

<<会计信息系统>>

图书基本信息

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内容概要

中国的会计标准必将进一步向国际标准选拔。

这套英文教科书，内容全面，架构完备，既包括基本的会计学原理、财务会计和管理会计，也包括高层次的专题会计、财务报告和报表分析。

其中，《会计学原理》、《财务会计》、《管理会计》和《中级会计》的作者均是美国久负盛名的会计学教授。

更多地了解美国的GAAP，对于推动我国会计改革的进一步深化、加速中国会计标准的国际化，具有重要的意义。

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章节摘录

书摘 DATA COMMUNICATIONS A modern firm may conduct its affairs from two or more locations. For instance, a typical manufacturing firm may have several plants, warehouses, and sales offices—all at locations removed from a home office. Communications between these remote locations have traditionally been conveyed by letters, telephone calls, and interoffice messenger services. Currently, however, an increasing number of firms are connecting their geographically dispersed locations by means of a data communications system. This means of communication provides the managers and employees of a firm who happen to reside in remote locations with the same access to data, computing power, and guidance that they would have if they were physically in the home office. The hardware components that make up data communications systems usually include communications links, terminals and microcomputers, modems, and communications controls units. Data communications systems require the variety of software needed by any hardware configuration, plus special software as communications programs. In a technical sense, a data communications system links the data collection processing, storage, and dissemination facilities in a computer network. Networks have become increasingly important for three reasons: (1) many firms have become geographically dispersed and need to transmit large volumes of data quickly and reliably; (2) data communications technology has become more sophisticated, versatile, and affordable; and (3) many firms are using groupware tools to share data and to facilitate collaboration among work groups, managers, and other employees. Currently, it is estimated that more than 90 percent of all computers (excluding microcomputers) in the United States are connected to data communications networks; for microcomputers, the estimate is about 75 percent and rapidly increasing.

TYPES OF NETWORK ARCHITECTURES In the earliest days of computer technology, computer networks were scarcely feasible. Geographically dispersed firms desiring to employ computers for data processing had three choices: (1) to subscribe to a computer service bureau; (2) to install a single large mainframe or minicomputer at a central site, usually at the home office; or (3) to install computers at various locations, usually not connected to a common network and functioning independently. Those firms electing the second option employed centralized computer systems, whereas those choosing the third option created decentralized computer systems. When data communications hardware and software were developed, computer networks became feasible options. A computer network is a data communication system that enables firms to share information and programs by linking computers and other devices such as printers. An early type of network was formed when firms installed large computers at a central location and tied the centralized computer to terminals at various remote locations. For instance, Ramada Inns installed a large reservations computer at Omaha and tied each of their separate inns (motels) to the computer via terminals. This centralized computer network enabled Ramada Inns to accommodate reservations quickly; because the computer was placed at the approximate center of the United States, it was able to minimize the communication line costs.

Wide-Area Networks Data communications networks differ in so many respects that each specific network may be unique. Nevertheless, they can be classified in terms of service areas and basic hardware/software architectures. With respect to service areas, networks may be classified as wide-area and local-area. A wide-area network (WAN) is formed among computers and interconnected devices that are geographically distant from one another. Two wide-area network architectures are centralized networks and distributed networks.

PHASES IN DATA-BASE DEVELOPMENT Developing an integrated data base is a complex project. As with any complicated development project, it is best accomplished in phases. The six phases of systems development are planning, analysis, detailed design, implementation, testing, and maintenance. Although, at first glance, this process appears to be sequential, it is actually iterative. For example, the implementation phase often leads not only to the testing phase, but it may also lead back into the design phase as discoveries are made during the process of implementing system components.

Planning Planning, the first phase in data-base development, is intended to define the project scope and ascertain the feasibility of a data base. The project scope may include a firm's overall activities or some portion thereof. Assuming that a data base is technically viable, feasibility focuses on (1) whether the benefits of a proposed data base are greater than its costs

