**The Dangers of Change Approval Processes**

Change approval processes are designed to maintain stability, security, and reliability within an organization's IT infrastructure. They typically involve a series of steps where proposed changes are reviewed, tested, and approved before implementation. The primary goals are to minimize disruptions to operations, prevent unauthorized changes, and ensure that modifications align with business objectives.

One of the primary dangers of rigid change approval processes is the potential for creating bottlenecks. When change requests must pass through multiple layers of approval, it can lead to delays in implementation. In fast-paced environments where agility is crucial, delays can hinder innovation and responsiveness to market demands. Overly bureaucratic approval processes can stifle agility and innovation. Teams may be reluctant to propose changes or improvements if they perceive the process as cumbersome or if they fear rejection. This can result in missed opportunities for optimization and competitive advantage.

Complex approval workflows can add unnecessary overhead to IT operations. The administrative burden of managing approvals, documentation, and compliance requirements can divert resources from more strategic initiatives. This complexity also increases the likelihood of errors or oversight during the approval process. Manual approval processes are susceptible to human error. Miscommunications, misunderstandings, or lapses in judgment can result in approved changes that have unintended consequences. This risk is compounded in organizations where there is a lack of standardized procedures or where approvals are based on incomplete information. Inadequate change approval processes can pose significant security risks. Unauthorized or poorly vetted changes to systems or applications can introduce vulnerabilities that may be exploited by malicious actors. A robust approval process is essential for maintaining the integrity and confidentiality of sensitive information.

To mitigate the dangers associated with change approval processes, organizations can implement several best practices. By simplifying and optimizing approval workflows to reduce bottlenecks and delays. We can also delegate decision-making authority to appropriate teams or individuals to foster agility and responsiveness. It is very important to implement automation tools for change request tracking, testing, and approval to reduce manual effort and human error. We should conduct security reviews and compliance checks in the approval process to mitigate risks. The goal is to review and refine approval processes based on feedback and performance metrics to enhance efficiency and effectiveness.

While change approval processes are essential for maintaining control and stability within IT environments, they must be balanced with the need for agility and innovation. The dangers associated with rigid or poorly managed approval processes can undermine organizational effectiveness and hinder growth. By implementing best practices and leveraging technology, organizations can mitigate these risks and achieve a more adaptive and resilient IT infrastructure.

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