

Learning Journal

Student Name: Tania Sanjid

Course: [SOEN 6841] Software Project Management

Journal URL: <https://github.com/taniasanjid/SOEN-6841-SPM.git>

Week 1: 18 Jan 2024 – 24 Jan 2024

Date: 20 Jan 2024

Key Concepts Learned:

Chapter 1: Introduction to Software Project Management

Project:

- Definite start time and end time
- These set of activities achieves predefined goals
- Need resources for a definite period of time
- Resources are released after the project gets completed

Jobs: repetition of well-defined and well-understood tasks and very little uncertainty

Exploration: the outcome is uncertain

Project: in the middle of both

What is a software project?

A software project is a specific type of project focused on developing, enhancing, or maintaining software applications. It involves tasks like requirement management, design, coding, testing, deployment, and maintenance to deliver a software product or solution.

Software projects:

- Invisibility
- Complexity
- Conformity
- Flexibility

Key Characteristics of Projects:

- **Non-routine:** Unique endeavors, not part of regular operations.
- **Planned:** Organized through planning; defines objectives, allocates resources.
- **Aiming at a specific target:** Clear, defined goals for purpose and direction.
- **Work carried out for a customer:** Customer-focused; meeting requirements is central to success.
- **Involving several specialisms:** Requires collaboration of diverse skills and expertise.
- **Made up of several different phases:** Structured into distinct phases for management and control.
- **Constrained by time and resources:** Limited by time, budget, resources
- **Large and/or complex:** Often characterized by size or complexity.

How are people, processes, tools, and technology integrated in a project?

People, processes, tools, and technology are integrated through effective project management. This includes planning, coordinating, and controlling activities to achieve project goals. Collaboration, communication, and the use of appropriate tools and technology facilitate seamless integration.

What are the characteristics of a good project manager?

A good project manager possesses traits like leadership, communication skills, organizational ability, adaptability, problem-solving skills, and a strategic mindset. They should be able to inspire and guide the project team to success.

What are the sub-processes in the area of project management processes?

- Project Initiation
- Project Planning
- Project Monitoring & Control
- Project Closure

What processes are involved in a software project?

- requirement management
- design management
- source code building
- software testing
- software deployment
- software maintenance

Software Project Initiation Tasks:

- Initial schedule estimates: Provide rough timelines for key project milestones.
- Project charter: Authorizes project existence, outlines objectives, scope, and stakeholders.
- Project scope: Defines project boundaries and deliverables to prevent scope creep.
- Project objectives: Clearly articulates desired project outcomes and benefits.
- Initial effort estimates: Estimates the initial effort needed for project tasks and activities.
- Initial cost estimates: Assesses the initial financial resources required for the project.

What management metrics are measured in software projects?

- **Relevant:** Aligned with project goals.
- **Meaningful:** Clear and understandable.
- **Practical:** Feasible to collect and analyze.
- **Calibration Ability:** Adaptable to changes.
- **Activity Level:** Appropriate granularity for measurement.

Chapter 2: Project Initiation

- Project Charter: Project charter basically defines the purpose for starting the project.
- Project Scope: A detailed project scope is developed to define boundaries of the project. The scope will include what functionalities are needed in the software product to be developed. It will also define level of quality needed in the software product.
- Project Objectives: Project objectives articulate the specific, measurable outcomes that the project aims to achieve. They provide a clear understanding of the project's purpose and direction. It should be SMART.

The budget includes

- costs to cover for salaries of people who will work on the software project
- purchase of hardware, services, travel costs, management costs etc.

Tentative Project Plan:

- Project schedule
- Project cost
- Communication plan
- Resource plan

- Quality plan
- Tool plan
- Risk plan

Application in Real Projects:

Using these lessons in real projects means understanding how to manage projects, especially in software, and putting in place good plans and ways to measure progress. Although there may be difficulties, the advantages include more successful projects, improved use of resources, and overall increased project efficiency.

Peer Interactions:

Discussed about the challenges of Initiating a Project

Challenges Faced:

Faced challenges to understand the case studies

Personal development activities:

For initiating any task, I am determined to find objectives and maintain a timeline.

Goals for the Next Week:

Find some real-life examples of the project management process