

EFFECT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SUCCESS FACTORS AND GOVERNANCE ON AUDIT TECHNOLOGY PERFORMANCE

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By

FARIDA BINTI VEERANKUTTY

Thesis Submitted to the Putra Business School in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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November 2018

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This study attempts to investigate issues faced by public sector auditors over underutilisation of audit technology, which has resulted insufficient progress in technology enabled auditing by the auditors. The under-utilisation of audit technology was also due to ineffective technology related strategies and policies to support the efficient audit. This study has researched on how auditors would be able to enhance successful utilisation of audit technology (i.e., audit technology performance) by looking into the success factors (i.e., auditors attributes, auditor competencies, technology attribute, technology readiness, organisation readiness, professional conduct, client system, client readiness and institutional support). Importantly, this study examined the moderating role of IT Governance on audit technology performance. By drawing on IT Audit Quality Framework and further supported with Diffusion of Innovation Theory and IS Success Model, this study proposes a research framework for Audit Technology Performance. The research framework focuses on the relationship between (i) success factors and audit technology performance and (ii) IT Governance practices and audit technology performance. A survey was conducted among 309 public sector auditors from the National Audit Department of Malaysia who are the external auditors to the ministries, government departments and agencies at federal and state level. The data was analysed using PLS-SEM techniques and validation of measurement model and structural model were done. This study shows that IT Governance practices do not have any interaction effects on the relationship between success factors and audit technology performance. The results indicate that success factors namely auditors attributes and technology attributes directly influence the audit technology performance. However, technology readiness and organisation readiness have no significant influence on the audit technology performance. It shows that bureaucratic nature of public sector organisation has affected differently on the audit technology performance due to the centralised and limited resources. Besides, client readiness and client system do not impact the audit technology performance owing to the mandate of the audit profession and the similar accounting system being implemented by the government agencies. Moreover, competencies of auditors do not play an important role in audit technology performance due to different types of IT control evaluation which requires different level of competencies. Institutional support and professional conduct do not influence the technology usage because Malaysian public sector auditors are mandated by the Audit Act and they are the statutory/external auditors for government agencies. Following to that, the study has successfully derived to the theoretical and professional implications of audit practices in public sector. This study provides some insights on the importance of organisation context (i.e., public sector and audit profession) towards the successful utilisation of technology among the auditors.

Keywords: IT Governance Practices, Audit Technology Performance, Success Factor, Technology-enabled Auditing, Audit Tool, CAATs.

KESAN FAKTOR KEJAYAAN TEKNOLOGI MAKLUMAT DAN GOVERNAN TERHADAP PRESTASI TEKNOLOGI AUDIT

Oleh

FARIDA VEERANKUTTY

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Pengerusi: Prof. Madya Dr. Noor Azman Ali

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Kajian ini menyelidik permasalahan yang dihadapi oleh juruaudit sektor awam mengenai penggunaan teknologi audit yang rendah yang mengakibatkan perkembangan pengauditan berasaskan teknologi yang tidak pesat. Selain itu, penggunaan teknologi audit yang rendah adalah juga kerana ketidakberkesanan strategi dan polisi berkaitan teknologi untuk menyokong pengauditan yang lebih cekap. Kajian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji bagaimana juruaudit dapat meningkatkan penggunaan teknologi audit (i.e., prestasi teknologi audit) dengan melihat kepada faktor kejayaan (i.e., atribut juruaudit, kemahiran juruaudit, atribut teknologi, kesediaan teknologi, kesediaan organisasi, kelakuan professional, sistem klien, kesediaan klien dan sokongan institusi). Terutamanya, kajian ini memeriksa peranan penyederhanaan (moderating role) faktor governan IT (IT Governance) terhadap prestasi teknologi audit. Dengan menggunakan IT Audit Quality Framework dan disokong oleh Teori Diffusion of Innovation serta Model IS Success, kajian ini mencadangkan satu kerangka kajian untuk Prestasi Audit Tekhnologi. Kerangka kajian ini tertumpu kepada hubungan antara (i) faktor kejayaan dan prestasi teknologi audit dan (ii) amalan IT Governance dan prestasi teknologi audit. Kaji selidik telah dilaksanakan melibatkan 309 orang juruaudit sektor awam daripada Jabatan Audit Negara, Malaysia yang merupakan juruaudit luar kepada kementerian, jabatan dan agensi di peringkat kerajaan persekutuan dan kerajaan negeri. Data kajian telah dianalisis menggunakan teknik perisian PLS-SEM serta pengesahan model pengukuran (measurement model) dan model struktur (structural model) telah dilaksanakan. Kajian ini menunjukkan amalan IT Governance tidak mempunyai interaksi terhadap hubungan di antara faktor kejayaan dan prestasi teknologi audit. Keputusan kajian juga menunjukkan bahawa faktor kejayaan iaitu atribut juruaudit dan atribut teknologi secara langsung mempengaruhi prestasi teknologi audit. Bagaimanapun, kesediaan teknologi, kesediaan organisasi tidak mempunyai pengaruh yang signifikan terhadap prestasi teknologi audit. Ini menunjukkan sifat birokrasi organisasi sektor awam memberi kesan yang berbeza terhadap prestasi teknologi audit disebabkan oleh pemusatan dan kekangan sumber. Selain itu, kesediaan klien dan sistem klien tidak memberi impak kepada prestasi teknologi audit adalah disebabkan oleh mandat profesion audit serta penggunaan sistem perakaunan yang serupa digunapakai oleh badan

