Learning Journal

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Course: Software Project Management [SOEN 6841]

Journal URL: https://github.com/taniasanjid/SOEN-6841-SPM.git

Week 2: Feb 4 – Feb 10

Date: Feb 5

Key Concepts Learned:

- **Risk Identification:** Learned the importance of identifying both internal and external risks that could impact a software project, including budget, time, resources, quality, and technology.
- **Risk Analysis:** Understood how to assess risks based on their potential impact and likelihood of occurrence and the necessity of prioritizing them accordingly.
- **Risk Mitigation Strategies:** Explored various strategies for mitigating risks, including acceptance, avoidance, transfer, mitigation, and contingency measures.
- **Dynamic Nature of Risks:** Acknowledged that risks are dynamic and the risk management plan must be regularly updated.

Reflections on Case Study/course work:

- Developed an understanding of creating a risk management document that includes a list of risks, their impacts, probabilities, and mitigation measures.
- Recognized the need to categorize risks into manageable and unmanageable risks and focus on developing mitigation strategies for those that can be managed.
- Learned about balancing different project variables, such as quality, budget, and schedule, and how this affects project delivery.
- Realized the complexity of managing risks in software projects and the critical role of the project manager in navigating these challenges.

Date: Feb 7

Collaborative Learning:

- Plan to implement a continuous risk monitoring and review process in the group project to adapt to changing circumstances.
- Intend to utilize a knowledge management system to mitigate resource risks associated with team turnover.
- Will practice developing risk mitigation strategies tailored to the specific risks identified in the project.

Further Research/Readings:

This week, I explored several external resources to deepen my understanding of risk management in software projects. I examined scholarly articles on Agile risk management, which emphasized real-time risk identification and mitigation strategies. Additionally, I delved

into case studies of successful Agile transformations that highlighted the practical application of continuous risk assessment. These readings complemented the course material by providing real-world examples of risk management and showcasing the flexibility of Agile practices in responding to project uncertainties.

Adjustments to Goals:
Reviewing the goals set last week, I aimed to grasp the fundamentals of risk management in software projects and apply these concepts to a project simulation. While I have made substantial progress in understanding the theoretical aspects, applying them in a simulated environment proved more challenging than anticipated. Consequently, I am adjusting my goals to include more hands-on practice with risk simulation tools to better translate theory into practice. My evolving understanding also suggests the need for a more iterative approach to managing risks, which will be a focus area in the coming weeks.