

Learning Journal 1

Student Name: Vatsal Mukeshkumar Ajmeri

Course: SOEN 6841

Journal URL:

Dates Range of activities: 13th Jan to 28th Jan

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Key Concepts Learned:

Out of the terms that I learned this week, some of them were kind of familiar but few of them were quite a new one to me. For instance, the terms like Jobs, roles of scrum master, manager and leader and Project Charter were known but it was a kind of the same thing for me. Now, I know each the role of each person in the project.

Other than these, new concepts like industry-related processes and project processes gave me a clear understanding about how a project really works.

This week the key concepts were:

- Baseline Schedule
- Task Management
- Cost and effort estimation (Using project division technique)

I understood, how a strong and proper project initiation can create accomplish all the project objectives within given timeframe and budget. Initiation acts as base for the project.

New methodologies:

- Project Division Technique – Where an expert is hired for effort and cost estimation
- Baseline Scheduling

Key takeaway: Proper planning and clear task definitions reduce risks and ensure smoother execution.

Application in Real Projects:

Suppose we want to build a web-based chat application using MERN-Stack tools.

The project processes will define the phases for the chat app project:

Eg: Planning, Designing UI/UX, Development, Testing, Deployment.

An expert will be hired for cost and effort estimation so that the project can be delivered on time without wasting any resources.

Different roles will be assigned to the people for project management like SCRUM master, Manager, Project manager, Leader.

Challenges:

- Hiring an expert can add additional expense to the project.
- Also, the project estimation will all be dependent on the person hired and all the project decisions will be made based on the estimation. So, if cost and effort estimation somehow fail then, it can decrease customer satisfaction, increase company's budget and delay in delivery

Benefits:

- Team collaboration and task management of the project
- A baseline schedule acts as a benchmark to track progress and address deviations early

Peer Interactions:

I had a conversation regarding the project's flexibility. Since the software projects are always ready for additional new features. But he explained me the design where a client demanded a small change to his application. Although, it was a minor feature to be changed, the 60% codebase had to be changed for making that new feature work.

Another peer who just left his company shared an example where inaccurate cost and time estimation damage the company's reputation. So, a backup budget and time must be reserved in special cases like these ones.

Challenges Faced:

Challenges were faced when understanding project division technique. I found it difficult since I wondered how one can estimate project cost and time too without even beginning the project.

Also, I understood the task dependencies with the help of diagrams from real projects. The dependency diagrams helped me to understand the interdependency in large/complex projects.

Personal development activities:

- I watched videos, read articles on Agile and SCRUM methodologies. Since these are popular and latest ones used in the industries.
- I learned which practices and SDLC to use for small companies and projects.
- Learned why companies prefer agile in most of their projects

Goals for the Next Week:

- In the next week, I want to practise drawing and implementing dependency diagrams.
- I will learn about other cost estimation techniques that are used in industries nowadays like COCOMO models.
- Read journals and articles of people who adopted sprint planning (agile and scrum) and how it improves in managing large projects
- Gain deeper understating of baseline schedules through group discussions participation