**The Dangers of Change Approval Processes**

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Every decision that is made should follow a thought process. Decisions, especially those made in an organization, have consequences. Whether these consequences are good or bad depends on many factors. Change approval processes rely on a team effort, with developers creating code later reviewed by others before deployment. As helpful as the change approval process can be in preventing errors, it comes with dangers.

Within software development, there is often a change approval process in place. Developers work on code and, once to their liking, submit a change order for review (Oracle, 2025). Whether it is a change regarding "bug fixes, new features, enhancements, system upgrades, configuration changes, or patching," it goes through the change approval process (McCarty, 2021). Change management helps to ensure that any changes to any "applications, databases, or infrastructure" have been "authorized, approved, documented, tested, and implemented" (McCarty, 2021). Once the change order is submitted, it waits in a queue for it to be approved automatically based on approval rules or awaits a user to manually grant the change order (Oracle, 2025). A change approval process can consist of one or multiple stages, like requesting comments instead of approval (Oracle, 2025). Change requests may be rejected by the line or as a whole (Oracle, 2025). The submitted code is then implemented after receiving the approval routing (Oracle, 2025).

All change approval processes face potential dangers, but those with outdated processes suffer even more. These risks include time wasted based on required approvals through legacy systems, less flexibility, and an increased "risk of information loss and errors," leading to even more issues and resource costs (CMW Lab, 2025). When change approvals are submitted, they may not be authorized prior to work starting (Kulkarni, 2021). Change approval processes might not be tracked appropriately or documented (McCarty, 2021). Sometimes specifications do not meet expectations or miss system requirements and service commitments (McCarty, 2021). Changes cannot be deployed until approved, so if pressing system updates exist, the system is vulnerable while updates are pending acceptance. In some circumstances, unauthorized changes may not be flagged, and version control is not adequately maintained (McCarty, 2021).

The change approval process can be beneficial for many reasons, but risks come with it. When using a change approval process, the best course of action is to ensure all aspects of the system and its requirements are current. By creating a better environment, change approval processes can run at their best.

**References**

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