kerajaan. Tambahan pula, kemahiran juruaudit tidak memainkan peranan yang utama terhadap pretasi teknologi audit adalah kerana penilaian kawalan IT yang berbeza memerlukan tahap kemahiran yang berbeza. Sokongan institusi dan kelakuan profesional tidak mempengaruhi penggunaan teknologi kerana juruaudit sektor awam di Malaysia adalah dimandatkan oleh Akta Audit serta mereka merupakan juruaudit luar/statutori kepada badan kerajaan. Berdasarkan dapatan kajian, kajian ini telah merumuskan implikasi teoretikal dan profesional terhadap amalan pengauditan sektor awam. Kajian ini memberi persepsi akan kepentingan konteks organisasi (i.e., sektor awam dan profesion audit) terhadap kejayaan penggunaan teknologi dalam pengauditan di kalangan juruaudit sektor awam.

Kata Kunci: Amalan *IT Governance*, Prestasi Teknologi Audit, Faktor Kejayaan, Pengauditan Berasaskan Teknologi, *Audit Tool*, *CAATs*.

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I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 13 November 2018 to conduct the final examination of Farida Binti Veerankutty on her thesis entitled "Effect of Information Technology Success Factors and Governance on Audit Technology Performance" in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the Doctor of Philosophy (Management).

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LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Acronym Description

ACL Audit Command Language

AICPA American Institute of Certified Public Accountants

CAATs Computer Assisted Audit Tools

CobiT Control Objectives for Information Related Technology

COSO Committee of Sponsoring Organisation
D&M IS Success DeLone and McLean IS Success

DOI Diffusion of Innovation

EDI Electronic Data Interchange

EDP Electronic Data Processing

ERP Enterprise Resource Planning

GAS Generalized Audit Software

ICT Information and Communication Technology
IFAC International Federation of Accountant

INTOSAI International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institution

IS Information System

ISA International Standards of Auditing

ISACA Information System Auditing Control Association
ISSAI International Standard of Supreme Audit Institutions

IT Information Technology

ITG Information Technology Governance

ITGI IT Governance Institute

NADM National Audit Department of Malaysia

PCAOB Public Company Accounting Oversight Board
PSISP Public Sector ICT Plan

SAI Supreme Audit Institution
SAS Statement of Auditing Standard

SOX Sarbanes-Oxley Act

TAM Technology Acceptance Model

TOE Technological- Organisational- Environmental Framework

TPB Theory of Planned Behaviour TRA Theory of Reasoned Action

UNDP United Nations Development Program

UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

UTAUT Unified Theory of Acceptance and Use of Technology

XBRL EXtensible Business Reporting Language
CB-SEM Covariance Based – Structural Equation Model

CR Composite Reliability
CMV Common Method Variance

 f^2 Effect Size

PLS-SEM Partial Least Square – Structural Equation Model

Q² Predictive Relevance

R² Co-efficient of Determination SEM Structural Equation Model VIF Variance Inflation Factor



CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION OF THE STUDY

1.0 Introduction

This chapter provides the background information on auditing professional practices and further explains the impact of technology on auditing practices as well as the effect of challenges has on technology enabled auditing. It also provides some insights into the public sector audit practices in Malaysia. Furthermore, this chapter also describes the problems that lead to the study initiation, the objectives and research questions related to the study as well as the significance of the study. This chapter finally ends with the description of the structure of the thesis.

1.1 Background of the Study

This study addresses the problems faced by auditors whose current audit practices being impacted by the use of accounting information system in business and has directed the audit function into a new path and auditors need to handle the changes caused by technologies (Coppers & Lybrand, 2002; Yen, Huang, Li, & Hsiah, 2006). As such, the traditional audit practices in the audit may not be appropriate for the e-business environment (Zhoa, Yen, & Chang, 2004) and has led to the necessity of new audit procedures, techniques and tool to evaluate the control in order to mitigate the new business risk (Masli, Peters, & Richardson, 2010; Pathak & Lind, 2003;). Thus, the requirement for technology-oriented audit method and procedure has increased (Coe, 2006; Du & Roohani, 2007) and many audit software/audit analytics tools being developed in order to enhance the audit assurance performance (Li, Dai, Gershberg, & Vasarhelyi, 2018).

Further, audit standards have clearly stated that the computer-based controls and computer-assisted techniques need to be conducted once audit clients have used advanced enterprise system and depend broadly on Information Technology (IT) (Abdolmohammadi & Boss, 2009). Auditing is one of the means to assure data from accounting records/accounting information system has been managed properly in order to produce financial statements that are clean from inaccuracy and misstatements and signify 'true and fair' opinion on the accounting records (Ahmi, 2012). The purpose of technology-enabled auditing is to scrutinize and validate IT controls within information systems and to assure it is functioning in line with policies, procedures, and rules (Majdalawieh & Zaghloul, 2009).

