

Software Engineering Project Management - Final Reflection

Throughout this module, I have had a chance to reflect on aspects of Software Engineering Project Management in a number of ways. Having entered my first professional development environment earlier this year, this module has allowed me to use my academic study to aid my professional work, with my professional work in turn aiding my studies. This mutually beneficial arrangement has given me the opportunity to reflect deeply on the work I have done with my studies, with me being able to put this into practice daily. I personally believe that this has allowed me to engage with the material within this module in a more effective and meaningful way, due to having my own individual use cases that I've been able to change and modify as I gained new skills. Throughout the module, I have been able to experience working with a team of people to help deliver an assignment, as well as being able to build on this independently for my own assignment. Both of these, in my opinion, have been useful for both my academic and professional development.

The early part of the module was focused on a lot of group work, with me forming part of a development team to deliver the first assignment. As I currently work within a development team, it was interesting to see how this contrasted with the group as part of my studies. A key thing that my team did well on this was to show respect for everyone's ideas, which I appreciated as I came into the project feeling slightly insecure about my ability due to lack of experience compared to other team members. This in turn has allowed me to feel more comfortable with asserting myself in my professional environment and contributing in a meaningful way. For example, my work team has monthly sprint planning meetings, and since completing the team work assignment in this module I have been able to identify when deliverables might not be actionable in each period, being able to assert myself when changes need to be made. This in turn has allowed me to manage my workload better and feel more productive in my work.

There were difficulties within the group work environment at times due to people's different experiences leading to them wanting to try and steer the project in a certain way. While I can appreciate that they had a vision of what they wanted to achieve, I felt it appropriate to ensure that all group members were able to contribute. I did this

through ensuring that our meetings always had an element of “checking in” with each group member before we agreed to something, as this avoided people being set up to fail. This is something I have carried on into my work, as I have recently spent some time working with some work placement students. We met every morning and knowing that we all come from different levels of knowledge and understanding, it was important for me to ensure that all were comfortable with their tasks, with them being able to speak up if they did not. Overall with the group element of the module, I feel better positioned in terms of my professional career now than I did before starting, which meets what I aimed to achieve. I believe we delivered a solid piece of work that reflected what a real world scenario would require, with the strengths of each team member being able to show fully. I personally feel that my contribution to this were profound in both my knowledge and experiences, but also my ability to take charge of the team when required to ensure an equitable process.

My individual work within this module has also equipped me well for real world success as part of my development team. In my work as a developer, I regularly work within the framework of the SDLC and have to ensure quality and communication are at the heart of my work. By utilising the learning and resources within this module, I have been able to gain a deeper understanding as to not only why these techniques are used within developer environments, but how these were developed as the best tools for us as developers to use. For example, I have spent the last few months working within an agile environment, with sprints being used to plan work, however I didn't know that this was a formal structure with a name until I began this module. Because of this, I can now not only articulate the way we are working on a daily basis, but also compare this to other methods of project

management to understand why we are working in that way. In future as part of my career development, this will be useful information to use should I be in charge of a development team with overall responsibility over a project, as I will be able to plan work and resources with academic principles to back up the choices I make.

Turning to the individual assignment, which was a presentation addressing project changes and challenges, I found this to be an exciting and challenging assignment due to it being something I do not do as a developer, with this normally being completed by others in our team. By being able to look at aspects of project

management such as finances, decision making and allocation of resources, I have been able to build up my ability to face these challenges in the future as I make progress throughout my career. It has also given me a deeper appreciation for the work of my more senior colleagues, with me understanding how difficult it can be to make these decisions, thus making me more mindful of how I fit into this.

Word Count: 965