**Software engineering 1**

**12/10/2024**

**Assignment 1**

Parkinsons law is a principle that states that work expands to fill the time available for its completion .For marketers ,this means that tasks and projects may take longer than necessary if given excessive time,leading to inefficiencies and reduced productivity.it highlights the importance of setting realistic deadlines and prioritizing tasks to ensure optimal use of resources and time .By understanding parkinsons law ,marketers can streamline their processes,eliminate procrastination.

Parkinsosns law is also the idea that your work will expand to fill time alloted for its completion .This law can come into play when juggling work deadlines or managing projects say for example you are given a two week deadline to complete a project proposal,you may be relieved knowing you have ample time .However ,the distant deadline however ,the distant deadline causes you to take longer than necessary to complete the task at hand ,or you procrastinate and complete just barely before the due date ,in other words the task expands to fill the time youre given.

**The history of parkinsons**

Cyril Northcote parkinsons was a british naval historian who first introduced parkinsons law in a satirical essay written for the economist in 1995, he then went to write a book titled parkinsons law ,The pursuit of progress .His story in essay involves a woman whose sole task for day is send a portcard.

Because she has the entire day to complete the tasks she spends an hour finding the card ,half an hour finding her glasses ,90minutes writing the card ,and so forth until she fills her day .his story is meant to explain how work expands to fill the time allotted while parkinsons example may sound extreme where all experienced this at a smaller scale.

Does work expand to fill the time available

Studies suggest that when a task,we think of how much time is available to complete the tasks instead of how much time we actually need.This mindset results in wasted time and inefficient workflows ,This is often why we as humans feel the need to take all the time when given a task even if it doesn’t require that much time

In this parkinsos law graph work will expand to fill allotted time

This graph will on the x axis optimal time complete work allotted time against the y axis which is the effort.

More time=time wasted

Less time=increase in productivity

Parkinsons law examples

Parkinsons law applies to plenty much everything no one is immune to parkinsons law until they recognize it and find ways to personally overcome it,you can recognize examples of parkinsons law across teams in marketing or design ,you can also see it rearing its head on a larger scale in enterprise organizations.

Though there are ways to overcome parkinsons law,the specified work you do will direct how you combat parkinsons ,take a look at three examples ,as well as the solutions to these particular situations

**Marketing pitch**

Say youre a marketing manager working on a new client pitch ,you have one month deadline to gather all the materials necessary for your presentations,this deadline gives you plenty of time to prepare ,but because you have a few other urgent tasks on your plates ,you put the pitch off,the deadline then creeps up and you scramble to complete the pitch at cost of minutes.

In a different scenario you have no other tasks on your plate ,so you take the entire month to work on the pitch .Although the pitch feels complete after the first two weeks ,you have the extra time ,so you continue adding details here and there until the deadline approaches,your work has now expanded to fill the time alloted.

Potential solutions ,marketing team members can work together to realistically determine how long a project should take ,instead of setting an arbititary deadline focusing on the amount of time necessary for a project instead of the due date can increase productivity and prevent inefficiency.

Design lookbook

If you’re a designer this examples is for you,imagine you have a lookbook to complete within two weeks,as a creative ,you take pride in your work and your goal is to make every project perfect ,you may never feel like your projects are fully finished because you can always find something to correct or improve.

Deadlines come in handy for you because they help you stay on track,however,you always allow your work to expand until the last minute because you become enthralled in every project.

**Potential solution**

If you involve the client early on in the design process,you can prevent yourself from spending unnecessary time on your designs,adding bench marks for client or manager check ins can give you feedback so you know how much progress you’ve made and when to stop.

**The 40-hour work week**

Most companies operate under the 40-hours a week model ,this models assumes that the majority of jobs require the same amount of time to complete tasks each week

It is realistic to think that work in the marketing field and the medical field both require eight hours a day?are these jobs equally complex?The short answer is no parkinsons law is active all around us,some people are busy 40hours a week,while others use time management to their advantage to complete tasks in less time.

