Learning Journal Template

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Course: SOEN6841 Software Project Management

Journal URL: https://github.com/nisarg291/SOEN6841_Journal

Week 4: 18/02/24 to 09/03/24

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Key Concepts Learned:

In the Project monitoring and control chapter, I've gained knowledge about how to do project monitoring effectively using some monitoring tools like status reports, Goldratt's critical chain method, Gantt charts, and earned value management (EVM) that help in monitoring and controlling the project. To Achieve every milestone and to keep our project on track should use some techniques such as resource leveling, resource optimization, corrective actions against deviations, corrective actions against issues and schedule optimization. Moreover, I also understand how to measure task progress, status reports, and project monitoring and control in the Iterative Model and the risks involved in project monitoring using iterative models.

In the Project Closure Chapter, I've learned what need to do in project closure such as handing over the software project to the customer before the project deadline. The project deliverables needed to be achieved before the project closure such as User manuals, Software Product installation/ implementation, Resource release and lessons learned and also need to manage the Source code before delivering to the customer. Also understand the importance of Project Data Management because the project data will help in estimating effort, schedule, costs, and quality level for new projects. This information is very valuable for new projects. Providing project data as a performance indica□tor to the customer not only boosts customer confidence about ability of the project team, but it also helps in increasing productivity, project goal clarity, and reducing schedule and costs when future projects get executed.

Application in Real Projects:

In real-world software projects, effective project monitoring and control are pivotal for achieving successful outcomes. Practical applications encompass optimizing resource allocation by assigning tasks based on team members' skills and availability, ensuring schedules stay on track through continuous monitoring and adjustments, managing budgets by comparing actual costs to projections, mitigating risks through identification and control measures, ensuring quality deliverables with thorough monitoring, maintaining open communication with stakeholders, using Earned Value Management (EVM) to measure and address performance concerns, and leveraging insights from ongoing monitoring for continuous improvement. By implementing these strategies, software projects can confidently navigate uncertainties, adapt to changes, and enhance their chances of successfully meeting project goals.

In the real world of software management, adept project closure is crucial for various reasons. Efficient resource release ensures team members are available for new projects, optimizing workforce allocation. Documenting lessons learned enhances ongoing improvement and prevents recurring errors in future projects. Proper source code management reduces the risk of defects during customer deployment. Correctly archiving project data is vital for accessibility, aiding decision-making, accurate estimations, and improved planning in subsequent projects. Avoiding extraneous data clutter ensures a streamlined repository, simplifying retrieval and analysis, and contributing to the efficiency of future projects. Effective project closure practices are pivotal for resource optimization, knowledge retention, software stability, and informed decision-making, paving the way for continuous improvement and success in subsequent endeavours.

Reflections on Case Study/course work:

The software project management process focuses on project and iteration control and monitoring at a SaaS vendor. The vendor follows a yearly project plan with major releases and iterations within the plan. To handle issues and risks during iterations, the project team conducts weekly iteration review meetings led by the project manager. Contingency plans address potential risks, including sick leaves, unplanned holidays, technical challenges, and unexpected feature requests. Action plans involve causal analysis, finding solutions, implementation, testing, and schedule adjustments if needed.

Microsoft Project and TestTrack Pro are used for tracking project plans, resources, schedules, and defect monitoring. Challenges arise during the development of a complex feature, the "Appointment Scheduling Engine," but strategic testing and collaboration with experienced business analysts lead to successful outcomes. The appointment scheduling engine becomes a project success story.

In case study of the project closure chapter, I explore how project and iteration closure occurs at our SaaS vendor. As a continuous product development process, resources released from a project seamlessly transition into subsequent projects, managed by the global program manager. The configuration manager ensures the preservation of all project documents and source code in a separate branch, forming a completely new version with back integration. This branch serves as the concrete version of the software product, and a new branch is created for the next version. Once a project is deemed complete, the configuration management system's branch becomes read-only. Lessons learned from project documents on this branch inform knowledge management. In a specific instance, the complexity of appointment scheduling in release 6.0 led to challenges, prompting adjustments to the original plan and the removal of an additional feature to meet project goals.

Collaborative Learning:

This week, our project group held multiple meetings to discuss our project which is a food waste reduction and redistribution platform. Moreover, distributed the project work with team members and asked for updates every 2 to 3 days.

While working with my team on my project, I understood the concepts of project management more clearly and now I can understand how to give a solution proposal, project plan, risk assessment and mitigation, and budgeting.

Further Research/Readings:

I searched online and referred to project plans of the famous projects available online. Moreover, I also read some topics from some recommended books to clearly understand project plans, risk assessment and mitigation, and budgeting estimation effectively.

Adjustments to Goals:

I reviewed my previous week's goal, and I was able to achieve the previous week's goal, As I reviewed Chapter 7 and some concepts of Chapter 8. Moreover, I completed the 2nd project presentation and prepared the ppt for the project presentation.

Plan for the upcoming week includes revising all concepts of Chapters 5 to 8 from the textbook.