget overruns and delays in projects like building a hospital management system or an online store.
4. **Risk Management:** I learned that identifying and mitigating risks is essential for projects like self-driving cars, where software bugs or hardware failures could cause serious safety issues.
5. **Configuration Management:** I learned that version control tools like Git help teams track code changes, avoid conflicts, and collaborate smoothly when developing large-scale apps like social media platforms.

6. **Project Planning:** I learned that proper planning is key for organizing large projects like developing a video streaming service, where multiple teams need to coordinate features, testing, and releases. feedback.

Peer Interactions:

1. I and my teammates had a fruitful meeting with the TA to discuss the market analysis report.
2. We also prepared for the project pitch. During that learning process, I realized how important it is to captivate the audience. We created a wonderful and quite hilarious project pitch. Unfortunately, the snowstorm had other plans for us. This shows that there will always be unforeseen circumstances, during a project, and we should be ready for all the risks.

Challenges Faced:

1. During the pitch brainstorming session, we hit a major idea block, where we could not come up with an idea on how to create a captivating pitch. I learned that idea blocks are a natural part of the creative process, and by collaborating, discussing, and exploring different perspectives, we were able to break through and refine our pitch.
2. Furthermore, for the preparation of the exam, there was a lot of jargon that needed to be studied, which was a bit difficult to remember. I learned that tackling jargon-heavy material becomes easier with active recall techniques, spaced repetition, and by relating concepts to real-life examples, making the content more memorable.

Personal development activities:

Here's how these challenges contributed to my personal development:

1. **Resilience and Problem-Solving:** Struggling with idea blocks during the pitch session helped me develop resilience and creative problem-solving skills, teaching me to stay patient and trust the collaborative process to generate innovative ideas.
2. **Discipline and Effective Study Techniques:** Wrestling with complex jargon for exam preparation taught me discipline and the importance of adopting efficient learning strategies, like breaking concepts into smaller chunks and using mnemonic devices to aid memory retention.

Goals for the Next Week:

Since the next week is the reading week, I would like to spend some time off, but I won't be taking my foot off the gas. I have plans to study the chapters ahead, to learn more about Software Project Management.