COURSE SYNOPSIS

Organisations will increasingly expect Internal audit to provide greater coverage and depth in audits (assurance activities) and insights into business intelligence and continuous improvement (consulting activities). To this end, all this is achievable by analyzing the vast amounts of data generated by to the ever-evolving information and communication technology (ICT). The trend to this activity is commonly referred to Data Analytics.

Given the above, there are critical concerns over the security, integrity and authenticity of the data that is analysed and upon which important decisions are made.

Thus, it is essential for IA to understand the data, the characteristics of the data (metadata), the structure of the data (relationship), how the data is managed and administered (database administration) and the auditable controls pertinent to this function. This course not only enables IA to understand and audit data & databases but provides greater depth into Application Systems auditing. To bear testament to this consider the below:

Does IA trust the integrity and authenticity of the data that they audit? In a group of Internal Auditors including their CAE of a fairly large organisation, they echoed a common sentiment:

To be honest we mostly audit the “Inputs” and “Outputs” and not the “Process” because we don’t really understand how it (the processing) hangs together technically.

COURSE CONTENT

1. Brief overview of ICT Principles and Concepts in an inter-connected world
   - Complexity of ICT
   - Application systems inter-connectivity
   - Benefits and Risks of Applications residing in distributed platforms including “cloud-based” platforms
2. Understanding Data and Databases
   - Data Classification and meta data
   - Types of applications
   - Integrated Applications
   - Database Management Systems
3. Overview of Applications Systems design
   - Relational data base concepts
   - Normalization of data
   - Data Validation
   [Group work: Design a database – scenario provided by facilitator]
4. Database management, risks and controls
   - Management and administration of databases
   - Understand risk database management risks and
   - Controls

COURSE OUTCOME

- Understand data and database structures, how data is related in a database (relational database concepts) and the integrity of data in a database (data normalisation)
- Understand how application systems are designed
- Understand the management and administration of data and databases i.e. Relational Data Base Management
- Identify and describe the risks and controls associated with data and database management and how to audit;
- Explain data administration practices such as databases, data structures and data classification.

METHOD OF EVALUATION

Group work – exercises and practical sessions feedback

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Internal audit all levels, IT Auditors, Risk management and staff; Also useful for managers to appreciate potential added benefits of Analytics to improve Business Intelligence.

A 10% group discount will apply to organisations placing a simultaneous booking for 2 or more registrants.

Delegates are also requested to review the content and the levels of the courses presented before booking, to ensure they are attending the right course.