Learning Journal Template

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Course: SOEN 6841 - Software Project Management

Journal URL: https://github.com/mihirgediya2001/spm_2024

Week 3-4: 23/09/2024 – 04/10/2024

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Key Concepts Learned

- Software projects are effort-driven and rely on accurate estimation techniques.
- Experience-based and algorithmic cost modelling are crucial for project estimation.
- Function Point Analysis provides a consistent measure of software functionality.
- Risk management involves identifying, analysing, and mitigating risks.
- Risk response strategies include acceptance, avoidance, transference, and mitigation.
- Top-down and bottom-up planning strategies offer different ways to approach project estimates and tasks.

Application in Real Projects

- Accurate effort estimation is essential for setting realistic project goals and allocating resources efficiently.
- Experience-based estimation by analogy helps forecast costs for new projects based on historical data.
- Function Point Analysis is useful in evaluating user requirements and setting functionality benchmarks for software projects.
- Identifying and mitigating risks early on ensures smoother project execution and minimizes disruptions.
- A structured approach to planning, like top-down or bottom-up strategies, is key to managing large and complex software projects.

Peer Interactions

- Discussed the challenges of applying experience-based and algorithmic techniques with peers during group discussions.
- Shared insights on using estimation by analogy for software projects and its practical advantages.
- Engaged in collaborative exercises on Function Point Analysis to improve understanding of software measurement.

- Brainstormed potential risks in software projects and discussed response strategies for effective risk management.
- Collaborated with peers to compare top-down and bottom-up planning techniques in managing project costs and schedules.
- Reviewed case studies with peers on successful risk mitigation approaches in software projects.

Challenges Faced

- Difficulty in fully understanding the practical application of algorithmic cost modelling in dynamic project environments.
- Struggled to attribute accurate values to parameters in quantitative models for risk estimation.
- Learning to balance the trade-offs between top-down and bottom-up planning approaches for complex projects.
- Difficulty in applying Function Point Analysis to unfamiliar or rapidly changing project requirements.
- Encountered challenges in forecasting the potential impact of specific risks during project planning.
- Needed further clarification on how to adapt traditional project management techniques in Agile environments.

Personal Development Activities

- Explored additional resources on algorithmic cost modelling to strengthen understanding of estimation techniques.
- Reviewed real-world examples and case studies on successful risk management in software projects.
- Studied various project planning methodologies, particularly top-down and bottom-up strategies, to enhance personal knowledge.
- Attended seminars on risk management methodologies to better understand proactive response strategies.
- Engaged in self-paced learning modules on estimation and planning techniques to improve application in future projects.

Goals for the Next Week

- Deepen understanding of algorithmic cost modelling by seeking additional practical examples.
- Explore case studies where risk management played a crucial role in project success.
- Research how Function Point Analysis can be applied to Agile projects.
- Engage with peers in a mini-project to apply top-down and bottom-up planning strategies.
- Review Agile methodologies and risk mitigation strategies to bridge traditional and modern project management techniques.