



UNIVERSITI
TEKNOLOGI
MARA

Cawangan Terengganu
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FACULTY OF ACCOUNTANCY

(AC220)

PAC671

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING FIELD REPORT:

THE ISSUE OF USING OUTDATED ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE

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SUBMISSION DATE:

10 JULY 2024

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1.0 SECTION A

1.1.INTRODUCTION

ZES CONSULTANCY & SERVICES PLT (ZESCS), is one of the well-known Accounting firms in Kemaman Terengganu. It was established on 26th June 2020 under the Limited Liability Partnership Act 2012 and focuses on comprehensive financial management services, including Accounting, Taxation, and Financial Consulting. The company offers outsourcing services, audit reports, and tax calculations. ZESCS is also a distributor and trainer of the 'Office Central' system, a cloud-based system for HR, payroll, CRM, Accounting, POS, and Procurement.

The owner of ZESCS is Wan Norhayati bt Tun Abu Bakar, who has 10 years of experience as an Intervention Manager, Accountant, and Project Costing in CETCO OILFIELD (M) SDN BHD, Kuala Lumpur in the Oil & Gas Industry. The mission of a company is to advise on strategic, operational, and compliance areas in helping clients to increase their business value. The vision is to assist and support companies to manage in a comprehensive financial and systematic manner.

During my practical training at ZESCS, I had the opportunity to gain practical insight into the accounting field, enhance my technical skills in preparing a full set of accounts, and comprehend the day-to-day operations in a dynamic corporate environment. Throughout my training, I was mentored and got assistance from experienced professionals who guided me through various projects and tasks, also providing me with valuable feedback and support.

I had an opportunity to handle a full set of accounts that allowed me to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world scenarios and learn how to collaborate effectively with team members. Additionally, participating in team discussions and client interactions helps me develop strong communication skills and a deeper understanding of customer needs.

To sum up, my hands-on training at ZES Company was a life-changing experience that gave me the information and abilities I will need for my future professional aspirations. Exposure to industry best practices and opportunities for practical learning have greatly aided in my professional development and equipped me for the challenges that lie ahead.

1.2.SUMMARY OF WORK DONE

During my internship at ZES Accounting Firm from March until August, I was actively involved in preparing a full set of accounting tasks under the supervision of senior accountants to ensure the clients could view the comprehensive financial health and performance and also make decision-making for future growth.

As an intern, I am responsible for basic bookkeeping tasks and data entry from transactions originating from source documents such as payment vouchers, petty cash and sales invoices, and other financial transactions into accounting software or spreadsheets accurately and promptly. From the transactions, I was assigned to classify appropriate account codes or categories for proper classification and reporting. It includes learning accounting software effectively to manage and input financial information will be crucial. It made me realize that understanding the basic concepts of accounting is so important to avoid giving non-transparent and incorrect information such as operating expenses, cost of goods sold, administrative expenses, and financial expenses.

In addition, I need to ensure the general ledgers are up to date with the transactions. This process ensures the account balances accurately reflect all financial transactions recorded. I learn to categorize transactions into assets, liabilities, equity, income, and expenses, also applying the double entry system to maintain balance. Moreover, I was also involved in reconciling the bank statements comparing the transactions recorded in the organization's books with those reported by the bank. It helps to identify discrepancies such as missing transactions, errors, or bank charges. I have to perform this process regularly to ensure the accuracy of cash balances and detect any potential fraud and errors. These tasks teach me attention to detail, problem-solving, and analytical skills.

Lastly, I have learned to make a summary salary, fixed asset list, prepare debtor and creditor aging, and other documents also filling all the original documents ensuring adherence to accounting standards, regulatory requirements, and internal policies. The most important is upholding ethical standards in handling sensitive financial information, maintaining confidentiality, and ensuring transparency in financial reporting. Overall, my internship experience provided a well-rounded exposure to various aspects of accounting, enhancing my technical skills, professional development, and understanding of ethical responsibilities in the accounting profession. These tasks collectively contributed to a rewarding and educational internship experience that prepared me for future career opportunities in accounting.

1.3. STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF TRAINING

Internships in accounting serve as crucial stepping stones for students aiming to transition from academic learning to practical application in the professional world. They offer a range of opportunities and challenges that contribute significantly to personal and professional growth. The primary strength of an accounting internship lies in its ability to provide hands-on experience. Interns get the chance to apply theoretical knowledge gained in classrooms to real-world scenarios. This practical exposure is invaluable in understanding accounting principles, financial reporting standards, and the day-to-day operations within accounting firms or corporate accounting departments.

