Learning Journal: Chapter 7 and 8

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Course: Software Project Management [SOEN 6841]

Journal URL:

Dates Rage of activities: 24-March-2025 to 16-March-2025

Date of the journal: 16-March-2025

Key Concepts Learned:
- **Project Monitoring vs. Control**: Learned that monitoring tracks project progress, while control ensures corrective actions keep it aligned with scope, cost, and schedule.
- **Earned Value Management (EVM)**: Explored how EVM integrates cost and schedule tracking to measure project performance and forecast completion efficiency.
- **Scope, Risk & Quality Control**: Understood techniques for managing scope changes, mitigating risks, and maintaining quality standards through structured testing.
- **Corrective Actions & Resource Allocation**: Studied how reallocating resources and adjusting schedules can help keep projects on track and minimize delays.

Application in Real Projects:
- **E-learning Platform Monitoring:** While working on an E-learning project (HPE project)**,** applied EVM principles to track development costs and detect early budget overruns, enabling proactive adjustments.
- **CRM System Development:** Leveraged JIRA dashboards for sprint monitoring, allowing the team to identify bottlenecks and reallocate resources efficiently. (Similar to how Salesforce uses agile sprint planning to improve CRM feature rollouts and customer experience.)
- **Managing Scope Creep:** Implemented a change control process in a web-based assessment project, documenting requests to prevent delays and scope misalignment.

Peer Interactions:
- **Comparing Monitoring Approaches**: In discussions with peers, we debated the effectiveness of traditional milestone tracking vs. real-time monitoring tools. One key takeaway was that real-time tracking provides more flexibility in identifying issues early, making it better suited for agile projects.
- **Project Closure Best Practices**: Engaged in a session where we analyzed case studies on project failures due to poor closure practices. I realized that many teams overlook proper documentation and lesson-learned reviews, which leads to repeating the same mistakes in future projects.
- **Risk Management Strategies**: Consulted with my professor regarding how risk management strategies evolve throughout a project's lifecycle. The discussion emphasized the importance of continuous risk assessment rather than treating it as a one-time process.
- **Pitch Nomination & Team Discussions:** Participated in a project pitch nomination, followed by discussions with other teams about their project findings, insights, and potential

real-world impact. These conversations provided a broader perspective on project effectiveness across different industries and helped refine my approach to assessing project success.

Challenges Faced:
- **Understanding EVM Metrics:** Initially struggled with cost variance and schedule variance calculations but improved by applying them to real projects.
- **Balancing Monitoring Tasks:** Managing sprint tracking while ensuring project quality required better time management strategies.
- **Choosing the Right Monitoring Tool:** Evaluated EVM, burndown charts, and dashboards to determine which is best suited for different project types.

Personal Development Activities:
- Simulated EVM tracking in a mock project to strengthen practical understanding.
- Reviewed real-world case studies on software failures to analyze the impact of poor monitoring and control.
- Practiced with JIRA & GitLab to enhance hands-on experience in tracking progress and issue resolution.
- Explored textbooks, online tutorials, and research articles to strengthen my understanding of project management strategies and lessons learned. (https://niftypm.com/blog/project-management-strategies/)

Next Week Goals:
- Reviewing key concepts from Chapters 5 and 6 to prepare for the upcoming quiz.
- Participate in group discussions on project closure techniques.
- Apply monitoring strategies to a simulated case study.
- Incorporating project monitoring and control practices to track progress and implement corrective actions.