

## The Role Of Digital Accountant 5.0 Towards The Accountant Profession

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**Abstract.** The emergence of the era of society 5.0 is colored by the rapid world of digitalization which describes almost all areas of life including the accountant profession. This study aims to determine the development of digitalization towards society 5.0 and the efforts and challenges made by the accounting profession in facing that era. In this study using a qualitative approach method with interview techniques through online and offline to 2 Respondents of Public Accounting Firms and 2 Respondents of Tax Consultant Firms. The era of Society 5.0 requires accountants to understand technology and use it in their work. The reason is, accountants play an important role in the world of finance and business, which has a positive impact on efficiency and effectiveness. Therefore, accountant learning must be adapted to technological developments to prepare future accountants who can face the challenges of the digital era.

**Keywords:** Digital Accountant, Accountant Profession, Technology, Society Era 5.0

### INTRODUCTION

The new era in the world of technology is accelerating the transition towards digitalization. Digitalization can be understood as the use of digital technology to change business models and create new revenue opportunities for individuals to add value during digital business transformation. In the business area, it can help with staffing and bookkeeping. Digitalization enables various forms of collaboration between companies, suppliers, customers and employees that result in products and services. At the same time, digitalization challenges companies to develop new strategies to identify new business opportunities. While accounting digitization is strategic in the sense that it requires human thinking, it helps automate routine tasks.

Digitalization is closely related to information systems, where both play an important role in achieving business goals. However, in the world of digital accounting, there is a digital revolution in corporate financial management, where accounting information is presented in a digital format. The reason digitalization is important for accounting is to improve accuracy in the face of the level of uncertainty in a competitive market. Another reason is that data can be processed at high speed, which can affect customer service. It is therefore very important to get an overview of the impact of digitalization on the role of accountants.

Since revolution 4.0 has been the driving force behind revolution 5.0. A change caused by many global influences in all aspects of life that follows changes in the way professions work within them. In the future, there will always be changes in professional practice in every decade, which are sooner or later related to technology. Changes in each industrial revolution affect the actual use (Fonna, 2019). In this phenomenon, it can be said that the revolution has a great impact on the world ecosystem, which can greatly improve the quality of life (Mujiono, 2021). On the other hand, the positive impact is that the current industrial revolution can replace many human jobs and is inseparable from the emergence of various advanced technologies. In terms of society, 5.0 is an evolution of the 4.0 Industrial Revolution, which is seen as capable of weakening the role of humans (Mayasari, 2019).

This balance includes progress and honest problem solving, which Society 5.0 can promote as a negative influence. Most accountants believe that their role will change significantly in the coming years due to technological changes (Ramsbotham & Kiron, 2017). However, experts expect significant changes in relation to information technology systems and verification of historical financial information (Grosanu et al., 2020). Therefore, it is imperative for accountants to continue to innovate and understand the integration of accounting practices and technology to survive in the digital era (Mujiono, 2021).

Therefore, it is very important to understand more deeply and comprehensively the role of technology in the accounting profession in the digital era. Society 5.0 uses humans as the material for innovation. Utilizing several technological impacts and results of the Industrial Revolution 4.0, integrating technology to improve quality of life, responsibility and sustainability (Serpanos, 2018). Society 5.0 is one technological level higher than Society 4.0 (Harayama, 2017). Society 5.0 offers opportunities to create connections between individuals and technology, helping to improve everyone's quality of life through the Super Smart Society (Serpa & Ferreira, 2018, paragraph 1). It is very likely that 95% of the accountant profession will be replaced by robots, where the accountant's job is to analyze information, develop information technology and develop management skills (Imram, 2020).

Digital Accountant 5.0 has changed the role of accountants in the era of Society 5.0. Accountants must have skills in data analysis, data management, and technology to provide accurate and real-time financial information to stakeholders. The role of accountants must also keep up with the latest technology and invest in professional development. The use of digital technology has helped inspectors perform their duties more efficiently and accurately, reducing monotonous workloads and allowing them to focus on more complex tasks such as

data analysis and decision-making. The changes brought about by the industrial revolution are environmental changes that are directly explained by real industry.

