

CI/CD Glossary for Managers

Plain-English terms to help non-engineers follow along.

- **CI (Continuous Integration):** Automatically building and testing code whenever developers push changes.
- **CD (Continuous Delivery / Development / Deployment):** Automating releases to staging/production so small changes go out safely and often.
- **Pipeline:** A set of automated steps like build, test, and deploy.
- **Runner / Agent:** The machine that executes pipeline jobs.
- **Artifact:** The packaged result of a build (for example, a ZIP or Docker image).
- **Environment:** A copy of your app: dev, staging, production.
- **Rollback:** Quickly revert to a previously working version.
- **Infrastructure as Code (IaC):** Managing servers and cloud resources with versioned code (e.g., Terraform).
- **Secrets:** Passwords/keys needed by the app or pipeline; must be stored securely.
- **OIDC / Workload Identity:** Let CI authenticate to cloud providers without storing long-lived keys.
- **Health Check:** A simple endpoint that returns OK when the app is healthy.
- **Branch Protection:** Rules that prevent risky changes from being merged without checks.

What Success Looks Like (Manager's View)

- Small, frequent deploys with low risk.
- Fast feedback when something breaks (minutes, not days).
- Predictable rollbacks with minimal downtime.
- Costs and usage are visible and capped.