

IS430 Developing Your Final Project Approach

Agenda

- Why do a software-based project?
- How do I pick a project?
- How much can I accomplish in my project (scope)?
- What can I do to manage the project scope?
- What If I need to change direction?
- Kevin's File Organization Project

Why do a software-based project?

- To meet the course requirements for the IS430 Final Project.
- To reach a work-related information processing goal not easily achievable through other means (organize and desposit research files).
- To reach a personal information processing goal not easily achievable through other means (web scrape volumes of hobby-related content).

How do I pick a project?

- Pick something that you really want to get.
- It should be something that helps you reach a desirable personal or professional goal.
- The more you want to get to the goal, the easier it is to tolerate the frustrations encountered along the way.

How much can I accomplish in my project (scope)?

- You will really only know that when you reach the deadline or decide on a stopping point.
- Project requirements are difficult to fully understand before you engage with the project.
- Projects often require you to learn a new skill before you start.
- Projects sometimes require you to do side-projects along the way.
- Think of the goal as getting to a desirable destination related to your project.
- It may not be the original destination that you hoped for.
- It just needs to be a good destination where you can stop for now.

What can I do to manage the project scope?

- Make a list of the parts that you would ideally like to accomplish.
- Prioritize (and re-prioritize) these parts as you pursue the project.
- When you reach the deadline or decide to stop, you will have worked on the most important parts.
- The other parts will have to wait for the next project.
- This is a folksy presentation of a very popular project management approach called Agile Project Management.

What If I need to change direction?

- As you learn more about your project, you probably will need to make some direction changes.
- The goal is to get to a good destination.
- It does not need to be the exact destination you envisioned when you began.
- Keep working with a revised list of project parts that you rank according to your current priorities.
- Come to lab to discuss it. It helps to talk it out.

Kevin's File Organization Project

- Started in Fall 2025 as a tutorial and coding assignment for Sweigart Chapter 11.
- Based on cleaning up research files for deposit in a research data repository.
- I committed to 2 side projects.
- Tutorial got too big to finish completely.
- Coding Assignment got canceled.
- Next week, you will see my Spring 2026 version.
- Smaller tutorial. Modest Coding assignment.

Last Revised 2026-04-08