Learning Journal 2

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Course: SOEN 6841 Software Project Management

Journal URL: https://github.com/honey25s/Learning_Journals_SPM

Dates Rage of activities: 29 January, 2025 to 09 February, 2025

Date of the journal: 09 February, 2025

Key Concepts Learned:
This week, we learnt about Configuration Management and when we do it. We learnt about the benefits of doing SCM(Software Configuration Management). Along with this, we studied its purpose and four key functions: Configuration Identification, Configuration Control, Configuration Status Accounting and Configuration Auditing. We dived deep into these functions and studied more about all the processes included in these.
Additionally, we explored Project Planning, which is considered the most time-consuming project management activity. It involves multiple aspects such as project scheduling, project budgeting, resource planning, communication planning, quality planning and many more. We studied two primary approaches to project scheduling: top-down planning and bottom-up planning. We also learned how projects are broken down into smaller, manageable tasks using a Work Breakdown Structure (WBS). Then we understood the difference between Milestones and Deliverables. We saw some methods used in project planning like Goldratt's critical chain method, Activity bar(Gantt chart) and Staff allocation chart. Lastly, we had a detailed discussion of Project planning in different models during all the phases of the software lifecycle.

Application in Real Projects:

- Companies like Google and Microsoft, which utilize Perforce and Git to manage code changes, are examples of how effective Software Configuration Management (SCM) guarantees version control and seamless collaboration.
- In order for all stakeholders to have a common understanding of the project's goals, the majority of real-world projects begin with a Project Initiation phase, such as ERP implementations.
- WBS and Gantt charts are examples of effective resource allocation and project scheduling strategies that assist teams in meeting deadlines and staying on course. Examples are: Spotify uses Agile Gantt charts to track sprints, while NASA uses WBS for mission planning.

Peer Interactions:
I found the class discussion on the distinction between Deliverables and Milestones to be very helpful. I had a discussion on the importance of Configuration Management in large-scale software projects with my peers where I learnt about other configuration management software like Trello. We also had a discussion about Gantt chart and Pert chart

in the class and the pert chart was new to me. These conversations gave me a variety of views on configuration management and project management techniques.

Challenges Faced:
In Configuration management, understanding its key functions with so many insights was a little difficult at first as it was something very new to me.
As every software lifecycle model has a different method for scheduling and assigning tasks, understanding how project planning differs across these models was another difficulty.

Personal development activities:
To enhance my understanding of the topics covered this week, I completed supplementary readings from the professor's referred book on Software Project Management.
I did my research for Deliverables and Milestones on the internet and understood it better with examples.
I also looked into more online resources on Gantt chart and Pert chart as guided by the professor to deepen my expertise in project management activities. This helped me create a Gantt chart for my project in another course this week.

Goals for the Next Week:
- Learn about Configuration Auditing and its application in actual projects.
- Understanding Configuration Management's key functions and continuing exploring Jira and other widely used tools.
- Learn the difference in top-down planning and bottom-up planning as their definitions were quite similar.
- Learn more about the various models of the software development lifecycle and how they affect project planning.