



ESSENTIALS OF SYSTEM AUDITING

D.O. MUKORO

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PREFACE

System Auditing has the potential to be an area of study for Professional Accountants. For it combines the most interesting area of Financial Accounting (Accounts presentation and review) within a framework of inquiry, auditing and investigation and it involves a wide range of knowledge and sophisticated techniques.

Questions on Computer (systems auditing) in one forum or the other are systematically creeping into the professional academic Examination. The trend will continue until the expertise required to deal with such questions correspond with the demands made upon Auditors (Accountants) in their practical dealings with computers, yet it is often regarded as the most boring subject of all (Auditing). I certainly found it so when I was studying, although in practice this was far from the case. The case is different for younger generation because of the ICT age that ushered in a world in which computers are a fact of life, a fact which has fundamentally affected our social, commercial and political environment, both subtly and obviously. When I came to teach the subject-System Auditing, both in the professional environment and subsequently in public and private sector (Universities), I quickly discovered that it was perhaps the most difficult of all subjects in which to maintain students' interest. For thee is a vast body of knowledge that must be learned and understood.

And Auditors cannot practice their knowledge with written example in the same way as they do in Accounting. But I found, after much trial and errors in the classroom that interest could be maintained by logical presentation and by the use of simple case studies and analysis, this being so essential, both for maintenance

of interest and for understanding. Without it, the subject (System Auditing) degenerates into huge mass of unrelated facts with the result that learning becomes a chore to be performed for the sole purpose of passing an examination.

The old generation text books have largely responsible for perpetuation (or perhaps even perpetrating) this instruction approach, and this combined with signed style and tortuous phraseology, has done much harm to students of System Auditing. So I have tried to make this book as readable as possible.

"System Auditing" is previously a book for students, and the structure is such that it is suitable for all levels up to final professional examinations. But it is particularly aimed at the students commencing their study of System Auditing, to take them through, comfortably I hope, to his finals. Those in the Universities are not left out.

The body of knowledge incorporated here is not original. No book on System Auditing can claim that. For this knowledge is based on years of research and gradual development in the profession in both large and small firms alike. In particular, I am grateful to Emile Woolf and Associates. I am also indebted to the following for permission to reproduce Copyright materials: (1) Institute of Data Processing Management, (2) Accountancy and (3) the author of article" the best of Emile Woolf second edition (for an extract) (4) materials from Auditing Standards and Institute Statement on Auditing and Accounting.

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