Learning Journal for Week 04

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Course: Software Project Management

Journal URL: https://github.com/SayeedSanjana/SOEN6841

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Key Concepts Learned:

This week we discussed the need of configuration management in software projects, including proper storage, access, and version control. In class, we also talked about the challenges of managing several versions of a project and the benefits of a centralized approach. Furthermore, after reading the book, I realized that continuous integration, role-based access control, and auditing are essential components of software configuration management. Here are some of the important components I've learned: Configuration Management is an important procedure in project lifecycle management that involves storing, archiving, identifying, retrieving, and releasing work products and information items. It employs version control to prevent errors and ensure development integrity. Continuous integration is a practice of integrating new code with existing builds to detect issues early. A centralized system saves project artifacts, whereas a decentralized system has separate systems for each team, resulting in inconsistencies and challenges with version control. Automated smoke testing ensures compatibility with old builds. Incremental iteration development is a software development methodology in which software is produced incrementally. Security procedures safeguard the system against unwanted access or hacking. Versioning assigns distinct identities to different versions to facilitate tracking and retrieval. Artifact management oversees the many projects documentation, software builds, testing plans, and other artifacts created during the development process.

Application in Real Projects:

The concepts I acquired in week one may be applied to real-world projects by understanding project initiation, project management, project planning and monitoring, and project closure. Budgeting, resource allocation, and scheduling are all crucial components of launching a project in the real world. Thus, by employing the concept of suitable project management, seeing the whole picture of the project, and having well-defined and precise project scope and objectives, we may overcome the challenges and produce a software product with minimal effort and cost. Implementing effective project management practices can help overcome a range of challenges in the software business, such as communication issues and team relationships. Applications for risk reduction, project integrity, and timely and cost-effective delivery of high-quality software.

Furthermore, risk management is essential for identifying and mitigating potential project issues, making sound decisions, and enhancing project success rates. Software Configuration Management guarantees code consistency, encourages collaboration, and enables efficient version

control and recovery approaches. Both are crucial in real-world applications for mitigating risks, preserving project integrity, and delivering high-quality software on schedule and within budget.

Peer Interactions:

In our group conversations, we talked about designing a smart learning chatbot that can cater to each student's specific needs. We discussed what different stakeholders, such as kids, instructors, parents, and school administrators, would expect from such a tool. We also investigated what similar items are presently available and how we could make ours stand out. We came up with ideas such as tailored learning paths and fast feedback features. We also underlined the need of making the chatbot available on several devices and ensuring that teachers feel supported in utilizing it properly. These discussions paved the way for our first deliverable 1.

We also made a pitch for our project this week. So, to present our proposal to the class, we interacted with one another within our group. So, before pitching our concept to the class, we communicated with each other in our group and discussed how the chatbot we are going to build will be unique and beneficial to everyone, particularly teachers and kids. We spoke about how we could design it such that it adapts to each student's needs and makes learning easier and more enjoyable. We also researched what others were doing and made sure ours stood out. We also completed some market research so that we could highlight it in our pitch to demonstrate how our product differs from other similar products on the market.

Challenges Faced:

This week was a learning curve because I encountered new concepts in class that required further review to fully comprehend. Furthermore, this week we had to present our first deliverable. The initial phase of the project was not difficult, but the market analysis appears to be more difficult. Despite the challenges, this experience has given me valuable insights into the complexities of software project management and improved my problem-solving abilities when negotiating complex assignments in a team setting. In addition, we have a project pitch this week. So, pitching it in front of the entire class was a little intimidating for me, but the experience was fantastic since we got to hear proposals from other groups and it offered us a new opportunity to improve our awareness of multiple perspectives, fostering empathy and collaboration. It provides for a more diverse exchange of ideas and encourages inclusivity throughout the class.

Personal development activities:

As part of my own development, I studied a few publications on current trends in software project management. Reviewing the case study from class to obtain practical insights into how effectively integrating various project management approaches contributes to the creation of an excellent software solution.

Goals for the Next Week:

We will have our midterm the following week. So, I need to go over the chapters again. Along with prepping for the midterm, I will meet with my team members to discuss deliverable 2. In the first deliverable, we completed our project beginning and market analysis. We also made a proposal for our project this week. So next week, we'll meet as a team to review the feature feasibility of our

project. Furthermore, we will explore solution proposals and strive to build a project plan. If we have time, we try to talk about risk assessment and budgeting for our project.