Learning Journal 3

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Course: SOEN 6481 - Software Project Management Journal

URL: [https://github.com/Saranraj-Sivakumar/SOEN-6481-Software-Project-Management.git]

Dates Range of Activities: 09 February 2025 to 22 February 2025

Date of the Journal: 22 February 2025

Key Concepts Learned:

Over the past two weeks, I enhanced my understanding of software project management through midterm preparation, practical exercises, and advanced readings. After the midterm, I studied Chapters 7 and 8, focusing on project monitoring, control strategies, and closure practices.

• Midterm Preparation: I revised core methodologies from Chapters 1 to 6, practiced problem-solving exercises, and memorized essential formulas. I also completed reading Chapters 5 and 6 to reinforce my understanding of project planning and configuration management.

• Configuration Management (CM): I explored advanced CM practices, including baselining, change control procedures, and configuration audits to maintain project integrity. I also learned about configuration item (CI) libraries for effective documentation and version control.

• Project Planning: I expanded my understanding of project planning by exploring advanced work breakdown structure (WBS) techniques, integrating resource calendars, and studying project constraints. I applied critical chain project management (CCPM) to optimize timelines and streamline project milestones.

• Project Monitoring and Control: I explored advanced monitoring techniques, such as Earned Value Management (EVM), schedule variance, and performance indicators. This helped me analyse deviations, optimize schedules, and implement corrective actions to maintain project alignment.

• Project Closure: I enhanced my knowledge of project closure by studying best practices for final documentation, resource release, and ensuring deliverables meet objectives. I emphasized lessons learned and project handover to prevent future issues.

Application in Real Projects:

Following are the practical scenarios where I applied these concepts during my coursework and project-activities:

• Effort and Cost Estimation: In Chapter Exercise 3.2, I used the COCOMO model to estimate project effort and cost, analysing a payroll management system case study. This approach improved estimation accuracy by considering software complexity, team experience, and project requirements.

• Version Control and Documentation: I implemented GitHub for version control in the course project, ensuring organized documentation, task tracking, and team alignment. Version history enabled seamless rollback when issues occurred, maintaining project stability.

Peer Interactions:

• Collaborated with the TA and my project team to discuss project expectations and presentation standards. I reviewed previous project pitches to identify key strengths and areas for improvement, and participated in pitch rehearsals, incorporating feedback to refine our presentation structure and delivery.

• Engaged in collaborative study sessions with peers during midterm preparation, discussing complex topics like risk assessment, project planning, and CPM/PERT methods. These discussions provided clarity on challenging concepts and enhanced my understanding of project management techniques.

Challenges Faced:

• Effort Estimation Complexity: Understanding where to apply specific effort estimation methods was initially challenging, especially when historical project data was limited. Through further study and practical application, I learned to choose appropriate estimation models based on project requirements and available information, ensuring more accurate effort predictions for future projects.

• Post-Exam Concept Reinforcement: After the midterm exam, I identified challenging topics that required further attention, particularly critical path analysis. I focused on strengthening my understanding by revisiting lecture materials, practicing related exercises, and discussing the concepts with peers. This approach not only clarified the complexities but also improved my ability to apply these techniques in project planning.

Personal Development Activities:

• Self-Study: I explored advanced project scheduling techniques, risk management models, and project monitoring strategies through the course book and lecture materials. My post-midterm learning focused on Chapters 7 and 8, enhancing my understanding of project control and closure practices.

• Presentation Practice: I practiced delivering project updates, focusing on improving clarity, timing, and technical explanations. Peer feedback played a crucial role in refining my presentation style, ensuring I communicated project details effectively.

Goals for the Next Week:

Short-Term Goal: Complete reading Chapters 7 and 8, focusing on project monitoring, control, and closure practices and prepare a detailed project progress report covering budgeting, risk assessment, project plan, proposed solution, and feasibility.

Long-Term Goal: Enhance leadership skills by actively participating in project decision-making processes and by improving communication between team members.