

Learning Journal

Student Name: Saheb Singh Chandok

Course: Software Project Management

Journal URL: https://github.com/SahebChandok/SOEN-6841_LearningJournal

Dates Range of activities: 3 March 2025 – 16 March 2025

Date of the journal: 16 March 2025

Key Concepts Learned:

Over the past two weeks, I gained a thorough understanding of two crucial aspects of Software Project Management: Project Monitoring & Control and Project Closure. I learned that project monitoring involves collecting accurate data to measure progress against the project baseline. It emphasizes the importance of timely tracking of schedule, budget, and quality metrics. Project control ensures that corrective actions are taken whenever deviations occur, maintaining alignment with planned objectives. The chapter also introduced me to Earned Value Management (EVM), which integrates cost and time constraints to evaluate project progress. Techniques such as S-curves, slack management, buffer management, and resource levelling were discussed in detail. Additionally, performance indicators like defect density and resource utilization metrics were highlighted for effective monitoring. Moreover I understood the importance of finalizing all project deliverables, version control, and archiving project metrics. The chapter emphasized conducting lessons learned sessions and using archived data to enhance risk management and future project planning.

Application in Real Projects:

The concepts of EVM, monitoring, and closure activities are proved to be highly applicable in real-world software development projects during my time at my previous company. Under the guidance of my manager, our team actively implemented EVM practices by maintaining baseline costs and timelines, ensuring that budget reviews were conducted regularly, and recalibrating priorities whenever schedule variances occurred. I observed how, in one instance, when a critical module faced delays, earned value data was utilized to forecast project completion and resources were strategically reallocated to meet deadlines. Additionally, my manager introduced a structured 'Lessons Learned' template, which helped the team systematically document challenges and identify areas for process improvement. Inspired by these practices, I took the initiative to develop automated scripts for collecting project metrics and generating EVM reports, which significantly reduced manual effort and improved real-time visibility into project progress.

Peer Interactions:

Collaboration with my peers played a crucial role in enhancing my learning. During a study group session, we had an in-depth discussion about slack management and buffer techniques. One peer shared their experience where excessive slack led to resource underutilization,

prompting me to focus on resource levelling. Additionally, I presented my approach to integrating EVM into an Agile workflow and received valuable feedback. My peers during the group session were Abhijit Banerjee and Arjun Yadav.

Challenges Faced:

One of the main challenges I faced was understanding the calculations involved in Earned Value Management, particularly the relationships between planned value, earned value, and actual cost. To overcome this, I revisited the course material and practiced using real project data. Another challenge was ensuring consistent and accurate data collection from distributed teams.

Personal Development Activities:

To foster my professional growth, I completed a LinkedIn Learning course on advanced project monitoring techniques, which provided hands-on experience with tools like MS Project and Jira. I also explored articles on Agile-EVM integration, expanding my knowledge on how to balance traditional control methods within Agile frameworks. Additionally, I conducted a retrospective review of my previous projects, applying project closure activities to retrospectively identify improvement areas.

Goals for the Next Week:

For the upcoming week, my immediate goals are to apply slack removal and resource leveling techniques in an ongoing team project to ensure optimal workload distribution. I also plan to conduct a 'mini-lessons learned' meeting at the end of our current sprint to reinforce closure practices. For long-term growth, I aim to deepen my expertise in project performance forecasting by learning advanced predictive analytics tools. Additionally, I will focus on enhancing my leadership skills by initiating peer review sessions focusing on project metrics and performance indicators. These goals align with my career aspiration of becoming a Project Manager, equipping me with both technical and strategic skills.