

Learning Journal Template

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Course: Software Project Management

Journal URL: <https://github.com/jayatithakkar/SPM-Journal>

Week 1: 18 January, 2024 - 24 January, 2024

Date: 24 January, 2024

Key Concepts Learned:

The two chapters I referred to, during the very first week has helped me better understand a certain concepts I was not sure about until now.

- One of the very first things are the differences between project management in general and specifically software project management.
- Detailed definition of project boundaries and required functionalities.
- Direct relationship between project costs and size.
- The problems usually software project managers face while managing these projects.
- Got a little insights into why all the projects happen to cancel even before it commences. These reasons include problems regarding the budgeting and lack of innovation from the developer side.
- Breakdown of tasks, dependencies, and baseline schedule.
- Breakdown of projects into initiation, planning, monitoring & control, and closure phases.
- Metrics measured in software projects for effective management.
- Importance of quality metrics in software project management.

Application in Real Projects:

The concepts that are much clearer to me and that are applicable in real-world project are mentioned below:

- Understanding software project aspects allows for more efficient resource allocation and planning. The aspects I learned in terms of Project management, resources and planning has definitely improved my learning and is definitely going to help me how I plan my next project, be it an individual project or a group project.
- Successful project completion requires resolving issues like complexity and invisibility.
- The project charter and scope are critical from the beginning.

Peer Interactions:

I happened to discuss with my project partners the detail and requirements regarding the project description and its deliverables.

Challenges Faced:

The problems I faced during this weeks' tasks are mentioned here:

- Since Software Project management is new for me, it was difficult to grasp all the terminologies in the first place.
- I am yet not very sure about the budget estimation and project scheduling.
- I need to know about the relevance of SDLC integration into this matter.

Personal development activities:

There are a certain things that I happened to try my hands on online in order for me to be familiar with the concepts I am going to be learning on this journey I have embarked on:

- I tried looking at the articles online to familiarize myself with the terminologies in this matter and regarding other project management techniques.

Goals for the Next Week:

There are certain tasks and responsibilities I have set for myself that I am planning to get done by next week.

These things mainly revolve around me understanding the terminologies and topics I will be learning in the upcoming class and I am also planning to start exploring project material and gather some important information for the poster presentation.

Week 2: 25 January, 2024 - 31 January, 2024

Date: 3 February, 2024

Key Concepts Learned:

The chapter I referred to, during the second week has helped me better understand a certain concepts I was not sure about until now.

- Effort estimation is crucial for software projects, especially for outsourced ones.
- Accurate effort estimates are vital for customer satisfaction and effective project planning.
- Two aspects of effort estimation: providing a good estimate to the customer and forming the project team based on skills and budget.
- Effort estimation is an evolutionary phenomenon; accuracy improves as more information becomes available.
- Statistical effort estimation techniques, such as using past project data, are valuable.
- Different effort estimation techniques for various scenarios, such as COCOMO, FPA, and Wide Band Delphi.

Reflections on Case Study/course work:

I happened to go over what I studied in the previous week to make sure I have certain concepts cleared and I can keep them in mind while understanding new ones.

- Acknowledged the importance of effort estimation in project management.
- Realized the impact of accurate estimates on project success and customer satisfaction.
- Recognized the relevance of statistical effort estimation techniques in providing valuable insights.
- Understood the suitability of different effort estimation techniques based on available data.

Collaborative Learning:

- Met with the team for Project Deliverable 1, divided tasks, and scheduled another meeting for the next week.
- Team collaboration contributed to task allocation and planning for the project's success.

Further Research/Readings:

- Identified the need to study Chapter 4 in the upcoming week.
- Explored additional resources related to effort estimation techniques for software projects.

Adjustments to Goals:

- Adjusted the goal to study Chapter 4 in the upcoming week based on the current progress and priorities.
- Maintained the goal of working on divided tasks and scheduling another team meeting for Project Deliverable 1.

Week 3: 1 February, 2024 - 8 February, 2024

Date: 10 February, 2024

Key Concepts Learned:

The chapter I referred to, during the week has helped me better understand a certain concepts I was not sure about until now. Risk management has made me realise a lot about the risks involved in a project and how to tackle them in a manageable way.

- **Risk Management Uncovered:**

This week's risk management lecture was enlightening, dispelling several previously unclear ideas.

- It has become essential to comprehend the many dangers connected to projects and acquire the abilities needed to handle them successfully.
- Acquired the vital ability to spot any risks that might be hiding in code, market trends, team dynamics, and other project elements.
- Effective risk management and mitigation depend on the ability to identify these hazards before they materialize.

- **Insights into risk analysis:**

Learned about the process of risk analysis and how to estimate possible project outcomes using tools like probability-impact matrices.

- Stakeholders are better equipped to forecast future project trajectories and make wise decisions as a result of this analytical process.

- **Techniques for Risk Mitigation:**

To guarantee project success in the face of difficulty, a variety of risk-busting strategies, such as preemptive strikes and strategic retreat plans, were investigated.

- Proactive risk reduction techniques boost the project's chances of success and fortify its resilience.

Reflections on Case Study/course work:

I tried looking at the concepts learnt in the class including the Risk management topic and I was also working on to preparing the pitch for the upcoming class.

- **Application to Real-World Circumstances:**

Seeing personally the destruction brought about by unmanaged risks emphasizes how crucial proactive risk management is to guiding projects toward success.

- The superhero mentality of constantly being one step ahead, prepared with backup plans and a strong support system, and ready to tackle any challenges that may arise is what proactive planning entails.

Collaborative Learning:

- Peer involvement is creating stronger-than-steel relationships with your peers through heated arguments, late-night brainstorming sessions, and the occasional project dragon battle.
- Exchange of Knowledge:
Savour a feast of knowledge from our team's many specializations, each of which adds a unique component to the winning combination.

Further Research/Readings:

- **Advanced Topics:**
exploring the uncharted territory of complex risk management techniques and searching academic archives for nuggets of wisdom.
- **Programs for Certification:**
We want the project management community to formally acknowledge us as experts in risk avoidance and to wear our credentials as honorifics.

Adjustments to Goals:

- **Committed Research Time:**
Devoting specific periods of time each week to gaining deeper knowledge about risk management due to a strong curiosity about its secrets.
- **Teamwork:**
Upholding the illustrious heritage of collaboration, our bond strengthened by a common goal, our path difficult but replete with opportunities for greatness.