To be technically classified as technology-enabled auditing, the investigation needs to include information technology, as a specific emphasis of the examination (e.g. ICT system development audit) or as the way to finish the audit task (e.g. Financial statement audit) (Rosli et al., 2012). Additionally, in most cases, it involves both. External auditors

perform technology-related audit during the financial audit in order to examine the internal controls of the information system. Internal auditors were performing the technology related audit in order to assure the IT related controls are adequately safeguarded and fulfilling the management accountability.

Reviews indicated that there are no collective general description of technology-related audits. Weber (1999) explained, "IS audit as a process of collecting and evaluating evidence to determine whether a computer system safeguards asset, maintains data integrity, allows organizational goals to be achieved effectively, and uses resources efficiently". Whereas, Wulandari (2003) in Majdalawieh & Zaghloul, 2009) has described IS audit as "the process of evaluating and reporting the adequacy of system controls, efficiency, economy, effectiveness, and security practices to assure that data integrity is protected, and that the system complies with applicable policies, procedures, standards, rules, laws, and regulations".

The most important concept to be understood in the context of technology-enabled auditing is the execution of the computer-based audit procedures and computer-based control assessment using suitable audit technology/audit software/audit tools. This assessment has become a vital fragment of the audit process as it complements the auditor's responsibilities and reinforces auditors' judgment on the superiority of data generated by the information systems. In line with the necessity of performing an audit with new technology-driven audit tools, technology-enabled auditing has been given attention by the financial auditors to cope with current changes in the electronic environment.

1.1.1 Audit Professional Practises

Auditing differs in terms of the subject under investigation (Moscove, Simkin, & Bagranoff, 2003). Many types of audits can be conducted by auditors and there is no specific term being used to explain the types of audit. However, there are three most frequently used the term for the types of auditing which are financial auditing, performance auditing, and compliance auditing. Basically, financial audit is focusing on the finacial data integrity and its reliability which intend to assess the correctness of financial statement in providing a true and fair view of the organisation financial position (Ahmi, 2012). Performance audit assesses the extent to which the established criteria related to economics, efficiency and effectiveness of programmes or projects being met that may involve financial and non-financial information (ISSAI 100). Compliance auditing refers to attestation audit, which evaluates the activities and financial transactions are in accordance with established standards, rules and regulations (ISSAI 100).

Along with the technology advancement in conducting the business, Information System (IS) auditing has been given considerable attention by the auditors. IS Auditing refers as "a process which collects and evaluates evidence to determine the IS and related resources are adequate safeguard assets, maintain data and system integrity, provide relevant and reliable information, achieve organisational goals effectively and provide

reasonable assurance that objectives are met" (ISACA, 2009). As such, IS auditing or technology related auditing can be performed either during the financial statement audit, performance audit or compliance auditing when the auditing proses involve electronic data and information system. In order to perform technology enabled auditing, auditors need audit tools or audit technology to assess the electronic data or information system.

In the audit professional practices, auditors can be classified into two major groups which are (i) external auditors and (ii) internal auditors. These two groups of auditors may perform the audit in private or public sector organisation. Primarily the auditors who are conducting an audit of the public sector organisation were merely referred as public sector auditors. Internal auditors are employees of an organisation who are accountable directly to the organisation's audit committee which involves broad types of attestation and non-attestation audits such as performance audit, fraud audit, financial management audit and ad-hoc audit (Ahmi & Kent, 2013). Whereas, the external auditors are responsible in performing the annual financial audit/statutory audit which is required by the law on the financial statement of the organisation to opine an opinion on the company's financial information giving a true and fair view of the organisation's financial position (Ahmi & Kent, 2013).

Public sector auditors under the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) conduct "public sector audit function within a specific constitutional arrangement and by virtue of its office and mandate to ensure sufficient independence and power of discretion in performing their duties" as stipulated in ISSAI 100 (INTOSAI, 2013a, p. 3). SAIs are national entities responsible for auditing government activities (Hay & Cordrey, 2018). Public sector auditors mainly involved in all types of auditing in providing reasonable assurance on the financial position of the government accounting system, compliance towards rules and regulations as well as the effectiveness of government programmes and activities in achieving the national agenda. Thus, public sector auditors have a responsibility for value for money auditing as well as for financial statement auditing (Hay & Cordrey, 2018).

1.1.1.1 Impact of Technology on Auditing Practice

Literature advocates that organisation investments in IT able to improve performance, quality of financial reporting as well as internal controls (Ahuja, Kuhn & Mueller, 2013; Lai, Li, Lin & Wu, 2017; Masli et al. 2010). However, lack of management supports may create substantial harms than the expected benefit to the organisation (Kobelsky, Richardson, Smith, & Zmud, 2008). Evidence suggested that deficiencies in IT can contribute to significant weaknesses in internal controls (Bedard & Graham 2011; Canada et al. 2009).