In this era, including business intelligence, the development of descriptive technology. In today's digital era and digital development, things happen so fast. The role of accountants is also one of the professions that will disappear along with the digital revolution. It could be that the accountant profession is no longer needed in the future, because there are already various applications that facilitate the presentation of financial information. This can be the background of this research to find out more about the digital revolution faced by the accounting profession and the struggle of accountants to survive in the midst of the current technological onslaught.

### **Problem Formulation**

What is the role of Digital Accounting in the era of society 5.0 for the accounting profession?

### **Research Objectives**

The purpose of this research is to Know the development of the role of accountants in the era of society 5.0.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **1. Digital accounting**

Information technology is currently advancing and with this development, computers are widely used as tools for data processing, communication and information transmission (Widarsono & Ledian, 2013). Hunton (in Gul Kvist, 2011) said that the digitization of this economic phenomenon is basically happening all over the world and the accounting profession is also constantly changing. Accounting computerized systems are entering a new phase, digital accounting.

In the field of accounting, digital accounting information processing systems are widely used in various companies, agencies and public administrations to facilitate the preparation and presentation of financial reports. Desk Musk (in Gull Kvist, 2011) says that digital accounting is the presentation of accounting information in digital form that can be processed and transmitted electronically.

This change to digital accounting has a significant impact on accounting efficiency, digital accounting technology and system change management, as well as requirements for data collection and processing of accounting data results (Gull Kvist, 2011) is evidence that

digital accounting has entered the world of accountants, along with the emergence of cloud computing-based cloud computing applications or services.

## **2. Accounting Profession**

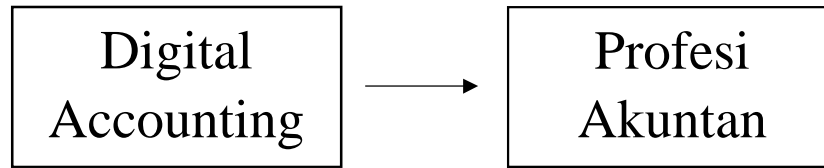
"Daniel Bell (1973) Profession is a learned intellectual activity, including formal or informal training and certification from scientific groups/organizations, to serve society through ethical service by providing embodied ideas and technical skills". Their morals and their status in society. "According to Wilkinson & Cerullo (1995, pp. 5-6), auditors are integrated structures within an entity that use physical resources and other components to convert financial/accounting transaction data into auditor data to meet the information needs of users."

"Because auditors play an important role in building financial accountability and transparency in Indonesia. The accounting profession is considered as one of the main components in the institutional strategic decision-making process (Erick Thohir, 2020)". In making decisions, "KAP must be guided by honesty and credible information (Indonesian Accountants Association, 2020)". Accounting is a profession that is at the heart of the economy and is clearly and widely explained in public financial reports (Lindawati Gani, 2020).

Thanks to professionalism, trust and honesty, accountants must be able to perfectly determine the direction and future of society or make strategic decisions based on reliable information, so that companies can develop optimally in the future. Indonesian Accountants Association, 2020). Over time, the accounting profession has developed due to changes. Being an accountant requires several skills such as good skills and knowledge, this statement is in line with the view "that education and technology rely on human creativity, communication skills and critical thinking (Prasetyo, 2019)". However, the role of an accountant always requires the ability to use one's intelligence and skills to complete quite complex tasks.

## **CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK**

The conceptual framework of this article sees the relationship between the role of digital accountants and the accounting profession in the era of society 5.0. Based on this statement, the conceptual framework of this article is shown in Figure 1, namely:



**Figure 1.** Conceptual Framework

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

### **1. Research Design**

This research explains in writing the changes and evolution of the role of accountants. The discussion of how to overcome the existing problems is carried out thoroughly and in detail based on the theories discussed previously and supported by accurate and relevant information. The research design is divided into 4 phases including:

a. Planning

In the design stage, the author analyzes the problem and then comes up with an idea to solve the problem.

b. Implementation

As data material for this research, the author conducted online and offline interviews with an employee of an audit company and a tax consulting company with the subject of the accounting profession.

c. Data analysis

Technical data analysis is carried out after the author receives the necessary information. The material is related to the concept designed by the author, so that the usefulness of the designed concept can be realized.

d. Evaluation

In this phase, after implementing the concept, the author evaluates the existing shortcomings and makes it a reference for improvement and refinement.

