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Module 8 Assignment

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The Dangers of Change Approval Processes

Change approval processes are implemented to assure the right amount of documentation and review has been done to avoid moving bugs to production. It can help to ensure documentation is up to date, and in some cases complying with regulations. Often it is thought that more stringent change approval processes would reduce errors in production. This however is not the case. Having more steps and approvals in a change approval process leads to longer lead time. Longer lead time causes changes to be batched up together into larger deployments. Larger deployments become more complex and therefore have a higher risk of causing issues. Additionally, extra approvals are not as helpful at times. Typically, the developers closest to the code know it best, getting higher level approvers does necessarily help.

Streamlining the change approval process is a way mitigate these dangers. There are a few ways to do this. Testing automation helps to identify bugs quicker. Reviews should be peer-based for most deployments. Peer programmers or testers would typically know the system well and be able to provide valuable feedback. Only involve higher level approvals from things like a Cab (Change advisory board) for high-risk changes. When the process is streamlined and uses peer-review, changes can be small and lower risk.

References

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