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Assignment 8.2 - The Dangers of Change Approval Processes

The Risks of Change Approval Processes

Change approval processes are meant to make sure that any changes to systems or software are thoroughly checked, secure, and follow the rules of the organization. However, in the fast-moving world of DevOps today, these processes can slow things down, creating inefficiencies and risks that can hold back progress. Analyzing three articles from DORA, Plat4mation, and Atlassian reveals several problems with traditional change approval methods. 1. Slow Feedback and Delayed Delivery Traditional change approval often requires several levels of approval from outside groups, like Change Advisory Boards (CABs). While this used to be seen as essential for managing risks, it really slows down the feedback process. Research from DORA suggests simplifying this by using quick, automated peer reviews that still meet compliance needs but allow for faster feedback and more dependable deployments. The longer it takes to receive feedback, the tougher it is to resolve problems, which raises the overall risk to the system and increases the costs of fixing issues.

Higher Chances of Isolated Decision-Making

Plat4mation points out the cultural divide between DevOps teams, which emphasize quick and ongoing changes, and conventional change management methods that lean towards caution and strict oversight. This divide leads to silos, causing operational and development teams to work against each other. Consequently, this not only delays the delivery process but also raises the chances of mistakes, since the teams usually don’t have complete insight into what the other is doing. As a result, changes made hastily to meet deadlines can bring about risks that could have been spotted in a more cooperative setting.

Lack of Quick Response to Critical Demands

In the current digital world, companies must be flexible and quick to adapt to evolving business requirements. According to an article by Atlassian, the old-fashioned change management methods, which involve strict approval steps, aren't effective for rapid and ongoing updates. A slow approval process can hinder organizations from swiftly addressing security issues, customer input, or changes in the market. By the time the changes get the green light, they might be outdated, or even worse, the hold-up could lead to damage to the company's reputation or finances.

Loss of Developer Morale

Lengthy and complicated approval processes can really bring down the spirits of development teams. DORA highlights that having frequent deployments and quick feedback is essential for keeping developers happy and motivated. When developers have to wait around for approvals, they might start to feel detached from the results of their efforts, which can lower their engagement and productivity. This situation can also cause more developers to leave their jobs, as they look for more energetic workplaces where their work is acknowledged and can be put into action swiftly.

Change approval processes are designed to reduce risks, but they can also lead to delays, inefficiencies, and cultural challenges that create their own risks. By modernizing these processes with automation, peer reviews, and better integration with DevOps practices, companies can keep security and compliance in check while being more agile and responsive to their business needs.

Reference list

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