Executive Summary for Original Work: Reflection 1

As I continue working on my Original Work, I completed my first simulation using SimProject. For this simulation, I had no prior knowledge on how to accurately or precisely complete it, so that I could gain insight into my current skills and areas for improvement. All of the data gathered showed that I started out doing fine, but then it went all downhill from there. The good thing about the rest of the simulation going downhill was that it will be the best way to allow me to improve my performance for future simulations.

<u>**Original Work: Reflection 1**</u>

Date: November 19, 2020

Subject: Reflection on First Iteration of SimProject Simulation

Reflection:

As I continue my research into Management Information Systems (MIS), I have begun my Original Work. For my Original Work, it consists of three iterations of a simulation from SimProject to simulate the role of a project manager. Now, I have completed one of the three iterations.

Based on the SimProject Help Documentation that I read and took notes on, the simulation seemed like it was a mediocre simulation with some challenging aspects. However, I now realize that I severely underestimated the brutal nature of the simulation. From my previous I have managed projects, but those projects were never as involved as the simulation.

Looking at Weeks 1 through 4, I started out doing well in terms of quality, costs, value, schedule, and project performance - all of them were on track to the target or were close to being on target. The one aspect that I struggled at first was worker productivity. The reason why I had issues with worker productivity was because there was only one resource on the project for the first two weeks, which made that resource's productivity over 100

percent. However, I was able to bring down the worker productivity for Weeks 3 and 4. It was only possible because two more resources brought into the project - which eased the workload on my first resource.

Moving onto Weeks 5 through 8, these weeks were the ones that I found myself to be struggling on. I was struggling in these weeks because my overall quality lowered because the quality of my hardware and project gained a number of defects. As a result, the schedule got pushed back and a new task was added to the simulation. Also due to quality, some of my resources' productivity was declining - the numbers were below 90 percent, which is not ideal. Not only did I see a decline in quality, but I also saw that some of resources became idle - as in those resources were being paid for a task that wasn't even initiated. So, compared to Weeks 1-4, Weeks 5-8 was a little rough in terms of performance.

As for Weeks 9 through 12, this was a set of week that I felt could have gone better, but as I would soon find out, the rest of the simulation would be affected by these four weeks. For Weeks 9, 11, and 12, they were a whole disaster. Wondering why? All of my resources were idle! However, in Week 10, all of my resources worked, but their respective worker productivity rates were in the 70 percentile range. I believe this set of weeks

played a major role in delaying my schedule, wasting costs, and ruining the reputation of the overall project.

The next four weeks - Weeks 13 through 16 - showed some improvements in terms of quality, but the schedule continued to be pushed back, and costs kept increasing. I was relieved to find the decrease in defects, but at the same time, I knew that there was no turning back in terms of costs and overall value. Also, this set of weeks brought upon the issue of idle resources - which made my labor costs increase once more. Along with the issue of idle workers, I had the issue of overly-productive workers (workers with productivity ratings over 100 percent) - this issue was once again resolved in Week 16.

For the final six weeks in the simulation - Weeks 17 through 22, I was able to complete the project (this meant that I completed the 11-week project in twice that allotted time). In this set of weeks, the first half of weeks had resources that were idle, but near the end, all of my resources were productive (even if it meant very little productivity). Also, I was able to decrease the number of defects, which increased the overall quality - which was better, but not good. The actual cost of the project exceeded the budget and the actual value of the project was well above the planned value. These final readings on the project indicate that the project went terribly off-course

and didn't go as planned, which means that the planning stage of the project could have lasted longer to ensure the success of the project.

As I continue my Original Work, I think that next time I need to spend a lot more time planning the project before heading into the execution stage of the project. Also, I will need to utilize what I learn from Mr. Shekhar before doing my next iteration of the simulation.