

# Learning Journal 4

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**Course:** SOEN 6841 Software Project Management

**Journal URL:** [https://github.com/honey25s/Learning\\_Journals\\_SPM](https://github.com/honey25s/Learning_Journals_SPM)

**Dates Range of activities:** 23 February, 2025 to 16 March, 2025

**Date of the journal:** 16 March, 2025

## Key Concepts Learned:

The first week we had our project pitches in the class. Me and my team members had meetings where we discussed the ideas to make the pitch engaging.

This second week, we learnt about Project Monitoring & Control and the basic terms related to it. We learnt that Project monitoring is important for the project manager to know the progress of the project by checking on the project budget and schedule. We understood these two terms and their definitions: **Monitoring** involves collecting data on progress and ensuring adherence to the project plan whereas **Control** ensures the project stays on track by making adjustments to schedule, cost, and quality. Then we went through the steps involved in Project Monitoring & Control implementation, i.e, establish baselines, monitor & measure performance, compare performance to baselines and take corrective action. We also saw some ways to monitor progress which are- team meetings, regular progress reports and technical meetings. Tools like S curve and Earned Value Analysis (EVA) which are used for monitoring and control were discussed. Earned Value Management (EVM) is a quantitative method to track both schedule and cost performance by comparing earned value against planned and actual expenditures. To address delays in project work, you can either utilize available slack in the project schedule or apply resource leveling to mitigate the deviation.

Additionally, we explored Project Closure, activities involved during the process and the lessons learnt from the project. We discussed the final phase of a project, ensuring proper documentation, evaluation, and knowledge transfer for future projects. The key activities involved in Project Closure would be: Software product deliverable, User manuals and other documentation, Software installation, Resource release, etc. And the Lesson learnt from the project can provide us with the project challenges and successes, ways to deal with risks and better ways to manage the project to improve in future projects.

## Application in Real Projects:

- In large-scale projects like NASA's Mars Rover Missions, continuous project monitoring ensures that milestones are met within the allocated time and budget. Any deviation is addressed using corrective actions like reallocating resources or adjusting schedules.
- Microsoft uses EVM in software product development to track budget spending and progress against planned schedules. If a feature is delayed, they analyze earned value to determine whether they need additional developers or a deadline extension.

- In Google's Android OS development, resource leveling ensures that high-priority tasks are staffed efficiently without overloading employees.
- At Spotify, after each project, teams conduct a Lessons Learned session to document best practices and challenges.

### **Peer Interactions:**

I worked closely with my team to analyze key project management concepts and brainstorm engaging ways to present our project pitch. We as a team also had a meeting with the TA where we received suggestions on improving our project presentation for better clarity and engagement.

I exchanged ideas on how companies implement project monitoring tools and discussed real-world case studies with my classmates. This helped me understand the concept easily with real world examples.

Professor discussed the differences between monitoring and control to understand their roles in project success.

### **Challenges Faced:**

While understanding Earned Value Analysis (EVA), I could not understand how this is actually used in real life projects so I leveraged the book the professor referred to.

As told by the professor that these words learnt in the class are actually used in the software project so, understanding and using industry-standard terminology effectively in discussions took some extra effort.

The steps involved in Project Monitoring & Control implementation were something new to me so I had to go through again to understand it thoroughly.

### **Personal development activities:**

To enhance my understanding on Earned Value Analysis (EVA), I completed supplementary readings from the professor's referred book.

I conducted online research on S-Curve Analysis and Variance Analysis, which helped me understand how these tools are applied in tracking project progress and performance.

Following the professor's guidance, I explored resource leveling techniques and studied practical scenarios where companies use them to optimize workloads.

I practiced creating project monitoring dashboards using spreadsheet tools, which enhanced my ability to visualize project data and track performance metrics effectively. This will be very helpful when we will prepare our project deliverable 2.

### **Goals for the Next Week:**

- Work on the Deliverable 2 of the project with my group.
- Enhance my understanding of Project Monitoring tools by continuing to explore S-Curve Analysis, Earned Value Analysis (EVA), and other performance-tracking methods used in real-world projects.
- Learn more about project closure auditing and how important it is.
- Explore different Project Closure strategies and how companies ensure smooth transitions, knowledge transfer, and documentation for future improvements.