Learning Journal 3

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Course : SOEN-6841 : Software Project Management

Journal URL : https://github.com/PrashantPawar30/SOEN-6841_LearningJournals

Date Range of activities : October 6 to November 2, 2024

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Key Concepts Learned :

After Configuration Management, we learned about what are the **different functions and strategies** used for configuration Management deployment in a project. We learned about what is the **software project plan**, different **parts and types** of the software project plan. We also learned about the **techniques used** in making software project plan. So, Software project planning **is a time-consuming and continuous activity which spans from initial concept through the project completion, and it should be revised regularly as any type of change like requirements or structure or supply can occur throughout the project lifecycle.**

We studied different components related to project planning such as **scheduling, budgeting, communication and quality planning**. There are two approaches in project scheduling, **'top down approach' and 'bottom up approach'.**

WBS (**Work breakdown structure**) is used in scheduling and it is very helpful as it decomposes the complete project work into smaller tasks. After using WBS, the **resource planning** can be done more efficiently.

Along with this, we have studied some important concepts like **critical path method, Goldratts critical chain method, milestones, deliverables, how the schedules can be represented graphically.** we have discussed the key differences between **iterative and waterfall project planning while project planning**.

In chapter 7, we learned about the key concepts and differences between **project monitoring and controlling**, which both of these allow project managers to know the progress of the project or any specific task at any given time and also allows them to take actions according to any deviation that is occurring from the project plan. **Performance, cost, time, quality, scope, risk** are the different components which are controlled in a project in order to keep order and get desired output. **EVA** is a **tool used for monitoring and control** that helps the project managers to keep track of the progress based on the cost and time. It **uses dollar value to calculate the project progress** instead of days.

Application in Real Projects :

In real-world applications, **project planning, monitoring and control** are important for managing complex tasks and ensuring **timely completion of the project**. In software development projects, **WBS** helps break down tasks (requirements, design, development) for **better resource allocation** and **scheduling**, while **top-down and bottom-up approach helps both milestones timelines and detailed task timelines align**. For example, setting overall deadlines (top-down) and scheduling sub-tasks (bottom-up) prevent delays. **EVA** is often applied in project monitoring to track budget and schedule variances, giving project managers **real-time insights to correct deviations early**. These tools collectively ensure that projects stay on track, meet budgets, and deliver high-quality results.

Peer Interactions :

In this duration, after the project pitch, we were supposed to **analyze any topic** from given list, **create a poster for it and present it online**. We chose '**differences in project management : software vs hardware'**. For this presentation we had to do research about the **key differences in both the fields** and **how they matters when project planning is in-development**, How this key differences play part in related to other project planning components too.

Now for the project deliverable 2, in our project team we have assigned **different tasks to ourselves**, after distributing all the task, we are **discussing**, **researching** further with the help of each other.

Challenges Faced :

In this duration, I didn't faced any such challenges. On the contrary, I read more about the different topics for project and for topic analysis, which also helped me for the midterm exams.

Personal Development Activities :

Along with **enhancing other technical knowledge**, I spent some **additional time** reading about the configuration management, version configuration, project planning, WBS, critical path methods to understand this topics and their **practical applications more deeply**. This additional reading helped me in midterms by increasing my confidence and it'll help me to implement this concepts in project too.

In this duration, as we had some **group study sessions** and **project related sessions**, **participating in team discussions has improved my communication and collaboration skills, specifically, explaining and discussing this topics with my friends.**

Goals for the Next Week :

I am planning to **try implement all of this learned topics in the project** and try to understand them thoroughly. We as a project team, have **planned meetings** which will help us for the deliverable 2. I aim to give more time for my skill improvement as the midterms are over now.