Learning Journal

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Course: SOEN 6841 : Software Project Management

Journal URL:
https://docs.google.com/document/d/15X6PSJLcx6WydIFK01QLC1kcfAvfzsBtM0ZCO
6AJDBQ/edit?usp=sharing

Week 1: Jan 18 – Jan 24

Date: January 23, 2024

Key Concepts Learned:
Started by looking at the idea of a "Project" and its defining characteristics. Explored the fundamental principles of Project Management, covering key stages such as project initiation, planning, monitoring and control, and closure. Progressed to investigate the tasks associated with various software projects, including those integrated into the Software Lifecycle.

Explored project initiation by defining it and delving into the importance of "project scope" in software management. Discussed initial budget costs and their significance in software projects. Addressed project schedule and the activities related to preparing a project charter and scope. Covered steps in the initial project cost and effort estimate, including the tentative project plan, schedule, and project size estimate. Emphasized the importance of setting SMART objectives and looked into goals or sub-objectives assigned to individuals within the project.

Application in Real Projects:
In real-life scenarios, the concept of a project can be beneficial. Understanding its defining characteristics sets the foundation for effective project management.
During the project initiation phase, the project scope can be identified and set with which we can delve into the preliminary budget costs involved.

Further preparing the project charter is crucial, with which we can create a roadmap for the project which can help in better planning in schedule and project size. Setting SMART objectives can become crucial for the team. Additionally, allocating specific goals or sub-objectives to individuals plays a pivotal role in fostering accountability and clarity within the project. By assigning clear responsibilities to team members, everyone knows their role in achieving the overall project objectives. This not only enhances accountability but also promotes a more efficient and organized workflow.

On the flip side, challenges may arise during the implementation of these concepts. Uncertainties in the early stages of a project can make it difficult to establish concrete plans. Resource constraints, such as limited budgets or manpower, may pose obstacles to comprehensive project planning. Additionally, as project requirements evolve, adapting to these changes can be a demanding task.

Peer Interactions:
Initiated the project by holding initial discussions with peers. Explored the project and outlined the steps to be taken in the future, assigning duties and responsibilities to team members.
Through the collaborative discussions, we gained important insights for the project. We all now have an initial picture of what the project is about. By deciding who does what during our discussions, we made sure everyone knew their job and how they contributed. We also figured out the best ways to talk to each other, making sure information flows smoothly within the team. These results are helping us build a strong project structure and work together effectively.

Challenges Faced:

Encountered challenges in time management and initiating studies after the winter break. Procrastination was a factor, leading to the postponement of tasks and potentially causing heightened stress and last-minute work. Balancing work, social life, and academic responsibilities felt overwhelming.
I sensed the necessity to organize my time better and establish a consistent routine.

Personal development activities:

Registered for online courses, and subsequently, I engaged in educational materials by watching tutorials specifically focused on software development. This proactive approach allowed me to enhance my understanding of the subject matter and further my skills in the field.

Goals for the Next Week:

- Watch remaining tutorials for a comprehensive understanding
- Thoroughly complete one section to strengthen knowledge
- Engage in practical applications of the learned concepts
- Explore internship opportunities for hands-on experience
- Ensure the timely completion of assignments to reinforce learning