**Learning Journal 3**

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**Course:** SOEN 6841 Software Project Management

**Journal URL:** https://github.com/HWJFish/Software-Project-Management-Learning-Journal

**Dates Rage of activities:** Oct.5th-Nov.2nd

**Date of the journal:** Nov.1st

**Chapter 6:**

Key Concepts Learned:

In this week, we learnt chapter 6 which focused on project planning. We have covered top-down and bottom-up planning as well as work breakdown structure to manage tasks. We have also covered scheduling techniques including critical path, resource allocation, and communication planning.

Application in Real Projects:

Project planning can also be very important in real projects for resources, timeline and tasks to make sure the project meets the deadlines and budget. In our course project planning for wedding platform planning app, we will adapt WBS to break down major features into smaller tasks. We can also use top-down planning which plans high-level tasks first and then plan subtasks based on their difficulty.

Peer Interactions:

During discussion with my friends, we discussed milestones and releases for different projects. We have also discussed water-fall model planning vs agile planning and why do most companies stop using water-fall models. These discussions helped me to get insight to these approaches for planning and give me some ideas about how to handle planning issue in projects.

Challenges Faced:

One of the challenges I faced is that handling multiple potential critical paths in project planning. With complex dependencies, delays in any critical path could impact on the overall timeline and hard to analysis. Balancing resources and setting realistic deadlines for each path emphasized the need for flexibility and contingency planning to handle unexpected delays.

Personal Development Activities:

This week, I applied project planning techniques to another project I’m working on, using advanced Gantt chart methods to identify and manage multiple critical paths. By mapping dependencies and planning contingencies, I gained a practical understanding of resource allocation and deadline setting for complex timelines.

Goals for the Next Week:

Next week, I plan to focus on refining our project’s WBS, ensuring that tasks are accurately sequenced with clear dependencies, and further study the implications of resource allocation across tasks.

**Chapter 7**

Key Concepts Learned:

This week, we have covered chapter 7 which introduced project monitoring and control. We have focused on earned value management to track budget and schedule. Some content about how to keep project on track are also covered. Besides, we also did presentation and the topic is about how to adapt new technologies in the project, which covered analyzing, planning, monitoring changes and stakeholder buy-in.

Application in Real Projects:

EVM can be very important for managing the budget and schedule of the real projects​. Comparing the actual progress and planned progress can helps us to know the current situation and adjust accordingly. Insights from the presentation further reinforced that monitoring is crucial when introducing new technologies, as it allows for continuous assessment of costs and benefits and helps secure stakeholder support​.

Peer Interactions:

During the discussion for topic analysis, we have discussed how data and success stories can help demonstrate the impact of project changes. We have also discussed how to do cost-benefit analysis for a major change to the project as well as some trending new technologies and how to adopt them.

Challenges Faced:

A significant challenge was understanding EVM calculations, particularly setting accurate baselines. Since our project is in early stages, establishing reliable baseline values has been complex but essential for future variance analysis. Additionally, preparing for the presentation highlighted the challenge of balancing costs with expected benefits, emphasizing the need for detailed analysis when planning for technology changes​​.

Personal Development Activities:

This week, I improved my skills in tracking EVM metrics manually and assessing progress against baselines. The presentation also enhanced my ability to evaluate costs and benefits, essential for monitoring project performance and technology adoption

Goals for the Next Week:

Next week, my goal is to continue practicing EVM by applying it to real-time project data, refining our monitoring techniques to keep the project on schedule and within budget​.