**Learning Journal Template**

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**Course:** SOEN 6841 Software Project Management

**Journal URL:**

**Dates Rage of activities:** 6thOct – 1stNov

**Date of the journal:** 1stOctober 2024

**Key Concepts Learned**

**Chapter 6:**

I learned what is software project planning and how to effectively set up project goal and project organization in software project planning. Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) illustrates a strategy to break down a project into smaller tasks and it can help us to easier to do the project scheduling, project budgeting, cost, time, effort, manpower, communication plan and quality plan. Also, there are two ways to do the project scheduling, they are top down and bottom-up planning. First, the top-down planning is to define the overall project timeline, then estimate and assign time of tasks. Second one is estimates time from the smaller tasks first, and sum up all the time of the tasks.

**Chapter 7:**

I learned the project monitoring and control to be tracked as the work on project progresses. S-curve and Earned Value Analysis to provide a structured approach to managing project health. First, the Earned Value Management (EVM) can measure both schedule and budget progress for any project, but it requires actual start and end dates and maintain accurate baseline. Second, cost, schedule, scope, quality, time, quality, contracts are under control. Third, the steps to design a project monitoring and control plan are establish baselines, monitor and measure performance, compare performance to baselines and take corrective action.

**Application in Real Projects:**

The knowledge gained from these chapters has significant implications for real-world projects. In our Virtual Wedding Planning Concierge project, I can now implement a structured approach to design a comprehensive project planning and project monitor plan. For instance, we could use the WBS to structure tasks will allow better estimation and resource allocation. The EVM technique will assist us in monitoring budget and timeline adherence, which is crucial for the success of our project during high-traffic seasons. Furthermore, implementing a control system to adjust tasks based on changing requirements or unexpected challenges will enable us to achieve our goals while maintaining quality.

**Peer Interactions:**

We discussed the significance of resource allocation and the difficulties it can present in practical projects. We considered the example of a customer reducing the scope of a project, which highlighted the importance of task assignment based on skills and availability. This discussion enhanced my comprehension of the impact of planning on project outcomes.

**Challenges Faced:**

One of the main challenges I faced was applying EVM metrics to our project's cost structure, given the involvement of variable costs that fluctuate in response to seasonal demand, proved to be a challenging undertaking. The balancing of task dependencies and the management of slack time to avoid delays also presented a significant hurdle, particularly when attempting to align with the critical path method. These complexities served to underscore the necessity for adaptive scheduling in dynamic projects.

**Personal development activities:**

For configuration management, I've begun exploring various project management tools available in the market. I'm currently working the project through Trello to apply the planning and control techniques discussed in Chapters 6 and 7. This practical exposure is significantly enhancing my understanding of task scheduling, dependencies, and budget tracking, and its importance.

**Goal for the Next Week:**

First, develop a comprehensive WBS and S-curve for our Virtual Wedding Planning Concierge project, to improve task clarity and practicing EVM calculations on smaller tasks to better understand its application. Second, Discuss with my teammates about adopting EVM and S-curve in our projects. And preview the chapter 8 of "Software Engineering: A Practitioner's Approach" by Roger S. Pressman to gain a better understanding in the class and write a summary of what I learned in next week.