Exercise 4.1

Find out all the reasons why risk management in the iterative development models is different compared to the traditional waterfall model.

The primary concern for sponsors of software projects is whether the considerable time and financial investments will culminate in a successful product. The success of these endeavors is pivotal for the overall IT strategy of large businesses, as failure can result in substantial losses. Traditional software development methods lack transparency for sponsors to assess project progress and alignment with their vision until the final stages, posing significant risks.

In response to these challenges, iterative development models were introduced, aiming to provide sponsors with visibility and assurance throughout the project lifecycle. By incrementally delivering working software, sponsors can monitor progress and ensure their investments are utilized effectively. However, iterative approaches also introduce unique risks:

- Lack of documentation: Communication in iterative projects relies heavily on verbal interactions, making it challenging to track changes and understand the rationale behind previously developed features due to the absence of comprehensive documentation.
- Evolving user requirements: User needs often evolve over time, leading to initial requirements that may lack coherence. Agile methodologies may struggle to accommodate ongoing refinement, potentially causing issues for development teams.
- Challenges with large projects: Building sizable projects within tight timelines can be difficult with small iterative teams, posing logistical challenges and potentially impacting project delivery.
- Architectural concerns: The absence of a comprehensive product architecture at the project's outset can result in a shaky foundation as the product scales. Without robust architecture, the product may struggle to support its expanded scope, leading to potential instability.