In addition, internships foster professional development by immersing interns in a professional work environment. They learn to navigate office dynamics, collaborate with colleagues, and communicate effectively with supervisors and clients. These experiences enhance interpersonal skills, time management, and problem-solving abilities, all of which are essential for a successful accounting career. Moreover, internships offer opportunities to build professional networks within the accounting industry. Interns interact with experienced professionals who can provide mentorship, guidance, and career advice. Building these relationships can open doors to future job opportunities, references, and valuable insights into career paths within accounting.

While accounting internships offer significant strengths in terms of hands-on experience, professional development and networking opportunities, they also present challenges such as time constraints. Internships are typically short-term, ranging from a few weeks to a few months. The limited duration may not provide interns with enough time to gain comprehensive exposure to all aspects of accounting or to work on long-term projects that require sustained effort and analysis. The second is ethical challenges. Interns may encounter ethical dilemmas related to financial reporting, auditing practices, or corporate governance issues. Navigating these ethical challenges requires a strong understanding of professional ethics and may present a steep learning curve for interns without prior exposure or guidance.

Last is to balancing work and learning. Interns often face the challenge of balancing the demands of their internship responsibilities with their academic coursework or personal commitments. This juggling act requires strong time management skills and the ability to prioritize tasks effectively. Overcoming these challenges requires resilience, adaptability, and a proactive approach to make the most of the internship experience and prepare for a successful career in accounting.

1.4.SELF-REFLECTION

Internships serve the valuable opportunities for students to connect between academic learning and practical application in their chosen field. My internship experience in accounting has been a journey of learning, growth, and discovery. Over the past few months, I have had the privilege to work with professional staff that have experience, gaining knowledge that is not attainable through textbooks. My internship was largely focused on giving me practical expertise with financial statements. With the help of my seniors, I had to prepare balance sheets, income statements, and cash flow statements. Beyond technical skills, my internship challenged me to improve my communication and interpersonal skills. I had the opportunity to collaborate with colleagues and discuss financial matters with senior management. These interactions honed my ability to articulate complex information clearly and confidently, fostering effective communication in a professional setting. Moreover, I gained exposure to various accounting software and tools, which are indispensable in modern accounting practices. Learning to navigate these systems enhanced my efficiency and proficiency in financial data management and analysis. Understanding the capabilities of these tools underscored the importance of technological literacy in today's digital age.

One of the most valuable aspects of my internship was the exposure to ethical considerations in accounting. I learned about the ethical dilemmas that arise in financial reporting and witnessed firsthand how professionals navigate these challenges with integrity and adherence to ethical standards. Upholding ethical principles in accounting is not only a professional responsibility but also essential for maintaining trust and credibility in financial practices. Reflecting on my internship experience, I am grateful for the mentorship and guidance provided by experienced professionals. Their insights and feedback have been instrumental in my growth and development as an accounting professional. They challenged me to think critically, encouraged me to ask questions, and empowered me to take initiative in my learning journey. Overall, my internship in accounting has been a transformative experience that has deepened my understanding of the field and prepared me for future career challenges. It has reinforced my passion for accounting and affirmed my commitment to pursuing a career that upholds ethical standards, promotes financial transparency, and contributes to organizational success. I am confident that the lessons learned and skills acquired during this internship will serve as a solid foundation for my future endeavors in the accounting profession.

2.0 Section B

2.1.INTRODUCTION

The issue of utilizing obsolete bookkeeping programming emerges from the quick advancement of innovation and the powerlessness of specific associations to stay aware of these turns of events. Software becomes increasingly inefficient, error-prone, and incompatible with contemporary standards and regulations as technology advances (Michael Cherry, 2019). As a result, businesses face a number of challenges, including lower productivity, diminished data integrity, and increased risks of non-compliance. Due to factors like budget constraints, resistance to change, and a lack of awareness regarding the significance of software updates, numerous organizations continue to rely on out-of-date accounting software despite these risks. Companies must acknowledge the limitations of their current software systems and prioritize investing in innovative, scalable solutions that can meet their shifting requirements and comply with regulations in order to address this issue. The primary goal of a field report project on the issue of utilizing obsolete bookkeeping programming is to survey the effect and dangers related with its proceeded with use and to propose methodologies for updating or supplanting the product to moderate these difficulties.

