Learning Journal: Chapter 6 and 7

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Course: Software Project Management [SOEN 6841]

Journal URL: https://github.com/meet0208/SOEN_6841/blob/main/Learning_journal_3_SOEN6481_40294571.pdf

Dates Rage of activities: 10-February-2025 to 23-February-2025

Date of the journal: 23-February-2025

Key Concepts Learned:

- Gained practical knowledge in project scope definition, management of timelines, and quality assurance that are important for the completion of successful software projects.
- Developed advanced presentation and pitching skills to communicate project ideas clearly, negotiate with suppliers, and prepare formal project plans like Work Breakdown Structures (WBS).
- Gained skills to manage budgets, deal with configuration management, and create compelling presentations to generate stakeholder interest and support for software development projects.
- **Setting Success Baselines:** Designing baselines for monitoring progress and variances effectively.
- **Monitoring vs. Control:** The right monitoring to make proper decisions for the project.
- **Earned Value Management (EVM):** Monitoring schedule and budget performance and identifying variances.
- **Keeping Projects on Schedule:** Monitoring performance, quality, scope, risk, and team dynamics.
- **Successful Scope Change Management:** Project changes controlled by evaluation and a controlled process.

Application in Real Projects:

- **Automated Version Control System and Deployment:** One single system that controls versions of code, automatic deployment, and document tracking, and offers consistency, reliability, and seamless collaboration in agile projects.
- **Agile Sprint Management:** Scrum Master monitors sprint progress on burndown charts to ensure tasks are completed within the planned time and reallocates resources if the team is behind schedule.
- **Software Release Management:** Project manager monitors development costs vs. progress using Earned Value Analysis (EVA) and adjusts budget and timelines to ensure releases are done smoothly.

Peer Interactions:

- Actively engaged in discussions on software project management, exchanging ideas and fine-tuning strategies for presentation purposes in the future. Also consulted the professor for advice on preparation for mid-term.

- Engaged in discussions to clarify doubts, share helpful study materials, and collaborate on key topics to enhance understanding and retention.

Challenges Faced:
- **Efficient Time Management:** Coordinating midterm exam studies and project tasks required strategic planning to meet academic and project deadlines.
- **Refining Project Scope:** Ensured project documents remained aligned with requirements through constant discussion and revision to prevent scope creep.
- **Scheduling Coordination:** Overcame scheduling conflicts among team members' schedules by encouraging open communication and flexibility.
- **Task Prioritization:** Managed work well during midterm break, juggling academic responsibilities and project submissions.
- **Acclimatizing to Challenges:** Cultivated problem-solving skills to adjust to unexpected project changes and academic challenges effectively.

Personal Development Activities:
- **Deep Dive into Software Project Management:** Conducted independent study sessions on Chapter 6 and reviewed a real-world case study from Chapter 5 to understand configuration management in software projects.
- **Learning from Industry Case Studies:** Analyzed successful project management case studies to apply best practices in future projects. (Source: Harvard Business Review)
- **Expanding Knowledge Through Supplementary Resources:** 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:
- Daily review of course materials and practice exam questions to reinforce key concepts in Software Project Management, preparing for Exam 1
- Assigned Readings: Staying on top of readings from "Software Project Management: A Process-Driven Approach" to better understand project management principles and techniques.
- Incorporating project monitoring and control practices to track progress and implement corrective actions. Collaborating with team members for the Poster Presentation by planning and discussing our selected topic analysis.