**Learning Journal 1**

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**Course:** Software Project Management

**Journal URL:** <https://github.com/sdsameer/SPM-Weekly-Journals.git>

**Dates Rage of activities:** 10-09-2024 to 19-09-2024

**Date of the journal:** 19-09-2024

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| **Key Concepts Learned:** | **Application in Real Projects:** | **Peer Interactions:** | **Challenges Faced:** | **Personal development activities:** | **Goals for the Next Week:** |
| This week, I explored the core principles of project management, including what defines a project, its various phases, and the unique challenges of managing software projects due to their complexity, invisibility, and adaptability​. Key topics such as project initiation, scope, objectives, and the significance of a project charter were also introduced. Furthermore, I learned about effort and cost estimation methods like algorithmic cost modeling and function point analysis, which emphasized the critical role of human effort in software development projects. | Effort and cost estimation methods, particularly algorithmic cost modeling, are highly applicable to real-world software projects where grasping the project size is essential. For example, projects that need resource estimates based on historical data or system dimensions can benefit from approaches like estimation by analogy. These methods contribute to creating realistic project plans, preventing cost overruns, and ensuring projects are completed on schedule​. | I participated in discussions with peers about effort estimation, concentrating on the difficulties of using experience-based methods. My peers provided valuable perspectives on how past projects can be used to make more accurate estimates, despite the complications introduced by newer technologies such as machine learning. | One major challenge I faced was learning how to apply various estimation techniques to different software lifecycle models, such as iterative and waterfall approaches. Each model requires distinct effort estimation methods, and understanding these variations took some time. | This week, I concentrated on enhancing my project estimation skills by studying case studies that use function point analysis and wideband Delphi. These methods offered valuable insights into more accurately estimating efforts and costs. | Next week, I plan to delve further into project scheduling and resource estimation. I particularly want to investigate how scheduling tools, such as activity network diagrams, are incorporated into the project planning process to enhance my project management skills. |
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Final Journal............................

**Final Reflections:**

**Overall Course Impact:**

This course has given me a more thorough understanding of software project management, especially in managing project complexities, handling resources, and accurately estimating costs and effort. I have come to appreciate the significance of project charters and governance in achieving project success.

**Application in Professional Life:**

The estimation techniques I’ve learned, including COCOMO and function point analysis, will be highly useful for my future projects. For instance, in planning a software project, I can use these methods to set realistic timelines and budgets, particularly during the early design and post-architecture stages.

**Peer Collaboration Insights:**

Working with peers during the course emphasized the value of diverse viewpoints in project management. Engaging in discussions about real-world scenarios helped me sharpen my understanding of estimation challenges and underscored the importance of communication within team efforts.

**Personal Growth:**

This course has fostered my growth as a learner by enhancing my analytical and project management skills. I’ve gained a better ability to estimate project requirements and handle unexpected challenges, leading to more effective leadership and teamwork in professional environments.