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**Course:** Software Project Management (SOEN 6841)

**Journal URL:**<https://github.com/shahyesha/SOEN6841_SPM>

**Dates Range of activities:** 6th October 2024 to 26th October 2024

**Date of the journal:** 2nd November 2024

**Week 1**

**Key Concepts Learned**  
This week, I focused on core aspects of project management, including scope, timeline, and quality assurance. I learned how to create structured project plans and utilize a Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) to organize tasks. Configuration management was especially critical in maintaining consistency and control. Baselines were introduced as crucial reference points to monitor progress, while Earned Value Management (EVM) offered insights into tracking schedule and budget, making it easier to identify and address potential issues. Scope change management was emphasized as a way to handle project modifications without disrupting overall goals.

**Application in Real Projects**  
This week, I applied my learning to develop a Central Configuration Management System to manage version control and documents. This platform enabled effective quality assurance, enhancing project reliability and meeting stakeholder expectations. I integrated Agile methods to allow flexibility and foster teamwork, which helped focus on customer needs.

**Peer Interactions**  
I engaged with peers by completing Quiz 2 on Risk and Configuration Management, which deepened my understanding of risk factors. A consultation with the professor was helpful in clarifying areas of focus for the midterm exam.

**Challenges Faced**  
Balancing project tasks with midterm preparations was a significant challenge, requiring careful time management. Additionally, scope management involved ongoing adjustments to align deliverables with project requirements, emphasizing the importance of managing expectations and refining goals.

**Personal Development Activities**  
To reinforce my learning, I reviewed Chapter 6 independently and examined case studies on configuration management in software projects. By analysing successful project management cases from PMI, I gained practical insights into effective strategies that I can apply in future projects.

**Week 2**

**Key Concepts Learned**  
In the second week, I expanded my knowledge on project monitoring and control, distinguishing between monitoring processes and control actions to ensure data accuracy. I focused on Earned Value Analysis (EVA) for evaluating project performance, which offers insights into financial and schedule health. I also explored more in-depth methods of scope change management, reinforcing the need for structured processes to accommodate changes without compromising the project.

**Application in Real Projects**  
Continuing from the previous week, I implemented project monitoring systems to track baseline progress, conducting regular meetings to address any deviations. I also used EVA to assess project performance, comparing planned, earned, and actual costs to detect budget variances and enable proactive adjustments.

**Peer Interactions**  
This week, peer discussions were essential for clarifying difficult topics. I joined group sessions to exchange study resources and quiz each other on important concepts, which helped deepen my understanding and retain key information.

**Challenges Faced**  
Scheduling conflicts with team members required strong communication to coordinate effectively. Managing time between academic tasks and project duties during the midterm period continued to be a challenge, reinforcing the importance of prioritization.

**Personal Development Activities**  
I continued exploring project management resources, including textbooks, online tutorials, and articles on effective management strategies. Reviewing these materials from sources like Slingshot’s blog provided additional insights into managing successful projects.

**Goals for the Next Week**  
Next week, my primary focus will be midterm preparation with daily review sessions on software project management fundamentals. I will also keep up with assigned readings to expand my understanding of advanced project management techniques and begin preparing for a collaborative poster presentation, coordinating with my team to deliver an impactful and well-organized presentation.