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Course: SOEN 6841 - Software Project Management

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Learning journal: 4

Key Concepts Learned:

- Project monitoring helps track project progress by comparing planned versus actual performance.
- Control ensures the project stays within budget, schedule, and quality expectations.
- Earned Value Management (EVM) is a key tool for tracking project performance based on cost and time.
- Monitoring collects data to measure progress and ensures the project follows the original plan.
- Control takes corrective actions when deviations from the plan occur to bring the project back on track.
- Common challenges in project monitoring include unexpected technical issues, budget miscalculations, and scheduling errors.
- Quality control ensures the project meets technical standards and customer expectations.
- Scope control prevents uncontrolled changes that could affect project timelines and costs.
- Risk management requires continuous monitoring and response to unplanned issues.
- Team management ensures motivation, enthusiasm, and direction throughout the project.
- Establishing baselines for cost, time, and performance is essential for effective monitoring.
- Performance is measured by tracking percentage completion, costs, and scope changes.
- Variance analysis compares actual performance with planned benchmarks to identify discrepancies.
- Corrective actions include re-planning, resource reallocation, and modifying project timelines.
- Monitoring tools like S-Curve and Earned Value Analysis (EVA) help track deviations from the plan.
- Project closure ensures all deliverables are completed, documented, and archived properly.
- Lessons learned from the project are recorded for future improvements in project management.
- Source code version management is critical for tracking project development and maintaining documentation.
- Schedule optimization can reduce unnecessary slack and improve project efficiency.
- Performance indicators, such as defect density and schedule variance, help measure project success.
- Project monitoring provides a clear view of the project's status at any given time.
- Regular progress reports and team meetings help in tracking and addressing project issues.
- Control involves taking preventive and corrective actions to ensure project success.
- Accurate data collection is necessary for effective project tracking and decision-making.
- Budget tracking requires comparing baseline costs with actual expenses to detect overruns.
- Time management in projects is crucial to prevent delays caused by incorrect task sequencing.
- Resource utilization metrics help measure workload distribution and prevent overloading or underutilization.
- Project managers must communicate deviations and corrective actions to stakeholders.

- Risk management strategies should be adaptable as risks evolve throughout the project.
- Project closure includes final reviews, documentation, and ensuring compliance with initial project goals.

Application in Real Projects:

- Uber adopted Smartsheet to enhance project management, cutting planning and development time by 50% and saving approximately 1,000 staff hours.
- Microsoft and Google use EVM and schedule tracking tools to manage their software releases. Agile methodologies also incorporate project monitoring through sprints and iterative progress checks.

Peer Interactions:

- Discussed project monitoring methods with classmates.
- Shared insights on handling risks and scope changes in group discussions.
- Worked together on case studies to apply monitoring and control techniques.

Challenges Faced:

- Understanding the technical details of Earned Value Management.
- Difficulty in tracking multiple aspects of a project at once.
- Managing unexpected changes in project scope.

Personal development activities:

- Practiced using project management tools like Microsoft Project and Jira.
- Read articles on project monitoring techniques.
- Reviewed case studies to see how real companies handle project control.

Goals for the Next Week:

- Learn more about risk management techniques.
- Practice analyzing project performance using EVM.
- Participate in a group discussion on project closure strategies.
- Work on the project feasibility study, solution proposal, project plan, risk assessment and budgeting documents.