

Learning Journal 2 – Chapter 4&5

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Course: Software Project Management – SOEN6841

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Dates Range of activities: 02-10-2024 to 05-10-2024

Date of the journal: 05-10-2024

This journal reflects how I've grown in my understanding of risk and configuration management and how these concepts are helping me improve my ability to manage projects effectively

Key Concepts Learned: In Chapter 4, I learned about Risk Management, which involves identifying, analyzing, and prioritizing risks that could affect a project. Risks can come from technical, legal, organizational, or economic sources. I understood that managing risks means using strategies like accepting the risk, avoiding it, transferring it to another party, or reducing its impact. In Chapter 5, I studied Configuration Management (CM), which is the process of keeping track of all changes in a project to ensure everything stays organized and under control. This is especially important when a project has many changes over time, and keeping everything consistent and traceable is key to success.

Application in Real Projects: Both chapters are very relevant to real-world projects. For example, in software development, identifying risks early can prevent bigger problems later, like delays or cost overruns. I can see how CM would help manage software versions and track changes effectively in real projects, especially when requirements keep changing. These chapters gave me useful strategies for keeping projects on track, even when unexpected issues arise.

Peer Interactions: I had some good discussions with my classmates about how risk management is used in their projects. We talked about how to decide between transferring or reducing risks, especially when working with cloud services. It was helpful to hear different approaches to these problems. I also learned from peers working in Agile environments about how they use CM tools like Git to manage changes in their software projects, making sure everything is well-tracked. I discussed in our own project group too about different topics to brainstorm on it.

Challenges Faced: The hardest part was understanding the quantitative side of risk management—especially figuring out how to balance the likelihood and impact of risks when I don't have all the information. In configuration management, I struggled with understanding the deeper processes like configuration auditing and tracking changes across multiple iterations. It's challenging to find the right balance between allowing changes and keeping everything controlled in fast-paced projects. Apart from challenges regarding topics, I was feeling lazy to study. It was hard for me to convince myself.

Personal Development Activities: To improve, I went back to online case studies to see how these concepts work in real projects. I also practiced with exercises on risk prioritization and configuration control. I've been thinking how I can add these new learning into our group project. It was just some

brainstorming. I have yet to discuss my ideas to the other group members and see what they think of ideas.

Goals for the Next Week: Next week, I want to work more on understanding how to analyze risks, especially using real-life scenarios. I also plan to apply configuration management in our group project. I will practice the slide for the upcoming in-class activity.