(i)Activity duration in the schedule using an estimating by analogy technique

Project management scheduling is the listing of tasks,deliverables and milestones within any given project,a schedule ususally includes a planned start and finish date,duration and resources assigned to each task,effective project scheduling is a critical component of successful time management

However ,the following scheduling techniques can subject to parkinsons law if not properly managed.

Caveat ;Did the past projects used the comparison extend past their original.

Why is the activity duration estimates important in project management activity duration estimates are an essential aspect of project management ,accurately estimating how long each activity will take to complete is critical for ensuring the project is completed on time and within budget.

Activity duration estimates are a critical component of project management because they help project managers plan schedule project activities effectively.

**Techniques for estimating activity durations in project management**

Accurately estimating the duration of each activity is crucial for project managers to create realistic project schedules ,allocated resources and control project costs,here are some popular techniques used for estimating activity durations in project management.

**Analogous estimating**

Analogous estimating is another technique that projects managers use to estimate activity durations.This technique involves comparing similar activities from previous projects to estimate the duration of the current activities .

Analogous estimating can be particularly useful when little information on the current project is available and the project manager needs to develop a quick estimate

(ii)controlling the start end times of activities in a project schedule inorder to control the project schedule ,you need to control it at the low level,what you need to control are called activities,the lowest lines of a gant chart ,precisely ,you need to control 3 couples of dates for each activity baseline start are baseline finish tell us the committed dates for start and finish ,actual start and actual finish keep record for the actual start and finish dates.

Start and finish and used to keep our best estimation on activities start and finish ,they need to be updated wherever we have better knowledge .

1. **Baseline your schedule**

Before you start executing your project ,you need to establish a baseline schedule,which is a snapshot of your planned scope ,time and cost at a given point,A baseline schedule serves as a reference point for measuring your actual progress and performance and for identifying and deviations or variances.

1. **Update your schedule regularly**

Once you have a baseline schedule ,you need to update it regularly ,throughout the project lifecycle,to reflect the actual status and changes of your project updating your schedule involves collecting and analyzing data on the completed and ongoing activities such as the actual start and finish dates,the percentage of work done,the remaing duration and the resources used.

1. **Use a schedule management tool**

To monitor and control your schedule effectively ,you need to use a schedule management tool that can help you create ,update and visualize your schedule ,A schedule management tool is a software application that allows you to input your activities ,durations,resources,dependencies,and constraints and generate a graphical ,representation of your schedule,such as ghant chart ,network diagram or a milestone chart schedule.

1. **perform schedule control**

Schedule control is the process of viewing and adjusting your schedule to ensure that it aligns with your baseline and your project objectives ,schedule control involves comparing your actual progress and performance with your planned progress and performance and identifying any variances or derviations.

Resource scheduling

Once you have developed a solid resource,the next step is putting the plan into action through resource scheduling,A resource plan gives a clear understanding of the people ,skills and time required to complete your project.

A resource schedule is essentially a plan that outlines how when your available resources wether they are people,equipment or materials will be allocated to different tasks or project over time.

**Key obejctives of resource scheduling**

The main objective of resource scheduling encompass the following key elements.

Tasks sequencing –resource scheduling ensures that tasks are logically sequenced ,with each task starting only after its prerequisites and completed.

Time management –by allocating specified timeframes to each task,resource scheduling keeps the project on track and ensures athrerance to deadlines

Handling dependencies –complex projects often involve tasks that depend on the completion of other tasks.

**The key information needed for resource scheduling is**

List of resources ,this is start by identifying all the resources available to you such as people ,and your team members.

Availability of resources,task requirements,what skill or expertise does this task require ,how many hours or days will it take to complete the task

Project timeline-the overall timeline for the project will shape your resource schedule ,budget you need to ensure you’ve not overspending resources like external contractors or overtime

Benefits include ,improved efficiency ,reduced conflicts,better time management ,enhance accountability.

Defining the project and break it into tasks ,this is how to do resource scheduling ,identifying available resources,allocating resources to tasks,once you’ve identified available resources,its time to assign them to specified tasks,then monitoring and adjust workloads,birds views work load management feature allows you to monitor team members workloads in real time .

**Resource scheduling software**

Resource scheduling software offers numerous powerful tools that simplify the process of managing your resources acrsoss various projects.