SWEBOK Knowledge Area : Software Configuration Management

Focus:

This is knowledge area is ideal to follow maintenance, because there is some over lap here. Software Configuration Management (SCM) is tracking the changes in the software, or in other words the plan for revision control. These days this is pretty straight forward with version control tools like CVS and Subversion available for free and their integration into many other tools for easy access.

Major Steps:

This knowledge area, does not indicate any steps, but more of goals to follow when thinking about configuration management. These are;

1. Identify what you are working on, which piece of the software.
2. Approval process in place for releasing changes to a software.
3. Reporting the status a component or in other works, see if anything has changed.
4. Consistency of process, not of code. Process to commit changes etc.
5. Teamwork, any process has to be very team oriented.
6. Tracking of defects back to the source.

Experience:

In my experience, this has not been a big issue, since most of the software that I touch are internal, which means the change management is minimal. We have process in place to commit changes, tagging them and getting releases built.
I can imagine, in any bigger companies where software is created and shipped to the client, this would be a very big issue with complicated requirements.