Learning Journal: Chapter 7 and 8

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Key Concepts Learned:

Project Monitoring vs. Control: Monitoring tracks progress, while control ensures corrective actions keep the project on track.
Earned Value Management (EVM): Measures cost and schedule performance to forecast project efficiency.
Scope, Risk & Quality Control: Manages changes, reduces risks, and ensures quality through testing.
Corrective Actions & Resource Allocation: Adjusts schedules and resources to prevent delays.
Software Lifecycle & Project Closure: Covers SDLC phases, version control, and final project evaluation.

Application in Real Projects:

- E-learning Platform Monitoring: Used EVM in the HPE project to track development costs and detect budget overruns early, allowing proactive adjustments.
- CRM System Development: Leveraged JIRA dashboards for sprint monitoring, helping identify bottlenecks and reallocate resources efficiently, similar to how Salesforce improves CRM rollouts.
- Managing Scope Creep: Implemented a change control process in a web-based assessment project to document requests, preventing delays and misalignment.
- CRM System Implementation: Followed SDLC phases, ensuring each phase had specific deliverables—requirement documents, wireframes, source code, and test cases.

Peer Interactions:

- Comparing Monitoring Approaches: Debated milestone tracking vs. real-time tools. Learned that real-time tracking helps identify issues early, making it ideal for agile projects.
- Project Closure Best Practices: Analyzed case studies on project failures due to poor closure. Realized the importance of proper documentation and lesson-learned reviews.
- Risk Management Strategies: Discussed with my professor how risk management evolves. Learned that continuous assessment is key, not just a one-time process.

- Waterfall vs. Iterative Models: Compared both approaches with peers, noting that iterative models offer flexibility in fast-evolving tech projects.
- Team Collaboration: Worked on Project Phase II, covering budgeting, risk assessment, and planning. Also implemented quality checkpoints and automated testing for better quality assurance.

Challenges Faced:

• Process Complexity: Simplified deliverable management to meet client expectations.
• Model Selection: Chose between Waterfall and iterative models based on project needs.
• Understanding EVM Metrics: Improved cost and schedule variance calculations through real projects.
• Balancing Monitoring Tasks: Managed sprint tracking while ensuring quality.
• Choosing the Right Monitoring Tool: Evaluated EVM, burndown charts, and dashboards for optimal use.

Personal Development Activities:

• Simulated Project Scenarios: Simulated EVM tracking in mock projects and real-world scenarios to compare Waterfall versus iterative models.
• Case Study Analysis: Reviewed software failure case studies to understand the impact of poor monitoring and control.
• Tool Proficiency: Practiced with JIRA, GitLab, and automated testing suites—including Agile sprint planning—to enhance tracking, collaboration, and quality assurance.
• Resource Exploration: Studied textbooks, online tutorials, and research articles (https://niftypm.com/blog/project-management-strategies/) to deepen my project management knowledge.
• Applied Project Management: Enhanced skills by applying EVM tracking and refining risk assessment strategies in practical projects.

Next Week Goals:

• Reviewing key concepts from Chapters 5, 6, 8, and 9 to prepare for the upcoming quiz.
• Participating in group discussions on project closure techniques, and joining meetings for presentation feedback and TA collaboration.
• Applying monitoring strategies to a simulated case study.
• Incorporating project monitoring and control practices to track progress and implement corrective actions.