**LEARNING JOURNAL**

**Student Name:** Habeeb Dashti

**Course:** Software Project Management

**Journal URL:** <https://github.com/habeebdashti/SOEN6841journal>

**Week 6 & 7:** 18/02/2024 – 09/03/2024

**Date:** 09/03/2024

**Key Concepts Learned:**

In Chapter 7 of the Software Project Management course, we dive into several crucial concepts that are vital for keeping a project on track and ensuring it meets its goals. Here's a breakdown:

* **Project Monitoring and Control**

This is all about keeping an eye on your project and making sure it sticks to its planned scope, schedule, and budget. It's like being the project's guardian, ensuring it doesn't stray off path.

* **Earned Value Management (EVM)**

EVM is a bit like a project's health check, blending schedule and budget to see how well the project is doing. It's crucial for keeping the project's pulse.

* **Monitoring vs. Control**

Monitoring is about gathering data to see how the project is doing, while control is about making moves to correct any off-course direction.

* **Scope, Quality, and Risk Control:**

This involves making sure the project doesn't balloon out of control, maintains its quality, and manages any risks that pop up, ensuring smooth sailing.

* **Designing a Project Monitoring and Control System**

This is about setting up a system to keep track of everything, ensuring the project stays on track by establishing baselines, monitoring performance, and acting when needed.

* **Performance Indicators and Metrics**

These are the signs that show how the project is doing, covering everything from how fast it's moving to how much it's spending.

* **Resource Loading and Utilization**

This is about making sure all your resources i.e., people, money, time, etc., are used efficiently, not too stretched or sitting idle.

**Reflections on Case study and Course work:**

Reflecting on the course and the case study, a few key takeaways stand out:

* **Application of Theory to Practice**

The course brilliantly bridges the gap between book knowledge and real-world application, especially through hands-on case studies.

* **Teamwork and Communication**

Working on group projects highlighted the importance of working well with others and communicating effectively, key skills in project management.

* **Real-World Relevance**

The course's use of real-life examples and projects brought the lessons home, preparing us for the challenges we'll face in the field.

* **Documentation and Presentation Skills**

Creating and presenting project management documents was a crucial part of the coursework, honing skills that are essential in the professional world.

**Summary of the Chapter:**

Chapter 7 focuses on the nuts and bolts of project monitoring and control. It teaches how to use the project plan as a roadmap, the importance of tracking progress through milestones, and how to use EVM for a comprehensive health check of the project. The chapter distinguishes between keeping an eye on the project and steering it back on course when necessary. It covers how to manage changes in scope, maintain quality, handle risks, and set up a system to ensure everything runs smoothly. Additionally, it discusses how to measure project performance and manage resources effectively, ensuring the project meets its goals.

**Collaborative Learning:**

Highlights the importance of collaborative learning in project monitoring and control. Collaborative learning in working together with my team to track the project's progress and make necessary adjustments. It's about sharing insights on the project's milestones, budget, and schedule, and using tools like Earned Value Management (EVM) to keep everyone on the same page. This approach not only helps in keeping the project aligned with its goals but also fosters a deeper understanding among team members as they learn from each other's experiences and perspectives.

**Further Research/Readings:**

To deepen my understanding of the concepts covered in Chapter 7, I explored more about EVM and other project control techniques. Reading about real-world applications of these methods has provided me with a clearer picture of how they work in practice. Looking into the case studies and the articles that discuss the challenges and successes of project monitoring in various industries is one of the further steps I took. This additional research can help me appreciate the nuances of project control and prepare me for applying these concepts in my future career.

**Adjustments to Goals:**

I have realized the significance of not just planning but also the continuous monitoring and controlling of a project. I might set a new goal to become proficient in using EVM or to focus on developing stronger communication skills to effectively collaborate with my team. Adjusting my goals in this way ensures that my learning remains relevant and aligned with the practical demands of the field.

**Review of Completed Project Deliverable 1:**

It has been a great experience working with the team and being lucky enough to get amazing team members to work with. The 1st deliverable allowed me to realize the potential my team contained to make our project deliverable successful. We learnt to communicate and discuss together clearly on the specifications of the project, we used our common decisions, and the catch is wherever we had mismatch in ideas, understandings and point of views, we tended to argue constructively in a professional manner that made us adjust and reach a mutual goal. Division of the tasks were done equally, every performed their duties and helped each other always. The thorough research about similar systems over the internet has been a major part of our learning about market analysis and project identification. We can confidently say that now we can work out on how to initiate a project that would be successful.

**Review of Working on Project Deliverable 2:**

Currently our team’s objective is to deeply study and understand the effort estimation, cost estimation, feasibility, and risk management before our next due meeting. Since we have been busy with our midterm examinations, we have recently started but with the right step. As there is a famous saying by our late President “Abraham Lincoln” that said, “If I had 6 hours to chop down a tree, I would spend the first four hours sharpening the axe”. We are highly motivated by the quote, and we are following it to make our project deliverable a much better success than the deliverable 1. We are also covering up the feedback we got from deliverable 1 in our current work.