Some studies also illustrate that various material inefficiencies in accounting related internal controls were caused by IT problems (Canada et al. 2009; Bedard & Graham 2011) and highly related to the account misstatements which impact the financial reporting (Klamm & Watson 2009; Klamm, Kobelsky, & Watson, 2012; Li et al. 2012a). A review conducted by Rubino and Vitolla (2014b) related to material weaknesses disclosed in financial statements were mainly due technology issues (Ge & McVay,

2005), information system related problems (Huang, 2009; Mitra, Jaggi, & Hossain, 2013; Raghunandan & Rama, 2006), issues related to software, security and access (Calderon, Wang & Conrad, 2012; Grant, Miller, & Alali, 2008; Gordon & Wilford, 2012), segregation of incompatible functions, staff adequacy and capability (Boritz, Hayes, & Lim, 2013). Undeniably, numerous financial reporting blunders were also related to the ineffective IT controls (Messier, Eilifsen, & Austen, 2004).

Thus, the main area of interest among auditors is technology related controls involving financial information. Traditionally, auditors choose to avoid testing controls unless required to do so as they believe doing substantive tests only are more effective and efficient (Messier et al. 2004). Briggs (2008) noted that this approach may be due to the inadequate understanding of technology and the limited role of technology in the accounting related activities. However, the new advancement of technologies changed the scope and audit methodology as well as the data analytics into more proactive than reactive way (Issa, Sun, & Vasarhelyi, 2016).

Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) through its auditing standards specifically states that auditors "should obtain an understanding of how IT affects the company's flow of transactions" (PCAOB, Standard No. 12, 2010). Likewise, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) suggested auditors should gain an understanding of IT before planning, evaluating risk, and performing audit procedures (AICPA 2006a; 2006b; 2006c). The PCAOB also recommends that auditors should "have an understanding of how the organization is dependent on or enabled by information technologies; and the manner in which information systems are used to record and maintain financial information" (PCAOB, QC Section 40, 2003). As such, when there are significant changes to the client information system, the auditors need to understand the new technologies and practices as well as its related new risks during the auditing.

Given the growing use of advanced technology, such as ERP, the assessment of internal control effectiveness requires an appropriate and adequate level of knowledge about IT audit techniques (Abdolmohammadi & Boss, 2009). Gelinas, Dull, & Wheeler (2011) assert that SOX has increased the importance of accounting information system-related knowledge for external auditors. Recent trends relying on IT and the preferences into the automation of management controls have significantly increased the importance of IT controls (Benaroch, Lichtenstein, & Robinson, 2006).

In this context, computer related audit procedures using audit technology have a vibrant effect on the audit reporting reliability and has increased the needs of the successful utilisation of audit technology during the audit task.

Although technology has resulted changes in the audit task, but there are only a few researchers who have investigated how the change in the environment (e.g., increased use of fair value accounting, introduction of principles-based standards) do influence the changes in the audit process as well as how technology and standardization impact the quality of the audit process (Knechel, Krishnan, Pevzner, Shefchik, & Velury, 2013).

The impact of electronic business on the audit function still remains an interesting area for examination (Kotb & Roberts, 2011; Kotb, Roberts, & Sian, 2012). Even though technology has been considered vital, knowledge on the usage in performing the job function in the digital environment seems to be limited. Therefore, research should explore the effect of IS on the capability of the auditor in conducting e-business audits (Kotb, Sangster, & Henderson, 2014). Besides, the study of how auditors perform the continuous auditing using information system and what are the challenges faced by the auditors may become an interesting researchable area (Vasarhelyi, Alles, Kuenkaikaew, & Littley, 2012).

The implementation of enterprise system within the client organisation has changed the audit process. Further research is needed concerning on the relation and interaction between auditing and enterprise system; the impact of enterprise system of the auditing procedures and on the auditor's role; as well as auditor's interactions with enterprise system (Kanellou & Spathis, 2011).

While academic scholars have shown the continuing importance of technology decision tools in audit practices, but only a few studies investigated the successful utilisation of such technology. Thus, it is very important to further inspect the impact of technology-related audit procedures on the auditor's job performance and the acceptance level of auditors towards the audit task in the computerised environment (Bedard, Deis, Curtis, & Jenkins, 2008).

Each audit process consists of control testing, which includes manual control and IT control, assessing audit evidence and judging the adequacy and sufficiency of audit evidence to express an audit opinion. Thus, more research is necessary to gain an understanding of auditor team characteristics that affect his/her ability to evaluate evidence; and whether the role of accountability can add more insight into the audit task (Hurtt, Brown-Liburd, Earley, & Krishnamoorthy, 2013). Future research is needed to explore the effect of organisational resources on auditors' IT control evaluations which may provide a better understanding of the usage of technology toward audit performance (Asare et al., 2013).

1.1.1.2 Technology-Enabled Auditing

At the beginning of the technology era, Davis (1968) warned auditors not to ignore the 'electronic data processing' (EDP) in accounting systems when conducting audits. Although, auditor can conduct 'auditing around the computer' by verifying input and output as well as 'auditing with computer' by the automation of audit work, but 'auditing through the computer' must be conducted to evaluate the internal control on data processing and to assure the reliability, accuracy and adequacy of the system.

The scandal of the Equity Funding Corporation in 1973 on the falsification of the insurance policies worth of \$2 billion through the dummy account code created in the accounting system became jumping stone for the EDI audit. This fiasco was influential

in directing a swing from 'auditing around the computer' into 'auditing through the computer' which stimulated the appraisal of existing audit methods in a way to address issues related to IT related controls and computer-assisted audit procedures (Vasarhelyi & Lin, 1985).

