FIT3161: Advanced Computer Science Project 1

Reflection Entry 1

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1   Week 1

1.1   Tasks Undertaken

For activity 1, we were split into groups of three or four to discuss about potential team challenges or problems. After identifying and listing the problems down, we had to identify the signs of the problems, from a team perspective, and from our own behaviour and experience. Finally, we had to discuss about how we were to address each problem and solve it. Our group created a Google Doc and we listed all of our ideas in it. After filtering through, we compiled the strongest points and further brainstormed on them. For activity 2, we were split into much bigger groups, with around ten people, to partake in a team building activity. A member of our group had to carefully observe the image displayed on the tutor's laptop screen, then described the image to our group with only shapes. We used a pen and paper to draw the image described by the group member.

1.2   Critical Reflections

During activity 1, our group managed to list out a lot of points for each question asked in the activity. However, we were in disagreement with a few. Regardless, we managed to thoroughly analyze the points by considering it in terms of multiple factors and aspects. Consequently, we managed to come to a consensus on the best points to answer the question. This was a good experience as it made me realize how important the group aspect is when performing tasks, as group members are able to provide different perspectives.
During activity 2, I had a difficult time understanding the image that was being drawn. At the beginning, the paper was just filled with random squares, rectangles, and circles. However, as time went by, and as the image continued to be drawn out, I finally got a better understanding of what was being drawn on the paper. This taught me an important lesson – whereby patience is virtue. A project will take a long time to complete, therefore it is okay if it looks confusing at the start. As long as we continue to take the right steps, everything will make sense in the end, just like the image that was being drawn on the paper.

1.3   Assigned Roles/Tasks

In activity 1, all of us group members agreed to share the same role. Therefore, we just brainstormed together to answer the three questions. After listing out as many points as we could for each question, we discussed about teach point and filtered through them, selecting only the top three to be presented to the tutor and the class.
In activity 2, I was assigned the role of identifying the image that was being drawn on the paper. Essentially, only one person in our group had a different role, which was the person that had to describe the image that was shown on the tutor's laptop screen.

1.4   Accomplishments

Managed to complete the workshop activity. Besides that, I managed to meet many new people and expand my network. For activity 1, we got praised for mentioning strong points in our presentation. For activity 2, despite not being able to guess the image that was being drawn, we had a lot of fun and learnt about the importance of patience when doing a project.

1.5   Next Weeks Tasks/Reflections

Study the forum slides to understand the course structure and motivation.

2 Week 2

2.1 Tasks Undertaken

For question 1, we formed groups to discuss about the things learnt in the forum. We discussed about the difference between a project and an operation, the definition of project management, the 10 Knowledge areas of PMBOK, how the "Triple Constraints" relates to good project management, and Critical Success Factors (CSF) for a project. We created a Google Doc to list out all our answers in it.
For question 2, the tutor discussed with us about the weighted scoring model on the whiteboard.
For question 3, we discussed about the business cases, why we need a business case, as well as the different sections of a business case.
I was unsure about the "Triple Constraints" and the business case sections during the forum. However, it was clarified in the workshop.
I was also unsure about the weighted scoring model as it looked very confusing to me at first sight. However, after the tutor's explanation, I was able to understand it clearly.

2.2 Critical Reflections

For question 1 and 3, I googled the answers rather than referring to the forum slides. I realized my mistake when my friend and I compared answers, and mine was completely different. From this, I learnt that the first reference point should always be the forum slides, not Google.
For question 2, I had a hard time understanding the weighted scoring model during the forum. This was probably due to the forum being online and not physical. After the tutor explained it in detail on the whiteboard, I was able to thoroughly understand the entire concept.

2.3 Assigned Roles/Tasks

For question 1 and 3, we did the questions together. Therefore, there were no roles assigned.
For question 2, the tutor discussed the model with the class. Thus, there were also no roles assigned.

2.4 Accomplishments

Through completing the workshop questions, I was able to fully understand and grasp the materials taught in the forum, such as the 10 Knowledge areas of PMBOK, the "Triple Constraints", CSF, business cases, and the weighted scoring model.
I completed quiz 1 and got a pretty good score. The quiz was relatively easy to do as most of the answers can be found on the slides. Thankfully, I had studied the slides beforehand and had fully understand each concept.

2.5 Next Weeks Tasks/Reflections

To read through each project and identify the project that I like the most. We were told to rank our top five projects.

3   Week 3

3.1   Tasks Undertaken

We were split into four groups for the workshop activity.
For activity 1, we had to explain how Scope and Requirements are related, while identifying its differences in relation to Project Management.
For activity 2, we had to produce a Scope Statement and a Requirements specification for a new product and its development, and create a basic WBS for the project.
We created a Google Doc to write down the answers of both activities.

