

## Learning Journal 3

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**Course:** Software Project management

**Journal URL:** <https://github.com/DarCyStorm/SOEN-6841-Course/tree/main/Journal>

**Week 3:** 4 Feb 2024 – 10 Feb 2024

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### Key Concepts Learned:

Last week because of the lack of time for the midterm exam the course materials were more than in previous weeks, so I will briefly talk about chapters 5 and 6 separately to mention what I learned during the past week.

Over the past week, my exploration into the world of configuration management systems in software projects has been both enlightening and eye-opening. Through extensive readings and engaging class discussions, I have come to understand the vital importance of these systems. What stood out to me the most was their ability to guarantee the precise maintenance and availability of different work product versions, including source code builds, for all members of a project team. This leads us to the central inquiry: "What exactly is the function of a configuration management system in the context of a software project?" As I delved further into the topic, I discovered that version control plays a crucial role in the success of source code builds. With frequent check-ins from developers throughout the day, a lack of proper control can result in defects and failures during the build process. This realization emphasizes the necessity of implementing robust configuration management systems to minimize potential risks. As I reflected on the project, I came to understand the crucial role of a seamless and efficient approach to managing project tasks such as storing, retrieving, modifying, and eliminating work products and documents. This realization sparked an important question: how can we effectively implement a configuration management system for future projects? As I contemplated these lessons, I realized that configuration management systems serve a greater purpose beyond just managing configuration and versions. They serve as reliable guardians and sources of crucial project knowledge.

Over the past week, I also put my focus on the vital stage of project planning within software projects. Through this experience, I have come to understand the indisputable importance of proper planning in effectively managing the multitude of intricate tasks inherent in larger projects. In contrast to traditional project management practices such as waterfall, wherein detailed project plans are a must, agile and iterative projects offer more flexibility while still placing importance on planning. Plans remain a crucial component, particularly when dealing with specific iteration criteria. An all-encompassing project plan encompasses numerous elements that oversee a wide range of areas including communication, resource allocation, quality control, supplier management, configuration, and technology utilization. In my quest to create effective project plans, I have explored a variety of methods such as Gantt charts, network diagrams, PERT/CPM charts, earned value management, and Goldratt's critical chain method. Understanding and incorporating the specific demands of these techniques during project planning is vital for achieving success.

**Peer Interactions:**

Gradually, as we progress along the project path, I get to know more about the ethics and thinking of my teammates and understand each other's content more. In the first week, after the groups were determined, I had some stress in my relationship with my teammates because the teams were determined by the professor, but as time passed and the meetings I had with my teammates, I realized that the people in the group are very responsible and They support each other, which is one of the strengths of our team.

On the other hand, in the part of gathering the data needed for our project, I had to interview different people to discover the existing problems. At first, my questions were not precise, and I didn't get the answers I needed, but after a few cases, I was able to develop the ability to get clearer answers with more precise questions.

**Challenges Faced:**

In the past week, my focus was on the lesson project, which is why we faced various challenges. The first challenge was that the topic of the project was given in a way that included many different topics. Our topic was such that after the research we did with our fellow group members, we realized that if we wanted to design all the found items in software, we would provide an irrelevant set of facilities, so the challenge with What we faced was to categorize the issues we had found and determine the main core of our project in such a way that it includes the most problems and situations so that the coherence of the project and its unity are not lost.

On the other hand, another challenge we faced was preparing the project report. In this section, we had prepared our data, but it needed to be edited and adjusted so that our final project would be a standard and suitable format for the audience. I suggested the LaTeX platform according to my prior knowledge of it, which was welcomed by my peers. but the challenge I had was that I was responsible for the final adjustment and preparation of the report, which required me to learn how to use the available and required features of this platform for our project and prepare the final report.

**Personal development activities:**

As I said in the challenges section this week, after the group decision, the goal was to implement and design the final report using the LaTeX platform. In the last semester, we got some familiarity with this platform through one of my classes, and I saw the opportunity to use it in this project as well. Therefore, I became responsible for getting to know more about this platform and getting to know more about its capabilities. In my opinion, this platform can help me to design texts regularly, which will help me a lot in the future. So, I consider this learning as an improvement for me to both deliver the project in a better way and add it to one of my capabilities that I can take advantage of.

**Collaborative Learning \ Course Project:**

Last week, my focus was on finalizing the first part of the project, so my teammates and I had various meetings. The path we chose for our project in the past weeks was to find all the weak points and problems for the existing software, considering that the topic given to us is vast, and then check them for the result. In this past week, in our meetings, after reviewing all the ideas, we concluded that our topic includes the three main parts of health, wellness, and mental health, and considering that exercise and nutrition are closely related to each other, we came to this

conclusion. We managed to define the problem for our project in a way that can cover the field of health and nutrition and add mental health as a supporting part of our application. In the market analysis section, each of the team members extracted different existing software from different angles such as the cost of use or the problems of users in using it and discussed with each other so that we could draw a clear and accurate picture of the competitors and the space available in the market for our project. After finalizing the decisions, we documented the ideas and prepared the first part of the project.

#### **Further Research/Readings:**

In last week because of our project and after sharing researching ways about our project topic with each other, we decided to increase our data about current marketplace and because of that I tended to do a little more research regarding our competitors and current application. For doing so I was searching and analysis current statistic of existing application in different ways. One of the best ways which I tried and found my answer was about investigating statistics which are provided by google play and app store which helps a lot about our project.

Furthermore, as I discussed in the section outlining the difficulties I encountered, I was deeply motivated to explore the intricacies of utilizing LaTeX as the foundation of our project report

#### **Adjustments to Goals:**

In last week I was planning to put my focus on the project which achieved very good, because me and my teammates put our attention on the project, and we arrange multiple meetings to gather up ideas and analysis which conducted regarding first deliverable of our project. We had two main part to work on which first one was about our project problem identification. After our initial meetings in past weeks, we decided to go and search the whole topic which was Health and Wellness App and by interviewing and market analysing find the potential problems and gaps which are currently exist in similar applications and come back with various ideas. After that we merged our ideas and documented them in our final report and assigned one of our teammates to confirm it before uploading.

#### **Goals for the Next Week:**

In the coming week, due to the upcoming midterm exam, I plan to focus on reviewing the previous course material (chapters 1-3) and preparing for the exam. Over the weekend, I'll cover Chapters 4-6 to prepare myself for more testing. This structured approach helps me manage my time effectively and ensure comprehensive coverage of all relevant topics.