

Learning Journal 4

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Course: SOEN 6481 - Software Project Management Journal

URL: [<https://github.com/Saranraj-Sivakumar/SOEN-6481-Software-Project-Management.git>]

Dates Range of Activities: 23 February 2025 to 16 March 2025

Date of the Journal: 16 March 2025

Key Concepts Learned:

This week, we covered Chapter 7 (Project Monitoring & Control) and Chapter 8 (Project Closure), focusing on advanced methodologies for ensuring project success.

Project Monitoring & Control:

- Project plans serve as the baseline for measuring progress and guiding corrective actions.
- Earned Value Management (EVM) is utilized to track project schedule variance, budget adherence, and performance indicators like task completion rates.
- Risk management involves dynamic adjustments to address deviations, ensuring project alignment with scope, budget, and quality expectations.

Project Closure:

- All deliverables undergo final validation to ensure completeness before project closure.
- Version control strategies maintain an archived, stable source code repository for future reference.
- Lessons learned documentation provides insights to refine future projects, preventing recurring issues.
- Resource deallocation and final documentation ensure a structured transition, enabling smooth post-project operations.

Application in Real Projects:

I applied project monitoring techniques to the Localized Disaster Management Platform and began integrating SPM concepts into other course projects.

Project Monitoring & Risk Management:

- Tracked milestones and baseline progress, applying Earned Value Management (EVM) to assess budget and schedule adherence, making adjustments for variances. Compared planned vs. actual effort in key tasks like API integration and database structuring, optimizing resource allocation for efficiency.

Preparation for Project Closure:

- While not in the closure phase, I have begun maintaining project documentation, organizing source code on GitHub, and conducting team reviews to refine processes and gather early feedback for a smooth transition later.

Application of SPM in Other Courses:

- Implemented structured task tracking, milestone setting, and risk mitigation strategies to enhance project planning and execution across multiple course projects.

Peer Interactions:

- Presented the *Localized Disaster Management Platform* on behalf of my team, highlighting the importance of real-time disaster reporting and coordination while refining technical explanations based on feedback.
- Received and provided constructive feedback on project pitches, focusing on clarity, problem statement refinement, and workflow optimization to enhance project viability.
- Engaged in discussions on risk assessment and budget tracking, exchanging insights on practical mitigation strategies and financial planning.
- Collaborated with peers to refine presentation delivery, incorporating feedback to improve technical clarity and structured communication for future project discussions.

Challenges Faced

- Faced challenges in understanding and applying Earned Value Management (EVM), particularly schedule variance and cost performance index (CPI). Overcame this by researching best practices and applying EVM to track project scope creep and cost estimates.
- Encountered difficulties in maintaining accurate project documentation and source code versioning, ensuring consistency across team contributions. Resolved this by conducting structured peer reviews and refining documentation practices.
- Struggled with interpreting real-time project performance metrics, leading to initial misalignment in milestone tracking. Improved by analysing deviations systematically and refining progress monitoring techniques.
- Balancing project workload with learning new concepts was challenging, especially in applying theoretical methods effectively. Managed this by organizing tasks efficiently and integrating feedback-driven learning for better execution.

Goals for the Next Week:

- Short-Term Goal: Begin reading Chapters 9 and 10 to prepare for next week's coursework, focusing on key methodologies for deeper understanding.
- Long-Term Goal: Collaborate with my team to develop the final project report, ensuring accurate monitoring and closure documentation, while refining details for a structured and well-organized submission.