The project report aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the accounting software infrastructure's current state, highlight inefficiencies and limitations, and describe the organization's potential consequences if the software continues to be out of date. When it comes to addressing the issue, which is identifying obstacles and risks, a project report offers significant advantages. The project report highlights the specific inefficiencies, data integrity risks, compliance concerns, and limitations on growth and innovation that are associated with using out-of-date software by conducting a comprehensive assessment of the current accounting software infrastructure. Including suggestions for updating or replacing the out-of-date accounting software, as well as potential software vendors or solutions that meet the company's requirements and budget.

2.2.ISSUE AND PROBLEM STATEMENT

In the ever-evolving landscape of business technology, the importance of staying up-to-date with software solutions cannot be overstated. However, in the current digital era, there are still accounting firms using outdated accounting software to prepare a full set of accounting and unrealize that the software is not compatible with the current technology. Using outdated accounting software can pose several barriers and challenges that undermine efficiency, accuracy, and ultimately, the financial health of businesses, even though it may have operated well in the past (Mark Switzer, 2019). This report explores the critical issue of relying on obsolete accounting software, emphasizing the consequences and advocating for proactive action to address these issues.

Efficiency issue

Utilizing out-of-date accounting software presents a number of obvious issues, one of which is the issue of efficiency. This is because meeting the needs of a changing market and remaining competitive require efficiency. The limited functionality of outdated accounting software is one of the most obvious problems. New accounting software often has more advanced features and capabilities than the older systems. According to Oksana Vakun et al. (2021), modern businesses need software that can handle everything from simple tasks like creating financial reports to more complex ones like inventory management and budgeting. Users are compelled to rely on manual workarounds and inefficient procedures as a result of this limitation, resulting in resource and time waste.

Additionally, the performance of out-of-date accounting software frequently lags behind that of more recent versions. The framework might work gradually or not answer rapidly to the point of working with compelling work process or experience regular accidents. According to Natalia Shveda et al. 202, employees spend more time waiting for tasks to be completed or dealing with system errors than focusing on activities that add value and contribute to business success. This inefficiency has an impact not only on the productivity of each individual but also on the performance of the organization as a whole and its profitability.

Security threat

Security issues are another major problem with out-of-date accounting software. Businesses can't afford to ignore the security holes in their older systems given the rise of cyberattacks. Obsolete programming is more defenseless to security breaks, malware assaults, and information burglary because of the absence of normal updates and fixes. Sensitive financial data is left exposed without adequate safeguards, putting the business at risk of financial loss, regulatory non-compliance, and damage to its reputation. Information breaks or unapproved access compromise the secrecy and honesty of monetary data, raising serious questions about the exactness of revealed figures (Elven Riley et al, 2019)

Additionally, the possibility of insider attacks can make using out-of-date accounting software more likely to cause security issues. Representatives with shameless goals or accidentally compromised accreditations might exploit the shortcomings in the frameworks to perpetrate monetary wrongdoings like misappropriation or extortion (Jules Epstein, 2019). When there are insufficient controls and monitoring systems in place, businesses are unable to identify and combat insider threats. They are exposed to internal security breaches as a result, which can have serious consequences.

Increased non-compliance risks

The inability to adapt to changing regulatory requirements is one of the most significant non-compliance risks associated with out-of-date accounting software. Businesses must ensure that their accounting procedures adhere to the most recent standards as regulatory requirements evolve and become more stringent. However, outdated systems may lack the features needed to support compliance efforts, putting businesses at risk financially and legally (William H. Mills, 2000). Businesses that use out-of-date software run the risk of falling out of compliance with crucial regulations like Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), and industry-specific regulatory frameworks if they do not receive the necessary updates and enhancements.

Rebelliousness with guidelines, for example, this can bring about fines, punishments, and reputational harm, further highlighting the direness of redesigning bookkeeping programming. The increased vulnerability to errors and inaccuracies inherent in out-of-date accounting software only serves to exacerbate the risk of non-compliance. If they don't have access to the most recent upgrades, businesses that use legacy systems run a greater risk of data errors, misstatements, and discrepancies in their financial records. In addition to compromising the organization's ability to demonstrate compliance with accounting standards and regulatory requirements, these errors also jeopardize the integrity of financial reporting.