From the perspective of auditing, the IT enabled audit can be performed in three ways: (i) 'auditing with the computer' which regularly perform in the less advanced accounting information system environment and involves mainly on validating the input data with the output report without evaluating the internal process of a system; (ii) 'auditing through the computer' involves the assessment of internal logic application of the system to assure internal control of the system is functioning as intended and being conducted using computer assisted audit tools and techniques; (iii) 'auditing with the computer' refers to the automation of audit process by which auditor use technology and expert system to manage their audit task.

Technology enabled audit can be explained in two main aspects involving IT control assessment and utilisation of audit technology during the audit task. IT control is defined as a control in an electronic environment which consists of structures, policies, methods, and practices aimed to give reasonable assurance that audit objectives related to IT can be realised.

Curtis and Payne (2014, p. 309) stated that "an auditor typically has many implementation-related duties when using audit technology, including gaining an understanding of each client's database and the interrelationship of data components, identifying the data to be acquired from the client, loading the data from the client into the audit software, and then designing and executing the audit tests. The other possible problems, including gaining the knowledge required to utilize the technology and potential data problems, such as developing an erroneous or incomplete understanding of the client's data, lack of availability on necessary data components, receipt of inaccurate or incomplete data, or receipt of data in a format difficult to work with".

Further, literature indicated that technologies have impacted the scope of auditing and the evaluations of internal controls (Soral & Jain, 2011); evaluations of control over accounting information system (Brody & Kearns, 2008); increased auditors capability requirement related to technology (Brazel & Agoglia, 2007) and audit methodology (Bae & Ashcroft, 2004; Yang & Guan, 2004); and increased the necessity of gathering electronic evidence (Janvrin, Bierstaker, & Lowe, 2009).

Reliance of business on technology has increased the risk, particularly on system changes and application controls. In line with that, the usage of audit tools (e.g. CAATs), data mining tools and continuous auditing have been increasingly important. Further, the assessment of general and application controls in financial reporting has intensely enlarged. Auditors express their audit opinion on a financial statement based on the information provided to them. Therefore, it is crucial for auditors to assure the quality of information produced from accounting system is dependable (Alles, Kogan, & Vasarhelyi, 2002).

However, organisations which heavily depend on the digital environment are mostly being audited through process audit and review of control rather than evaluating the control and security (Wright & Wright, 2002). It has necessitated the auditors to test the irregularities and error in the system and examine the sufficiency of controls in the accounting system. In the traditional financial audit, auditors evaluate and test the control using a sample of transactions and vouching for the physical evidence manually, which may not be suitable in the complex accounting digital environment. In computerized and integrated processing environment, a single error may impact the reliability and accuracy of the information, thus the evaluation of IT control is crucial to the organisation performance (Abu Musa, 2008; Hermanson et al., 2000). A traditional control assessment which appropriates to the legacy environment possibly will not be suitable to present electronic business and actually can challenge the audit task itself (Nearon, 2005).

Given that financial reporting in many entities is based on information systems such as ERP systems, computer-related audit procedures help entities to achieve the objective of internal control. Controls related to technology can manage and secure data as well as systems from unapproved usage, access, leakage, disturbance, alteration, or destruction (Chang et al., 2014). System intrusion leads to the concealment of data, financial fraud, restricted web servers, and tainted data (Gordon, Loeb, Lucyshyn, & Richardson, 2005) as well as impact the reliability and validity of the data for reporting (Walters, 2007). If an organisation fails to develop suitable control related to its data security, the accuracy and reliability of financial data are questionable (Proctor & Vigantly, 2004).

In summary, a technology-enabled audit has been reflected to be critical to the process of attestation and compliance audit (Carlin & Gallegos, 2007; Vilsanoiu & Serban, 2010) however limited attention has been given to this area (Curtis et al., 2009; Maruping, Bala, Venkatesh, & Brown, 2017)

Further, IT has tremendously changed the way auditing being performed in an electronic environment, the stakeholders and auditors become more concern toward IT related controls assessment performed during the audit. Consequently, policy maker and standard setter emphasise the new requirement of performing IT control evaluation during the audit. Despite the above issues were related to the global concerns, there is a need to study technology enabled audit in Malaysian public sector audit organisation for the interest of the future generation in view of the increasing concern of Malaysian government improving the public service delivery through ICT and electronic environment.

An industry survey conducted in 2015 among 1,333 internal auditors indicated that the imperative issues need improvement was on technology-related audits. Past 10 years of the annual industry survey indicated that IT-related audit process, particularly related to data analysis, use of technology-enabled audit tools, computer-based audit procedures remain the main concern among the auditors. Surprisingly, the survey exposed that technology-related capabilities among the auditors were perceived to be lower and need much improvement which indicates the auditors are not attaining adequate progress on their competency and technology-enabled auditing (Protiviti, 2016d). Thus, audit

professional need to inverse this pattern particularly due to the growing significance of technology and its related risk to the audit performance specifically related to IT control assessment and electronic audit evidence. As such, demand for IT-based audit services receives substantial attention from the business entities, high-quality technology enabled auditing to need to be put in place (Havelka & Merhout, 2013).

