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# Module 8.2 Assignment

In the current speedy rate of software creation, innovation speed is indispensable for competitiveness. Nevertheless, traditional Change Approval Processes (CAPs) such as Change Advisory Boards (CABs) and hand-reviewing are widely thought of as indispensable controls to preclude system crashes and security vulnerabilities. Although the controls strive to achieve stability, they always impose severe bottlenecks, decelerations, and inefficiencies, causing additional risks rather than mitigating them.

This piece of writing speaks about the built-in risks of rigorous change approval processes, like reduced time-to-market, delayed operations, high failure risks associated with change batching, and security risks due to delayed patches. Further, it will also elaborate on how modern DevOps practices like automated testing, CI/CD pipelines, feature flags, and rollback plans at speed are better options that guarantee both agility and security. Based on real-world examples and market studies, this paper contends that organizations must shift from bureaucratic approval methodologies to automation-based change management to stay competitive in the digital world.

“Of course, faster code reviews and approvals do not equate to better and more thorough code review processes and approval processes. It is possible that we are gaining speed through an over-reliance on AI for assisting in the process or trusting code generated by AI a bit too much” (Google et al., 2024).

Change Approval Processes are designed to ensure changes to software systems are reviewed, tested, and approved before deployment. This is usually in the guise of a formalized process where groups must seek approval from a Change Advisory Board (CAB) or similar governing body. CAPs aim to reduce the risk of production failure, security exposures, and non-compliance with regulatory requirements. A board that reviews and approves or denies changes. Senior management or approvers must sign off changes manually. Changes are permitted only during planned maintenance windows. CAPs impose latency that impacts business responsiveness. Companies with approval processes or release schedules typically do not release software updates quickly, resulting in lost market windows and customer frustration.

Rather than relying on last-minute approvals, DevOps promotes a shift-left approach where security, compliance, and testing are integrated into the development process early. Automated pipelines ensure changes are tested and deployed rapidly without requiring manual approvals. This reduces delays while remaining reliable. Organizations no longer need to release in batches but can release changes incrementally using feature flags and canary deployments, reducing the risk of failures en masse. Instead of bureaucratic signoffs, companies like Google and many of its products emphasizing blameless postmortems and rollbacks via automation. This ensures that failures are fixed instantly without impacting development speed.

In short, while traditional Change Approval Processes reduce risk, they do so at the cost of producing inefficiencies that are bad for software delivery. Through automation, ongoing testing, and incremental deployment, it is achievable to obtain agility alongside security. Companies such as Google, Netflix, and Etsy adopting DevOps indicate that transitioning away from approvals bureaucracy helps to enable higher deployment frequency, fast defect fixity, and greater overall system stability. With businesses still competing for leadership in an era of fast-paced innovation, automation-driven change management is no longer an option but a necessity.

**References:**

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