

Unit 5 Reflection

Description

This was the fifth unit of the Software Engineering Project Management module. The goals of this unit were to learn about the role a project manager plays in optimising user experience in software development projects, and to learn about the different user experience and usability metrics. The goals of this unit were achieved through a lecture cast on user experience, a collaborative discussion post on the factors affecting user experience and the required reading for this unit.

Feelings

As I struggle with some of the issues a governance model aims to address learning about how to apply a governance model to support a project could allow me to make better decisions throughout a project.

Again, there was a significant amount of required reading for this unit when compared to other modules. I believe this may have been due to this module containing a lot more theory than previous modules.

Additionally, I don't know how beneficial collaborative discussions are as they take a significant amount of time due to the research involved and the other students in the course don't seem to contribute much to the discussions making them seemingly not worthwhile. This is something I have noticed throughout the entirety of my postgraduate studies which is something I wouldn't have expected for this level of studies.

Evaluation

This module served as a refresher on the different usability and user experience metrics that a project manager must consider.

Analysis

I was already familiar with some of the content covered in this module as I have done several units on Human Computer Interaction throughout my studies so I was already familiar with a lot of the content covered in this unit such as Fitts' Law.

Conclusion

This unit taught me how project managers facilitate UX and about the different techniques used to measure usability and UX.

Action plan

When developing software in the future I will write a project quality plan (PQP) prior to starting any coding to ensure the quality of the project and I will use automated data analytics tools to collect useful data.

References

Gibbs, G. (1998) Learning by Doing: A guide to teaching and learning methods. Further Education Unit. Oxford Polytechnic: Oxford.