

Learning Journal Template

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Course: SOEN 6841-Software Project Management

Journal URL: https://github.com/SiddharthOza00/SOEN-6841-Learning_Journal

Week 2: Feb 11 – Feb 17

Date: Feb 17

Key Concepts Learned:

- Clearly define the project's goals, scope, and success criteria.
- Identify key stakeholders and their expectations to ensure alignment with project objectives.
- Develop a project charter or initiation document to formalize project authorization and commitment.
- Break down the project scope into smaller, manageable tasks or work packages.
- Organize tasks hierarchically to visualize the project's structure and dependencies.
- Assign responsibility for each work package to relevant team members or resources.
- Define measurable deliverables or outputs that demonstrate progress towards project objectives.
- Estimate the resources (human, financial, material) required to complete each task or work package.

Reflections on Case Study/course work:

- This week I studied the case study from the reference book's chapter-6.
- The case study highlights the use of an iterative planning approach at both the project and iteration levels. This iterative approach allows for flexibility and adaptability in responding to changing requirements and priorities throughout the project lifecycle. By continuously revising feature sets and loosely allocating features to iterations, the project team can adjust their plans based on evolving stakeholder needs and market dynamics.
- Identifying and prioritizing features is a critical aspect of project planning at the project level. This ensures that the most important and valuable features are delivered first, maximizing the project's return on investment and addressing key customer needs early in the development process.
- Planning for time-boxed iterations provides a structured framework for managing project schedules and resources effectively. By defining clear time boundaries for each iteration, the project team can focus on delivering a specific set of features within a fixed timeframe, fostering a sense of urgency and accountability.
- The case study mentions that cost and effort are calculated at the project level, with minimal variation from year to year due to the project's stability. This highlights the

importance of historical data and trend analysis in estimating project costs and effort accurately.

- By leveraging past project data and performance metrics, organizations can improve the accuracy of their cost and effort estimates, enabling better resource allocation and budget management.
- At the iteration level, planning involves identifying tasks to implement features and allocating tasks to resources. This ensures that team members have a clear understanding of their responsibilities and can work efficiently towards achieving iteration goals.
- Effective task allocation and implementation are essential for meeting project milestones and delivering high-quality outcomes within each iteration.

Collaborative Learning:

- Before coming to the lecture, I skimmed over the 6th chapter ppt and got an introduction of Project planning processes and problems. This week we arranged a meeting to distribute the responsibilities among the team for the upcoming submission. And later this week I started reading the book to start preparing for the upcoming midterm.

Further Research/Readings:

- I found a research paper “**An empirical analysis of the relationship between project planning and project success**” by Dov Dvir, Tzvi Raz and Aaron J. Shenhar.
- The research paper titled "An empirical analysis of the relationship between project planning and project success" examines the correlation between project planning efforts and project success, focusing on three planning aspects (requirements definition, development of technical specifications, and project management processes) and three perspectives on project success (end-user, project manager, and contracting office).
- While excessive planning may hinder creativity, a minimum level of planning is essential for project success. Lack of planning can lead to failure, although planning itself does not guarantee success.
- Planning is distinguished into three levels: end-user, technical, and project management. The level of planning varies depending on the focus—functional characteristics of the end product, technical specifications, and project execution processes.
- Project success is multifaceted and can be measured in various ways, including meeting planning goals, end-user benefits, contractor benefits, and overall project success.
- There is a positive correlation between investment in requirements definition and development of technical specifications and project success, particularly from the perspective of end-users
- The study emphasizes the critical role of properly defining project goals and deliverable requirements, with significant positive associations between these aspects and project success, especially from the end-user's perspective.

Adjustments to Goals:

- This week there I am shifting my focus to midterms and starting to preparing for it.

