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Course: SOEN-6841: Software Project Management

Journal URL: https://github.com/anash3420/SPM_LearningJournals

Dates Range of activities: Feb 08 to Feb 21, 2025

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Key Concepts Learned: In the last 2 weeks, I mainly spent preparing for the midterm exam, i.e. Chapters 1 to 6. The learning helped me understand the topics in depth especially the effort estimation, because I was still struggling with that concept about how it is applicable in the real world. I also gained more knowledge on risk management, configuration management, project planning, supplier and communication planning, and quality planning.

Alongside midterm preparation, we also worked on developing our project pitch, where I took responsibility for visualizing the pitch flow and how would we start and proceed through the pitch.

Application in Real Projects: The concepts covered in the last two weeks are highly relevant to real-world software projects. For example, risk management strategies can prevent delays or budget overruns by identifying potential problems early. Additionally, implementing a Configuration Management System ensures that all team members access the most up-to-date and accurate project versions. Using a Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) simplifies complex projects by organizing tasks, making workload management more efficient. Meanwhile, critical path analysis helps prioritize essential tasks to ensure projects are completed on time.

Peer Interactions: While preparing for the project pitch, my team and I worked closely together, assigning tasks and exchanging ideas to ensure a cohesive approach. I partnered with a teammate to verify that our research and strategies were in line with the project's objectives. Beyond the pitch, my peers and I also took time to discuss the upcoming midterm exams. We shared study notes, revision techniques, and insights on key topics like risk management and project planning, helping one another address any gaps in understanding. These collaborative efforts highlighted the value of communication, teamwork, and mutual support, not only for the project but also for exam preparation. This approach played a significant role in helping us manage the course workload efficiently and achieve our goals.

Challenges Faced: As mentioned above, the most complex concepts to learn in the past 2 weeks were Effort Forecasting and Cost Scheduling, particularly when estimating resource allocation and controlling expenses. Applying techniques like FPA, COCOMO proved more difficult than expected, especially when tracking progress and forecasting budget variances. Additionally, juggling midterm preparation with

refining the project pitch demanded effective time management. The midterm exam, which covered essential topics such as Project Management, Cost Estimation, Budgeting, Resource Allocation, and Cost Control, went smoothly overall.

Although recalling all the details under time constraints was challenging, the preparation I put into reviewing these concepts boosted my confidence and helped me perform well on the exam.

Personal Development Activities: To improve my understanding of project management concepts, I asked the Project Manager about these concepts and asked them, what our company prefers, Data based estimation or Judgement based estimation. And why. This helped me learn more about these topics and did some market research after.

Goals for the Next Week: For the next week, my main objectives are to revise and enhance our project pitch presentation while refining the project plan. I also intend to start studying Chapter 7, which focuses on project monitoring and control, to better understand how to track progress and implement adjustments as needed. Furthermore, I plan to deepen my knowledge of task scheduling and risk management, aiming to apply these principles more effectively in upcoming projects to improve execution and address potential challenges more efficiently.