**Learning Journal**

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**Course:** Software Project Management

**Journal URL:** <https://github.com/nehahimane/SPM/files/14034943/40219032_Neha_Himane_Learning_Journal.docx>

**Week 1:** Jan 15 – Jan 21

**Date:** 24 Jan 2024

**Key Concepts Learned:**

The focus was on the fundamental concepts of project management this week. A project is defined by its specific start and finish dates and seeks to achieve predetermined objectives. While software initiatives are similar to other types of projects, they provide unique issues such as invisibility, complexity, conformity, and adaptability. Project phases were introduced, including commencement, planning, monitoring and control, and closure, each with its own set of sub-processes.

SMART Objectives i.e. Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-constrained objectives are introduced that provide a framework for defining project success criteria.

In addition, a technique called Project Division is introduced, which entails hiring an expert to evaluate effort and cost before accepting bids from software development businesses for project design and implementation.

**Application in Real Projects:**

Understanding project characteristics and software project issues will allow you to approach real-world projects more strategically. The importance of specialised skills in software project management, such as software engineering and testing, was stressed. Understanding the difference between project procedures and industry-specific processes, such as the software development life cycle, is critical for good project management.

**Peer Interactions:**

Discussions with peers provided a variety of opinions on project management. The investigation into how others viewed the challenges of software projects broadened my perspective and raised thought-provoking topics.

**Challenges Faced:**

Concepts like project stages and sub-processes required careful distinction. Making the distinction between project procedures and industry-specific processes was difficult, but necessary for a thorough understanding of the subject.

**Personal development activities:**

I participated in more readings, and I attended an online webinar about the most recent developments in project management. This external learning experience offered insights into developing techniques and tools, increasing my understanding.

**Goals for the Next Week:**

Next week, I aim to look more into software project management processes, namely requirements management, design management, and software testing. In addition, I intend to look into relevant case studies to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world scenarios.

**Week 2:** Jan 15 - Jan 21

**Date:** 24 Jan 2024

**Key Concepts Learned:**

Project initiation was the emphasis of this week's session. I gained insight into the value of a project charter, project scope, and project goals. During the initial phase, a precise project scope is created that specifies the functionalities required in the software product. Furthermore, strategies such as project division were investigated for estimating an initial budget, project schedule, effort, and cost.

The Project Charter is defined which is a document created by top management defining the purpose of starting a project, including its goals and initial details.

**Reflections on Case Study/course work:**

Case studies on project initiation informed how important top management is in developing a project charter. Understanding the alignment between project scope, objectives, and overall project purpose highlighted the significance of clarity in project initiation.

**Collaborative Learning:**

Collaborating with peers during project initiation talks facilitated the sharing of diverse viewpoints and experiences. This cooperative method improved my comprehension of the nuances involved in starting a software project.

**Further Research/Readings:**

I complemented the course material with further readings on project beginning approaches and best practices. I delved into the book: "Project Management: A Systems Approach to Planning, Scheduling, and Controlling”. This covers key areas such as project initiation, planning, scheduling, and control. Exploring real-world examples of successful project initiations provides practical insights into applying theoretical concepts.

**Adjustments to Goals:**

Based on the knowledge acquired during the start phase, I want to spend the next week exploring project planning procedures in more detail. My objectives are to improve project timelines, comprehend dependencies, and investigate methods for precise duration estimation.

... Continue the Weekly Format for Weeks 3-13 ...

**Final Reflections:**

**Overall Course Impact:**

Summarize the overall impact of the course on your understanding.

Highlight key insights and transformations in your perspective.

**Application in Professional Life:**

Discuss how the knowledge gained in this course can be applied in your professional life.

Consider specific scenarios or projects where these skills would be valuable.

**Peer Collaboration Insights:**

Reflect on the value of peer collaboration throughout the course.

Consider how interactions with classmates contributed to your learning.

**Personal Growth:**

Share insights into your personal growth as a learner.

Identify areas where you have seen improvement or development.

Note: Ensure that the journal is updated weekly, at least twice a week, and that the publicly-accessible cloud service URL is provided for easy access by teaching assistants and for potential test-related inquiries.