Learning Journal

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Week 1: 18/01/2024 - 24/01/2024

Key Concepts Learned:

In the initial chapter, the focus was on grasping the fundamental aspects of project management, particularly in the realm of software project management. The key takeaways included recognizing the importance of software projects, pinpointing common issues in project management, and understanding the dynamic relationship among processes, individuals, and technology for successful project outcomes. The chapter further delved into pivotal project management processes like initiation, planning, monitoring, control, and closure, offering detailed insights into software project initiation, planning components, and the crucial role of configuration and version control management. Additionally, management metrics were introduced as tools for assessing project progress and success.

Transitioning to Chapter 2, the spotlight shifted towards the early stages of project initiation. Core concepts covered encompassed defining the project charter, scope, and objectives, considering practical factors, estimating project size, effort, and costs, and crafting an initial project plan. The chapter explored the intricacies of project initiation within the iterative model, acknowledging stakeholder influence, addressing quality planning, and conducting feasibility studies. The concept of project division was introduced as an essential step in breaking down the project into manageable components. Overall, these chapters laid a foundational understanding of project management principles, specifically within the domain of software projects, providing insights into both overarching processes and the nuances of project initiation.

Lastly, a case study was revised in which the retailer's supply chain involves a complex system of outbound and inbound logistics to manage the flow of goods. When a retail outlet's stock becomes low, it orders a fixed quantity of items from its warehouse for replenishment. The warehouse, upon receiving the order, collects the goods and awaits a truck for outbound logistics. Once the truck arrives, the warehouse staff loads the goods for transport to the retail outlet. On the inbound logistics side, the retailer's warehouse orders goods from manufacturers or distributors when its stock is low. The manufacturer's or distributor's warehouse prepares the goods for transport, and upon truck arrival, the goods are loaded and shipped to the retailer's warehouse. Third-party logistics providers (3PLs) typically handle the transportation, and charging based on distance, truck capacity, and fuel cost. The software system, up to release 5, includes functionality for calculating transportation costs, scheduling truck loading and unloading appointments at warehouses, and tracking the goods loaded onto the trucks. This system ensures efficient and cost-effective movement of goods throughout the supply chain.

Application in Real Projects:

As I am currently working part-time at Subway while doing the inventory, I did observe that the POS inventory systems at Subway also work on the same technical aspects discussed in the case study where certain products were ordered only when they were finished or less in number which solved

the problem of overstocking. Also, the vehicles in which the products came were outsourced which means they were on a contract basis which also doesn't hamper the budget overall.
The concept of using third-party systems can be beneficial as certain companies can completely go remote instead of hiring employees, they can hire interns and also provide remote jobs which will cost-cut their infrastructure and maintenance overall.

Peer Interactions:
I recently spoke with my friend Shravani, who has also taken this course, about how we would have created a project charter, scope, and goals for the several projects we had created as undergraduates from the standpoint of a project manager. I talked about the different ways that, from the developer's perspective, the project must be completed without any limitations, but she also mentioned that it must adhere to the schedules and directives of the parties engaged in the project's creation.

Challenges Faced:
Although it might not have been a challenge for me, it did require a greater comprehension of how project cost is calculated from the perspective of a project manager. With the assistance of a buddy of mine who works as a product analyst, I was able to grasp the idea.
When it comes to the course, I occasionally struggle to distinguish between the project scope, charter, and objectives. Additionally, there's a specific topic wherein the objectives of various roles inside the firm are mentioned; while they sound similar, different activities are taken about them. I must give these two subjects my whole attention.

Personal development activities:
Currently, I have not come up with anything of such that helps in my personal development but while reading about open-source projects for the exercise of chapters 1 and 2, I came across Google Summer of Code (GSOC) which lets developers solve bugs and issues in most open-source projects and offers them internships as well. I think I might take part in it which will help me grow as a software developer/engineer in general.

Goals for the Next Week:
My goal for the upcoming week would be to dive deeper into the role of a project manager and try to differentiate between certain projects solving the same problem and how their project scope, charter, and objectives differ.
Also, read through chapters 3 and 4 which will make me understand the next class in a better way.
Lastly, the project assigned to us is about an AI-based academic advisor which is one of the projects I have previously worked on, I need to think about what if I make the project for a company what would have been the key factors during the market analysis of the project and also have a meeting with my teammates to take discuss their opinion and ideas on the project and also their views and critique on my idea and come up a potential plan for the project.