3.2   Critical Reflections

For activity 1, our group members had a bit of disagreement regarding the definitions of Scope and Requirements in relation to Project Management. We took some time to come to a consensus regarding our answers to those questions. Nevertheless, it was insightful to see the reasoning of others.
For activity 2, we managed to complete the task swiftly. We were efficient in coming up with the scope statement an requirements specification as we had already discussed about it so much in activity 1. Besides that, the WBS was created relatively quickly due to each group member voicing out their opinion as fast as possible when an idea surfaces.

3.3   Assigned Roles/Tasks

For both activities, we were not assigned any roles as we agreed to brainstorm on the questions together at the same time. This was an interesting approach as we were able to observe the thought process each group member during the brainstorm session. Not only that, having multiple perspectives when working on a problem was helpful in sparking different solutions, especially during activity 2.

3.4   Accomplishments

After the completion of the workshop, I managed to clearly understand Scope and Requirements in relation to Project Management, especially after discussing about it so much in activity 1. Besides that, I have learnt about the WBS for a project and the importance of it. I appreciate being able to learn these things now, as it will help me mentally prepare for when the project actually begins.

3.5   Next Weeks Tasks/Reflections

To revise for the next week's quiz – quiz 2, by reading through the forum slides again and revising the google doc from this week's workshop.

4 Week 4

4.1 Tasks Undertaken

The workshop activities this week were individual activities.
For activity 1, I had to draw a network diagram to calculate the floats and determine and mark the critical path.
For activity 2, I had to install ProjectLibre. Then, I had to explore its interface, follow the instructions to create WBS on ProjectLibre, generate the Gantt chart, and to ask our tutor for feedback.
The Gantt chart was confusing for me during the forum, but it was then clarified during the workshop session.

4.2 Critical Reflections

During this workshop, my friend and I had the opportunity to ask the tutor many questions and to clarify any confusion that we had with the material. I realized that the ability to be confident and to not be shy and ask the tutor questions is pivotal in succeeding, as it will clear any doubts quickly. Not only is the tutor the best source for answers, it helps other classmates who may have the same question. This helped me realize that being shy will not help and I need to be more confident in order to get answers and clarification.

4.3 Assigned Roles/Tasks

The tasks had to be done individually. Thus, no roles were assigned to me this week. Regardless, I got the opportunity to compare my answers with a friend. We managed to identify a few mistakes from both sides and learn from it.

4.4 Accomplishments

From this workshop's activity, I can now draw a network diagram and determine the critical path pretty quickly. Besides that, I have learnt how to use ProjectLibre to generate Gantt charts. Furthermore, I learnt about the importance of speaking out in class, and that being shy does not provide any benefit in the long term.
I completed quiz 2 and obtained a decent score. I believe that it was well deserved as I had studied hard for the past two weeks, trying to understand its material thoroughly.

4.5 Next Weeks Tasks/Reflections

To revise the past four week's materials as the groups are to be assigned soon. This will help me understand and hopefully implement these concepts throughout the project.

5 Week 5

5.1 Tasks Undertaken

The workshop this week was a library session. Therefore, there were no tasks that were carried out as it was not the usual workshop.
We had a meeting with our project supervisor, where she briefed us about the project and the tasks that we were expected to complete. The team were expected to have regular meetings to work on the project and to update each other on progress.

5.2 Critical Reflections

During the meeting with the project supervisor, I participated a lot in the meeting, by responding to everyone as well as sharing out my thoughts and opinions whenever I had any. From this meeting, I realized the importance of communication in a project setting, especially during project inception, as it helps to set a good atmosphere and environment for everyone. Besides that, everyone was surprisingly friendly during the meeting. This helped me understand the importance of empathy and kindness when dealing with people, as it would let people feel good. Consequently, it will be easier to motivate and cooperate to complete the task at hand.

5.3 Assigned Roles/Tasks

We have just been assigned tasks by our project supervisor during the meeting, where we would have to understand the project further before our next meeting.

5.4 Accomplishments

From the meeting with the project supervisor and the team members, I finally got to meet the people involved with the project, despite it being only online. After the online meeting, I am excited to work together with my team members and the project supervisor. Hopefully this motivation and enthusiasm will be shown when doing the project.

5.5 Next Weeks Tasks/Reflections

Firstly, I have to study the materials and complete quiz 5. Besides that, I will go through the previous week's forum slides and workshops to prepare for quiz 6. Furthermore, I will perform the tasks that the project supervisor had told us to do.