LEARNING JOURNAL TEMPLATE

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Course: SOEN 6841 - Software Project Management

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

Date of the journal: 09/11/2024

1. Key Concepts Learned

- Studied the **Project Closure** phase, including critical tasks like finalizing deliverables, archiving metrics, and capturing lessons learned.
- Explored **software lifecycle models** such as Waterfall and iterative models like Scrum and Extreme Programming, noting the adaptability of iterative models for evolving projects.
- Learned about **requirement management** as essential for aligning project outcomes with customer expectations, helping prevent rework through effective validation and change management.
- Understood that combining elements of iterative and Waterfall models can enhance flexibility in projects with evolving requirements, without compromising stability.

2. Application in Real Projects

- Recognized the importance of **metrics archiving** and documenting lessons learned in real-world projects to ensure knowledge transfer and continuous improvement.
- For the "Home Exercise Planner" project, I plan to implement an iterative model to allow frequent updates based on user feedback, which aligns well with the project's evolving requirements.
- Reflected on how a structured project closure can prevent recurring errors in future iterations by retaining critical insights.
- Considered the possibility of a **hybrid approach**, incorporating aspects of both iterative and Waterfall models to provide flexibility and control within the "Home Exercise Planner" project.

3. Peer Interactions

- Discussed different approaches to **requirement management** with peers, gaining insights into handling changes in iterative vs. Waterfall models.
- Learned about concurrent engineering from a peer, who suggested managing project phases in parallel to expedite product delivery—a strategy that could be beneficial for "Home Exercise Planner."
- Received feedback on effective documentation of lessons learned, which I plan to incorporate into my project for smoother future iterations.

- Gained new insights into balancing **flexibility and structure** from peer discussions, enhancing my approach to lifecycle model selection for complex projects.

4. Challenges Faced

- Encountered challenges in understanding **requirement validation cycles**, especially within iterative models that demand quick adaptation.
- Deciding on the right lifecycle model for the "Home Exercise Planner" was complex, as balancing flexibility with control requires careful consideration.
- Struggled with managing change requests efficiently without disrupting project stability, a challenge that I'll address by further exploring hybrid models.
- Found it challenging to determine how much of the **Waterfall structure** to incorporate into an iterative project like "Home Exercise Planner," where flexibility is essential.

5. Personal Development Activities

- Joined a study group focused on **software lifecycle models** and their applications, which provided real-world insights into model selection based on industry needs.
- Explored tools like JIRA to understand how requirement tracking can support iterative and Waterfall methodologies, reducing rework and maintaining project quality.
- Researched best practices for project closure, particularly around archiving and version control, which are essential for project continuity.
- Began experimenting with **hybrid project planning** techniques to gain hands-on experience in balancing flexibility with structured processes.

6. Goals for the Next Week

- Deepen my understanding of requirement management, with a focus on efficient handling of frequent change requests.
- Create a sample project plan for "Home Exercise Planner" using a hybrid lifecycle approach, integrating elements from both iterative and Waterfall models.
- Discuss closure techniques and lifecycle model applications with industry professionals to improve adaptability in future projects.
- Investigate **concurrent engineering** techniques to identify potential efficiencies in delivering project phases for "Home Exercise Planner."