

Learning Journal 3

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Course: SOEN 6841

Journal URL: <https://github.com/swetasarat2000/Learning-Journal-SOEN-6841>

Date Rages of activities: 09 Feb to 22 Feb

Date of the journal: 21 Feb

Key Concepts Learned

Note: I revisited the concepts I studied so far for the course as one class was cancelled due to the weather and we had exam the other week

During this period, I revisited Chapters 1 through 6, deepening my understanding of foundational software project management concepts. This included distinguishing projects from routine tasks, emphasizing structured management approaches, and recognizing the importance of project charters in aligning stakeholder expectations. I also explored various effort estimation techniques, such as Function Point Analysis and COCOMO, to balance accuracy and flexibility in Agile environments. Additionally, I delved into risk management strategies, configuration management components, and effective project planning tools like Work Breakdown Structures and Gantt charts. These insights have enhanced my ability to apply theoretical knowledge to practical scenarios, particularly in preparation for our project pitch and midterm exam.

For Chapters 7 and 8, which was not discussed in class, I self-studied the topics before journal 2. For now, I went through the concepts, especially EVM, slack removal as well as role of performance indicator in depth by going through the textbook material.

Application in Real Projects

This time, the application in real project, involved me in:

- **Integrating Theory with Practice:**
Preparing for the midterm exam involved applying theoretical concepts to hypothetical scenarios. For instance, I picked different variety of projects potentially will be used in an organisation and analysed what kind of estimation technique could be used for that particular scenario, as well as creating sample project charters and risk management plans helped solidify my understanding.
- **Peer Ideas:**
Collaborating with classmates in discussion groups allowed for the exchange of perspectives, enhancing comprehension of complex topics like effort estimation and configuration management, which even led to in depth discussion about the projects we are working on and how the concepts learned in class could be applied to each scenario.

Peer Interactions

Peer collaboration was particularly beneficial in solidifying these concepts:

- **Applying Course Concepts:**
Developing our project pitch required the practical application of concepts from chapters 1 to 6. Crafting a clear project scope, estimating resources accurately, and identifying potential risks were integral in our analysis. We also took time to analyse how we could create an efficient Work Breakdown Structure for the project to facilitate task assignment and scheduling within the team, ensuring a cohesive approach to the project planning.
- **Peer Study sessions:**
Peer study sessions was filled with exchanging valuable information learned in the course and things that were discussed by the professor in each lecture which even led to discussing about what we all did during our co-op/internship opportunities and used those projects and related it with the topics we had discussed in class so far.

Challenges Faced

- **Balancing Exam Preparation and Project Work:**
Managing time effectively between studying for the midterm and preparing the project pitch was challenging. Prioritizing tasks and setting clear milestones helped mitigate this issue.
- **Deepening Understanding of Complex Topics:**
Some concepts, particularly advanced estimation techniques, required additional study and peer discussions to grasp fully.

Personal Development Activities

- **Independent Study:**
Allocated dedicated time to review each chapter, focusing on areas that were previously challenging.
- **Engaging with Supplementary Materials:**
Sought out additional resources, such as case studies and textbook materials, to gain in depth and diverse perspectives on project management practices.
- **Team Collaboration:**
Actively participated in project meetings to contribute to the project pitch, applying leadership and communication skills.

Goals for the Next Week

- See how can the EVM, slack removal are used in real world scenarios.
- Since I am interested in cloud technologies, I will take on a cloud project idea and implement the topics I am learning in the course throughout the project to make sure that I am industry ready.
- Develop strategies to balance multiple responsibilities effectively, ensuring both academic and project commitments are met since it was a little hard to manage the course with other courses for the semester.
- If time permits, then go through next 2 chapters (if posted on Moodle) prior to the lecture to understand better during the lecture hour.

This period of independent study and practical application has reinforced the foundational concepts of software project management. The integration of theory with real-world scenarios, particularly in the context of exam preparation and project pitch development, has deepened my understanding and readiness to apply these principles in professional settings.