SOEN 6841 – SOFTWARE PROJECT MANAGEMENT

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JOURNAL URL:
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DATES RANGE OF ACTIVITIES: 05/09/2024 – 21/09/2024

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KEY CONCEPTS:

Characteristics of project: Difference between tasks and project - task is more project-like if it is complex, goal-oriented, involves multiple phases and specialisms, and is constrained by time, resources, and customer requirements.

Project phases: Project initiation -> Project planning -> Project monitoring and control -> Closure

Software **project tasks**: Requirement analysis, software design, software development, software testing, deployment, software maintenance.

- The **goal of software project management** is to develop or maintain a software product by applying good project management and software engineering principles, ensuring delivery with minimal cost, in the least time, and with high product quality.

Software **project initiation** tasks: Schedule estimate, project charter, project scope, project objectives, Cost and effort estimates.

Software **product initiation** tasks: Market research, Development cost estimate, features, marketing approaches, delivery method, final product and service.

Project management in **waterfall model**

Software management and technical **metrics**

Difference between Project charter, project scope and project objectives: **Project charter** -> Statement from top management, big picture of the effort. **Project Scope** -> combination of a number of features and the quality level determines the total volume of work. **Project objectives** -> Importance and impact of project is emphasised.

Project cost and effort estimates: **Effort estimate** -> Labor cost estimate, **Cost estimate** -> salaries, hardware, services.

Tentative project plan and schedule: **project schedule** breaks down tasks, estimates durations, and identifies dependencies

Procedure of **project division technique**: project charter and scope -> expert -> Service provider

project objectives-**SMART** (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time constrained)

APPLICATION IN REAL PROJECTS:

- The importance of accurate cost and effort estimation—particularly around labor and task dependencies—directly impacts project success. In real-world projects, ensuring precise scheduling and dependency mapping mitigates risks of delays and budget overruns, though achieving this accuracy remains a challenge.
- Using SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-constrained) criteria to define project objectives ensures that real-world projects stay focused and deliver value. Balancing scope, time, and resources, particularly in a rigid model like Waterfall, can present difficulties, but is crucial for maintaining product quality and meeting client expectations.

PEER INTERACTIONS:

We shared our past experiences with software development projects where team collaboration was emphasized. We discussed about the collaborative tools we used while working in software industry, as it plays major role while aligning elements of software project management. We also discussed and compared the project rubrics released for the course with the industry standard documentation and phases.

CHALLENGES FACED:

I faced challenges in telling apart the project charter, scope, and objectives because their differences were subtle, which made planning discussions confusing. I also had difficulty understanding the subtasks for project and product initiation, making it hard to align both processes clearly.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES:

Group discussions regarding the project definition and discussing the project dileverables and templates. We also had a meeting focusing on deciding the project ideas uploaded on moodle.

I, personally, have gone through the topics of the Software Project Management textbook. Compared it with my understanding of my undergraduate degree.

GOALS FOR NEXT WEEK:

Effort estimation approaches

Cost estimation approaches

Function point analysis

Discussing more about the finalized project definition and task distribution among the group members.