Week 2: [1/25/2024-2/2/2024]

Date: 2/2/2024

**Key Concepts Learned:**

This week's sessions covered various estimation techniques for effort, cost, schedule, and resources in project management. These techniques are essential for planning and managing projects effectively. Connections to previous week's material include building on foundational project management concepts such as project planning, scheduling, and resource management. The focus on estimation techniques expands upon these concepts by providing specific methods for predicting project requirements and constraints. Understanding and applying these estimation techniques are critical for successful project execution and delivery.

**Reflections on Case Study/course work:**

In a recent project which I was doing during my previous job, we were tasked with developing a software solution within a limited time limit and budget. The insights gained from this experience are closely related to the course content on project estimation:

* **Accurate Effort Estimation is Crucial:**
  + The importance of accurate effort estimation became evident during the project. Using three-point estimation helped in considering uncertainties and risks, leading to a more realistic effort estimate.
* **Cost Estimation Challenges:**
  + The case study highlighted challenges in cost estimation due to evolving project requirements. It emphasized the need for continuous monitoring and adjustment of cost estimates throughout the project.
* **Schedule Estimation and Critical Path:**
  + The use of the Critical Path Method (CPM) from the course content proved invaluable in creating a realistic project schedule. Identifying the critical path helped in focusing efforts on tasks critical to project completion.
* **Resource Allocation and Expert Judgment:**
  + The need for expert judgment in resource estimation was evident. Balancing the skills and availability of team members required a thorough understanding of individual capabilities and constraints.
* **Continuous Monitoring and Adjustment:**
  + The course content emphasized the iterative nature of project estimation. Our case study reinforced the importance of continuous monitoring and adjustment of estimates as the project progressed, and added information became available.
* **Risk Management in Estimation:**
  + The case study highlighted the impact of unforeseen risks on project estimation. Concepts from risk management in the course helped in identifying, analyzing, and mitigating risks that affected project estimates.
* **Communication and Stakeholder Management:**
  + Effective communication of estimates to stakeholders became a critical aspect. The course content on stakeholder management provided insights into addressing expectations and communicating uncertainties.
* **Flexibility in Estimation Techniques:**
  + The case study underscored the need for flexibility in choosing estimation techniques based on project characteristics. Parametric modeling proved effective for certain aspects, while expert judgment was crucial for others.

**Collaborative Learning:**

During the week, my team and I had a meeting, and we discussed the project and how we can improve our project and we introduced the new topic for starting. We also discussed the implementation of the learnt topics in the project and how we can utilize the methodology. Every weekly meeting, 15 minutes during the sprint, can help us leave effective consequences on the project output and our learning journey.

**Further Research/Readings:**

The most notable activity for SPM during the week was working on a project. However, regarding the course topic, chapter 3, some activities were gone through, such as going deep into estimation and different methods, searching about different applications, and updating the class information by surfing on the internet. The resources were all from different websites in both Persian and English language which they could extremely help me understanding the concept of the chapter 3.

**Adjustments to Goals:**

As far as, both week activities were gone through during this week, the met goal summary will be as follows:

1. Setting up Jira
2. Setting up GitHub for SPM
3. Updating the journal report
4. Working on practices and uploading them.
5. Working on a project. Meeting with team members.
6. Brush up through the SPM.

The previous week's activity was able to equip me enough to understand the concept of SPM and also it was the strong beginning for my future projects which I have to start as soon as possible.

Furthermore, Finally the upcoming goal for next week will be:

1. Studying chapters 1 to 4.
2. Working on Case studies.
3. Updating information.
4. Working on project and finalizing the first submission requirements.
5. Having meeting with team members regarding to review on done activities.