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Key Concepts Learned
This week, I explored two crucial aspects of project management: Project Monitoring & Control and Project Closure, both essential for ensuring a software project's success. Monitoring and control focus on tracking progress against the project plan, using key performance indicators like Earned Value Management (EVM) to measure efficiency, manage resources, and identify risks early. Techniques such as resource leveling, schedule optimization, and corrective actions help mitigate issues, while status reporting keeps stakeholders informed. Without proper monitoring, projects can face budget overruns and delays, but by analyzing metrics like schedule variance and cost variance, project managers can proactively address deviations. On the other hand, project closure ensures that all tasks are completed, documented, and delivered, reducing knowledge loss and easing transitions for future maintenance or development. This phase includes managing source code and project data, recording lessons learned, and formally releasing resources. Without a structured closure process, teams may struggle with handovers and miss valuable insights for future projects. Ultimately, strong monitoring & control keeps projects on track, while an organized closure phase ensures everything is finalized, documented, and ready for future reference.

Application in Real Projects
Project monitoring and control play a crucial role in real-world software development, helping teams stay efficient and aligned with project goals. These principles are especially relevant to our AI-Driven Health Monitoring App, where keeping development on track and addressing any deviations early is essential. Earned Value Management (EVM) allows us to measure whether our progress is on schedule, while risk monitoring helps us anticipate potential obstacles before they become major issues. By actively tracking progress, evaluating schedule and budget variances, and making timely adjustments, we can ensure that we stay within project constraints. Additionally, having a structured project closure process is just as important—it ensures that our source code is properly archived, documentation is complete, and all stakeholders are aligned before we officially finalize the project. This prevents confusion about future updates or maintenance and keeps the project sustainable in the long run. By implementing strong monitoring and closure processes, we can streamline our workflow, avoid last-minute setbacks, and ensure the successful completion of our AI-Driven Health Monitoring App.

Peer Interactions
This week, we collaborated extensively through Google Meet, Zoom, WhatsApp calls, and in-person library meetups to work on our second deliverable. These discussions were instrumental

in tracking our progress, brainstorming ideas, and keeping us on schedule. Meeting in the library provided a great opportunity to clear up doubts, strengthen our understanding of project monitoring, and refine our work. One key insight from our conversations was the importance of balancing control and flexibility while continuous monitoring is necessary, excessive control can slow things down and create unnecessary delays. Some of our peers shared their experiences with project management tools like JIRA, Trello, and Microsoft Project, which have helped them track progress more effectively and catch bottlenecks early. Another major discussion point was the project closure phase, where many noted that teams often move straight into maintenance without formally closing a project, leading to confusion and inefficiencies.

Challenges Faced

One of the biggest challenges this week was making sense of Earned Value Management (EVM) metrics. Understanding how to interpret Planned Value (PV), Earned Value (EV), and Actual Cost (AC) requires a strong grasp of financial tracking in projects, and applying these metrics in real-world scenarios can be quite complex. I plan to work through more examples to improve my understanding and get more comfortable with these calculations. Another challenge was fully grasping the importance of proper project closure. Many projects move straight into the next phase without a formal review, making it harder to track progress, analyze past performance, and identify areas for improvement.

Personal development activities

To deepen my understanding of project monitoring and control, I watched tutorials on Earned Value Management (EVM) to see how it's applied in real-world scenarios. I also explored project management tools like Microsoft Project and JIRA to get familiar with industry-standard tracking systems. Additionally, I read case studies on project closure to learn best practices and how different organizations handle their final deliverables. In preparation for midterms, I revisited key concepts from Chapters 1 to 6, focusing on project initiation, planning, risk management, and configuration management. This review helped me see how different project stages connect and gave me a clearer understanding of where monitoring and closure fit within the overall project lifecycle.

Goals for the Next Week

Next week, I plan to deepen my understanding of Earned Value Management (EVM) by working through practical examples to strengthen my analytical skills. I also want to explore more case studies on project closure to see how different organizations handle final deliverables and ensure smooth transitions. Additionally, I'll focus on improving project documentation, refining my approach to keeping clear and well-structured records throughout a project's lifecycle. By working on these goals, I hope to enhance my ability to monitor, control, and close projects effectively, ensuring smooth and efficient project execution.