Lack of support

Furthermore, the lack of support and maintenance for outdated software exacerbates reporting challenges. As software vendors phase out support for older versions, businesses encounter difficulties in resolving technical issues and obtaining software updates. This can lead to prolonged downtime, loss of productivity, and frustration among users who rely on the software to perform their daily tasks. Also, delays in issue resolution inhibit the implementation of necessary changes to improve reporting accuracy. Without adequate support, businesses struggle to optimize their reporting processes and remain competitive in their respective industries.

The lack of updates and improvements also prevents organizations from expanding and becoming adaptable. To remain competitive, businesses need accounting solutions that are adaptable and responsive to changing market conditions and evolving business needs. However, obsolete applications that remained in the past without vendor support restrict innovation and make it more difficult for companies to take advantage of new opportunities or adapt to the needs of their evolving client (Thomas J, 2000).

2.3.DISCUSSION

The use of out-of-date accounting software is frequently overlooked by finance departments. Numerous organizations will not perceive that they are utilizing a heritage finance framework until something turns out badly or they won't change their framework until a difficult issue emerges, in which case they will have the opportunity to find a reasonable substitution. According to the article that was written by Nadine Sutton, only 20% of finance professionals stated that they currently use software that is hosted in the Cloud, and 60% stated that they do not currently use any business software for obtaining a view of KPIs in real time. Data loss, security breaches, or system crashes that break the entire system are the worst-case scenarios for issues they might encounter. Additionally, a company's productivity may suffer as a result of using out-of-date accounting software. (Nadine Sutton, 2023)

The options for selecting the appropriate accounting product can be contradictory when it comes to selecting the necessary speed, accuracy, and dependability. The connection between bookkeeping programming and company execution may be recognized exclusively in the event that while the bookkeeping programming program is reasonable for some extraordinary organization highlights. (2019, Marushchak et al.) Additionally, that's what the article expressed "many directed explores showed that bookkeeping data framework reception affected really on organizations execution, benefit, and activities proficiency in certain nations which is Malaysia, Finland, Spain, Iran, and Pakistan. This is on the grounds that, these days bookkeeping programming is a viable device in overseeing business processes (Galyna Liakhovych, 2021). Accounting software is produced by tens of thousands of companies. Supervisors slam into issues in picking the most appropriate bookkeeping programming to fit every one of organizations' prerequisites.

It is stated in the article "Accounting Software in Modern Business" that a number of scientists have indicated that accounting software plays a crucial role in the production of high-quality accounting data and the storage of crucial data for decision-makers. In a scientific paper, the impact of accounting information systems on organizational performance in the context of Saudi SMEs was investigated. It was determined that accounting information systems are a tool that improves managers' control over business performance. It can also lower accounting spending costs. The quality of financial statements submitted to various state departments is directly influenced by accounting software (Lesia Marushchak, 2021). The business owner was dissatisfied with the timely submission of reports, despite the fact that the manual bookkeeping method worked as intended (Kimberly L., 2019).

The issue with the aging accounts receivable was frequently discovered by the bookkeeper when they obtained the ledgers two or three months after the month's end. Each proprietor looked for additional intensive information on deals and payment, as well as more "continuous" data on the money account. When actively searching for accounting software that defines the current business process, several considerations must be made.

To do this, the proprietor should accumulate the client or staff part and ask them one-on-one to list the different PC shows and elements they use consistently. Examples of the reports they needed to complete their daily tasks were brought by everyone. Following the presentation of the data in the form of a chart for the purpose of comparative analysis, the group was reassembled for the second step, which consisted of looking for hardware and software solutions. (2000 Glidden)

The long-term budget for the project should be established in step three. There should be two parts to this. Section one ought to detail the underlying money costs for the product, equipment, and specialist support expected for execution of the framework completely. The second section ought to provide a breakdown of each cost involved in upkeep of the system for at least the next two years. The business may discover that it was able to pay for the initial installation of the system without a budget; however, in the long run, the costs of upkeep and maintenance upgrades may be unaffordable. (2000, Kimberly L.)

In conclusion, owners of small businesses need to be aware of the outcomes that are expected, supportive of the solution that has been chosen, and confident that the benefits that will come from the information system investment will outweigh the costs in the long run. At last, the inability to screen costs versus benefits during the undertaking might make the proprietor pick a framework that is hard to execute and keep up with.

