Learning Journal

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Course: Software Project Management [SOEN 6841]

Journal URL: https://github.com/NamrataBrahmbhatt/SOEN6841_LearningJournal

Week 1: Feb 23 – Mar 9

Date: Mar 9

Key Concepts Learned:
- Learned the chapter 7 i.e., Project Monitoring and Control from the book.
- The purpose of monitoring is to provide means to the manager to measure the progress of the project at any time.
- Control ensures project delivery aligns with schedule, cost and quality parameters.
- To design a monitoring and control system, we need to define first clear benchmarks for schedule, cost, and quality.
- Regularly tracking the progress against previously established baselines.
- Utilize the tools and techniques to gather more information on the project performance.
- Analyze obtained data to see how project performance compares to baselines. Determine any discrepancies or variations from the anticipated goals.
- Make the required modifications to put project performance back in line with baselines. Address any concerns or hazards to the project's success.
- Project monitoring and control depend on effective communication.
- Project monitoring and control should be regarded as a continuous process aimed at continuous improvement, rather than a one-time event.

Reflections on Case Study/Course work

- This week, I dedicated time to studying a case study outlined in Chapter 7 of our reference book.
- The case study delves into the intricate management of software development projects, underscoring the importance of iteration and project control.
- It describes how a Software as a Service (SaaS) provider follows a methodical process, connecting major releases with annual project goals and breaking them down into iterative steps.
- The case study presents a systematic risk mitigation action plan that includes causality analysis, root cause analysis, remedy execution, and efficacy evaluation. Impact analysis is

used to assess how risks affect the project timeframe, allowing required changes to be made.

- A prominent component is the thorough analysis of available resources and the inclusion of risk variables in project completion estimates. To avoid risks and accommodate schedule changes, the project team prioritizes exploiting current resources over obtaining new ones.
- Project management solutions like Microsoft Project and Seapine Software's TestTrack Pro are essential for managing timeframes, resources, goals, and defects. The use of Microsoft Project's Gantt chart improves project monitoring and management, while TestTrack Pro assists in defect tracking.
- The case study discusses a difficult component development challenge, highlighting the need of qualified individuals and effective testing methodologies in overcoming technological barriers. The appointment scheduling engine problem is effectively resolved by the project team via collaborative efforts and effective problem-solving, drawing lessons to improve procedures for future projects.

  Overall, the case study emphasizes the need of iterative techniques, proactive risk management, and the use of experienced persons and technologies to ensure the successful completion of software development projects.

Peer Interactions:
During the lecture we discusses about the midterm exam, and I along with my fellow mate discussed on how we attempted different questions in the exam. This week we also had a meeting for the distribution of the responsibilities of the deliverable 2. And afterwards we had a group meeting to check on the progress for the tasks allotted to each of the members.

Challenges Faced:
As I have a huge stage fear, I could not pitch the idea to the class even after knowing everything in detail. I have very good communication skills, but going on stage fears me hence I decided to give this job to my other teammate.

Personal development activities:
- I read more about the Risk assessment and mitigation as in the deliverable 2, I will be working on that. Also as my project is language learning chatbots, I am exploring more chatbots to see the functionalities and understand them in a better way to contribute more to the project.
- I also found a paper regarding the PMC by Kifle Sima.
- In this paper, the author describes that a project consists of interconnected components: processes, people, and tools, influenced by internal and external environments.
- Each project phase must be completed successfully before moving to the next, improving management control and linking with the environment.
- The execution phase, the third of PMBOK's project management phases, is vital, with most action and budget expenditure occurring here.
- The controlling and monitoring process group, with twelve project processes, is significant for project success.

- Monitoring project execution is crucial during the monitoring and control phase to realign activities with project goals.
- The project execution and monitoring/control phases occur concurrently and iteratively, ensuring alignment and allowing for course correction.
- These phases involve completing and managing work, tracking project performance, implementing schedule changes, identifying risks, and collaborating on mitigation plans.
- Hence, this article highlights the importance of the executing, monitoring, and controlling phases across various project management activities.

Goals for the Next Week:
After the midterm break, I am planning to work on my portion of the deliverable. I have been allotted the Risk assessment and mitigation part for the deliverable 2. Also the posterathon is approaching, so I am planning to select the topic along with my teammate and work on that together.