Learning Journal Template Student

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Course: Software Project Management (SOEN 6841)

Journal URL: https://github.com/AmishNavadia/SOEN-6841-Amish-Navadia

Dates Rage of activities: 7th Feb 2025 to 21 Feb 2025

Date of the journal: 23th Feb 2025

Key Concepts Learned:

I explored key aspects of project management: **Project Planning, Project Monitoring, and Project Closure.**

- **Project Planning :** WBS helps break projects into smaller tasks for better scheduling. Top-down planning gives a broad view, while bottom-up focuses on details. The Critical Chain Method (CCM) removes unnecessary buffers, and resource allocation prevents delays.
- **Project Monitoring:** Monitoring tracks progress, while control ensures corrective actions. Earned Value Management **(EVM)** helps measure cost and schedule variances. Risk management prevents failures, and **scope control** avoids budget overruns.
- **Project Closure:** A project must go through **final reviews, documentation, and lessons learned reports** to improve future projects. **Version control** ensures smooth updates and maintenance.

Applications in Real time projects:

- **Planning:** I applied WBS in my **Automated News Summarizer project**, which helped me divide tasks into smaller steps like **data collection, text processing, and UI development.**
- **Monitoring:** I tried tracking my project's progress using **a basic EVM approach** by comparing planned vs. actual work done. This helped me see where I was falling behind.
- **Closure:** I created a small checklist for project closure, ensuring all tasks were completed before considering a project "done."

One challenge I realized is that **even with careful planning, unexpected delays can happen.** This made me appreciate the importance of **risk assessment and buffer time in scheduling.**

- ❖ **Challenging Component:** One idea I considered was using **AI-based tools to predict project delays** by analyzing previous task completion trends. This could make monitoring more efficient.

Peer Interactions:

- **WBS Discussion:** A classmate and I worked on breaking down a sample project into WBS levels. This helped me understand **how to structure complex projects better.**
- **EVM in Real Life:** During a study session, a classmate shared how tracking **earned value** in a freelance project helped them **avoid budget issues.** This made me think about how I could apply EVM in my own projects.

- **Project Closure Challenges:** We discussed why some projects fail at closure. A key takeaway was that **lack of proper documentation** often causes issues when revisiting old projects.

❖ **Challenging Component:** After feedback from peers, I realized I could use **Gantt charts and EVM dashboards** to improve my **project tracking and documentation practices.**

Challenges Faced:

- **EVM Calculations:** Understanding the formulas for **cost variance and schedule variance** was difficult at first. I plan to practice more real-world examples to get better at it.
- **Task Dependencies in WBS:** It was challenging to decide which tasks should be completed first. I need to work more on using **Gantt charts** to visualize dependencies.
- **Scope Creep:** I found that **uncontrolled project changes** could cause serious delays. Learning how to **set clear boundaries for scope changes** is something I need to focus on.

Personal Development Activities:

- **Researched real-world project failures**, such as the **Denver Airport baggage system failure**, which showed how poor planning can lead to disaster.
- **Created a sample WBS for a small project**, which helped me practice breaking tasks into logical units.
- **Experimented with an EVM tracking sheet**, which gave me a better understanding of how schedule and cost tracking work in practice.
- **Read an article on AI-driven project monitoring**, which inspired me to think about integrating automation into project tracking.

❖ **Challenging Component:** I started researching **how Power BI and JIRA can be used for real-time project tracking**, which might be helpful in future projects.

Goals for the Next Week:

Next week, I have a **reading vacation**, and after that, I have a lab exam of other course. During this time, I plan to:

- **Prepare for the Lab Exam**: Practice lab exam questions for other subjects to ensure I am well-prepared and confident.
- **Complete Tasks for Project Management**: Work through key concepts from Chapters 6, 7, and 8 to reinforce my understanding of project planning, monitoring, and closure.
- **Improve EVM Skills**: Solve more Earned Value Management (EVM) problems to get comfortable with cost and schedule tracking.
- **Explore Predictive Analytics**: Research how predictive analytics can be used to enhance project monitoring, especially in software project management, to predict potential delays and improve tracking efficiency.

❖ **Challenging Component:** I also want to explore how predictive analytics can improve project monitoring, as it aligns with my interest in **AI-based software project management.**