2.4 RECOMMENDATION

Invest in modern accounting software

The company needs to consider providing provisions to invest in the modern system to keep pace with current technology. Also, purchasing advanced accounting software is a strategic necessity for companies looking to achieve success in the digital world, not merely a technological upgrade (Dmytrenko M et al, 2020). Organisations could take advantage of new possibilities for expansion, improve operational effectiveness, and reduce risks by embracing the capabilities offered by modern solutions and fixing the deficiencies of outdated systems. This will put them in a position to succeed over the long term in a constantly shifting business environment. Moreover, modern accounting software provides a comprehensive suite of features and functionalities that are specifically designed to match the demands of modern finance, making it a cure-all for the problems associated with obsolete systems with features like real-time reporting and automated transaction processing, these solutions allow companies to improve decision-making, streamline financial operations, and encourage organisational expansion (Borkovska Valentyna et al, 2020).

Training and Education

Employees who used to rely on the system may find it intimidating to switch to more up-to-date accounting software. As a result, in order to make this transition easier for their employees, businesses need to develop a comprehensive training strategy that ensures that they have the knowledge and skills they need to effectively use modern accounting software. During the training process, employees must acknowledge the difficulties associated with outdated accounting software (Azbariyah Aziz, 2022). These difficulties might incorporate restricted functionalities, complex cycles, and failures that ruin efficiency and exactness. In spite of the fact that they might be OK with the connection point, workers every now and again don't know about the potential that cutting edge programming arrangements offer.

The primary objective of the preparation is to engage workers with the abilities and certainty to proficiently explore and use current bookkeeping programming. consists of showing employees new software's capabilities and features, giving users hands-on experience to improve their software knowledge. addressing uncertainties and resistance to change by emphasizing the benefits of modernization, as well as equipping employees with troubleshooting skills so they can deal with common issues and challenges during the transition (Siti Mazwita Zamri, 2022). Businesses can ensure a smooth and successful transition by implementing a structured training plan that addresses the specific challenges and requirements of employees, empowering them to effectively embrace the advantages of modern accounting software.

Consider outsourcing

Outsourcing accounting services emerges as a strategic solution to mitigate operational inefficiencies and leverage expertise. Many benefits of outsourcing that company enjoys such as saving cost. When accounting functions are outsourced instead of being internally maintained and updated, significant cost reductions may be achieved (Adam Hanson,2023). Pay-as-you-go, scalable models are commonly used by outsourcing service providers, which do away with the requirement for upfront investments in infrastructure, staff, and software licenses. Outsourcing also reduces overhead expenses related to internal accounting system upkeep, support, and training. Furthermore, it can be expensive and resource-intensive to maintain and upgrade old software, taking significant resources away from essential company operations.

Stay informed about emerging technologies

Businesses face many difficulties when using obsolete accounting software, such as restricted functionality, security flaws, and inefficient data processing. Relying on outdated systems may negatively impact productivity, accuracy, and overall corporate performance as technology keeps advancing quickly. New technologies present revolutionary chances to update accounting procedures and overcome the limitations of outdated software (Nanja Kroon,2021). From cloud computing and artificial intelligence to blockchain and robotic process automation, these technologies hold the potential to revolutionize how financial data is managed, analyzed, and reported. By embracing a culture of continuous learning such as providing access to online courses, webinars, and workshops and focusing on relevant topics which are cloud computing, data analytics, and cybersecurity. Companies can also foster connections with industry peers, professional associations, and technology vendors to build industry networking and collaborate with software vendors or technology providers to gain early access to new features and updates. With that action, organizations can harness the transformative power of emerging technologies to modernize accounting practices, drive efficiency, and unlock new opportunities for growth and innovation.

2.5.CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the issue of using outdated accounting software poses significant challenges and risks for businesses. From decreased efficiency, security threats, increase in non-compliance, and lack of support, relying on obsolete software can have far-reaching consequences that impact the overall performance and success of a company. The negative impact of obsolete accounting software on productivity is among the most urgent issues. The absence of modern functionality and automation capabilities in these older systems frequently results in slower workflows, more manual intervention, and wasteful operations. In addition to causing delays in financial reporting and decision-making, this inefficiency makes it more difficult for the business to take advantage of new opportunities and adjust to shifting market conditions. Furthermore, businesses may encounter errors in financial records, compliance problems, and possible legal obligations in the absence of strong error-checking procedures and current reporting capabilities. In addition to undermining stakeholder trust, this puts the business at risk of financial losses and harm to its reputation.

