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Seminar 4 Preparation (Activity 2)

Course: MSc Computer Science

Module: Software Engineering Project Management

Assignment: ePortfolio

Date: Monday 21st February 2022

Student ID: 126853

Main Risks Identified & Frameworks to Use:

Post:

Verner et al. (2014) have stated that the traditional risks to software development are Communication issues, Poor change controls (scope creep), Lack of business knowledge and Failure to consider all costs. When compared with the traditional SDLC model, these risks could often be attributed to the Requirement Analysis, Planning and Design phases.

Through a comprehensive risk management strategy, the likelihood and severity of the above risks occurring could be massively reduced. A conventional risk assessment methodology could be easily adapted to demonstrate these risks.

References:

Verner, M., Brereton, P., Kitchenham, A., Turner, M. & Niazi, M. (2014) Risks and risk mitigation in global software development: A tertiary study. *Information and Software Technology* 56(1):54–78.

Screenshot:

Post:

Lack of Business Knowledge is a common risk within Software Engineering projects, as shown in the research paper by Verner et al. (2014). In cases where the project team are not familiar with the practices and behaviour of a business, some of the tasks identified within the project scoping exercises could be misunderstood and therefore implemented in a fashion that could be considered incorrect.

The likelihood of this risk occurring could be reduced by having a member of the 'client organisation' present within the development team, or having in-depth discussions at the start of the project planning phase to identify any business-specific items.

References:

Verner, M., Brereton, P., Kitchenham, A., Turner, M. & Niazi, M. (2014) Risks and risk mitigation in global software development: A tertiary study. *Information and Software Technology* 56(1):54–78.

Screenshot:

Lack of Business Knowledge

Post:

As Sergio has briefly mentioned above, Scope Creep can often be influenced by the development teams intention of continual development to achieve a perfect product, although this may not have been an aspect covered in the initial product scope. In general, adequate planning at the start of the project with confirmed expectations should help assist the chance of scope creep.

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Scope Creep

This term refers to a project that goes beyond the scope, growing without control, causing cost and time issues. It is a risk associated with complex projects that is more common in Global Software Development or off-shore. Some causes can include difficulty communicating effectively between team members or with the client, lack of management experience and bad design.

One way to mitigate this risk is to use an experienced team for the task, clearly defining the project scope from the beginning, involving all the stakeholders to avoid or reduce misunderstandings.

▸ Comments (3)

Doug Millward - Mon, 31 Jan 2022, 1:32 PM
Thanks for this post - if you didn't have an experienced team how else would you mitigate this element of the risk of scope creep?

Sergio Rafael Zavarce Caldera - Sat, 19 Feb 2022, 4:35 PM
One way to decrease scope creep chances is involving end-users so that they can participate from the beginning in communicating their requirements and giving feedback on deployed features.

Another measure is to work on developers and stakeholders education. It is critical to make sure that team members know exactly the scope of the project and the time available for each task. This approach helps to avoid Gold Plating. This term is related to features or improvements that the team add to achieve perfection, even though they have not been required by the users. These features can cause delays or increase project complexity, thus creating scope creep, and there is no guarantee that they will increase customer satisfaction.

Kieron Holmes - Mon, 21 Feb 2022, 2:51 PM
As Sergio has briefly mentioned above, Scope Creep can often be influenced by the development teams intention of continual development to achieve a perfect product, although this may not have been an aspect covered in the initial product scope. In general, adequate planning at the start of the project with confirmed expectations should help assist the chance of scope creep.