

Learning Journal Week – 1

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Course: Software Project Management (SOEN-6481)

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Dates Range of activities: 16-01-2025 to 21-01-2025

Date of the journal: 21-01-2025

Key Concepts Learned:

This first week of the lecture is based on the chapter 1 and 2 of the textbooks “Software Project Management – A Process-Driven Approach” by Ashfaq Ahmed, which majorly focuses on introducing the basic concepts of software project management and project initiation management respectively. Some of the key concepts that I learnt are fundamentals of software project management process, what is a project and how is software project different and complex amongst the others. Further, concepts such as the difference between job and project, common project management models such as waterfall, agile and others including the management metrics, project planning, monitoring and control followed by closure. Also, studied about different actors in the project management process such as project manager, manager, scrum master and what are the metrics to define their success.

The second chapter is all about the strategies or tasks and the processes that are to be carried out to initiate a project. This is the initial point that decides upon the health and feasibility of the project along with the project management implementation parallelly. Some of the key concepts of the phase are how to initiate a project, what and how to create a project charter, project scope and project objectives. The important point to stress upon is that the objectives should follow SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time) principles that are the key part of project initiation. Objectives should be simple, realistic and should be created in a way that understands the technical and developmental constraints.

Application in Real Projects:

The concepts learnt in the chapter 1 and 2 are the stepping stone of the project management process. These processes are applicable in any projects irrespective of considering software project as an example. All the projects more or less follow the same pattern where the project idea is pitched which is followed by identifying the clients and potential stakeholders and investors, later the process is followed by drafting the project idea into project charter, project scope and project objectives (SMART). Further, the actors or key players in the project are designated that includes manager, project manager, scrum master, team which may have different names with respect to the type of project. Any project documentation available holds all the above details that are learnt from chapter 1 and 2. This is a standard procedure to initiate project and can be termed as a standard procedure or protocol.

Peer Interactions:

As the course started, I was able to meet some of the previous term friends and new one as well. I was able to interact with a few and understand their perspective on the subject. As the class we discussed about the assignments and the work to be done as part of the curriculum we started understanding the concepts. As part of the project that needs to be delivered, I was able to get confidence of three of my classmates to be part of the group.

Challenges Faced:

Chapter 1 and 2 holds introductory concepts of project management and needs comparatively small effort to understand and apply in real time scenarios. But the challenging among them is creating the right project objective that decides the fate of the project is indeed a tedious task. Also, identifying the right stakeholders and the strategies to build the project are all key concept, that need critical thinking to choose the right among the standard procedures with respect to the problem or project statement, which pave the way for the project development. Studied a few use cases and the application of the above concepts in them but would like to search for a few more projects with different approaches in creating the objective, scope, and charter and their importance in the project management.

Personal development activities:

To improve my understanding over the concepts I read chapter 1 and 2 to understand the concepts. Later, I searched for a few use cases and research articles to know about the topics and their usage in real world. Also, was able to answer the exercises provided at the end of the chapters respectively.

Goals for the Next Week:

My goal for the upcoming week is to go through the chapter 3 and 4 that focuses on effort and cost estimation of the project and risk management. Make better peer interaction and understand more about the subject and the person I meet. Furthermore, I would like to give myself time to search and get some information on the real time scenarios where the project management concepts are used and how it has helped in keeping the project development in good shape. Also, would like to look out for some research articles.