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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:**

* 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.

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