

Learning Journal 3

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Course: SOEN-6841

Journal URL: [GitHub Link](#)

Dates Range of activities: 30-9-24 to 2-11-24

Date of the journal: 2-11-24

Key Concepts Learned: This week, we focused on Project Planning and Project Monitoring & Control as key parts of Software Project Management. We learned about planning components like scheduling, budgeting, and resource allocation. We discussed how to break projects into smaller tasks using the Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) and explored different planning methods, such as top-down and bottom-up approaches. In terms of monitoring, Earned Value Management (EVM) was introduced as a way to track budget and time progress, helping project managers identify if the project is on track or facing delays. We also looked into methods for managing unexpected issues and keeping the project aligned with the original plan.

Application in Real Projects: These concepts are valuable for real projects, where clear planning and regular progress checks are essential. Using WBS and resource planning helps organize tasks and allocate resources efficiently, especially in large projects. EVM can provide an early warning when a project starts to veer off track, helping to prevent overspending or delays. These methods ensure that projects are more predictable and manageable.

Peer Interactions: Interacting with peers provided practical insights, especially around the challenges of maintaining accurate baselines in EVM. One peer shared a story about a project delay that increased costs due to the extra resources required, which highlighted the importance of precise planning. Our group discussions also covered handling task dependencies, which improved my understanding of how tasks can affect each other in a project schedule.

Challenges Faced: I found it challenging to fully understand the calculations involved in EVM, as it requires detailed data on both planned and actual progress. Estimating task

duration and resource needs accurately was also a challenge, as even small errors here can affect the project's overall timeline and cost.

Personal Development Activities: To strengthen my understanding, I reviewed additional material on EVM and practiced creating WBS and Gantt charts for better project visualization. These exercises helped me get more comfortable with breaking down tasks and tracking their progress.

Goals for the Next Week: Next week, I want to focus on developing my skills in risk management, especially learning how to anticipate and prepare for potential project risks. Additionally, I plan to work on understanding resource utilization metrics to better allocate resources and avoid overuse or underuse in future projects.