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Course: SOEN 6841, Software Project Management

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Dates Range of activities: Chapter 1,2,3

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Key Concepts Learned:

Initially, I learned about the general idea of project management, the project management processes, software project tasks, and how they are interrelated. I also got to know about different tasks related to the project initiation, such as software project development initiation tasks, software product implementation initiation tasks, etc. In the project initiation, I learnt about the project charter, project scope, and project objective. I learnt about the technique called *project division* for better project effort and cost estimate and how the cost is initially estimated for the project. Also, how objectives should be SMART, where S means specific, M stands for measurable, A means achievable, R means relevant, and T means time-constrained At the initiation stage, everything about the project is tentative. But the goal is to see if theproject is itself feasible or not..After getting a clear understanding of project objectives, I read about the two types of estimation techniques, such as experience-based and algorithm cost technique, where I got to know that algorithm cost technique also needs experience. In an experience-based approach there are two estimations: estimation by analogy and estimation by expert judgement (FPA, Delphi). Functional point analysis (FPA) provides a standardized method for measuring various functions of software applications. Also get to know about the Cocomo model, which is an empirical model based on experience. Also, selecting a methodology (such as Agile, Waterfall, Scrum, etc.) that is appropriate for the project based on its size and complexity.

Application in Real Projects:

The project's basis is laid out in Chapter 1 through stakeholder identification, scope definition, and technique selection, which play an important role in real-life projects. Also, the project's viability, risk management, team readiness, and feasibility study all help in real-time projects. In order to guarantee that the project is completed on schedule, within budget, and to the necessary quality standard, Chapter 3 focuses on thorough planning. Challenges that we can face after applying these can be inadequate stakeholder involvement, selecting the wrong methodology, inaccurate cost and time estimation, managing distributed teams, and adaptation to the changing requirements.A team that is overworked or underqualified may find it difficult to achieve project requirements, which could cause delays or poor quality. Developing a Project Charter which is the most important step as drafting a formal document outlining the objectives,

deliverables, budget, schedule, and authority of the project manager. This aids in obtaining the required permissions and bringing all parties involved into agreement regarding the project's goals.

Peer Interactions:

This week I didn’t interact with my peers much, and I didn't have any collaborative insights from them, but in the class, after the first exercise, I was able to make someone understand what a project charter, project scope, and project objective are and heard from them what their views on them, which makes it more clear for me the objective definition of the project. In the class,i was having an interaction with the professor during the lecture and I noted down the important examples and things the professor was telling.I spent only 3 hours a week to study from book as well as for professor slides but from the next week i will surely increase my time.

Challenges Faced:

I faced moderate challenges in understanding the concepts regarding the cost estimate and effort estimate and finding the relationship between them. I took help from the internet and book to find the relation between the two, and at the moment I might have a clear understanding of this, but I need more in-depth knowledge of this topic as I am still confused between them and got to know one thing: a raw estimate is produced when formula-based methods like COCOMO or FPA are used to obtain the effort and cost estimates, but there are no risk factors mentioned.

Personal development activities:

The application of software project management principles to practical tasks fosters my development of leadership, communication, problem-solving, and time management abilities—all of which are critical components of my personal development. By concentrating on my ongoing education and personal development throughout these encounters, I may also establish the groundwork for long-term career success and boost my confidence. For my personal development, I became the group leader who can lead the group but not officially, but I guide people through these skills for my confidence towards the project. This boosted my attitude and confidence to make people understand what are my ideas and how we can improve our project.

Goals for the Next Week:

For next week, I am planning to study risk management and configuration management. I will focus on risk management types, the impact of risk on the project, and strategies to reduce the risks. Also, I will study the configuration management system required for a software project. From next week, I am planning to spend at least 30 minutes every day after the class discussing what the professor teaches along with my group members, as I believe that it will surely help us in our group project.I will also study about cost and effort estimate again as i am not sure i know everything for it.