Furthermore, critical financial data and company assets are seriously threatened by the security flaws in outdated or unsupported software. If this happens, there may be expensive data breaches, legal penalties, and harm to the company's reputation. In light of these challenges, it is evident that businesses must prioritize the modernization of their accounting software to mitigate risks and drive growth. By investing in modern solutions that offer advanced features, automation capabilities, and robust security measures, companies can enhance efficiency, accuracy, and compliance while safeguarding their financial information and reputation. In today's dynamic business environment, the use of outdated accounting software is no longer viable. To remain competitive and resilient, businesses must embrace technological innovation and adopt modern accounting solutions that enable them to adapt, thrive, and succeed in the digital age.

3.0 APPENDICES

NEWS & VIEWS | Technology Trends

Challenging Outdated Technology

By Michael Cherry, Edward J. Imwinkelried, Elen Riley, Jules Epstein, Mark Switzer, and Jack King

Technology pervades virtually every aspect of modern American society, including the courtrooms. When technology is sound and used properly, it can yield fantastic results, improving the accuracy of legal fact-finding. When technology is flawed or misapplied, however, the consequences can be disastrous. Flawed courtroom testimony about technology is causing miscarriages of justice, and outmoded technology is impeding economic security.

Outdated Cellphone Location Methods

Most courtrooms, including tax, criminal, civil, and traffic, are still accepting and admitting outdated methods to determine the approximate location of a cellphone. A very popular method relies on the proposition that a cellphone will use the cell tower with the strongest signal. This was a reliable claim until the late 20th century, when mobile phone companies switched from analog to programmable digital networks. The use of programmable digital networks freed phones from simply using the tower with the strongest signal and allowed more refined selections, including the selection of the least "noisy" tower.

Another outdated method used the switching from one tower to another to identify both travel and direction. This method was also reliable before the emergence of digital networks. In the digital era, however, towers may be switched simply to balance load and improve sound quality.

The unfortunate use of these outdated methods may have affected the out-

comes of hundreds or thousands of cases. For example, the authors have successfully challenged these methods to submit residency days in New York Tax Court and to help free a woman who spent over 10 years in jail for a crime that she did not commit.

Outdated Cybersecurity without Safe Rooms

The commercial sector also remains in the 20th century when it comes to cybersecurity. All types of entities are being hacked, including Yahoo, Equifax, Facebook, Travelers Insurance, and Bitcoin exchanges. Businesses use cybersecurity software, including virus scanners, biometrics and encryption, but they fail to use safe rooms.

For at least 20 years, the governments of the United States and many other countries have successfully used Secure Computerized Information Facilities (SCIF, or a safe room) in concert with cybersecurity software to avoid hackers. Safe rooms are copper shielded, ideally hidden, rooms that comprehensively protect documents by blocking radio waves, cameras, mobile telephones, portable computers, copiers, and the Internet. A safe room should have at least one private, single-person viewing area that locks automatically on entry. Other recommendations include the following:

- Any data center that requires an Internet connection should be modified to reduce the volume of information that is valuable to hackers. For example, an electric bill can be computed using an address and a biometric token, as opposed to a name and an address. The account should ordinarily be cut off from the Internet, because utility accounts can yield a wealth of personal information: the customer's legal name, length of residence, Social Security number, and payment history, all bits of personal and proprietary data that hackers love to collect and sell or share.

At a second level of security, safe rooms must have strict viewing access controls. For example, individuals, identified with a specific fingerprint, should only be allowed a one-time decryption and viewing of a specific document.

At a third security level, the viewing controls must not only regulate access to the room, but also the use of each document. For each category of documents, there should be 1) a list of eligible viewers; 2) a time limit per document view, typically not exceeding 40 minutes; and 3) a maximum number of views allowed, perhaps one per viewer.

Making Use of What's Available

CPAs must ask whether the current computer security protocols are adequate. The news is replete with reports of new security breaches that provide evidence of the fatal weaknesses of current approaches. One way to get serious about protecting confidential documents and their processing in the 21st century capitalizes on the best that modern science offers: hidden safe rooms, sophisticated document controls, encryption, and biometric recognition.

Michael Cherry is the president of Cherry Biometrics Inc., Falls Church, Va., and a corporate officer at World Wide Security Solutions. Edward J. Imwinkelried, JD, is a retired professor of law at the University of California, Davis. Elen Riley is a professor of finance at the Stillman School of Business, Seton Hall University, South Orange, N.J. Jules Epstein, JD, is a professor of law and director of advocacy programs at the Beasley School of Law, Temple University, Philadelphia, Pa. Mark Switzer is a director at Equinox Wealth, Toronto, Ontario. Jack King, JD, is a criminal defense lawyer admitted to the bar in Washington, D.C.

