

Jutaporn Wattanasin 2010: The Use of Computer Assisted Audit Techniques (CAATs) in Financial Statement Audits. Master of Accountancy, Major Field: Accounting, Department of Accounting. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Usana Patramontree, M.B.A. 97 pages.

The objectives of this study are to examine problems that financial auditors find when using Computer Assisted Audit Techniques (CAATs) and to study the relationship between auditor's characteristic, the complexity of processing systems and the CAATs types. The questionnaires were sent to auditors at big four audit firms in the Bangkok Metropolis for their familiarity with the CAATs. The 370 returned questionnaire were from various levels of auditors who had the first-hand experience. The data are analyzed using the frequencies, percentages, means, standard deviation; while, Kendall's tau-c, Spearman Correlation, Eta and Kendall's tau-b are used for hypothesis testing by a statistical software package. After analyzing the descriptive and statistical data, the 10 auditors were interviewed for clarifications and suggestions.

The study results show that the major problems were the insufficient auditor's knowledge, the improper controls in Computer Information Systems (CIS) environments, the inappropriate segregation of duties in the computer room, the improper authorization of access to data, the inappropriate permission obtained from the management and the incompatible data files consecutively. The Generalized Audit Software (GAS) was the most commonly used CAATs technique with Thai auditors since it is flexible, cost effective and reliable. In addition, there are positive relationships between auditor's characteristic, the complexity of the processing systems and the CAATs types at 0.05 significant level. Suggestions from the study are audit firm should provide in depth workshop for auditors on CAATs application to increase their implementation in order to follow the new Auditing Standard. In addition auditors should improve themselves to have sufficient IT technical audit know-how. Moreover, the auditee's management should pay more attention to manage the IS control environment problems found in this study.

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Thesis Advisor's signature