

Learning Journal 1

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Course: SOEN 6841 Software Project Management

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Dates Range of activities: 03 September, 2024 – 21 September, 2024

Date of the journal: 21/09/2024

Key Concepts Learned: This week, we concentrated on Chapter 3, which deals with Cost Estimation and Software Project Effort. Function Point Analysis (FPA), a technique for measuring the functionality provided to users and assisting teams in determining the scope and complexity of projects, was presented to us. We also looked into the Wide Band Delphi technique, which is a cooperative estimation method that uses the knowledge of several experts to produce estimates that are more accurate. It was also underlined how crucial historical data is to improving the accuracy of these techniques.

Application in Real Projects: This week's lessons have a direct bearing on software development projects in the real world. Teams can use Function Point Analysis, for example, to give clients more precise information about the size and scope of projects, which helps with budgeting and planning. The Wide Band Delphi technique encourages teamwork, promotes a variety of viewpoints, and lessens estimation bias. But factors like disparities in team members' levels of experience and possible groupthink can skew estimations. Notwithstanding these difficulties, using these structured approaches raises stakeholder confidence and project predictability overall.

Peer Interactions: Participating in class discussions about Wide Band Delphi and FPA with fellow students enhanced our education. Clarifying the advantages and disadvantages of these estimation techniques was made easier by exchanging knowledge and experiences. I also asked my classmates for more advice on particular areas of FPA, which improved my comprehension of its usefulness in project management. This cooperative environment made a big difference in our understanding of efficient estimation techniques.

Challenges Faced: Even though the professor provided clear explanations of concepts during class, I ran into difficulties when I went back to revise. In particular, it was challenging to comprehend Lines of Code (LOC) and how it affects Function Point Analysis (FPA). The relationship between LOC and FPA can be complicated, particularly when it comes to precisely calculating FPA depending on different project specifications. Furthermore, it was difficult to understand the Wide Band Delphi technique and how to use it for collaborative estimation. A deeper comprehension of both methodologies is necessary to determine when to apply particular estimating techniques based on the specifics of the project.

Personal development activities: I checked out a book on software project management from the library to broaden my knowledge on the topic, and it has given me a lot of extra information and insightful perspectives. I have watched a few YouTube videos that go into more detail about ideas like Function Point Analysis and the Wide Band Delphi technique apart from the reading. In addition to my current coursework, I'm thinking of enrolling in a Software Project Management course on Udemy to further develop my abilities. With the help of these resources, I hope to be more equipped for a project management position in the future.

Goals for the Next Week: My objectives for the following week are to learn more about Function Point Analysis (FPA) and how to utilise it to estimate realistic work. My goal is to become well-versed in the specifics of the Wide Band Delphi approach and its potential to improve the precision of project estimation. I'm also eager to learn more about COCOMO's intermediate and detailed models and investigate resource management techniques. I'm looking forward to learning new techniques for successful and efficient project management.