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Does Your Accounting Software Pass the Year 2000 Compliance Test?

Evaluating your accounting software for Year 2000 compliance is a critical first step in assuring that January 1, 2000, will not be a disaster for your business.

BY WILLIAM H. MILLS

What year follows 1999? Of course you know, but there is a chance that your computer doesn't. Computers typically store year dates as two-digit fields. The year 1998 is 98, and the year 1999 is 99. That makes the year 2000 a confusing 00, and most computers think 00 means 1900.

All kinds of hardware and software are affected by the Year 2000 problem, but time-sensitive applications are especially vulnerable. That's why accounting and financial professionals are so concerned about the issue. If your word processing software stamps

the wrong date on your document, it might be nothing more than inconvenient. However, if your accounting software uses the wrong date for invoices, payment notices, and depreciation schedules, the consequences can be staggering.

Many people are adopting a wait-and-see attitude, but experts agree that those who wait won't like what they see. The problem is real, it is serious, and time is running out. The federal government has efforts under way to solve the problem in its systems. According to one department head, "We started our conversion in 1987. I think we started early enough, but I'm still not sure." The estimated cost to companies in the United States alone will be at least \$300 billion.

If you're like most corporations, you're only just getting started with your Year 2000 implementation. You still have time to complete the task, but don't delay. This is one project with a deadline that absolutely can't be moved!

HIDING PLACES FOR YEAR 2000 PROBLEMS

In order to locate problems in your computer system, you must first know where to look. Here are nine places where your Year 2000 problems can lurk.

Mail/mainframes. If you have an older minicomputer or mainframe, there's a good chance your system has a Year 2000 problem. These systems were developed many years ago and were designed with the space-saving, two-digit date field. Because you might be facing a significant upgrade or replacement, you should analyze your system right away.

PC hardware. Many PC systems have a BIOS (basic input/output system) problem that causes the internal clock to reset to 1980 when the 00 threshold is reached. In some cases, hardware is still shipping with this problem. If you have stand-alone or networked PCs, you should check every system for BIOS errors.

COBOL, FORTRAN, RPG2, or similar software. These older languages were not designed for Year 2000 certification.

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Accounting Software in Modern Business

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:
Received: 06 November, 2020
Accepted: 19 January, 2021
Online: 05 February, 2021

Keywords:
Accounting software
Leading companies
Accounting system
Business performance

ABSTRACT

The purpose of the research is an investigation of different accounting software products, their functions, and specific features to make easier choice among variety of similar products and analysis of their pros and cons that can influence on companies' performance. Authors classified accounting software according to its capabilities to serve the different managerial purposes. Because accounting software contains hundreds, some of them even thousands of features, the grouping method gave a possibility to assort similar models that might suit the company's specific requirements – size, cost, customizing, formats, appointments, models, and providers. Observation and comparing of data showed that the cost of accounting programs is critical to making the right choice. As the global accounting software market has a tendency to abrupt change to e-accounting, so that makes it impossible to predict the future behavior of accounting software users. To determine the objectives of this research statistical procedures are conducted. Received results can help potential users of accounting software products to choose the appropriate one based on listed advantages and disadvantages among the best sellers – customization tools, foreign currencies handling, financial and managerial reporting system and analytical capabilities. Lack of prior research studies on the topic and lack of available data have caused significant limitation of the analysis scope. The obtained results gave possibility to identified the main elements in formation the list of features necessary for making right choice of accounting software products. Facts showed managers, who don't consider specific needs and features of accounting software, encounter with problem of discrepancy to company's requirements. The research is based on theoretical and empirical data. To collect the necessary data for research there was used a quantitative approach. Analytical method helped to analyze and evaluate the ponderable factors which must be considered in selecting process the most appropriate accounting software for companies. The research is dedicated to problems connected with an uncertainty that appears in the accounting software market. This research adds new knowledge to the accounting field as there was disproving theoretical and practical

Figure 1: Article Reference

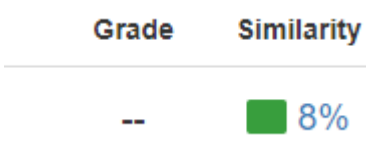


Figure 2: Plagiarism Percentage

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