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The Dangers of Change Approval Processes

Change approval processes in DevOps are meant to ensure that updates to software are safe and won't cause problems when they're deployed. However, these processes can cause some major problems themselves.

Firstly, they can make things go slower. If every change needs to go through a lot of approvals, it takes more time to get updates out to users. This delay can be a big deal in businesses where being fast is really important. Secondly, too many approvals can stop people from trying out new ideas. If the process is too hard, teams might not want to suggest new things or test out different ways of doing stuff. This can make it harder for a company to keep up with what customers want or what other companies are doing. Lastly, complicated approval processes can actually lead to way more mistakes. When people rush through a process that's hard to understand, they might miss things or make errors. These mistakes can cause problems when the software is used by customers, which defeats the purpose of having approvals in the first place.

In short, while it's important to make sure software changes are safe, the process should also be simple enough to keep things moving quickly and let teams be creative.

Being able to make quick changes is essential for staying competitive and efficient. However, strict approval processes can cause delays due to multiple reviews, tests, and approvals. For instance, fixing a critical security issue might require extensive documentation and several rounds of testing before it can be released. These delays can prevent a company from quickly responding to customer needs or market competition.

Slow deployment wastes time and affects team morale and efficiency. Developers and operations teams feel motivated when their work makes an impact, but long approval processes can frustrate them, leading to lower morale and reduced productivity. To address this, organizations following DevOps principles often simplify approval processes by using automated testing and deployment. Clear guidelines for manual approvals and fostering a culture of trust and teamwork can also enable faster decision-making, allowing companies to release changes quickly while maintaining standards and regulations.

Encouraging innovation is essential to stay competitive and meet customer needs. However, strict approval processes can stifle creativity and slow down progress. When a development team wants to add a new feature or improve software, requiring approvals from multiple managers and compliance teams creates bureaucracy. This slows down the process and makes it hard to respond quickly to user needs.

Strict rules can also discourage teams from suggesting new ideas, fearing rejection or delays. This hesitation can hinder a company’s ability to keep up with competitors. To overcome this, DevOps organizations simplify approval processes with clear guidelines and automated tools, fostering a culture of innovation and continuous improvement.

Complicated change approval processes in DevOps increase the chances of mistakes. When these processes are too complex or involve many people, problems can occur.

First, complexity makes it hard for teams to know what's needed for approval, especially when they're in a hurry. This rush can cause mistakes like forgetting to update important documents or missing key details, leading to deployment failures or system issues. Second, complex approval processes often result in communication breakdowns. Information can get mixed up or lost as requests go through different approval stages, leading to discrepancies between what's approved and what's actually done, causing unexpected problems during deployment. Finally, too many approval steps can overwhelm teams, making them tired or careless. In these situations, people might take shortcuts or skip steps to speed things up, which can introduce errors and miss important checks, defeating the purpose of having a careful review process.

In conclusion, while change approval processes are meant to reduce risks in DevOps, overly complex ones can ironically make human errors more likely. Simplifying workflows, improving communication, and encouraging thorough reviews can help minimize these risks and make software delivery in DevOps smoother and more reliable.

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