**Student Name: Hongwu Li**

**Course:** SOEN 6841

**Journal URL:** https://github.com/LeeELIOT/SOEN-6841

**Dates Rage of activities:** January 27th - February 8th

**Date of the journal:** February 8th

**Key Concepts Learned:**

1. For Chapter 4, I studied **risk management in software project management**, which made me realize how critical it is to anticipate and address uncertainties in projects. The definition of risk as a combination of probability and negative impact helped me understand that **even small risks can escalate if it’s being ignored**. Furthermore, risks are also categorized into technical, legal, economic, and other domains. It could highlight that different projects require distinct risk focuses.

Another big part is **risk assessment** that consists of identification, analysis and prioritization, which could clarify potential risks and their probability of happening and how big the effect could be. What is also important is **different strategies of risk controlling** (Acceptance, Avoidance, Transfer, Mitigation). Each of them is appropriate in different scenarios.

1. As for Chapter 5, it’s about **configuration management,** which is a process that runs with project development. It also introduces **the information that configuration management system includes**, such as project name, time stamp, document number, document type…, which is utilized by the whole development team. To my mind, what matters is that good configuration system should **ensure that the project is manageable and work properly**, which also includes information security and cyber security. The strategies of successfully utilizing configuration management are also mentioned, which are centralized control, secure access, continuous integration, branching for different versions, and so on.

**Application in Real Projects:**

1. For Chapter 4, It gives me the idea of **how I controlled risks intentionally or unintentionally and how risks could be managed more systematically**. During a university group project, our team intended to develop a web-based system, whose architecture and framework needs to be decided first. Part of us had experience of Vue and SpringBoot, so we chose techniques that we are familiar with to avoid risks. According to this, I realize **how crucial it is to conduct risk management to keep project constructive and on track**. Because real-life projects are surrounded by various risks, everyone has conducted risk management whether they are aware of it or not. Therefore, it’s necessary to put risks on the table and **implement systematical strategy** to deal with them so that their influence could be mitigated as much as possible.
2. For Chapter 5, what captured my attention was **the idea of organizing teamwork**. In my first project, our team all edited the same code files and talked about updates in the dorm room. The project went problematic because some features vanished and bugs we fixed came back, and ultimately no one knew what is our final version. **Using version control system like GitHub** could prevent all those problems, which could indicate how important configuration management is. Therefore, the processes of version control, basic documentation, and clear communication are part of configuration management, **which could make project progress with elegance and efficiency.**

**Peer Interactions:**

We formed a discord group chat and set an appointment to meet at the library to talk about project pitches and details about out project. There still might be ambiguity of the details, and that’s why discussion is needed. We are also applying knowledge we learnt from the courses to our project.

**Challenges Faced:**

I can relate this part of knowledge to some of my work experience, while it could be a little abstract without experience or practice of playing a role of actually leading risk management in large-scale projects. Because conducting effective risk management activities requires much experience of dealing with uncertainties.

**Personal development activities:**

I’m currently researching domains that LLMs could be helpful and the trends in AI industry nowadays. Other than that, I’m also working on project management learning and go through documentations of the previous projects I participated to see if I could find examples that explains the knowledge.

**Goals for the Next Week:**

Read chapter 6 and 7 in advance and make summaries for these two chapters. Since we have figured out the general idea of our project, our team need to discuss further about our project’s detail and how to initiate it.