

THE 13TH INTERNATIONAL INNOVATION, INVENTION & DESIGN COMPETITION 2024

EXTENDED ABSTRACTS

e-BOOK



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MY TAX ORGANIZER MOBILE APP: SIMPLIFYING TAX DOCUMENTS ORGANIZATION

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ABSTRACT

Managing tax-related financial documents is challenging for individuals and businesses, especially small enterprises. Difficulties in organizing paper-based documents and manual tracking result in inefficiencies, stress, and compliance issues. Taxpayers often misplace important documents and struggle to recall details of their deductible expenses. Additionally, a lack of understanding regarding available tax deductions causes many taxpayers to underutilize tax reliefs, thereby paying more tax than necessary. The transition to tax e-filing further complicates document management, as taxpayers face challenges in tracking scattered digital documents. To address these issues, the researcher developed "MyTax Organizer," a mobile app simplifying tax document management. Users can capture, organize, and store receipts, invoices, bills, and more on their devices. It offers a centralized, user-friendly solution, enhancing convenience and efficiency in tax preparation.

Keyword: Tax compliance, Mobile App, e-filing, Tax deductions, Tax document management

1. INTRODUCTION

Based on the guidelines proposed by Lembaga Hasil Dalam Negeri (LHDN), taxpayers are required to keep all records pertaining to their income for a period of 7 years, computed from the end of the year assessment when the tax return was submitted (Choong, 2024). However, managing records for tax-related financial documents, such as receipts, invoices, and bills, poses challenges for individuals and businesses. Traditional methods of paper-based document storage and manual organization are not only time-consuming but also prone to errors, leading to inefficiencies, stress, and potential compliance issues. Most taxpayers struggle to memorize the precise details of each expenditure that qualifies for tax deductions, thus making it difficult to trace and validate their claims during tax filing due to misplacing important financial documents (NBC, 2012).

Another issue with tax management, as reported by LHDN (2023), is that many taxpayers still lack the understanding and awareness of the types of tax deductions (i.e. tax reliefs and rebates) they can utilize. The lack of awareness leads to underutilized tax reliefs which consequently causes taxpayers paying more tax than necessary to the government (Mascagni, et al., 2024). Furthermore, the transition to tax e-filing exacerbates these challenges, as users encounter difficulties in tracking digital documents scattered across multiple devices and platforms (Swearngin et al., 2021). The absence of a centralized and user-friendly solution for organizing financial documents hinders taxpayers from effectively preparing and filing their taxes, resulting in missed deadlines, overlooked deductions, and an increased risk of audit.

Therefore, there is a pressing need for a comprehensive and intuitive mobile application that simplifies the process of managing and organizing tax-filing documents, empowering users to stay organized, compliant, and confident in their tax preparation endeavors (Garcia & Claour, 2021). Keeping pace with modern technology trends and future advancements is crucial, and mobile applications play a vital role in this evolution. By providing convenience and accessibility directly on smartphones, such apps cater to the evolving needs of users in an increasingly digital world (Bassey et al., 2022).

Recognizing these issues, the researcher has developed MyTax Organizer, a user-friendly mobile app, to help taxpayers consistently record their expenditures accurately for e-filing purposes. With this app, users can effortlessly capture, organize, and store documents such as receipts, invoices, bills, and other tax-filing evidence directly on their mobile devices. The intuitive interface allows for easy categorization and tagging of documents, making it simple to track expenses and align them with relevant tax reliefs and rebates categories. Through these categories, users will be able to manage their expenditures according to the maximum claim for each type of reliefs and rebates. Therefore, this application not only provides benefits to users in terms of document storage but also assists them in planning their expenses to maximize the amount of tax relief and rebate claims.

2. METHODOLOGY

To utilize this app, users should initially download it from their app store, such as the Apple App Store or Google Play Store, and install it on their mobile devices. Upon opening the app for the first time, users are prompted to create an account by providing their email address and setting up a password. This serves as a security measure for the app.

