

# **Week 1 - Learning Journal**

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**Course:** SOEN 6841 Software Project Management

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## **Key Concepts Learned:**

In **Chapter 1** - Introduction to difference between a project and job, difference between a project and a software project. Project management fundamentals, including different **phases** -

- project initiation,
- project planning,
- project monitoring and control,
- project closure.

Different software project tasks as - requirements, design, source code, software testing, deployment and maintenance. These tasks fall under the phases project planning and project monitoring and control and creates a waterfall method environment. Next, **software project initiation** tasks which is the first phase of SPM, which includes

- initial schedule estimate,
- project charter,
- project scope,
- project objective,
- initial effort estimate
- initial cost estimate.

**Project charter** - is a new term to me, charter(one who charts). The top management of the any organization defines the purpose of any project before they step into it. Initial effort and cost estimation was something I haven't thought of this far. Similarly, software product tasks were also explained, which is the product side tasks in any organization. Metrics characteristics for the measuring of project after build such as relevant, practical, calibration activity etc. was discussed.

In **Chapter 2** - Brief description of software project initiation, scope, objective and budget. Project cost is dependent on size of project and effort needed to build and also the effort

determines the labor cost. **Project division** - technique for better project effort and cost estimation, usually done by an expert hired by an organization. Goals are defined as the sub objectives, with achieving it the objective can be achieved. Usually goals are assigned to an individual to work on, all the goals sum up to attain the objective of the project.

### **Application in Real Projects:**

As in a real-project at any software organization it needs to follow these SPM fundamentals. If we want to develop any specific software for a client, for assured working software it is recommended to follow the SPM flow, as it has a well defined structure from start to the final stage of a project. Even without these also the same project can be made but the outcome is not assured.

I think for a small project like developing a personal portfolio website, it does not require the SPM concepts to follow, and if we implement the SPM workflow for these concepts I think it's going to cost more for the person and take a long time, being working on different teams. Whereas for a large software requirement for a client, it should follow the SPM fundamentals, as here it's going to be useful. I help the client to save some money and get the right software at the right time.

### **Peer Interactions:**

We had a really good interaction in class, even among peers. Different questions asked by my peers made me think more about those topics. As it was the first lecture, we had more discussion on the course outline and introduction about the course. I noticed one of my peers asked the professor if someone wants to be a manager, does that person need to know all the tools and software that the project on which the team is going to work on. That made a confusion in the whole class whether he/she should be or not. Finally, the professor explained with a real example of some friend of the professor, who's working on a firm which she doesn't know completely but obviously she should have some idea on the tools and software used.

### **Challenges Faced:**

As this is the first week, and most of the discussion was on the introduction to SPM. As I read chapters 1 and 2, the concepts were understandable. If we have any problem, break down the problem and think as a manager not as a developer!! That's the key point. Next, inside the topic software project initiation, project charter and project scope - I found it a little confusing to differentiate them, when given a huge example. But I think with more practice and understanding of the concept, I can overcome this problem.

### **Personal development activities:**

One of them is that I developed a habit of reading, which was very useful both in terms of academics and in terms of my personal life. I have also started taking short notes on every topic, which I guess will be useful whenever I want a recap of any topic.

### **Goals for the Next Week:**

For the coming week, we were instructed to read from chapter 3, 4 and 5. Recently got an email from the professor stating just to focus on chapter 3 and 4. I had already completed reading chapter 3, now I have to read 4 by tomorrow. It was useful to read a chapter before the session, so even if we have a doubt on any topic we can clear it there itself. I have decided to take down notes during the lecture, which usually I don't do. So I have started many new habits, class notes help me a lot, during the exam times.

### **Abbreviations:**

SPM - Software Project Management.