

## Final Learning Journal

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**Course:** Software Project Management

**Journal URL:** <https://github.com/arextron/SPM---Journals.git>

**Dates Range of activities:** 8<sup>th</sup> November to 20<sup>th</sup> November

**Date of the journal:** 20<sup>th</sup> November

### Key Learning Outcomes

#### 1. Project Initiation and Planning:

- Key Concepts: SMART goals, project charter, scope management, risk prioritization, and estimation techniques like COCOMO II and FPA.
- Insights: Setting clear, measurable goals and precise estimations are critical to reducing ambiguity and ensuring project success.
- Applications: Implemented SMART goals in real projects to define objectives and improve scope management.

#### 2. Risk Management:

- Key Concepts: Risk identification, assessment, and prioritization, as well as strategies like mitigation, transference, and acceptance.
- Insights: Combining qualitative and quantitative risk assessment improves decision-making.
- Applications: Prioritized risks in AI projects and used contingency plans for unforeseen challenges.

#### 3. Configuration and Change Management:

- Key Concepts: Configuration Identification, Control, and Auditing, and managing scope creep effectively.
- Insights: A robust change management policy is essential to prevent project chaos.
- Applications: Used tools like Git and Jenkins for efficient version control and CI/CD pipelines.

#### 4. Project Monitoring and Closure:

- Key Concepts: Earned Value Management (EVM), KPIs, variance analysis, and documenting lessons learned.
- Insights: EVM is a vital tool for tracking project performance against baselines.

- Applications: Applied EVM to manage costs and schedules effectively and conducted thorough project closures with documented lessons learned.

## 5. Software Lifecycle Management:

- Key Concepts: Waterfall vs. Iterative models, SCRUM, and quality assurance gates.
  - Insights: Flexibility in iterative models aligns better with dynamic projects, while quality gates ensure consistency.
  - Applications: Adopted SCRUM for incremental development in fast-paced environments.
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## Peer Interactions and Collaborative Growth

Throughout the course, peer interactions significantly enriched my learning:

- Engaged in discussions about risk management, version control, and estimation techniques.
  - Exchanged insights on handling uncontrolled changes, utilizing tools like JIRA and Trello.
  - Shared and received feedback on various project management strategies, enhancing my understanding and implementation skills.
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## Challenges Faced

- Risk Estimation for Emerging Technologies: The lack of historical data posed challenges in accurately estimating risks.
  - Balancing Quality and Timelines: It was often difficult to maintain high quality under tight deadlines.
  - Configuration Management: Ensuring team-wide adherence to version control standards required constant monitoring.
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## Personal Development and Future Goals

To address challenges and enhance my skills:

- **Development Activities:**
  - Practiced using project management tools like JIRA and Git.
  - Explored advanced topics like Goldratt's critical chain method and iterative development models.
  - Researched lessons learned documentation and SCRUM implementation.

- **Future Goals:**

- Integrate automated tools like Jenkins for project monitoring.
- Refine risk management strategies with real-time analytics.
- Strengthen expertise in SCRUM adaptations for varying project needs.

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## **Final Insights**

This course has been transformative, equipping me with essential skills for managing software projects effectively. The hands-on applications and reflections have deepened my understanding of balancing technical and managerial aspects in dynamic environments. Moving forward, I am confident in leveraging these learnings to tackle complex real-world challenges.