**Learning Journal 2**

**Student Name:** Yug Kotak

**Course:** SOEN 6841

**Journal URL:** [Link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1NakuUrruOzPq0yq8lEDqykUAdytQSJC-)

**Week 1:** 1/28/2024 – 2/03/2024

**Date:** 02/03/2024

**Key Concepts Learned:**

Chapter 3 focused on the crucial aspects of effort and cost estimation in software projects. Given the intangible nature of software development and the availability of diverse estimation techniques, such as experience-based methods and algorithmic cost modeling, the chapter explored the inherent challenges in estimating effort. Prominent models like COCOMO were introduced to highlight the intricate aspects of effort and cost estimation.

**Application in Real Projects:**

The chapter provided valuable insights into the practical application of effort and cost estimation techniques in real-world scenarios. Discussions on techniques like estimation by analogy and COCOMO shed light on how to use these methods effectively. Emphasis was placed on the need to adapt estimates as projects progress to accommodate the dynamic nature of software development.

**Peer Interactions:**

Collaborative learning was fostered through peer engagement when exploring various estimation techniques. Discussing instances like estimation by analogy stimulated a broader range of viewpoints, deepening the understanding of the nuances and challenges in effort and cost estimation in software projects.

**Challenges Faced:**

One notable challenge encountered was the inherent difficulty with experience-based techniques, where each project's uniqueness may limit the applicability of past experiences. Additionally, obtaining precise and reliable estimates proved challenging due to the subjective nature of estimating elements like code size and the evolving landscape of software development technology.

**Personal Development Activities:**

Supplementary activities included studying case studies and real-world examples to reinforce theoretical concepts for personal development. This involved applying various estimating methods to hypothetical scenarios, refining the ability for defensible decision-making, and critically evaluating the effectiveness of each method.

**Goals for the Next Week:**

Looking forward, the objectives for the upcoming week involve delving deeper into specific estimation methods like function point analysis. Practical exercises will be undertaken to refine the skill set for precise estimation by applying these techniques in various project scenarios. Collaborative discussions with colleagues will continue to enhance comprehension and address any lingering doubts or questions. The goal is to improve the ability to apply effort and cost estimation techniques in the real world for more effective management of software projects.