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**Course:** SOEN 6841

**Journal URL:** <https://github.com/itshisher/SOEN-6841-learning-journal/tree/main>

**Week 3:** February 11 – February 17

**Date:** February 12

**Key Concepts Learned:**

It is often difficult to control and monitor software projects due to unclear specifications and assumptions made by the project team. This ambiguity leads to difficulties in managing the project work effectively until clarity of the project progresses. Consequently, project monitoring and control become challenging tasks.

Despite these challenges, there are various tools and techniques available to assist project teams in monitoring and controlling software projects. Resource leveling, schedule optimization, and corrective actions against deviations can help overcome setbacks without depleting buffers.

Furthermore, the Earned Value Management (EVM) technique is a valuable tool for taking corrective action and providing a project dashboard with performance indicators. With EVM, project managers can promptly identify any deviations from the planned metrics and take necessary actions to keep the project on track. However, EVM requires that baseline information is available. Overall, while software projects may present monitoring and control challenges, incorporating the right tools and techniques can mitigate risks and ensure successful project progress.

**Application in Real Projects:**

Software monitoring and control in real projects contains critical activities, including budget management, schedule adherence, quality assurance, risk management, resource allocation, performance measurement, and stakeholder communication. By continuously monitoring project progress, such as project cost, schedule, quality of software, and project risks, project managers can identify deviations from planned objectives and take corrective actions to mitigate issues and keep the project on track. Control mechanisms, such as schedule optimization techniques, risk registers, resource leveling, and Earned Value Management (EVM), provide the necessary framework for effective monitoring and control, ensuring the successful delivery of software projects within scope, time, and budget constraints while meeting stakeholder expectations.

**Peer Interactions:**

Since the first project delivery is done and we will have a short presentation this week. Trying to meet with team members to discuss the content of the presentation and make a summary based on our deliverable. Make the content interesting to listen to and contain as much as possible the information on our product as well as the comparisons with potential competitors.

**Challenges Faced:**

The challenges faced in software monitoring and control are uncertainties in project requirements, scope creep, resource constraints, communication issues, risk management complexities, technology issues, stakeholder expectations, and the need for adaptability to change. These challenges often arise due to unclear specifications, evolving project scopes, limited resources, ineffective communication, and the dynamic nature of software development. Successfully handling these challenges requires proactive techniques such as schedule optimization techniques, risk registers, resource leveling, and Earned Value Management (EVM).

Challenge for our project: Making a presentation within 4 minutes is challenging work since we have 16 pages in our first project deliverable. We included too much information and 5 potential competitors. We did put a lot of concern on each of the competitors and include many advantages and disadvantages.

**Personal development activities:**

Readings for chapter7. Make summaries for the chapter and read the case study. Online research for our project and discussion with teammates on our presentation. Trying to make the summary within 4 minutes and contain as much as the information. Also make the topic easy and interesting to listen to.

**Goals for the Next Week:**

Review for chapters 1-6, do exercises for each chapter and go over case sutdy as well. Make a summary for each chapter and go over the lecture slides.