**Learning Journal 3**

**Student Name:** Weichen Wan

**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 have project planning as main topic. We have covered top-down and bottom-up planning, work breakdown structure to manage tasks. Besides, we have covered scheduling techniques including critical path, resource allocation, and communication for planning.

Application in Real Projects:

Project planning is the first step for most project and we have to face them. 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:

For the discussion with my friends this week, we have discussed milestones and releases for different projects we have before. We talked about water-fall model compared to agile and why do most companies stop using water-fall models. We shared our experience for project planning and provided feedback to each other for what we can improve for the future projects.

Challenges Faced:

For project planning, it is usually challenging for me to handle multiple potential critical paths in project planning. When we have multiple paths with similar lengths, delays in a critical path might result in the delay of the whole project, so we need to check resource and schedules for each path to make sure the project won’t be delayed significantly and make changes in advance to prevent potential losses.

Personal Development Activities:

This week, I used Gantt chart for managing another course project I am taking this semester. It is a good chance for me to practice my project planning skills. I used Gantt Project as managing tool and got some experience on how to manage critical paths.

Goals for the Next Week:

Next week, I will improve my current project plans and refine my projects’ WBS for all three projects I have this semester. Also, I plan to do some analysis for some of my previous projects and see how I can improve them based on actual excursion experience of these projects.

**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​. I have tried to compare the actual progress and planned progress in the past and EVM helps us to know the current situation so we can adjust accordingly. Our presentation experience of adding new technologies to projects are also important these days since we face decision point for technologies regularly.

Peer Interactions:

During the discussion for topic analysis, we have discussed how data and success stories can help demonstrate the impact of project changes. For a major change, we have discussed how we can perform cost-benefit analysis and shared some of our past experiences. Also, we talked about some trending new technologies and how to adopt them.

Challenges Faced:

Personally, I have some problems with EVM calculations especially for determine an accurate baseline. For a project that is just started, it’s hard to gather necessary data for having the baseline. For the topic of presentation, I have faced the challenge of having biases and overestimate the benefit of using new technology.

Personal Development Activities:

This week, I tried to use EVM metrics with some sample project data. For the presentation preparation, I got chance to practice my presentation skills. I have also preformed some cost-benefit analysis for some of my previous project changes to have get some personal opinions.

Goals for the Next Week:

My goal for next week is to do more practice for EVM with some sample project data so I can prepare for the future project tracking.