Reviews indicated that most of the technology-related audit researchers were focusing on specific features of IT audit task. Some scholars have examined the auditor's capability and competency in IT-based auditing (Curtis et al., 2009; Carnaghan, 2004; Greenstein & McKee, 2004; Leader, 2004; Wilkinson, 2004). In addition, the effect of numerous information systems such as ERP, e-business, EDI, XBRL on the audit task have been investigated by some scholars (Brody & Kearns, 2009; Hunton, Wright & Wright, 2004; Kuhn & Sutton, 2010; O'Donnell, 2005, 2006; O'Donnell & Schultz, 2003; O'Leary, 2002) and the possible influence of support system also being studied (Leech, 2000; O'Donnell, Arnold, & Sutton, 2000a, 2000b). Even, Smith (2007) has suggested some strategies to enhance IT based auditing.

Subsequently, academicians have explored the implication of technology on the internal control, financial audit and project implementation. Some researchers have investigated the role of IT related audits in US audit firms (Vendrzyk & Bagranoff, 2003); impact of control reliability towards audit fees and hours (Daigle, Kizirian, & Sneathen, 2005); impact of IT on auditors' capabilities in uncovering misstatements (Messier et al., 2004); utilisation of computer based audit tools among different types of auditors (Abu Musa, 2008; Bierstaker, Burnaby, & Thibodeau, 2001; Burton, 2000; Hermanson et al., 2000; Janvrin et al., 2009) and utilisation of audit support system (Carson & Dowling, 2012; Dowling, 2009; Dowling, 2008). Although these researchers discussed the implication of auditor's attributes towards audit quality, but limited studies has been investigated on these drivers in holistically or theoretically.

Previous scholars have also examined factors impacting the use of technology during the audit task. Most of these studies have been focusing on the drivers that impact the intention to use the audit tools in performing the audit task, such as intention among small and medium firm external auditors to adopt and not adopting generalised audit software (GAS) in the UK (Ahmi & Kent, 2013); usage of CAATs among internal auditors in Malaysian audit firms (Rosli, Yeow, & Siew, 2012); and acceptance of CAATs among UK internal auditors (Mahzan & Lymer, 2014).

Only a few studies have conducted on identifying the quality attributes associated with IT-based Audit (Ahmi & Kent, 2013; Havelka & Merhout, 2008; Havelka & Merhout, 2013; Stoel et al., 2012). In order to perform quality audit task using technology, organizations need to determine the required internal contextual factors such as infrastructure, people, availability of policies and procedures, adequacy of technology-aided tools and related mandates, laws, and regulations. Besides, the external contextual factors associated with the organisation also impact the performance of the IT-related audit, for instance, client accessibility into client accounting system, clients' related documentation and clients collaborative during the audit task (Ahmi, 2012). Further,

utilisation of audit technology among the auditors may influenced by organisation resource availability and auditors' perceptions (Janvrin, Bierstaker, & Lowe, 2008).

Although public sector auditors embrace the importance of application controls in the financial audit, technology enabled audit was only considered when the financial auditor possess limitation in their capacity of performing the audit task and existence of a significant change in the accounting system. Frequently, the financial auditors rely on substantive testing by audit tool such as CAATs when they are unable to rely on IT control and surprisingly technology related audit was only focusing on the general controls rather than application control (Axelsen, Coram, Green, & Ridley, 2011).

Further, research findings indicated that the under-utilisation of audit technology (e.g. CAATs) among external auditors in private audit firms during audit substantive testing, was only intended to detect a misstatement and fraud (Janvrin et al., 2008; Rowe, 2008) as compared to audit technology usage during the audit planning and administration (Curtis & Payne, 2008).

The extent and appropriateness of technology usage among the auditors have received fairly limited focus from scholars (Curtis & Payne, 2014), which triggers the needs to understand the drivers that impact the utilisation of computer-related audit procedure by auditors (Curtis et al., 2009). This may imply that the technology-enabled audit performance may not lead to expected outcomes in achieving the effective, efficient and quality audit.

Additional research is necessary to comprehend the possible issues in executing technology enabled audits and important determinant which was anticipated to impact the performance and quality of audit task (Curtis et al., 2009; Weidenmier & Ramamoothi, 2006).

The way audit is being performed is based on its audit objectives and influenced by nature, timing, and scope of the audit. Thus, each audit may have its own unique antecedents that influence its performance. The audit setting and its related limitation may vary with the condition of the task which may result in the different level of importance on the audit antecedents that may affect the audit performance (Havelka & Merhout, 2013; Stoel et al, 2012). The discovery of a set of antecedents that affect the use of audit technology may highlight specific aspects that are challenging or resourceful which may become a significant antecedent for audit technology performance and effective technology-enabled audit performance.

Furthermore, most of the researches related to IT audit antecedents are conducted in private organisations as compared to public sector organisations. Several scholars have argued that differences between the public and private sectors may cause the proven approaches from the private sector cannot be easily transferred for into public sector setting (Nutt, 2006). In addition, the specific public sector characteristics of bureaucracy in which legislation and policies are changing regularly and complex network of

interdependent organisations with a variety of stakeholders (Boyne, 2002) obviously indicates that there are clear differences between these private and public sectors. Thus the present study attempts to enhance the existing knowledge by investigating the factors that influence the audit technology usage in the public sector, which may shed some light on the current knowledge of IS and auditing literature.