### **2. Place and time of inspection**

This research was conducted in Surabaya by collecting data from interviews with 4 respondents. This research was conducted in April 2023.

### **3. Data type**

Analysis methodology with a qualitative approach, the type of data used is primary data. The author conducted online and offline replication analysis interviews with 2 KAP (accounting firm) respondents and 2 KKP (tax consulting firm) respondents regarding the

role of accountants in Society 5.0. There are two variables in this research, namely the independent variable, namely digital accounting and the dependent variable, namely the accountant profession.

#### **4. Data Source**

The data obtained came from online and offline interviews.

#### **5. Population and sample**

The population used in this research is one KAP and one KKP, while 2 respondents from KAP and 2 respondents from KKP are sampled.

#### **6. Data Collection Technique**

The data collection technique for this research is interviews with 2 KAP and 2 KKP in Surabaya.

#### **7. Variable definitions and operational definitions.**

- a) Independent variable digital accounting
- b) The dependent variable is the accountant profession

#### **8. Data Processing**

The data processing process used in this research is qualitative data analysis with interview techniques and drawing conclusions.

#### **9. Hypothesis Testing and Data Analysis Techniques**

The data collected from the interviews were used for analysis. Data analysis was carried out using qualitative primary data analysis techniques. The data is then connected with data related to the problem at hand to find topics to be discussed. The data obtained was then analyzed to find new ideas to solve the problems raised. The ideas generated were presented and described to get an overview of the solution to the existing problems.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **1. Changes in digital accounting 5.0 to KAP (Public Accounting Firm) and KKP (Tax Consultant Office) companies in Surabaya.**

The advent of digital accounting 5.0 has brought new challenges and opportunities for the accounting profession. The use of robotics and big data analytics has taken over basic accountant tasks such as recording and processing transactions. This has led to a shift in the role of accountants from traditional bookkeeping to a more analytical role. The digitization of the economy has led to accountants needing to adapt to new technologies and tools. Accountants must also be able to analyze and interpret data to provide insights and

recommendations to clients.

Some changes from digital accounting 5.0 in KAP and KKP companies in the city of Surabaya. The results of interviews taken from auditors at KAP companies in Surabaya, one of which is at KAP Habib Basuni and Heryadi, and KKP Bahana Consulting. Explaining that changes in digital accounting 5.0 provide many changes in audit processing, one of which is the emergence of the ATLAS application which changes the auditing style to be more flexible and relative. The ATLAS application is likened to digital and the role of the auditor as technology. Even with the emergence of the ATLAS application, the human role is still used as the brain that organizes all auditing procedures. The main terms and conditions in the auditor are still used while the ATLAS application is used as an auxiliary to adjust the audit performance as reviewed from the auditor, for example auditing a government hospital, the auditor must understand the existing policies and authorizations then poured into the ATLAS application.

Meanwhile, changes in KKP companies in the city of Surabaya, one of which is KKP Bahana Consulting, which reveals that the role of digital accounting 5.0 in the tax accountant profession is very influential because most companies now use *cloud servers*, where the accounting database of a company is collected together on a *cloud server*. With the emergence of the *cloud server* system, it is easier for accountants to work anywhere and anytime the data on the *cloud server* also has a high level of security.

## **2. Benefits of digital accountant 5.0 for the accounting profession**

Digital Accounting is an important change in the sustainability of the accounting profession in the era of society 5.0, which is shaped by various technologies such as big data, cyber security, cloud computing, which also have a positive impact in helping accountants complete their mission.

In the era of Society 5.0, the accounting profession must innovate and evolve with the times. Accounting firms must also understand and make the best use of technology to improve work efficiency and effectiveness. In this case, auditors can use technologies such as big data, cloud computing and cyber security to create accurate information in real time.

With the role of digital accountants, the role of accountants changes from former accountants to produce financial information or data analysis to experts, so that with society 5.0 accountants are able to understand future technologies and create skill academies (Ilmestyskirja 2020). The advantages that digital accountant 5.0 offers on conditions are

significant for the accounting profession.

