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Key Concepts Learned
This week, I learned about the topics of Project Monitoring & Control from Chapter 7 and Project Closure from Chapter 8, both of which are essential in ensuring the success of a software project. These concepts are useful in maintaining project stability, tracking progress, and ensuring that all tasks are completed efficiently. Project monitoring involves tracking project progress against the project plan, measuring performance through key indicators such as Earned Value Management (EVM), and ensuring that resources are efficiently utilized. Monitoring risks and identifying deviations are crucial in ensuring the project stays on track. Various project control techniques such as resource leveling, schedule optimization, and corrective actions help mitigate unforeseen issues. Additionally, status reporting plays a vital role in keeping stakeholders informed about project progress and any obstacles encountered. Without an efficient monitoring and control process, project teams may struggle to detect potential risks early, which can lead to budget overruns and schedule delays. By maintaining accurate baseline figures and using performance metrics such as schedule variance and cost variance, project managers can proactively address deviations and adjust project plans accordingly. Project closure is a crucial phase that ensures all project work is completed, documented, and delivered according to requirements. It involves properly managing source code and project data, documenting lessons learned for future improvements, and releasing project resources. This phase also ensures that all deliverables are handed over, reducing the risk of knowledge loss. Without a structured closure process, teams may face difficulties in transitioning to future maintenance or development efforts. Proper project closure helps organizations analyze project successes and challenges, archive relevant data for reference in future projects, and ensure that all necessary approvals and documentation are completed. The closure phase is not only about formally ending a project but also about setting up teams for future success by implementing best practices based on past experiences. Alongside these topics, I also revisited Chapters 1 to 6 in preparation for the midterms. Reviewing these earlier chapters provided a deeper understanding of fundamental project management principles, software development life cycles, effort estimation, risk management, and configuration management. This review helped reinforce the connection between project initiation, planning, execution, and closure, providing a more comprehensive view of software project management. Understanding these foundational principles allowed me to see how project monitoring and closure fit into the overall project lifecycle and how they contribute to the successful execution of software projects.

Application in Real Projects
Project monitoring and control is a key aspect of real-world software development, ensuring that teams maintain efficiency and alignment with project goals. These concepts are directly applicable to our AI-Driven Health Monitoring App project, where we must ensure that development stays on track and that any deviations are promptly addressed. Earned Value

Management can help us measure whether we are progressing as planned, and risk monitoring allows us to anticipate potential roadblocks in the development process. By applying project monitoring techniques, we can track our progress, assess schedule and budget variances, and make necessary adjustments to stay within project constraints. Additionally, maintaining a structured project closure process ensures that our source code is properly archived, project documentation is complete, and all stakeholders are aligned before finalizing the project. This prevents any confusion regarding future updates or maintenance, ensuring that the project remains sustainable. Implementing structured project monitoring and closure processes will help streamline our workflow, avoid last-minute delays, and ensure the successful completion of our AI-Driven Health Monitoring App.

Peer Interactions

This week, we collaborated frequently via Google Meet, Zoom, WhatsApp calls, and library meetups to discuss our second deliverable. These discussions helped us track progress, brainstorm ideas, and ensure we were on schedule. Sitting together in the library helped clarify doubts, improve our understanding of project monitoring concepts, and refine our project deliverables. One key takeaway from our discussions was the importance of balancing control with flexibility. While continuous monitoring is essential, excessive control can slow down progress and lead to unnecessary delays. Some peers shared their experiences using project management tools like JIRA, Trello, and Microsoft Project to track progress effectively, making it easier to identify bottlenecks early. Another major discussion point was the challenge of project closure. Many students highlighted that teams often move directly into maintenance mode without a formal closure phase, which can create confusion and inefficiencies. Proper documentation, stakeholder approvals, and structured knowledge transfer were identified as best practices to avoid such issues. These discussions reinforced the importance of implementing structured closure processes, even in academic projects.

Challenges Faced

One of the main challenges this week was understanding how to interpret Earned Value Management (EVM) metrics effectively. The calculations involving Planned Value (PV), Earned Value (EV), and Actual Cost (AC) require a solid grasp of financial tracking in projects. Applying these metrics in real scenarios remains complex, and I aim to practice more examples to improve my understanding. Another challenge was recognizing the significance of proper project closure. Many projects transition directly into their next phase without a formal review, making it difficult to track improvements or analyze past performance. Understanding how to document lessons learned and release resources efficiently is something I plan to explore further. Additionally, balancing midterm preparations with ongoing coursework and project deliverables was demanding. Reviewing Chapters 1 to 6 alongside working on Project Deliverables II required effective time management to ensure that I thoroughly understood the concepts while meeting submission deadlines.

Personal development activities

To deepen my understanding of project monitoring and control, I watched tutorials on Earned Value Management (EVM) to see its practical applications. I also explored project management software such as Microsoft Project and JIRA to familiarize myself with tracking tools commonly used in the industry. Additionally, I read case studies on project closure to

understand best practices and how different organizations handle final deliverables. My preparation for the midterms involved revisiting key concepts from Chapters 1 to 6, focusing on project initiation, planning, risk management, and configuration management. This review helped reinforce the connection between different stages of the project lifecycle and clarified how monitoring and closure fit within the overall process. These additional learning activities enhanced my ability to apply theoretical concepts to practical scenarios, improving my project management skills.

Goals for the Next Week

Next week, I plan to improve my understanding of Earned Value Management by working on practical examples to strengthen my analytical skills. I also intend to explore more case studies on project closure to understand how organizations manage their final deliverables and ensure successful transitions. In addition, I will continue refining my approach to project documentation, focusing on best practices for maintaining clear and structured records throughout a project's lifecycle. By implementing these goals, I aim to enhance my ability to effectively monitor, control, and close projects, ensuring successful and efficient project execution.