IT AUDIT AS TODAY'S NECESSITY FOR EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

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Abstract

Wider use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for e-governance has become necessity recently for all public and private organizations, for internal and external communication. The technology has increased the variety and quantity of data and information being processed and it has significantly impacted the organization's control environment, playing a crucial role in building business strategies and business procedures as well. Furthermore all organizations have become largely depended on IT systems to perform all operation and services, and maintain all data and essential reports. On the other hand, the risk of abuse is increase, causing consequences. In this situation the main purpose of IT audit is to assess controls on information system and all activities to ensure they are operating as intended, confidentially of information, integrity, availability, and reliability of computerized data. To fulfill this mission, the audit work should be based largely on testing IT transactions, and evaluating of IT risk management, to certificate if the ICT is effective and efficient, generates the necessary reports for management, creates opportunity for effective risk management, protects data from damage and abuse, as well as storing them in a second source, etc. IT Audit in Albanian public and private environment, recently is starting be in consideration. While the private sector, mostly bank system is more advanced regarding IT using, the public services also are almost fully computerized regarding the basic financial transaction in public finance like government accounting system, taxes, customs etc, or specific others public services as well. This paper aims to give IT audit as today's challenge for these professionals, through giving the IT audit frameworks, functions, tools, and specific procedures that must be taken from an IT audit team. The authors tried to give a simple methodology for professional internal auditors, helping them in fulfilling a routine IT audit engagement, behind a professional IT audit which requires a competent expert body and additional costs for organization.

Keywords: *IT audit; Audit process; Information system; IT risk assessment.*

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