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Course: SOEN 6841 Software Project Management

Journal URL:

<https://github.com/Darshansinh28/SOEN-6841-Software-Project-Management>

Week: September 30 - November 15

Date: 2 November 2024

Key Concepts Learned:

- Project Monitoring and Control
 - **Definition:** The process of tracking project progress and performance against the project plan, allowing for timely adjustments to ensure project objectives are met.
 - **Importance:** Effective project monitoring and control ensures that the project stays on schedule, within budget, and meets quality standards, thus increasing the likelihood of successful project completion.
- Purpose of Monitoring and Control
 - **Definition:** The main objectives of monitoring and control are to provide project managers with insights into project progress, facilitate action planning, and outline options to address deviations from the plan.
- Monitoring vs Control
 - **Monitoring:** Involves collecting data to measure progress and ensuring the project team adheres to the project plan.
 - **Control:** Ensures the project meets its schedule, cost, and quality requirements by taking corrective action when necessary.
- Earned Value Management (EVM)
 - **Definition:** A project management technique that integrates scope, schedule, and cost to assess project performance and progress.
Key Components of EVM:
 - **Planned Value (PV):** The budgeted cost for work scheduled.
 - **Earned Value (EV):** The budgeted cost for work actually completed.
 - **Actual Cost (AC):** The actual cost incurred for work performed.
- Designing a Project Monitoring and Control System
 - **Steps:**
 - Establish baselines for cost, time, performance, and scope.
 - Monitor and measure performance regularly.
 - Compare actual performance to baselines through variance analysis.
 - Take corrective action when necessary, documenting the causes of changes.
- Performance Indicators
 - **Definition:** Metrics used to measure project performance against the baseline project plan.

- **Types:**
 - **Quality metrics:** Assess product quality, such as defect density and customer satisfaction.
 - **Schedule metrics:** Schedule variance and progress reports.
 - **Budget metrics:** Budget variance and cost reports.
- **Resource Loading Metrics**
 - **Definition:** A measure of how effectively project resources are being utilized.
 - **Importance:** Helps identify whether resources are overloaded or underloaded, guiding decisions for resource allocation and workload management.

Reflections on Coursework and Case Study:

1. **Foundational Learning:** This week emphasized the importance of project monitoring and control. Understanding the difference between monitoring (data collection) and control (corrective actions) is essential for effective project management.
2. **Future Application:** I will implement monitoring systems in future projects, using Earned Value Management (EVM) to track progress and manage variances.

Peer Interactions:

1. **Learning from Peers:** Exchanged ideas with classmates on the application of Earned Value Management (EVM), integrating diverse perspectives to enhance our understanding of project performance.
2. **Topic Analysis:** Worked on topic analysis, discussing with teammates to review research and prepare effectively for our upcoming pitch.

Challenges Faced:

1. **Midterm Preparation:** Learning and synthesizing concepts from chapters 1 to 7 for the midterm exam proved to be quite challenging, as it required a deep understanding of various project management principles and their interconnections.

Personal development activities:

1. **Reading:** Engaged in reading industry-related articles and case studies to broaden my understanding of project management practices and stay updated on current trends.
2. **Networking:** Attended a project management webinar to connect with professionals in the field, gaining insights into real-world applications of monitoring and control techniques.
3. **Skill Development:** Practiced project management software (like Microsoft Project or Trello) to enhance my technical skills in project planning and monitoring, improving my efficiency in managing project tasks.

Goals for the Next Week:

1. **Phase 2 Project Report:** Start documenting progress and refining objectives for the Powered Resume Builder while maintaining overall project momentum.
2. **Project Monitoring and Control:** Review tracking processes to ensure timely adjustments for staying on schedule, within budget, and meeting quality standards.