Raymond Delgado

CIS 5860

Professor Aryal

January 19, 2020

Reflective Essay

I have learned a lot during this winter about how to manage IT-related projects. The course has introduced me to many different types of methodologies and tools. Many of these methodologies and tools are going to be vital for my current job and jobs that I want in the future job. However, there are many methodologies and tools that I will not use.

The first element that I want to talk about is the Mendix platform. Mendix merges an application development and project management into a single platform. Developing an application on Mendix is very simple because it provides users with a low-coding development platform. Users can also utilize a block so that they can add functionality to their applications. Moreover, Mendix offers a database that is modified with a visual user interface.

The next element that I want to talk about is Agile Development, which is the basis of the Mendix platform. Agile Development focuses on providing the client with a prototype over rigid documentations. The other form of agile development is SCRUM, which centers around sprints. The Mendix utilize s SCRUM because it allows users to form development teams. Mendix users can also create user’s stories and organize those stories into a single sprint cycle.

The third element of this class that I want to talk about is a Gantt chart. A Gantt chart is a visual representation of a project’s schedule. Many software solutions are used to develop a Gantt Chart. However, I believe that Microsoft Project is the best software to use to create a Gantt Chart. Microsoft Project allows people to list the project’s resources and task dependencies. Gantt chart is useful because it allows the project manager to see if the project is behind the schedule.

The last concept of project management that I want to talk about is the Critical Path. The Critical Path is the longest sequence of tasks of a project. Knowing the Critical Path is important because it determines the possible shortest amount of time to complete a project. This important because if project management must have to reduce the critical path to shorten the overall timeframe to complete a project. This fact means that if a project manager reduces the time of tasks that are not on the critical path will not affect the time to complete the project. It must be noted that a project can have many critical paths.

The two concepts that are related to my current jobs are user stories and the Waterfall method. Knowing how to write user stories will help me determine the needs of the people that I have to serve. Understanding the linear concept of the Waterfall method is important because the tasks of my job must follow a certain sequence. Moreover, taking part in the waterfall method will train me to write effective documentation.

Two concepts that are not related to my current job are Work Breakdown Structure and statement of work. A work breakdown structure lists major tasks into individual activities. Currently, I am taking part in those individual activities, but I am not part of the upper management of my organization. A statement of work lists the goal of the project. I am only responsible for completing the project, not determining the scope of the project.

Overall, taking this course was beneficial in my development as a working professional. Learning about project management will make me a better team member for any future projects that I might be part of. The concepts that were covered in this course enhanced my hard and soft skills. Learning about Mendix and Microsoft Project expanded my technical knowledge. Being part of a team challenged me to improve my communication and conflict resolution skills. Lastly, I want to say that this course was fun and I would recommend others to take this course.