

Learning Journal 3

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Course: Software Project Management

Journal URL: [Github Link](#)

Date Range of Activities: 10 Feb 2025 – 23 Feb 2025

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Key Concepts Learned

This week's learning focused on two major areas: **Configuration Management (CM)** and **Software Project Planning**.

- **Configuration Management (CM):**

- CM is essential for controlling and documenting changes in a software system.
- The process consists of configuration identification, control, status accounting, and auditing.
- CM ensures software integrity, prevents project chaos, and helps maintain traceability between requirements, documentation, and code.
- Poor CM practices lead to issues such as loss of source code versions, reappearing defects, and mismanaged updates. CM tools facilitate version control, change tracking, and configuration audits.

- **Software Project Planning:**

- Project planning is an ongoing process that includes project scheduling, budgeting, manpower allocation, and communication management.
- Work Breakdown Structure (WBS) helps divide the project into manageable tasks.
- **Top-down planning vs. Bottom-up planning:**
 - *Top-down:* Assigns overall project duration first, then breaks it down into smaller tasks.
 - *Bottom-up:* Assigns duration to small tasks first and aggregates them into a total project duration.
- Scheduling methods such as Critical Path Method (CPM) and Goldratt's Critical Chain Method optimize time management.
- Resource allocation and milestone tracking ensure project progress.

Application in Real Projects

- **Configuration Management** is crucial in real-world software development to maintain system stability and prevent costly errors. Many companies use CM tools like Git, SVN, and Jira to track changes effectively.
- **Software Project Planning** is applied in Agile and Waterfall methodologies to optimize development cycles. WBS is widely used in industry to ensure efficient task allocation and avoid scope creep.

Peer Interactions

- This week, I had some insightful discussions with my friends, Abhijit Banerjee and Saheb Singh about the importance of version control systems and their impact on project stability.
- Participated in a group activity to simulate project scheduling, where we used WBS to divide a sample project into smaller tasks.

Challenges Faced

- Understanding the intricate details of change control policies and their real-world enforcement.
- Differentiating between top-down and bottom-up planning approaches in complex projects.
- Estimating realistic time and effort for tasks in project scheduling exercises.

Personal Development Activities

- Explored additional CM tools like GitLab and Bitbucket to gain hands-on experience with configuration management systems.
- Practiced critical path analysis using a sample project to improve my scheduling skills.

Goals for the Next Week

- Deepen understanding of configuration status accounting and its role in maintaining project integrity.
- Gain a practical grasp of supplier management planning and its influence on project success.
- Work on a hands-on exercise for task dependency mapping in project planning.