Assessing Data Reliability

Assessing the reliability of computer generated data is an important step in audit planning as well as addressing specific audit objectives.

Data is aggregated from various sources, processed using automated rule sets, and stored in databases, data warehouses, etc. Applications and business users extract or retrieve data as the basis for strategic decisions, reporting, day-to-day operations, and auditing.

This course will provide you with the concepts and tools to evaluate the reliability of data processed and available for analysis and decision-making.

In this course, we will discuss:

- How a reliability assessment of data from IT systems should be conducted during audit planning, when developing audit objectives and audit procedures.

- Steps to perform when obtaining evidence during the audit regarding data accuracy, completeness, and validity.

- Key factors to be reviewed during audit planning to assist the auditor in evaluating the sufficiency, reliability, and relevance of data to be used as audit evidence.

- Data reliability issues relating to the organization and appropriateness of controls, risk, and testing.
**Course Duration:**

2 Days

**CPE Hours Available:**

14

**Knowledge Level:**

Intermediate

**Field of Study:**

Auditing

**Prerequisites:**

Participant should have general understanding of IT processes and business and accounting applications.

**Advance Preparation:**

None

**Delivery Format:**

On-site
Course Outline:

Nature of Risk

- Explain the fundamental nature of risk.
- Recognize patterns of change in an organization.
- List potential changes that could impact organizational opportunities and threats.
- Recognize types and categories of risk.
- Utilize the components of risk analysis in decision making.
- Explain the strategic influences on risk assessment.

Data Value

- What data value means

Defining Data Reliability

- Relevance
- Reliability
- Integrity
- Audit considerations

Operational Requirements for Data Reliability

- Business process requirements
- Legal and compliance requirements

Data Management

- Information architecture
- Data classification
- Distinguishing between controls “in place” and “in effect” for reliability
- Data management definition, ownership, and custodianship

Auditing Data Reliability

- Audit objectives
- Audit evidence
- Evaluating internal controls
- Designing audit procedures
Good Practices for Data Management

- Database management
- Database administration
- Change management
- Data security
- Outsourcing
- Business continuity

Impact of Internal Control on Data Reliability

- Control responsibilities
- Factors that impact control
- Technology and controls
- Risk and data reliability
- Reasonable assurance
- Audit framework

Developing Audit Objectives for Data Reliability

- Establishing audit objectives
- Developing criteria

Assessing Reliability of Data

- Key focus of the assessment
- Examples of assessments
- The assessment cycle during the audit