**a. Accounting automation**

Improvements in information technology that affect automated accounting software have reduced the role of auditors, and conversely, when auditors use automated systems, auditors spend less time on manual tasks such as data entry, allowing non-manual tasks to be performed quickly. With this new technology, labor-intensive tasks such as tax preparation, payroll, and auditing can be automated in a short period of time.

**b. Transparency and security**

The sophistication of digital accountants will also have a significant impact on accountant transparency as it restores the profession's trust and credibility in accurate financial reporting that ensures the fundamental integrity of accountants. While a focus on security helps accountants fulfill their responsibilities related to sensitive information, maintaining strong security practices requires ongoing security practices, and accountants must stay abreast of current security measures to protect sensitive information. Auditors are often involved in updating a company's accounting and management information systems, including planning the company's various operating cycles and making informed decisions about technology investments. Cost and security breaches are two major barriers to the adoption of artificial intelligence and robotics.

**c. Data analysis**

Fulfilling the duties of an accountant requires better analytical skills and speed in disseminating information in various industries. The advantages of Digital Accountant 5.0 help in the design of applications in the world of accountants, for example, accountants use analytical applications for the ongoing audit control process, it is clearly stated that Digital Accountant 5.0 can be a great investment opportunity and advantage for accountants, because it can help to assess the risk of a company's financial performance, or in other words, serve as a decision aid in the working life in the application of modern accountants.

**3. Challenges faced by accountants in facing digital accountant 5.0**

The accounting profession is increasingly experiencing changes along with technological developments, especially in order to welcome the era of society 5.0 which is closely related to technology as the main driving factor of the society 5.0 era. The accountant profession, which is basically a job related to recording and processing data which is then converted into a financial report, has also changed along with technological advances, changes in technological progress have created opportunities as well as challenges, the existence of



technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Thing (IoT), Big Data, Cloud Computing, Cyber Security will be an additional point for accountants when they can operate and maximize technology to simplify and assist the tasks they carry out, but on the other hand the presence of technology is also feared to be able to replace the duties of accountants in the digital accountant era and the impact is that the existence of the accounting profession will be threatened and replaced by this technology.

This is certainly not only felt by the accountant profession, but various professions are also threatened by the same thing such as tellers, cashiers, receptionists, and various other professions will also experience the same thing as accountants. The existence of digital accountants must also be welcomed by the accountant profession, accountants must be able to see the gaps and take advantage of the opportunities that exist in the digital accountant era, accountants must have visionary thinking related to the use of technology by improving various soft skills and hard skills with various methods such as conducting education, training, and capacity building both in the fields of accounting, auditing, information technology, and various other skills that are useful to support the accounting profession itself.

The development of various soft skills and hard skills will greatly help accountants to face the era of digital accountants, because if accountants are not able to adapt to the existence of digital accountants and the skills and abilities they already have, it is not impossible that the existence of accountants is replaced by technology. Connected, digital accountants such as artificial intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), big data, cloud computing, etc. Society 5.0 technology presents its own challenges for accountants. So that the accounting profession is at stake to survive in this era. The existence of the accounting profession is in the hands of accountants to answer the challenges of the Society 5.0 era, for example:

- a) Investment in digital skills development
- b) Introduction of new technical prototypes through learning
- c) This training is based on international certification
- d) Response to industrial, economic and technological developments
- e) Personalized digital curriculum and learning (for schools).

Because the auditor acts as a support and makes an analysis of the cause and effect of the company's management, which becomes very clear in the audit as a form of corporate responsibility to investors, especially in a constantly changing environment. Being a support specialist in an accounting firm requires good communication and understanding of all aspects of the business. As a senior decision support specialist, the auditor's role is financial

analysis rather than the provision of accounting information. Therefore, finance and accounting management must guide the marketing function in such a way that it recognizes the market situation in future global competition.

So that auditors can think strategically in the future. In this case, the use of traditional information by corporate auditors is developed through information management and early warning systems that provide solutions through accounting innovation to facilitate the definition of corporate policies. Therefore, with the development of information technology, the role of accountants must keep pace with the digitalization era which must be able to adapt to technology to create value, so digital services are increasingly facing different problems.

