Online Course Report

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Abstract

The online course is all about requirements that are needed when devolving a system or a project. It goes over many topics including classifying, developing, investigating, and documenting requirements. These topics are split up into different sections that each video goes into more details about how requirements are developed. Each section provides in great details on how each step of making a requirement is important. By the end of the course you should have a better understanding on requirements and how to manage them during a project.

Is having a good understanding of requirements needed when starting development of a project? According to the online course “Project Management Foundations: Requirements” on Lynda by Terri Wagner they are indeed important to the successes of a project. This course includes the topics of classifying, developing, investigating, documenting, validating, and managing changing requirements. The author believes that you need to have a good understanding of these topics to make sure your project is well planned from the beginning.

In the first section Wagner gives a definition of what a requirement needs to be. According to her requirements need to be defined, organized, and everyone involved with the project needs to clearly understand them. Also According to Wagner the requirements are what the new product or system must do and is also the features of the system. The author than goes into how to develop requirements in this section. She believes that teams can save time on projects if they don’t try to reinvent the wheel when developing the requirements. In other words, the author is saying don’t try to be fancy with the requirements they don’t need to be ground breaking. If you try to over think requirements you will just end up wasting time and resource and when working on a project that can cause many problems.

The second section is all about what you need to do and think about when it comes to gathering the requirements from the viewpoint of the shareholders and users. This sections propose to teach how to properly gather all the resources needed for the requirements of your project. According to the author to gather accurate and usefully requirements you need the right source, the right information, the right technique, proper organization skills, evaluation, and accurate reporting. The author than goes on about how this can be challenging because it can be hard to make great requirements when the shareholders don’t really know what they want. Wagner says to fix this problem you should ask more questions until both sides have a better understanding on what they both can do and want out of the project.

The third section is about what you do with the information you gathered to ensure that your requirements are the best they can be. This section is about analyzing all the information gathered in the last section. The author goes into how it’s very important to keep asking questions at this point, until you have a clear understanding of what is needed to be done at a very detailed level. At this point you will start to make categories out of the information you have analyzed. The author goes into different types of modeling techniques that you can use when you reflect on your project requirements. According to the author you might have to go back and change somethings as you progress farther into the project. So don’t worry nothing at this point will be set in stone at this point. You should always be looking at ways you can improve and make changes to your project.

The fourth section the author explains how you can turn all the information you have gathered, and turn it into more specific requirements. Wagner believes that at first your requirements might just be more like rambling than a formal and well detail list of what needs to be done for the project. The author thinks that before you even start to write your requirements you must begin by defining the formality and the details of your deliverables. You need to do this while limiting the number of requirements. Using a formal structure will let you easily similar requirements with the added benefit of eliminating conflicts between requirements. The author believe that you will first end up with random bits in your requirements and that is why going over them again while being more specific is very important to develop more useful requirements.

Wagner believe that the verification and validation steps in your project are very import. You must do this with the requirements because you must make sure that the customer is getting what they paid for. In verification you are confirming that the system solves all the written specifications. In validation you are confirming that the right system was built. So you are confirming if the solution works as it is intended to. This is an important step in devolving your project as finishing a project that’s not what the customer wanted just leaves you ending up wasting time and resources.

The final section is about how to deal with changes to your requirements throughout the development cycle of the project. The author goes into details about how you need to look at what is causing you to change a requirement. Many things can cause you to change a requirement like getting new information on the project, customers or users that change their minds, and even from a business point of view. These can all cause you to have to rethink some of your requirements for example a business point of view would be running out of budget. If a change is needed you must do all the steps in the previous sections when making new requirements.

I found this course to be a useful source when working with requirements, and it really helps you develop a strong understanding of requirements. It gives good advice with what to do with having to change requirements. I think the section about changing requirements is very useful as I would probably would have not done all the steps mentioned. Leaving me with a new requirement that would probably just need to be changed again. I also find the section on verification and validation to contain useful information that I will probably end up using on this project and in any other project I work on in the future.

Works Cited

Wagner, T. (2015, January 14). Project Management Foundations: Requirements. Retrieved February 23, 2018, from https://www.lynda.com/Business-Skills-tutorials/Developing-Project-Requirements/168241-2.html