Learning Journal

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Course: Software Project Management

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Overall Course Impact:

1. Effective management helps in creating and executing comprehensive plans and dealing with complex organizational environments in which these projects operate.
2. There are two types of models which can be adopted for software development which are waterfall model and agile model, and both of them have their own perks and disadvantages.
3. It starts with software project initiation which defines the project's charter, scope and objectives and it also outlines a preliminary effort and cost estimate along with tentative schedule.
4. After the initiation comes effort and cost estimation which is done by Wide Band Delphi or Function Point Analysis or COCOMO model.
5. Every software project has to deal with risk and its impact on schedule, cost or quality and which must be handled accordingly. The project should identify potential risks, access their severity of impact and prioritize them and allocate resources for mitigation.
6. Software projects needs to have a configuration management as it is critical for managing versions, changes and access to work products and documents.
7. Project planning is crucial in software projects to manage the complexity of tasks during execution.
8. After planning, comes project closure which includes releasing resources, documenting lessons learned, managing source code and organising project data.
9. Software design management involves 2 parts: high level and low-level design.
10. Software testing is crucial activity in software projects ensuring that the development product meets quality standards and is free of critical defects before release.
11. To minimize support and maintenance costs, software development should focus on ensuring the software is easily maintainable throughout its lifespan.

Application in Professional Life:

1. Risk Management: In a scenario where a project is facing delays due to unforeseen technical challenges, project manager can use risk management strategies to assess the impact and develop a plan to address these challenges.

2. Configuration management: In a project with multiple developers working on the same codebase, the project manager can implement version control and configuration management practices.
3. Software testing: In a project where a new feature is being added, project manager can use software testing techniques to ensure that the features work an intended and doesn't introduce any new issues.
4. Quality assurance: In projects where software is being tested for bugs and defects, project managers can use quality assurance techniques to identify and resolve issues before the product is released to the customers.
5. Software Development life cycle: Project managers can use software development life cycle to guide the project through the stages of requirements gathering, design, development, testing and deployment.

Peer Collaboration Insights:

- Discussed about the project and came across various new ideas and thoughts related to software development project from my team members.
- Also, communicated with my classmates to understand few concepts in project management.
- Working on the collaborative project with my classmates have allowed me to apply theoretical concepts to practical scenarios, providing me with hands-on experience and a deeper understanding of this subject.
- Engaged in discussions with my classmates about the challenges they have faced in their project.

Personal Growth:

- I have gained a deeper understanding of software project management concepts and best practices.
- Engaging with case studies has increased my problem-solving skills. I have learned to approach challenges systematically and develop effective solutions.
- Peer interactions and participating in discussions has improved my time management skills.
- Balancing the project, assignment and other commitments has helped me improve my time management skills and I have learned to prioritize tasks and work on my commitments effectively to meet deadlines.
- I have gained a deeper understanding of software project management and I feel like I am prepared to tackle the complex software projects.