Next-Generation Digital Auditing and Automation Training Course



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4100 € (Per Person)

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Course Introduction / Overview:

The landscape of internal audit is undergoing a profound transformation, driven by digitalization and the demand for real-time assurance. This course provides a comprehensive roadmap for navigating this new era. Traditional, retrospective auditing is no longer sufficient in a world of complex, interconnected systems. This program, offered by BIG BEN Training Center, is meticulously designed to equip professionals with the skills to leverage technology for more effective and efficient internal controls and auditing processes. We will move beyond theoretical concepts to practical application, exploring how to implement data analytics, robotic process automation (RPA), and continuous auditing frameworks. Drawing on principles discussed by thought leaders like Miklos A. Vasarhelyi, a pioneer in continuous auditing, and concepts found in texts such as "Auditing and Assurance Services," we will delve into the mechanics of automating control testing and monitoring. Participants will learn to identify automation opportunities, assess risks in emerging technologies like AI and cloud computing, and provide forward-looking insights that add strategic value to their organizations. This course is the definitive guide to becoming a future-ready auditor, capable of harnessing technology to enhance governance, risk management, and control environments from A to Z.

Target Audience / This training course is suitable for:

- Internal Auditors at all levels.
- IT Auditors and IT Professionals.
- Risk Management Professionals.
- Compliance Officers and Managers.
- Finance Managers and Controllers.
- Accountants and Financial Analysts.
- Operations Managers seeking to improve controls.
- Governance, Risk, and Compliance (GRC) specialists.

Target Sectors and Industries:

- Banking and Financial Services.
- Insurance and Asset Management.
- Technology and Telecommunications.
- Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals.
- Manufacturing and Supply Chain.
- Retail and Consumer Goods.
- Energy and Utilities.
- Governmental agencies and public sector entities.

Target Organizations Departments:

- Internal Audit Department.
- Information Technology (IT) and Information Security.
- Finance and Accounting Department.
- Risk Management Department.
- Compliance and Legal Department.
- Operations Department.
- Procurement and Supply Chain Management.

Course Offerings:

By the end of this course, the participants will have able to:

- Develop a strategic framework for integrating digital tools into the audit plan.
- Apply data analytics techniques to identify anomalies, fraud, and control weaknesses.
- Design and implement Robotic Process Automation (RPA) for routine audit tests.
- Assess and audit risks associated with cloud computing, AI, and blockchain technologies.
- Establish a continuous auditing and monitoring program for key business processes.
- Enhance the efficiency and coverage of IT General Controls (ITGC) testing.
- Visualize audit findings effectively using data visualization tools for stakeholder reporting.
- Align digital audit strategies with the COSO internal control framework.
- Improve the detection of control failures and operational inefficiencies in real-time.
- Provide data-driven assurance and strategic insights to management and the board.

Course Methodology:

The training methodology at BIG BEN Training Center is designed to be immersive, practical, and highly interactive, ensuring that participants can immediately apply their learning. This course moves beyond traditional lectures to a hands-on learning environment. We will utilize a blend of expert-led presentations, real-world case studies of digital audit implementations and failures, and interactive group discussions to foster collaborative problem-solving. A significant portion of the course will be dedicated to practical workshops where participants will engage with concepts related to data analytics and process automation tools. These sessions will simulate real audit scenarios, allowing attendees to practice identifying processes ripe for automation, designing automated tests, and interpreting the results of data-driven analysis. Participants will work in teams on capstone projects that challenge them to develop a digital audit plan for a hypothetical organization. Continuous feedback will be provided by the instructor to guide learning and reinforce key concepts. This dynamic approach ensures a deep understanding of both the strategic imperatives and the technical execution of digital auditing and controls automation.

Course Agenda (Course Units):

Unit One: Foundations of the Digital Audit Transformation

- The evolution from traditional to digital auditing.
- Understanding the impact of digital transformation on internal controls.
- The COSO framework in the context of automated environments.
- Key concepts of IT General Controls (ITGCs) and application controls.
- Risk assessment for a digital audit plan.
- Identifying key areas for audit automation and continuous monitoring.
- The role of the auditor as a technology advisor.

Unit Two: Data Analytics and Visualization for Auditors

- Fundamentals of data extraction, transformation, and loading (ETL) for audit.
- Applying data analysis techniques for fraud detection and anomaly identification.
- Introduction to scripting and SQL for auditors.
- Using data visualization tools like Tableau or Power BI for impactful reporting.
- Population testing versus sampling using data analytics.
- Developing key performance indicators (KPIs) and key risk indicators (KRIs).
- Case study on a data-driven forensic investigation.

Unit Three: Robotic Process Automation (RPA) in Internal Audit

- Introduction to RPA and its application in audit and compliance.
- Identifying and prioritizing audit processes for automation.
- The lifecycle of an audit bot from design to deployment.
- Automating tests for segregation of duties (SoD) and user access reviews.
- Testing controls in procure-to-pay and order-to-cash cycles with RPA.
- Governance and risk management for an RPA program in audit.
- Practical exercise in designing a simple audit automation workflow.

Unit Four: Auditing Emerging Technologies and Cybersecurity

- Risk and control considerations for cloud computing environments (IaaS, PaaS, SaaS).
- Fundamentals of auditing Artificial Intelligence (AI) and machine learning models.
- Understanding blockchain technology and its implications for audit.
- Key principles of auditing smart contracts.
- Essential cybersecurity audit concepts for internal auditors.
- Assessing third-party technology and vendor risks.
- Developing an audit program for an emerging technology.

Unit Five: Implementing Continuous Auditing and Monitoring

- Designing a framework for continuous auditing and continuous monitoring (CA/CM).
- Moving from periodic audits to real-time assurance.
- Integrating CA/CM with Governance, Risk, and Compliance (GRC) systems.
- Techniques for automated control testing and exception reporting.
- Communicating continuous audit results to stakeholders effectively.
- Overcoming challenges in implementing a CA/CM program.
- The future of the audit profession and the auditor of tomorrow.

FAQ:

Qualifications required for registering to this course?

There are no requirements.

How long is each daily session, and what is the total number of training hours for the course?

This training course spans five days, with daily sessions ranging between 4 to 5 hours, including breaks and interactive activities, bringing the total duration to 20 - 25 training hours.

Something to think about:

As automation and AI increasingly manage internal controls, what is the evolving role of human judgment and ethical oversight in the auditing profession?

What unique qualities does this course offer compared to other courses?

This course distinguishes itself by focusing on the strategic implementation of digital auditing rather than just proficiency with specific software. While many programs teach the "what," we emphasize the "how" and "why," equipping participants with a holistic framework for transforming their audit function. We bridge the critical gap between traditional audit principles and modern technological capabilities, ensuring that auditors can speak the language of both business process owners and IT specialists. The curriculum is uniquely forward-looking, dedicating significant time to auditing emerging technologies like AI, blockchain, and advanced cloud services, which are often treated as peripheral topics elsewhere. Our approach is intensely practical, built around case studies and hands-on design workshops that simulate real-world challenges. Instead of a purely technical deep-dive, the course cultivates a strategic mindset, enabling participants to identify high-impact automation opportunities, build a business case for digital transformation, and position the internal audit function as a proactive, data-driven advisor to the organization. It prepares auditors not just for their next audit, but for the next decade of their careers.