Learning Journal 3

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1. Key Concepts Learned:

In Class
In the next three lectures professor discussed chapter 5,6 and 7. Chapter 5 deals with configuration management system, chapter 6 discusses what constitutes a complete and correct software project plan and techniques used and chapter 7 discusses project monitoring and control techniques. From the lecture related to chapter 5 I particularly learned how changes are managed in a project and different versions are maintained. Chapter 6 introduced me to the concepts of project plan whereas chapter 7 gave insights into software quality monitoring and time control.

At Home
After attending the lecture I sort out to read the reference book "Software Project Management: A Process-Driven Approach" by Ashfaque Ahmed
I read chapters 5,6 and 7 of the book during the period of time this journal covers and tried to summarize my learnings and key concepts given below:

Chapter 5: Configuration Management :- Configuration management helps track software changes, ensuring version control, documentation, and baseline integrity. Ahmed discusses CM activities, including identifying configuration items, tracking changes, and managing configurations throughout the project lifecycle.

Key Concepts:

- **Version Control:** Keeping a record of changes made to the software over time.
- **Baseline Management:** Establishing fixed reference points in the development to track progress.
- **Change Management:** Ensuring all changes are properly evaluated, approved, and documented.

Chapter 6: Project Planning:- Project planning is highlighted as the backbone of successful project management. Ahmed explains that thorough planning includes defining activities, scheduling, and resource allocation to meet project goals. This chapter covers tools like Gantt charts, WBS, and CPM to help create detailed project timelines and milestones.

Key Concepts:

- **Work Breakdown Structure (WBS)**: Breaking down project tasks into smaller, manageable components.
- **Gantt Charts and Scheduling:** Visual tools to outline task timelines and dependencies.
- **Critical Path Method (CPM)**: A technique to identify the longest sequence of essential tasks that determine the project duration.

Chapter 7: Project Monitoring and Control :- Monitoring and control are essential to track project progress and address any issues proactively. Ahmed emphasizes the importance of these tools to identify deviations, evaluate the root causes of delays or budget overruns, and implement corrective actions.

Key Concepts:

- **Earned Value Management (EVM):** A technique to assess project performance by comparing planned work with actual progress and costs.
- **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):** Metrics that measure the project's health, such as on-time delivery and budget adherence.
- **Progress Reporting:** Regular updates to stakeholders to communicate project status and any changes.

2. Application in Real Projects:

In a real-life software development project, configuration management ensures that team members work with the correct versions of code and documents, preventing mix-ups and keeping track of project changes. Project planning helps outline all necessary tasks, resources, and timelines, creating a roadmap that keeps the team aligned with goals and deadlines. Lastly, project monitoring and control provide essential tools like Earned Value Management and KPIs to track progress against the plan, allowing the team to identify issues early and make adjustments as needed to stay on track and within budget. Together, these practices support a well-organized, efficient, and goal-oriented project environment.

3. Peer Interactions:
This time duration in volved working and presenting the Topic Analysis. I particularly held regular calls and meetups with my team mate regarding the topic analysis and divided work amongst ourselves. I was in charge of PPT and the presentation and my team mate for the poster. We collaborated for the presentation content and also the overall topics and subtopics to cover for the analysis. We also held mock QnA to emulate a presentation scenario to better prepare for the D day.

4. Challenges Faced:
Due to multiple assignments and projects from other courses I faced difficulty for completing my topic analysis for which I rearranged my schedule and cut down on sleep to finish the PPT and prepare for the presentation.

5. Personal development activities:
I researched other presentation and posters and PPT which helped me develop my own knowledge on formal interviews and soft skills to keep track off while presenting. I particularly learned about how a Project manager is like a captain of a ship and has the power to steer away the entire course of the project on the basis of activities he/she undertakes during the project.

6. Goals for the Next Week:
I am going to focus on these chapters while further chapters are been taught and also will get started on with the phase 2 deliverables for the project. I will start by looking into feasibility.