**Learning Journal 2**

**Student Name:** Weichen Wan

**Course:** SOEN 6841 Software Project Management

**Journal URL:** https://github.com/HWJFish/Software-Project-Management-Learning-Journal

**Dates Rage of activities:** Sept. 22nd-Oct.5th

**Date of the journal:** Oct.4th

**Week 22nd-28th**

Key Concepts Learned:

In this week, the topic covered in the lecture is risk management, which includes topics like risk categories, risk identification, qualitative assessment, risk exposure, risk response strategies (acceptance, avoidance, transference and mitigation), and RRL. I have learned how to identify risks, evaluate risks and respond to risks.

Application in Real Projects:

Risks are very common in real world projects. We can use knowledge about risks learnt in class to identify risks, estimate the potential effects of risks and choose proper risk response strategies to prevent project failure. For example, we can make prototypes to reduce the possibility of making the final program unsatisfied by stakeholders.

Peer Interactions:

In this week, I discussed different risk response strategies with my peers. We have discussed the difference between risk avoidance and mitigation. We have also discussed how the people’s risk affects our previous projects and how should we try to respond to similar situations by avoiding assigning critical tasks to a single team member.

Challenges Faced:

As a student who doesn’t have much paid experience, I find it is difficult to try to apply some of the risk response strategies since lots some of these strategies are not really feasible in student project teams and we have to accept these risks sometime. For example, outsourcing is not available in student project teams most of the time and we cannot push deadlines most of the time.

Personal Development Activities:

To have a better understanding of the risk related topic in real-world situations, I spent some time to learn how large companies like Microsoft handle risks in software projects. This process involved exploring their risk management methodologies, learning how they identify, assess, and prioritize risks, and how they implement mitigation strategies to minimize potential impacts.

Goals for the Next Week:

My goals for the next week are to have more risk management case studies to practice how to identify risks and choose proper risk response strategies. This hands-on practice will strengthen my ability to make informed decisions in risk management for future software projects.

**Week of 29th – Oct 5th**

Key Concepts Learned:

This week, I focused on configuration management from Chapter 5. The slides emphasized the critical role of configuration management in controlling changes, managing software versions, and ensuring system stability. Key functions like configuration control and status accounting are necessary to track changes and maintain quality as the project evolves.

Application in Real Projects:

The case study showed how managing multiple vendors and guest lists in a wedding planning platform can become chaotic without proper version control. Applying the lessons from the slides, I realized that using configuration management in such a project would ensure that real-time updates and changes happen without disrupting other features​.

Peer Interactions:

During our team discussions, we talked about how the configuration management strategies from the slides could help streamline updates and ensure that vendors and guest features are always accurate and up to date.

Challenges Faced:

One challenge I encountered was understanding how to implement configuration management effectively in a fast-paced project where frequent changes are expected. It’s clear that having a proper system for version control and change tracking is necessary, but applying it in the context of the wedding platform, with so many moving parts and stakeholders, can be complex. Additionally, managing the stakeholders' concerns, such as ensuring data security and providing real-time updates, added another layer of complexity​.

Personal Development Activities:

This week, I also focused on improving my skills in Jira, particularly in using it for managing changes and version control. I learned how to create and manage tasks related to configuration management, ensuring that all changes are properly tracked and documented in Jira. This practice helped reinforce the importance of version control and tracking for our project.

Goals for the Next Week:

Next week, I plan to explore more detailed examples from the slides, particularly focusing on configuration control, and work on applying these principles to our project’s real-time vendor collaboration feature​.