and (2) whether the data base will be effectively used. Planning can be best achieved if the top management of the firm first clarifies the firm's overall objectives and strategies. Analysis Using the organizational plan as a basis, analysts can prepare a broad, high-level diagram of the firm's entire array of operational activities as one of the first steps in the analysis phase. Called an enterprise diagram, this broad diagram shows many of the firm's entities, especially the key agents and processes (collected events), and their relationships. It provides a comprehensive slice of reality concern-ing the firm. Figure 6-3 depicts an enterprise diagram for Infoage, focusing on the processes related to product sales (but omitting those involved in revenues from ser-vices). This enterprise diagram helps determine the importance and scope of the data base(s) to be developed and facilitates the assessment of data requirements. Also during the analysis phase, user requirements as well as data requirements are specified. Data requirements include all data needed (1) to reflect the firm's op-erations and relationships and (2) to provide the myriad of users with the informa-tion they need to meet their responsibilities. In addition to evaluating the firm's entities and documenting data requirements, the analysis phase includes the development of a logical systems design. The logi-cai design specifies expected output requirements, inputs, processes, and the ap-propriate conceptual data model. For years you've been hearing about security as a critical issue, if you believe the stories, hordes of wicked hackers are threatening to electronically topple or cripple firms' computer resources, in-cluding networks. The implementation of security measures to prevent or detect these alleged threats does not rank very high on the list of top in-formation technology (IT) concerns. Other pressing issues, such as desktop upgrades, data warehouses, Intranets, and migration to client/server networks, are pushing security out of the limelight. Why have IT departments relegated security to the wings, and will it ever receive greater attention? One reason for inaction is that the severity of the security threat is subject to considerable debate. It is extremely difficult to track criminal activ-ity in the areas of computer security because the survival of many companies hinges on the percep-tion that their data is secure. The 1998 joint survey by the FBI and Computer Security Institute (CSI) found that only 17 percent of hacking victims con-tacted authorities. According to the FBI/CSI study, 72 percent of companies have suffered losses at some stage due to security breaches: of those companies, 46 percent reported total losses of \$136,822,000. A survey by InfWorld of 98 security administra-tors revealed that most felt confident that their computer resources, including networks, were se-secure from both internal and external risk expo-sures. Yet, almost 40 percent of the security administrators had never carried out an analysis of their computer security. The few who had suffered actual security breaches characterized them as mi-nor. The Infoworld survey also asked the security administrators about the security tools they use, such as network auditing tools, monitoring tools to detect intrusion, and firewalls; utilization of these tools was surprisingly low. Based on the sur-vey, Infoworld concluded that many iT managers are operating under a false sense of security. Amidst all this confusion, security product vendors try to sell their wares using the scariest numbers they can possibly find. It probably suits many IT man-agers to assume these numbers are not applicable to their particular situation, as they continue to fo-cus on more "pressing issues." The managers who do look hard at the computer security problem are faced with an ugly reality. There are a lot more holes than can be realistically plugged, and, if your network has never been breached, it can be diffi-cult to justify the time and money spent on com-puter security-related work. In the end, it seems that the hardest thing to justify is the investment of precious IT dollars when your company may be gaining little more than peace of mind. The recent flurry of acquisitions and mergers in this market sector may well provide tT managers with the key to justifying those computer security concerns. For example, Cisco Systems recently ac-quired the auditing and intrusion-detecting vendor WheelGroup, and Network Associates purchased the security vendor Trusted Information Systems. The fact that major vendors are jostling for posi-tion in the security market should guarantee greater mind share for security problems, it all adds up to one thing--security as an iT issue will only get bigger.

媒体关注与评论

序随着世界经济一体化进程的加快,会计信息作为国际通用商业语言的功能越来越强化。

在中国加入WTO之后,中国经济正以更快的速度融入世界经济大潮之中。

与此相适应,中国的会计标准必将进一步向国际标准靠拢。

举世公认,由于多方面的原因,在会计标准国际化的过程中,美国的公认会计准则(GAAP)是最具影响力的。

因此,更多地了解美国的GAAP,对于推动我国会计改革的进一步深化、加速中国会计标准的国际化,具有很重要的意义。

在此背景下,中信出版社引进美国著名出版社出版的有重大影响的英文原版会计教科书,是一件很有意义的事情。

这套英文教科书,内容全面,架构完备,既包括基本的会计学原理、财务会计和管理会计,也包括高层次的专题会计、财务报告和报表分析。

其中,《会计学原理》、《财务会计》、《管理会计》和《中级会计》的作者均是美国久负盛名的会计学教授,无论杰里·J·韦安特博士、唐纳德·E·基索博士,还是保罗·D·金梅尔博士、特里·D·沃菲尔德博士,在美国会计学界都具有重大影响和权威性。

他们都是美国会计协会、美国注册会计师协会的成员,并曾服务于财务会计准则委员会(FASB)的重要部门,对于GAAP的修订及改革发展具有相当的影响。

这些书是他们总结多年教学经验和专业研究经验精心编写而成,一经出版便备受瞩目和欢迎,并且已经成为美国高校会计教学中的必选书籍。

尤其是《中级会计》一书,自1965年首次出版,至今已出版到第10版,每个版本都受到热烈欢迎,目前的第10版不仅增加了光盘,更增加了网上相关辅导和练习,使其成为更加完善的教学用书。

另外,《高级会计》、

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编辑推荐

这是一本详细介绍美国会计准则的书，由几位美国著名的会计学教授合力编写，代表着当今会计信息系统管理的最高水准，着重介绍会计信息系统对于提高企业管理水平的作用，具有较强的系统性和实用性，对加快我国会计标准的国际化进程具有很大的指导作用。

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