Learning Journal 1

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Course: SOEN 6841 Software Project Management

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

Dates Rage of activities: 16 January, 2025 to 28 January, 2025

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Key Concepts Learned:
WEEK 1- This week we learnt about Software Project Management, its different phases and all the tasks involved. We learnt about the difference between a Scrum Master and a Project Manager. Then we studied about the set of activities required for Project Initiation, which were Project Charter, Project Scope and Project Objective. We also learnt how these are different from each other.
WEEK 2- In this lecture we learnt about the Cost and Effort Estimation Techniques. We learnt the difference between Experience-based Techniques and Algorithmic Cost Modeling and saw their examples. We majorly discussed these 3 techniques: Function Point Analysis, Delphi and COCOMO. Further we had a detailed discussion on two popular Experience based estimation, i.e. Estimation by Analogy or by Expert Judgement. Then we learnt about Risk Management which involves steps like Risk Assessment, Risk Impact and Risk Control. We studied different types of Risks and their reduction techniques. We also saw the quantitative model where we calculate Risk Exposure by the impact of a risk and its probability.

Application in Real Projects:
The concepts learned during these weeks are essential for the smooth execution of real-world projects. For example, Project Initiation ensures that all stakeholders are aligned on the project's objectives, scope, and deliverables. This fundamental stage clarifies expectations and reduces misunderstandings.
Furthermore, methods for estimating costs and effort, such as Delphi or Function Point Analysis, may be very helpful in precisely forecasting project budgets and schedules, which improves resource allocation. When it comes to anticipating possible project risks and putting mitigation plans in place, risk management is essential. However, challenges may arise in getting reliable data for calculations and maintaining good stakeholder communication during initiation.

Peer Interactions:
We had a discussion in class about the difference in the roles of Scrum Master and Project Manager which was insightful for me. Also, the techniques like Delphi and FPA were new to me and the discussion in the class enhanced my knowledge on these techniques. I was brainstorming with some classmates about the different risks and the practical applications of risk management and cost estimation.

Challenges Faced:
This week, I was a little confused between project charter and scope, then I took the help of the book which was discussed in the class. I also had trouble completely understanding the complex aspects of Function Point Analysis and Delphi. Although the concepts were straightforward, putting it into practice in real-world situations looked difficult and needed more thorough examples.

Personal development activities:
To enhance my understanding of these weeks' topics, I completed supplementary readings from the professor's referred book on Software Project Management. Along with this I looked for a few YouTube videos on the Function Point Analysis and Delphi techniques to clearly understand them. I was also looking for some articles on risk analysis to better understand the topic.

Goals for the Next Week:
- Increase my knowledge of Function Point Analysis by going over additional real-world examples and case studies again.
- Brush up on the COCOMO technique's basics I studied in my previous degree.
- Engage in active peer discussions to address any remaining queries about cost estimation and risk management strategies.
- Begin exploring tools like MS Project or Jira to understand their role in practical project management.