#### **4. Efforts that accountants can make to face digital accountant 5.0**

The role of accountants must be able to survive the development of the Society 4.0 era, where accountants have successfully utilized technological developments (IT) in the preparation of financial reports. Facing the challenges of Society 5.0, accountants must be able to seize opportunities for technological development and manage different skills, personalities and competencies in accordance with the digital era. The skills that need to be considered in the role of an accountant are not only hard skills, but various forms of soft skills to understand all aspects of this field.

The role of accountants must also adapt to a multicultural environment, considering that in the era of society 5.0, the personnel of some institutions do not come from the neighborhood, but extend to other regions or even abroad. If the auditor role does not have ideal IT skills, the auditor role will be replaced. In this case, it can be said that IT is a basic need that accountants need to learn and understand. Burritt & Katherine (2016), citing the December edition of the International Edition of Accounting and Business, said that the role of accountants in the era of society 5.0 must include four phases, including:

a)	Awareness to raise awareness that rapid technological development can bring good opportunities and new opportunities that did not exist before.
b)	Training complements education with a curriculum that responds to technological developments that precede the Society 5.0 era. The accounting training curriculum must meet the competency needs of accountants in the future, eg. B. Coding or programming training, use of technology and software to support accounting activities and real-time accounting systems.
c)	Career Development enhances accountants' career development with programs that support the development of skills related to the future accounting profession.
d)	Setting high standards is like setting high standards.

Therefore, the role of accountants is indispensable for creating optimal control. The information is usually obtained under the responsibility of several engineers. Therefore, the working relationship between accountants and engineers must go hand in hand so that the accountant's data and information are well maintained.

Entering the era of society 5.0, the role of auditors must support the collection of accounting information and information identification. ICT (Information and Communication Technology) management has five parts consisting of Business Thinking, Behavioral Skills, Digital Thinking, Communication, and Data Collection, Synthesis and Analysis. Simply put, business acumen is the ability to make strategic business decisions based on big data. Behavioral competencies are intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, and a willingness to continue learning throughout life. Digital literacy is the ability to understand how new technologies work. Communication is the ability to communicate effectively and efficiently. Data query, synthesis, and analysis are the skills to use structured and unstructured data, test data integrity, and conduct risk assessments. The role of accountants will be competitive in the era of Society 5.0 if they master these five elements.

## CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

### Conclusion

The transfer of strategies from 4.0 to society 5.0 is starting to be widely applied because of its maturity and speed which is much more flexible with a short calculation of time. This change also affects the accounting profession, because applications and websites have emerged that facilitate the work of accountants, such as: *Artificial Intelligence*, *Blockchain*, *Cyber Risk*, *Big Data Analytics* that facilitate the work of accountants.

Developing strategies in the era of Society 5.0 requires accountants to have more skills to face the challenges of the revolution. The strategy needed by an accounting firm must be up-to-date and current to go hand in hand with the presence of Society 5.0 which is indicated by a professional certificate. Accountants must also do five things to prove that accountants are ready to enter the era of society 5.0, such as: Business and technological developments, as well as curriculum and learning based on human-digital skills (for educational institutions). In addition to the advantages and sophistication below, the presence of Society 5.0 is also a threat to the accounting profession that is not up-to-date, reliable and changeable.

If accountants are unable to execute the existing technology in the accountant's role, it will be eliminated by the maturity of 5.0 technology and competitors who have higher value for their digital accountants. To overcome this threat, accountants must be able to face and coexist with changes such as technology assimilation, customization, measuring the size of the accountant's learning gap and fixing the accountant's shortcomings.

#### **Advice**

This research has limitations because only literature analysis related to the element of subjectivity is used to analyze the problem, because society 5.0 has not been widespread in many companies, because the majority are still implementing reform 4.0. Researchers have identified learning opportunities for the accounting profession related to changes in the application of accounting with Technology 5.0. Accounting firms should also work with the Secretariat of Education to create an updated accounting curriculum in the era of Society 5.0 so that those who become accountants are better prepared to transition to the world of work and adapt to digital accountants.

Accountants must also be aware of developments by seeing the opportunities that exist and learning to gather information using smart devices based on artificial intelligence so that technology and the economy are balanced. Thus, technological developments are not a problem for those of us who want to become accountants in the future, but rather to support the accounting profession so that it can develop and survive in professional life.

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