Learning Journal 4

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Course: SOEN 6841 (Software Project Management)

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Dates Rage of activities: 22/02/2025 – 16/03/2025

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Key Concepts Learned:	Application in Real Projects:	Peer Interactions:	Challenges Faced:	Personal development activities:	Goals for the Next Week:
Project monitoring involves assessing whether the software development process is going according to plan by measuring against planned and actual metric. The project's budget used, schedule, work done and quality are assessed. Not performing frequent monitoring may lead to the failure of the project as it no longer meets the customer's expectation.	Monitoring a project is the first step to ensure control of issues and risks. The kind of metrics measurable is determined by the software process maturity. More mature a software, better monitoring and better control and ultimately determines the success of the project. First step is data collection where the data has to be accurate and meaningful.	Discussed with one of my classmates who was a project manager about how monitoring is done. They mentioned that it is done at decided intervals.	No challenge faced.	Read a case study and understood in depth how necessary is project monitoring to a project.	Read the text book, try to answer the book back exercises.
Project control refers to the required action taken when there is a deviation between actual and planned cost/budget, work done, schedule or quality. Prerequisite of control is project planning and monitoring. Different techniques like remove gaps from critical path tasks can be used.	Control is time sensitive. More the delay, more impact and cost it takes to recover and to put the project back on track. It ends up cancelling the project at times. Timely feedback is also important to ensure all parties involved are also aware of the progression.	Discussed with a classmate, regarding how important project control is and how it is done within a project in an organization.	Had trouble understanding scheduling tasks using gaps helped resolve task conflict.	Read how critical path is used to monitor and control different aspects of progress.	Read the text book and try to answer the book back exercises.
Project closure involves steps that are executed when the project is coming to an end. It includes assessing whether everything in project went according to a plan, archiving project data, lessons learnt and releasing unused	Closure fosters continuous improvement of the software project execution by finding areas to work on so that the future projects will not undergo the same problems. This step does not directly affect the software product but may	Discussed with my classmate who was a project manager about how closure is implemented in real projects. Documentation of analysis is very important at this stage.	Difficulty to understand how releasing software resources (tools, licences) worked in	Read more on the topic, read a use case scenario, used ChatGPT as well to further the	Read the text book and try to answer the book back exercises.

resources. Each artifact projected is assessed and evaluated to improve future software projects.	help improve future products.		real life projects	understanding.	
Lessons learnt facilitate better ways of doing a task, areas to improve on, figure out what went wrong, better negotiation with customers and what techniques worked better than others. It helps assess risks that were handled better than others and what contingency or mitigation plan worked best for a risk.	Lessons learnt are formulated by assessing different versions of artifacts produced in project lifetime. Software measurements, analysis and visualization techniques can be used to form lessons learnt. These are then archived and can be referred to during future projects to improve decision making.	No particular peer interactions done.	No challenge faced.	Lessons learnt is an important concepts to better deliver a project based on common sense knowledge and understanding.	Read the text book and try to answer the book back exercises.

Final Reflections

Overall Course Impact:
The study of project monitoring and control has deepened my understanding of how oversight ensures software projects remain on track. The importance of measuring key metrics namely budget, schedule, work done, and quality to prevent project failures is studied. The emphasis on frequent monitoring and timely control measures ensured how software maturity affects the ability to monitor and correct deviations effectively. Learning about project control reinforced that early intervention is crucial. I now recognize that delays in taking corrective action increase the cost and effort required to recover. The concept of lessons learned has reshaped my approach to project execution making me more mindful of ensuring best practices.

Application in Professional Life:
The knowledge gained will be highly applicable in a professional setting. The topic of project monitoring taught me the methods to identify issues before they escalate. Effective project closure is done by archiving data and along with lessons learnt, I can contribute to improving project execution once in the workforce. I understand that instead f relying solely on intuition, I should use software measurement and visualization techniques to inform my decisions.

Peer Collaboration Insights:
The interactions I had with my peers solidified and strengthened my knowledge with the help of practical insights in a working project covering the topic of project monitoring, project closure, project control and lessons learnt. The interactions made it easier to grasp the key concepts of the topic mentioned above.

Personal Growth:
I learnt on various software project management topic, and understood that creation and management of software is extremely complex. I look forward to learn more topics on the same so that I am better equipped to handle real like software applications.