**The Dangers of Changes Approval Processes**

The change approval process, while designed to ensure proper oversight, can sometimes pose significant dangers to productivity and innovation, particularly within DevOps environments. One major risk is the introduction of unnecessary delays. Traditional change control processes often involve lengthy approval procedures, multiple authorization levels, and extensive documentation, all of which can slow down the deployment of changes. This extended lead time can significantly hinder the agility of teams, preventing rapid responses to critical issues or opportunities​ ([Daniel Goosen Blog](https://djgoosen.com/2019/12/07/a-change-approval-process-at-devops-speed/) )([Red Green Refactor](https://red-green-refactor.com/2021/07/17/book-club-the-devops-handbook-chapter-18-create-review-and-coordination-processes-to-increase-quality-of-our-current-work/)).

Another danger is that over-controlling changes can reduce the quality of the feedback loop between development and operations. The more bureaucratic and cumbersome the change approval process, the less likely teams are to receive immediate feedback on the changes they've made, which increases the risk of mistakes going unnoticed until they escalate into larger problems. This environment fosters a low-trust, command-and-control culture where teams may become resistant to changes, fearing negative repercussions from failures​ ([Red Green Refactor](https://red-green-refactor.com/2021/07/17/book-club-the-devops-handbook-chapter-18-create-review-and-coordination-processes-to-increase-quality-of-our-current-work/)).

Furthermore, excessive reliance on change control can lead to a false sense of security. The process may become more about checking boxes than about genuinely evaluating risks and ensuring quality. When organizations focus too much on the formality of approvals, they may overlook the practical realities of implementing safe and effective changes. In some cases, this can result in a failure to address the actual problems that could lead to major incidents​ ([Daniel Goosen Blog](https://djgoosen.com/2019/12/07/a-change-approval-process-at-devops-speed/)).

A balanced approach to change approval processes is essential to maintaining both security and speed. By streamlining the process and enabling peer review rather than requiring multiple management approvals, organizations can maintain agility while ensuring that changes are properly vetted before deployment​ ([Red Green Refactor](https://red-green-refactor.com/2021/07/17/book-club-the-devops-handbook-chapter-18-create-review-and-coordination-processes-to-increase-quality-of-our-current-work/)).

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