Reviews indicated presently, only a few studies being conducted in Malaysian public sector audit organisation on IT-related audit (Mahzan & Veerankutty 2011) which was focusing on the IT controls assessment performs during the audit task among the external and internal public sector auditors. Another study was conducted based on a case study on the inclusion of sustainability dimensions in the Information System Auditing process among public sector auditors in Malaysia (Rahman et al., 2014). However, this current study is concentrating on developing a conceptual framework for Audit Technology Performance Model and its' antecedents among external public sector auditors which are so far; to the researcher knowledge, the study on this issue is inadequate. This study also intends to get some understanding of the current state of technology-enabled auditing.

1.1.1.3 IT Audit Professional Framework

The recent attention by professional standard-setting organisations in the technology related control assessment has evidenced the significant role of IT-based audit. These professional bodies have highlighted the significance of IT control and IT related process during the assessment of client internal control environment and reassure the auditors to use technology in the process of auditing. The professional standard setting bodies/committees related to audit profession are: (i) International Federation of Accountant (IFAC); (ii) American Institute of Certified Public Accountant (AICPA); (iii) Information System Auditing Control Association (ISACA); (iv) Institute of Internal Auditor (IIA); (v) The Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB); and (vi) Committee of Sponsoring Organisation (COSO); (vii) International Standard of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAI) (Colbert & Bowen, 1996; O'Donnell & Rechtman, 2005).

These respective professional bodies have published guidelines in assisting the audit task, particularly on control objectives and IT-related control assessment within the organisation. In 1996, Colbert and Bowen made a comparison among 5 standards and noted that although the user and focus of control assessment differ between the financial statement, information technology and overall entity, but the control objectives among the 5 standards are similar, namely focusing on the on the efficiency and effectiveness of operation, reliability, financial statement and compliance with the rules and regulation. However, literature indicated that audit academia and audit practitioners still have limited guidance available on the types of technology-related control to be performed (Janvrin et al., 2008).

a. Committee of Sponsoring Organisation (COSO) Framework

According to the COSO report (1994), "internal controls consist of five interrelated components which are control environment, risk assessment, control activities, information and communication, and monitoring".

Auditors need to attain enough understanding of the controls implemented by the client in order to plan the audit strategy. Assessing the control environment is vital whether manual systems or electronic systems. However, it is important to indicate that the controls in computerized information systems include manual controls and automated controls. Manual controls are not dependent on IS system and only utilised data and information from the IS or safeguard the effectiveness of the system (Munter, 2002; Pathak, 2004; Tucker, 2001).

Control risk assessment concludes the reliability of control to be used as the foundation in identifying the nature, scope and timing of substantive procedures need to be conducted during the audit to collect competent, adequate and sufficient evidence (Rezaee & Hoffman, 2001). Some researchers agreed that although advance information system has been catered for its' related control by their vendors, but this type of system still increases the overall control risk (Hunton et al., 2004; Wright & Wright, 2002). However, the designed control mechanisms will be effective only when the control is established at the beginning and adequately maintained throughout the usage but that is not the actual situation. The control risk of a system can be compromised when the control is adopted partially or being omitted (Hunton et al., 2004).

When information system was designed with a low priority for security control without proper information on system audit trail, some data can be deleted without trace. Consequently, it increases the risk and affects the reliability of information used in making business (Allinson, 2004).

Basically, there are two types of IT control (COSO, 1994) which are: "general controls are controls over the environment in which the entity operates and therefore it forms an extension of the control environment, organisational controls, system development and maintenance controls, access controls, backup and recovery controls" (COSO, 1994; Cosserat, 2000; Gray & Manson, 2005). When general controls are not functioning effectively as anticipated, it is possibly not meaningful to further access the application controls (Pathak & Lind, 2003). Once auditors opined the general controls are effectively and adequately managed, the auditors can evaluate the effectiveness and adequacy of application controls (Rezaee & Hoffman, 2001) to evaluate the data processing risk within the system (Bell, Knechel, & Payne, 1999). The auditor needs to conduct a respective test to assure the control functions effectively (Yang & Guan, 2004).

The strength of the COSO framework is to introduce the concept of internal control and to have helped companies to detect, as well as to avert substantial misstatements related to fraud and errors (Rubino & Vitola, 2014a). However, COSO also shows some

limitations. First of all, the framework focuses on high-level assistance on controls and does not offer a suitable mechanism to test the control objectives (Chang et al., 2014; Huang, Hung, Yen, Chang, & Jiang, 2011; O'Donnell & Rechtman, 2005; Tuttle & Vandervelde, 2007).