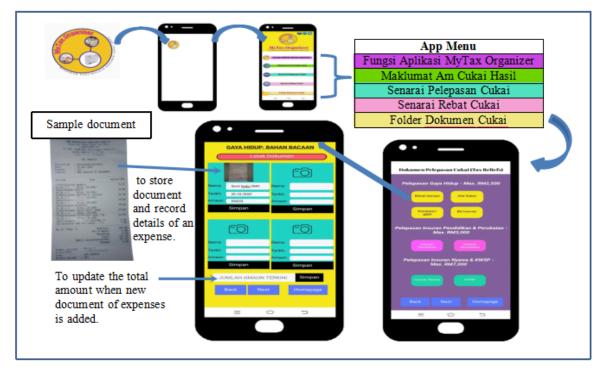


Figure 1 MyTax Organizer App's Interface

Before storing their tax-related documents (invoices, receipts, bills, etc.) in the app, users should first identify whether their expenses are qualified for tax deductions or tax rebates. Users can refer to the Tax Deduction List (Senarai Pelepasan Cukai) or Tax Rebate List (Senarai Rebat Cukai) from the App Menu if they are unsure about their eligibility. Users can store their documents by clicking the Tax Document Folder (Folder Dokumen Cukai) in the Menu. Within this folder, they should select the relevant category for tax relief or rebate. Documents can be saved using the built-in document capture feature, which allows them to capture photos of physical documents using their device's camera. By updating the total amount of their spending for each expense category every time they add a new document to the app, users can monitor their expenses to determine if they have reached the maximum claim for the reliefs. Users can utilize the recorded information within the app to facilitate and expedite the process of filling out their tax return form in e-filing. Access to customer support resources, such as the "contact us" feature and notifications, allows users to seek assistance with any app-related issues, inquiries, or updates pertaining to tax regulations.

3. FINDINGS

A survey has been conducted to get feedback from the community on the need for mobile applications to organize tax documents. Based on the survey results in Figure 2, more than 90% of the respondents (Total respondents: 120 respondents from various sectors) agreed that it is important to have a mobile application to organize tax documents as it will become an easy reference for the taxpayers and able to help them in keeping the tax documents properly.

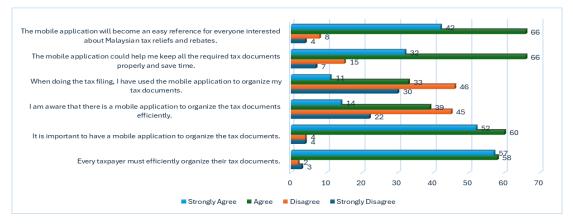


Figure 2 Survey results on the need of mobile application

In addition, results in Figure 3 indicates that more than 90% of respondents agreed that among the features needed in developing mobile applications are user friendly to the taxpayers as it is easy to be accessed anytime and anywhere, real time updates on tax reliefs changes, helpful with all information needed and able to keep and organize documents according to the tax reliefs and rebates category.

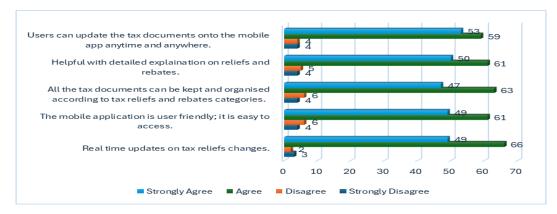


Figure 3 Survey results on the features needed in mobile application

4. CONCLUSION

Managing tax filing documents is a common challenge faced by individuals and businesses, especially small enterprises. Our "My Tax Organizer" mobile app simplifies this process by offering centralized document management, categorization of expenses based on tax reliefs and rebates, and expense planning guidance. With a user-friendly interface, this app enables users to easily record, organize, and store tax-related documents, making tax preparation more organized while ensuring compliance. By facilitating document storage and management based on relevant tax categories, this app not only simplifies tax e-filing but also helps users maximize their tax benefits. Positive feedback and community input indicate the effectiveness of this app in streamlining tax document management and raising awareness among users about eligible tax deductions.

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