

Learning Journal

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Course: Software Project Management

Journal URL: https://github.com/gangasingh0001/SOEN_6841_Learning_Journal

Week 1: Jan 18 to Jan 24

Day 1: January 19, 2024

Key Concepts Learned:

- Introduction to Software Project Management and understanding of what constitutes a project.
- Learned about software projects, their unique challenges like invisibility, complexity, and flexibility.
- Discussed the characteristics that make a task more 'project-like', such as being non-routine and planned.

Application in Real Projects:

- These concepts can be directly applied to defining and structuring upcoming software projects in my workplace.
- Understanding the unique challenges of software projects will help in better risk management.

Peer Interactions:

- I had a fruitful discussion with a peer about the complexities of software projects compared to other engineering projects.

Challenges Faced:

- Grasping the abstract concept of 'invisibility' in software projects was challenging. I need to delve deeper into this concept.

Personal Development Activities:

- I began reading "Software project Management: BOB Hughes and Mike Cotterell" for additional insights into software project management.

Goals for the Next Week:

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- Plan to focus more on the subprocesses within project management processes and how they integrate with software life cycle processes.

Day 2: January 21, 2024

Key Concepts Learned:

- Delved into the initial stages of a software project, covering project initiation and project charter.
- Learned about project scope, objectives, and the importance of SMART objectives.

Application in Real Projects:

- The concept of project charter and scope can be used to streamline the initiation of new projects in an organization.
- Implementing SMART objectives could improve project clarity and success rates.

Peer Interactions:

- Collaborated with a classmate in a mock exercise to create a sample project charter, leading to a practical understanding of the concept.

Challenges Faced:

- Struggled with distinguishing between project objectives and goals/sub-objectives. Need to clarify this further.

Personal Development Activities:

- Attended an online seminar on effective project initiation strategies in software engineering.

Goals for the Next Week:

- Aim to understand the nuances of project cost estimation and scheduling.
- I plan to start a small project as a case study for applying these concepts.

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Day 3: January 23, 2024

Key Concepts Learned:

- Explored project cost estimation and the factors influencing it, like project size and effort.
- Learned about project scheduling and the importance of task duration and dependencies.

Application in Real Projects:

- The knowledge gained on project cost and scheduling can assist in creating more accurate project plans in my current role.
- Understanding task dependencies will enhance my ability to manage projects more efficiently.

Peer Interactions:

- We had a debate on the efficacy of the project division technique, which led to a deeper understanding of different estimation methods.

Challenges Faced:

- Finding it challenging to accurately estimate the duration of tasks in a hypothetical project scenario.

Personal Development Activities:

- Started using a project management simulation tool to practice project scheduling and budgeting.

Goals for the Next Week:

- I intend to enhance my understanding of the software development life cycle within project management.

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- Plan to focus on the integration of people, processes, tools, and technology in software projects.