**LEARNING JOURNAL TEMPLATE**

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**Course:** SOEN 6841 - Software Project Management

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**Week 3-4:** 05/10/2024 – 02/11/2024

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* **Key Concepts Learned**
* Explored Project Planning and Monitoring & Control (Chapters 6 and 7).
* Learned the importance of Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) for resource allocation and task management.
* Gained insights into Earned Value Management (EVM) for tracking budget and schedule variances.
* Understood the impact of top-down vs. bottom-up planning methodologies.
* Recognized how EVM could improve tracking in ongoing projects like the "Home Exercise Planner."
* **Application in Real Projects**
* Applied WBS in a logistics software project to manage tasks and streamline resources.
* Recognized the need for EVM to detect budget overruns and schedule deviations early.
* Realized how EVM could have improved monitoring and control in previous projects.
* Plan to implement WBS in the "Home Exercise Planner" to break down tasks effectively and manage resource allocation.
* **Peer Interactions**
* Discussed WBS and EVM applications with peers, gaining insights into practical challenges.
* Collaborated on brainstorming ways to implement effective monitoring in agile environments.
* Learned from a peer’s internship experience about the consequences of inadequate project monitoring.
* During a discussion on the "Home Exercise Planner," I was stuck on task prioritization and received valuable insights from peers on using WBS to organize tasks effectively.
* **Challenges Faced**
* Found calculating and interpreting EVM variances complex in dynamic project scenarios.
* Faced difficulty in accurately estimating task durations in WBS for interdependent tasks.
* Plan to tackle these challenges by studying case studies and participating in workshops.
* Encountered challenges in task sequencing for the "Home Exercise Planner," particularly in aligning exercise routines with user goals and constraints.
* **Personal Development Activities**
* Watched tutorials on EVM and WBS implementation in tools like Jira.
* Read blogs and articles on continuous monitoring in agile environments.
* Enhanced practical understanding through real-world demonstrations and expert insights.
* Explored best practices in project management to better structure the "Home Exercise Planner" for iterative development.
* **Goals for the Next Week**
* Research case studies on successful EVM applications in large-scale projects.
* Participate in online forums to discuss WBS challenges with professionals.
* Explore advanced project management tools for better integration with agile methodologies.
* Develop a detailed task breakdown for the "Home Exercise Planner" using WBS to improve task clarity and resource planning.