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Module-8

When updates are being developed for a software product that is in a state of deployment, it is important to maintain the product's state of deployment. To ensure the products' accessibility and functionality are not affected by the newly developed updates, having a solid version control plan process in place will allow you to deploy the previous functioning version. Some organizations will implement a change approval process to try and manage what changes are developed and when they will be implemented. While having a change approval process may provide some level of error prevention, a poorly developed change control process can have an adverse effect on the development of the updates and overall functionality of the product.

I will first cover the benefits of an effective change approval process. When correctly applied a change approval process can help to ensure that the updates will not affect any regulatory compliance requirements that are in place. Software developers working on product updates will likely have a solid understanding of coding best practices, but they are not as likely to fully understand the regulatory requirements of the various industries in which they might be tasked with developing software. Having someone who understands the current regulatory standards of the industry that the software is designed for would make maintaining these standards through the development of new features or updates. A change approval process could help with communication between the development team and those tasked with ensuring the product meets the industry compliance requirements. Implementing a change approval process can make the development and deployment of software updates more consistent. If the change approval process is poorly designed, this could make developing and deploying software updates consistently more difficult.

Now we will discuss how a poorly designed change approval process might have a negative effect on the development of the product. The change approval process can cause delays in the release of the updates. If one team is dedicated to handling the change approval requests across the company, the approval of changes can get backed up, requiring the development team to have to wait to get the changes approved until the backlogged change requests are handled first. Suppose the change approval process is delegated to management that does not have technical training or at least an understanding of the software development process. In that case, the change approval process will suffer. It is important that all areas of the software development team are included in the change approval process.