

SOEN 6841 (Winter 2024)

Learning Journal

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Key Concepts Learned:

- Chapter 5:

- In Chapter 5, the focus was on Configuration Management (CM), which involves managing and documenting changes to a system. The chapter emphasized CM's crucial role in maintaining project discipline, discussing its significance as the foundation of a project. It covered sources of changes in software projects, risks associated with uncontrolled change, characteristics of an effective Configuration Management System (CMS), benefits of CM, and the key functions of Configuration Management such as identification, control, status accounting, and auditing.

- Chapter 6

- Moving to Chapter 6, the discussion centered on project planning, which was portrayed as a comprehensive process from concept to system delivery. The chapter outlined various components of project planning including project scheduling, budgeting, manpower planning, and quality planning. Techniques for project scheduling such as Work Breakdown Structure (WBS), Critical Path Method (CPM), and Goldratt's Critical Chain Method were explained. Additionally, the importance of communication planning and quality assurance for project success was highlighted, along with collaborative aspects of project planning and considerations for budgeting and goal adjustments based on progress and evolving understanding.

Reflections on Case Study/course work:

- Demonstrates practical application of centralized configuration management system in fostering collaboration across diverse teams (internal, external, and offshore).
- Validates version control best practices, emphasizing role of main branch in simplifying management and ensuring streamlined development process.
- Implementation of access rights control aligns with theoretical concepts, maintaining document integrity by granting specific permissions to authorized team members.
- Practice of developers maintaining local builds and running tests resonates with theoretical discussions, stressing importance of pre-check-in validation to minimize disruptions in central build.
- Escalation processes showcased mirror theoretical concepts of proactive issue resolution, ensuring prompt problem addressing to prevent prolonged disruptions.

Collaborative Learning:

- Took advantage of the opportunity to explore the intricacies of risk management strategies with the team, applying theoretical concepts discussed in class to real-world project scenarios.
- Identified practical challenges and refined risk assessment methods through this hands-on, real-time discussion.
- Active Participation enabled the exchange of different viewpoints on software development techniques and risk management, reinforcing theoretical concepts and broadening understanding of the various approaches to project execution.
- Active Participation has proven to be extremely valuable for the learning experience, improving the ability to navigate unpredictable project situations and nurturing an environment of collaboration and deep understanding.

Further Research/Readings:

- My goal is to explore how version control systems, notably Git, can be integrated with DevOps practices for a comprehensive understanding.
- I plan to examine version control systems such as Git to grasp their importance in CM.
- I look forward to acquiring practical insights into current industry standards for software development through forthcoming readings.

Adjustments to Goals:

- Proceed with the project initiation phase, delineating its scope, objectives, and initial timelines.
- Solicit feedback from peers or instructors to ensure a comprehensive grasp of the exercise and its practical implications.
- Evaluate the implementation of configuration management in real-world contexts, linking it to theoretical principles.
- Clarify individual roles and duties to create a well-defined workflow within the team.