



The Changing Roles of Management Accounting Practices in the Digital Era

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Abstract

The digital era has certainly changed the landscape of management accounting practices globally. It is acknowledged that advanced technologies are transforming the role and relevance of management accounting and management accountants. The new digital era is characterized, among others, by wide usage of robotics, automated processes and digitalization of reports. The increasing use of software will move traditional management accounting towards real-time data. For management accountants, accurate real-time data can help greatly in their analysis and decision-making. Latest trends and technology that were once far removed from the management accountants' day-to-day lives are catching on very fast. In tandem with the proposed Competency Framework introduced by the Institute of Management Accountants (IMA), management accountants are expected to develop at least six core skill sets: (i) technology and data analytics, (ii) strategic management, (iii) reporting and control of processes through automation, (iv) business acumen and operations, (v) leadership, and (vi) professional ethics and values. Although technological advancement is undeniably important and has somehow changed a lot of manufacturing and business processes, some fundamental skill sets such as leadership, professional ethics and professional values are still very much included in the competency framework.

Keywords: *Management accounting practices, Real-time data, Fundamental skill sets, Advance technologies, Software*
