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Change Approval Process

Change approval processes are meant to keep everything organized and under control, but they can sometimes cause more issues rather than good. When these processes aren't set up or managed well, they can lead to delays, make it harder for teams to come up with new ideas, and even cause unexpected problems. This paper dives into the dangers of these processes and how they can affect organizations.

One big issue with change approval processes is how much they can slow things down. Joe The IT Guy explains that Change Advisory Boards (CABs), which are supposed to help manage changes, often end up being the biggest holdup. Scheduling meetings usually takes time, and once the meetings happen, decisions can take long. This is especially frustrating for teams working in fast-moving environments like DevOps, where quick updates are crucial. When processes like these take too long, it can make companies less competitive, as they can't keep up with the pace of their industry (Joe The IT Guy, n.d.).

Another problem comes when these processes aren't balanced. Harvard Professional Development talks about how treating every change as equally risky is a huge waste of time and resources. If minor updates go through the same strict review as big changes, teams spend way too much time on things that don't need it. On the other side, if high-risk changes don't get the attention they deserve, it can lead to serious issues. A good process needs to focus on what matters most and avoid unnecessary steps to prevent these kinds of problems (Harvard Professional Development, n.d.).

Lastly, outdated change approval processes can make it hard for teams to stay motivated and innovative. DORA highlights how some organizations fail to update their methods, which causes frustration. When teams have to jump through the same hoops for every single change, it slows them down and makes the process feel pointless. Instead of bogging teams down, companies need to use tools and automation to speed up low-risk approvals while focusing manual efforts on high-risk changes. By streamlining the process, teams can spend more time working on meaningful projects rather than battling bureaucracy (DORA, n.d.).

In conclusion, while change approval processes are important for managing risk and keeping things on track, they can also create major roadblocks if not done correctly. Companies need to strike a balance by cutting out unnecessary steps, automating where they can, and focusing on what really matters. By improving these processes, organizations can help their teams work faster, stay motivated, and deliver better results without getting stuck in a bad situation.

References

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