

Learning Journal

Student Name: Shalvi Saxena

Course: Software Project Management [SOEN 6841]

Journal URL: <https://github.com/Shalvi-Saxena/SPM-Journal>

Week 3: Feb 03 - Feb 10

Date: 08 Feb 2024

Key Concepts Learned:

This week began with a review of last week's lessons on project initiation activities, focusing on aspects such as project scope, project charter, and project objectives. Additionally, I delved into:

1. Understanding internal and external risks and their potential causes.
2. Identifying major risk factors including poor negotiation, budget and quality constraints, lack of interest, resource availability issues, attrition, and scope creep.
3. Exploring risk categories such as budget, time, resources, and quality, and learning how to construct and maintain a project risk matrix considering risk category, probability, and impact.
4. Recognizing the need for a balancing act in project execution, understanding that no project can adhere entirely to the initial plan. Project managers must navigate uncertainties and make informed decisions.
5. Recognizing risks stemming from numerous project requirements, including extended gestation periods, significant upfront commitments, and high management costs.
6. Understanding the risks associated with the waterfall model and exploring how they can be mitigated or eliminated through iterative models.
7. Recognizing the outcomes of risk management planning, including the creation of a comprehensive **risk management document** outlining identified risks, their impacts, probabilities, and proposed mitigation measures.

Reflections on Case Study/course work:

Important insights were provided by the case study by the SaaS Vendor's Risk Management are -

- 1. Early Risk Identification:** Crucial for proactive mitigation strategies.
- 2. Proactive Mitigation:** Key to addressing challenges like offshore team viability and communication gaps.

3. Adaptability and Flexibility: Essential for responding to dynamic project environments.

4. Quality Assurance Priority: Emphasised through regular reviews to ensure high-quality deliverables.

5. Team Collaboration and Communication: Vital for effective risk management across distributed teams.

6. Continuous Improvement: Reflecting on challenges and refining strategies for better outcomes.

Application in Real Projects:

The concepts we've covered are highly valuable in practical project scenarios. Risk analysis and management strategies are crucial as they allow for the identification, analysis, and mitigation of challenges that may jeopardize a project's success. These concepts underscore the significance of preemptively planning resources, budget, and time. Having risk management strategies readily available, particularly for projects with high probabilities and impacts, ensures smooth project execution even amid uncertainty.

Peer Interactions/ Collaborative Learning:

During this week, I connected with my group, and together, we thoroughly discussed the project. We allocated subtasks based on each person's capabilities. I proactively organised collaboration sessions and shared insights from the market analysis research with my team.

Challenges faced:

Although I didn't face any major obstacles, I experienced some confusion while implementing Function Point Analysis, mainly because of its complex steps and weighting system. To address this, I turned to relevant literature, consulting the book to gain a clearer understanding. Additionally, I sought clarification by visualizing the process through an example, which helped me enhance my comprehension of the concept.

Further Research/Readings:

I'm eager to explore the suggested readings listed as 1 and 12 in Chapter 3 of the book titled "Software Project Management in Practice" by P. Jalote (2002), published by Addison-Wesley Professional, Boston, MA, and "Quality Software Project Management" by R. T. Futrell, D. F. Shafer, L. I. Shafer (2002), published by Prentice Hall PTR, Upper Saddle River, NJ.

Adjustment to Goals:

I intended to finish chapters 4 and 5, but I couldn't complete chapter 5 due to other priorities. For next week, my goal is to finish chapters 5 and 6 and proceed with the next steps of the project.