The Dangers of Change Approval Processes

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The main goal of a business utilizing change approval processes is to mitigate the risks of implementing changes into projects. By requiring approval from individuals other than the

original author, organizations can ensure that any changes align with the overall project scope and prevent any single individual from making any unchecked modifications to the main project. While this system is designed to enhance the project's stability and accountability, it can introduce new inefficiencies and challenges that may hinder progress from occurring.

One of the most significant disadvantages of change approval processes is the time that occurs when attempting to move forwards with project modifications. Teams may find themselves excessively waiting for approvals from senior members, external reviewers, and approval boards before their changes can be implemented. The waiting period slows down the development processes, creating bottlenecks that prevent the team from efficiently meeting their deadlines.

In addition, many change approval methods require multiple steps before the final approval has been secured. The purpose of change approval is to ensure a thorough review but, this method becomes overly complicated and reduces the team efficiency and productivity. When approval methods become increasingly complicated, the teams are left with no choice than spending excessive time navigating administrative processes rather than actively improving and advancing the project.

When there is poor communication among the team members, approvers, and external reviewers, it can cause misunderstandings and hold-ups. A lack of clarity on required changes or misinterpretations of changes to the main project may cause a lot of reworks, which will further extend the project's timeline. Without any clear and transparent communication channels throughout the entire process, teams struggle to move their changes forwards when the system requires outside approval, from members who may not even understand what they are approving of.

Different organizations may depend on Change Advisory Boards (CABs) to review and approve any modifications to the project. However, these boards are often lacking in firsthand knowledge of the ins-and-outs of the project, which may lead to unnecessary delays and rejections. CABs operate separately from the development teams, meaning that their decisions may not always align with the project's needs.

Finally, not all changes require the same amount of scrutiny and processes for approval. Yet, many organizations treat every medication to the main project equally, requiring any changes to go through the same approval process. This inefficiency prevents the team from focusing their time and energy on the more important changes that require more careful review, while minor updates are going through the same rigorous approval process. This takes away from the time that team members could be making innovative changes.

While there may be many different issues that occur throughout the change approval process, their goal remains clear. All changes to the project must be approved before they can be submitted to the project. There are a few different methods that may make this process easier,

like shifting the change approval process to a more peer-review-based approval system may help to streamline processes while still maintaining the same level of quality control. Instead of seeking approval from outside sources that may not understand the full scope of the code, teams can internally review and validate changes. This ensures that modifications are processed more efficiently without any unnecessary delays and members already working on the project, that understand its scope, accept the changes.

Organizations should implement different automated tools and strategies to identify security vulnerabilities, performance issues, and other issues early in the development process. By proactively addressing potential problems, teams can decide their dependency on lengthy approval processes. Further, team leaders should aim to standardize the deployment procedures across the organization. When teams are deploying their changes while utilizing consistent and automated systems, the need for excessive approvals diminishes. This allows for smoother and faster integration of different modifications.

Teams should adopt a flexible approval framework. Instead of applying the same approval system to every single change, organizations should categorize modifications depending on their complexity and impact. Low-risk changes can follow a streamlined review process, while significant changes should undergo more rigorous assessment, requiring more steps. Encourage the team to make smaller and more frequent deliveries. By implementing more minor and more frequent changes to the project, teams reduce the risks associated with making large-scale modifications. When teams deliver incremental updates, it minimizes the risk of significant errors and helps to simplify the approval process.

Finally, to enhance efficiency, businesses need to reduce unnecessary tools and bureaucracy if they want their teams to succeed. To enhance efficiency, organizations need to minimize the number of tools and platforms that their teams are required to endure for change management. By simplifying processes and reducing the hurdles associated with them, teams will be able to implement the changes that they need while experiencing minimal disruptions. This allows the team to focus on what they do best, rather than awaiting approvals at every step.

While change approval processes are essential for maintaining a project's integrity and mitigating its risks, they can create an unnecessary barrier to the developers when they are not properly managed. Organizations need to balance oversight by streamlining approval processes, pushing peer reviews, standardizing deployment processes, and implementing automation wherever possible. By refining these different processes, teams can ensure that changes are implemented smoothly without any unnecessary delays, while will help teams to improve productivity and focus on their projects.

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