Accounting information system audit and its risk analysis

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Abstract: This paper firstly summarizes the accounting information system and audit, and then discusses the types and causes of audit risks, including the risks of the system itself, auditors, internal control, etc., and analyzes the reasons from the perspectives of technology, personnel quality, physical security and data protection. Finally, four effective strategies to avoid risks, namely strengthening internal control, attaching importance to external audit, building security guarantee mechanism and improving the quality of auditors, are put forward to provide reference for reducing the audit risk of accounting information system.

Keywords: Accounting Information System; Audit; Risk; Evasive Strategy

Introduction

In today's digital age, accounting information system plays a key role in the financial management of enterprises. However, its complexity and informationization characteristics also bring a series of audit risks. In order to ensure the accuracy, reliability and compliance of accounting information, it is very important to conduct an effective audit of accounting information system.

1. Overview of accounting information system audit

1.1 Accounting information system

Accounting information system is a system that uses information technology to collect, store, process and report accounting data. It covers four modules: business processing function, internal control processing function, accounting processing function and audit trail collection function, which can realize automatic processing and information sharing of accounting business. By integrating an enterprise's financial and business processes, accounting information systems provide timely and accurate financial information for enterprise decision-making.

1.2 Accounting information system audit

Accounting information system audit is the process of examining and evaluating the security, reliability and effectiveness of accounting information system. Not only the financial data in the system, but also the hardware, software, network, internal control and other aspects of the system. The purpose of the audit is to ensure that the system can accurately record and process financial transactions, protect business assets, and comply with relevant regulations and policies.

2. Audit risk and reason analysis of accounting information system

2.1 Overview of audit risks

2.1.1 Accounting information system's own risk

In today's digital age, the complexity of accounting information system is increasing day by day, and there may be potential problems in the stability of software, storage and processing of data. The system may experience virus attacks, hacking, or data loss and system crash due to hardware failure. Moreover, with the development and change of business, if the update and upgrade of the system is not timely and imperfect, it will also cause a series of risks [1].

2.1.2 Risks brought by auditors

The auditor's professional ability, experience level and familiarity with the accounting information system will affect the audit quality. If auditors lack sufficient information technology knowledge and can not accurately understand and evaluate the operating logic and data processing process of the system, it may lead to audit errors and fail to find hidden problems in the system.

2.1.3 Risks caused by internal control defects

The imperfect internal control system, such as the unclear division of responsibilities, the less strict approval process, the lack of supervision mechanism, etc., may make the accounting information system in the operation of the error or fraud and not be found and corrected in time.

2.2 Risk cause analysis

2.2.1 Insufficient auditing techniques and evidence acquisition methods of accounting information system

The current audit technology may not be able to fully adapt to the complex and changeable environment of the accounting information system. For some new system architecture and data processing methods, the traditional audit methods may seem inadequate. Moreover, the means of obtaining effective audit evidence are relatively limited, and it is difficult to fully and accurately reflect the real situation of the system.

2.2.2 The comprehensive quality of accounting information system auditors is not up to standard

Auditors not only need to have solid accounting and audit expertise, but also need to be proficient in information technology and related regulations and policies. However, in reality, many auditors have the defects of knowledge structure in these aspects, and can not cope with various challenges in the audit of accounting information system.

2.2.3 There are loopholes in the physical security management of accounting information system

If the storage environment of the server and the protective measures of network equipment and other physical security management are not in place, they are prone to natural disasters, man-made damage and other factors, which threaten the normal operation of the accounting information system and data security.

3. Effective strategies to avoid audit risks of accounting information system

3.1 Strengthen the internal control of accounting information system

Establishing sound internal control system is the basis of reducing audit risk. First of all, the system operation process is clear to avoid the blindness and confusion of the operator. At the same time, attention should be paid to rights management to ensure that personnel at different levels are given the rights that match their responsibilities to prevent confusion and risks caused by unauthorized operations. And for critical control points, monitoring efforts should be strengthened, such as real-time tracking and recording of major capital flows and approval of important financial decisions. Regular internal audit and risk assessment are also feasible measures. Through a comprehensive review of the system operating status, potential risks can be discovered in time and corresponding countermeasures can be formulated to avoid the adverse consequences of risks. To sum up, human errors and illegal operations can be minimized through perfect internal control, providing a solid guarantee for the safe and stable operation of the accounting information system [2].

3.2 Attach importance to the external audit work

External audit can provide independent and objective evaluation and supervision. As another "subsystem" of audit supervision, external audit can effectively integrate and coordinate with internal audit to form a "two-pronged" mode, which is the key to ensure the healthy development of enterprises. In the selection of audit institutions, should be selected with professional qualifications and rich experience of the unit. Only in this way can we really play the role of external audit and realize the comprehensive audit of accounting information system.

3.3 Build and improve mechanisms to strengthen security

Building a comprehensive security guarantee mechanism, including network security, data security and access control, is a key task. In terms of network security, advanced firewall technology is adopted to monitor and block external malicious attacks and illegal intrusions in real time. For data security, the scientific use of efficient encryption technology to encrypt important data, and through strict identity authentication screening visitors, based on identity authentication, only legitimate authentication users can access the system, can effectively prevent

unauthorized personnel from obtaining sensitive information. At the same time, the establishment of a sound emergency response mechanism, when the system encounters a failure or a security incident, the rapid launch of the emergency plan and timely measures to deal with it are the key to ensure the minimum loss and impact [3].

3.4 Improve the quality of auditors through training

Regular organization of auditors to participate in training is an effective way to improve their comprehensive ability. Training content should cover accounting, auditing, information technology and other fields of knowledge and skills. In accounting, in-depth study of the latest accounting standards and financial regulations to ensure compliance and accuracy of audit work. In addition, auditors should be encouraged to continue to learn and update knowledge, pay attention to industry trends and cutting-edge technologies, and constantly improve their professional quality. By mastering the latest audit methods and technologies and enhancing professional judgment and risk awareness, they can be able to find problems, assess risks accurately and propose practical solutions in the complex and changeable audit work.

Conclusion

To sum up, the effective management of audit risk of accounting information system is of great significance for ensuring the quality and safety of enterprise financial information. By analyzing the specific performance and causes of risks, this paper puts forward four practical avoidance strategies, hoping that this study can provide more references for improving audit quality and efficiency.

References

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