

LEARNING JOURNAL

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Course: SOEN 6841 - Software Project Management

Journal URL:

https://github.com/ro18/SOEN6481_SPM_Learning_Journals_40266547/blob/main/Learning_Journal_2_40266547.pdf

Dates Range of activities: 30 Jan 2024 - 6 Feb 2024

Date of the journal: 08 Feb 2024

1. Key Concepts Learned

For this week, I learned the concepts in Risk management, in terms of the various types of risks and what strategies can be used for each type of risk in software projects. I was introduced to different strategies like Avoidance, Mitigation, Transference, and Acceptance. I was able to relate to their use cases in real projects by adding enough buffer to projects phases to manage risks or creating a knowledge system to tackle resource risks.

We also learned about Configuration Management and Project Planning in the previous weeks. It was very informative to understand the importance of using a stable configuration management system in a software projects. It was informative to understand how large projects need to create a role-based access control to ensure every team member is working on the correct version of the project or document. In project planning, I got introduced to Work Break-Down Structure, Critical Path Method and Critical Change Method. Though I was aware of WBS, the other two were new concepts for me. It helped me to understand how to evaluate the schedule for parallel tasks and create a schedule or path keeping in mind various constraints and buffers for uncertain tasks.

2. Application in Real Projects

Risks are inevitable in small or big projects. Across different projects that I have worked with, I have clearly seen risks due to scope creep which is very common in organizations that do not have proper requirement management or well-defined scope from clients. Along with this, strict deadline can create an impact on the quality of the project. Most projects tend to pile up technical debt due to poor management of code. Configuration Management is another important factor used in organizations. I have seen various tools such as creating tickets for change management that requires appropriate approvals before releasing any new version to production. This continuous integration and deployment using version control helps create a stable system and is very helpful for rollbacks in case of any production issues. If these systems were not in place, it would have created a disoriented project and could result in huge losses with respect to time and money.

3. Peer Interactions:

After the last week, I connected with my group for topic analysis, where my teammate and I discussed our experiences of various issues faced by software developers in preparing status reports. It was very insightful to understand the different tools used in their organization to keep a track of the work done by developers. We also discussed about our group projects, researched and analysed similar projects to help create a similar characteristic for function point analysis.

4. Challenges Faced:

I did spend quite some time on the information from the book and PowerPoint to create a real-like project idea. However, I did struggle a bit to overcome the mental blocks I already had regarding some topics and to start thinking using the concepts mentioned in the course. I think now I have learned to consciously use the new concepts wherever possible in the course project as well in my day-to-day work.

5. Personal development activities:

After the last week's analysis, on various projects in my organization, I did come across good project ideas and learned about their schedule and how these projects were released. I also came across a project whose requirements were drastically changed due to technology obsolescence. It helped me get perspective to the various concepts from the course in real-life projects.

6. Goals for the Next Week:

For the coming week, I would like to finish up reading the remaining chapters from the book left for mid-term syllabus and revise the concepts. I'll be also trying to deep-dive into the configuration management system used at my workplace.