Learning Journal 3

Student Name: Honey Sharma

Course: SOEN 6841 Software Project Management

Journal URL: https://github.com/honey25s/Learning_Journals_SPM

Dates Rage of activities: 09 February, 2025 to 23 February, 2025

Date of the journal: 23 February, 2025

Key Concepts Learned:
The first week, our main focus was to prepare our project pitches. My team members and I had a meeting where we discussed all the aspects of our project and came up with an impactful pitch.
This week we had our midterm exam, so I went through all the topics covered in the previous classes. I started with Software Project Management and its phases, roles of Scrum Master and Project Managers, and project initiation activities: Project Charter, Project Scope and Project Objective. Then I revised the key concepts of Cost and Effort Estimation Techniques and its types: Experience-based Techniques and Algorithmic Cost Modeling. And the 3 mainly used techniques: Function Point Analysis, Delphi and COCOMO. Studied how Risk Management involves steps like Risk Assessment, Risk Impact and Risk Control. And about the different types of Risks and their reduction techniques. Along with these, I revised Configuration Management and its four key functions. And lastly I went through Project Planning and its aspects such as project scheduling, project budgeting, etc. I studied topics like project scheduling, Work Breakdown Structure (WBS), Milestones and Deliverables, Gantt chart.

Application in Real Projects:
- One of the most important phases in actual software development is project pitching. Startups like Dropbox and Airbnb first raised money by presenting their vision and business plan to investors in a well-organized project pitch.
- Project management phases guarantee that big projects are carried out smoothly. When creating and introducing new services, such as AWS cloud solutions, businesses like Amazon take a methodical strategy that includes initiation, planning, execution, and closing.
- Techniques for estimating costs and labor maximize resource planning. Google estimates development costs for projects like Google Search upgrades using COCOMO and Function Point Analysis, which aids in resource allocation.

Peer Interactions:
Working together to prepare the project pitch improved communication and teamwork abilities. We were able to develop ideas and examine different perspectives during the brainstorming session.
Since discussing topics with others helped me understand them better, peer conversations also helped me revise important ideas for the midterm.

Challenges Faced:
Finding a balance between studying for the midterm exam and project preparation was a little challenging.
It took more work to understand some concepts because they were mathematical and algorithmic, particularly Cost and Effort Estimation approaches.
In Configuration management, understanding the difference in all of its aspects was a little difficult for memorizing and understanding.

Personal development activities:
This week, I worked on strengthening my time management abilities by setting aside designated time blocks for studying and project work. Pitch preparation was another important component of personal growth that helped improve presentation skills. Additionally, I worked on summarizing complicated concepts into brief notes, which benefited in quick revisions. And I referred to the book that the professor suggested to understand confusing topics.

Goals for the Next Week:
- Discussions with team members regarding the Project pitch and the next deliverable.
- Finalize the project pitch with regard to feedback with our TA.
- Start working on the Project Deliverable 2 with Feasibility Study and Solution Proposal.
- Learn more about project risk management and examine case studies from the actual world.
- Go through the slides of Chapter 7 and 8 uploaded by the professor.