Learning Journal – Week 3

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Course: SOEN-6841 Software Project Management

Journal URL: https://github.com/Anuja-Somthankar/SOEN-6841-Software-Project-Management/blob/53fd3bd037ee32b74efb15f345c38e6ada41128b/Learning%20Journal/Learning%20Journal%20-%20Week%203.pdf

Week 3: 4th February, 2024 to 10th February, 2024

Date: 9th February, 2024

Key Concepts Learned:
This week we began with the concept of Risk in a software project. We learnt what kind of risks are faced in software development project, what impact it may have on it, and how to deal/what strategies can be followed to avoid such risks.

In software project management (SPM), risk refers to the likelihood of encountering events or situations that could have a negative impact on the project's objectives, such as meeting deadlines, staying within budget, or delivering the desired functionality. Risks can arise from various sources, including technical challenges, scope changes, resource constraints, and external dependencies. Hence risk assessment, which includes identification, analysis and prioritization, along with management is very important.

Risk control includes planning, resolution and monitoring of any sudden risks. These can be dealt using strategies like Risk mitigation, avoidance, acceptance and transference. In SPM, risk management is a balancing act, according to the reference book, as no project is risk free.

Application in Real Projects:
For software project managers to recognize, evaluate, and reduce possible risks to the project's success, risk management is essential. It guarantees preemptive actions to deal with problems including scope modifications, resource limitations, and technological difficulties. Teams can improve decision-making, reduce project disruptions, and increase overall project predictability by foreseeing and managing risks. This methodology cultivates a robust project environment, mitigates ambiguities, and provides protection against any obstacles so helping in the punctual delivery of quality software products while sticking to budgetary constraints. In the end, successful risk management fosters the confidence of project stakeholders and successful software development results.

For example, in a software project, a risk could be found to be the sudden resignation of a key team member. Learning about this potential threat, evaluating how it will affect

deadlines and deliverables, and creating a backup plan—like cross-training team members or having a backup resource on hand—are all part of the risk management process. By taking a proactive position, the team may reduce the possibility of project disruptions or delays and sustain the project's progress by being able to adjust to unforeseen events.

Peer Interactions:
We had to submit the Problem Identification document and Market Analysis document. Hence the work for the project and its discussion went ahead with full speed this week, where we discussed how to what gaps are there in the Intelligent Tutoring system industry, and how we can fulfill that gap with a software solution. We decided on the unique selling points of our project and identified the customer base and the stakeholders for the same. Finally, we wrote the report after brainstorming and submitted it.

Challenges Faced:
The challenge faced in this week was two-fold. One was related to the project where I had difficulty thinking about a unique selling point for the product. After a lot of discussion and brainstorming, we finally came up with a feasible idea that we were satisfied with.

The second challenge faced was with respect to the course work. The concept of Risk strategy and where which strategy should be applied is an important part of this chapter. Understanding all the strategies like acceptance, transference, avoidance and mitigation, along with their applications proved to be difficult to understand. Understanding real life examples helped me figure out where the strategies must be applied.

Personal development activities:
This week, individually, I studied chapter 4 through the presentations and the reference book provided and finished the exercises given for chapter 4 within the reference book. I also researched heavily on current products and features in intelligent tutoring system domain for the project and contributed to the writing of the problem identification and market analysis report for the project.

Goals for the Next Week:
In the upcoming week, I plan to tackle the 3rd report to be submitted for the project, and also work on the pitch presentation for the project. Along with this, I plan on studying chapter 5 and 6, to catch up with lectures, and also revise the previous chapter if time permits as exams are coming up.