Moreover, the framework does not address the specific risks and complexities of IT (Colben & Bowen, 1996). Thus, auditors' require having an inclusive framework to rightly familiarise with the current technology related audits and its related regulations (Fox & Zonneveld, 2003; Tuttle & Vandervelde, 2007).

b. Control Objectives for Information Related Technology (CobiT) Framework

With the present electronic environment, control related to information system needs to give adequate attention to assure a sound framework exists in the system. In line with the current trend, Control Objectives for Information Related Technology (CobiT) has been broadly used as an alternative control framework which complements the internal control framework of COSO (IT Governance Institute, 2005; Netegrity, 2004; Ramos, 2004). CobiT was initially anticipated for management to use as a benchmarking tool related IT control. CobiT assists evaluation of controls related to IT environment and IT process which includes "planning and organization, acquisition and implementation, delivery and support, and monitoring" (Van Grembergen, De Haes & Guldentops, 2004). It also recognizes information attributes (e.g., confidentiality, availability, effectiveness, integrity, reliability, efficiency and compliance) and availability of IT resources (e.g., technology, data, people, facilities, and applications) as vital drivers to support the IT process in order to achieve the organisation goal (Bodnar, 2003).

In an audit environment, CobiT framework has been used as a monitoring mechanism for IT investment. The framework assists auditors to plan the audit of IT projects based on the control established through the CobiT framework (Abu Musa, 2009; Hardy 2006; Merhout & Havelka, 2008; Tuttle & Vandervelde, 2007). Besides, this framework was empirically tested and being confirmed its internal consistency in the audit setting (Tuttle & Vandervelde, 2007). Additionally, the utilisation of the CobiT framework by the managers has resulted in internal control over financial reporting effectiveness, which enhances the reliability of financial reporting and compliance to audit standard requirements (Rubino & Vitolla, 2014b).

Kerr and Murthy (2013) investigated the importance of IT control in attaining effective internal control over financial reporting using the CobiT framework. The results indicated that IT professionals perceived the most important IT controls related to financial reporting are system security, change management, risk assessment, data management and internal control adequacy. Technology related control process is significantly impacted by individual characteristics, type of organisation, and familiarity in assessing IT controls and the geographical location of the respondent.

c. International Federation of Accountant (IFAC) Framework

International Federation Of Accountant (IFAC) in its statement on Information Technology in the Accounting Curriculum (IFAC 1995) has delineated 36 specific test to be performed in assessing the IT control which was classified into "(i) system development and acquisition; (ii) system implementation; (iii) system maintenance and program changes; (iv) IT asset safeguarding; (v) data integrity, privacy, and security; (vi) disaster-recovery planning; (vii) operating system; and (viii) application processing" (Abu Musa, 2008; Hermanson et al., 2000).

Auditors evaluate controls related to system development to assure the auditability of the system, the adequacy of controls in the system which has enabled the reduction of maintenance cost (Azaltun, Batibay, Calayoglu, Mert, & Tastan, 2013). During the IT control evaluation of system changes, auditors' works have helped in the identification of the operational risks, control design flaws, and testing paucities (Havelka & Merhout, 2008). Controls related IT asset safeguarding is a key task of the auditor (Hermanson et al., 2000) which involves physical inspection, access to the data centre and data libraries (Buchwald, Urbach, & Ahlemann, 2014). Evaluation of disaster-recovery planning has enabled organisations to recommence their system's processes as fast as possible after a catastrophe (Havelka & Merhout, 2008). Assessment related to data integrity, security and privacy controls are important as weaknesses in this aspect may increase the risk related to information theft, data destruction, legal liability and network communication loss (Pathak & Lind, 2010).

1.1.1.4 Assessment of IT Control

IT control assessment is related to the evaluation of control in an electronic environment which encompasses the practices, procedures, policies, and structures that planned to offer reasonable assurance on the achievement of IT-related audit objectives. Controls in an information system are to assure the reliability of financial reporting, efficiency, and effectiveness of operations and compliance with the rules and regulations. IT controls can be classified into two main categories of application controls and general controls which are important to assure the accuracy of information processing and integrity of data required to govern, manage and support the organisation.

In the intensive IS atmosphere, 'owning' effective control structure enables auditors to assess IT control effectiveness and identify an appropriate audit strategy, audit plan and respective audit program (Chang et al., 2014) and improved the control assessment efficiency and alleviate the audit risk (Huang et al., 2011). Auditors are playing a significant role in detecting the risk and evaluating its impact toward IS related activities. Thus, an audit review program on an information system is a vital tool to provide "the closed-loop cycle of continuous improvement" (Pathak, 2000)

A study conducted among internal audit directors in the South Eastern U.S noted that auditor are focusing their assessment on traditional IT control such as data integrity,

privacy and security controls, asset safeguarding controls and application processing controls, whereas system development and acquisition control, system maintenance and program changes controls for advanced IT control were given less attention. Size of organisation, types of auditors and introduction of new information system do influence the assessment of control performed during the audit (Hermanson et al., 2000). The findings were also consistent with studies conducted among the internal auditor in Saudi Arabia (Abu Musa, 2008) and among the Malaysian public sector auditors (Mahzan & Veerankutty, 2011).

Chang et al. (2014) conducted a case study research verifying the feasibility of the established framework for evaluating IT control in ERP environment. The study integrates elements related to IT controls from company IT control framework, CobiT framework, and previous literature and requested 18 experts to evaluate the importance of the items in assessing the IT control in ERP environment. A total of 12 dimensions of technology related controls are identified to assist auditors to perform effectively IT based audit such as "(i) functions and responsibilities in the data processing department; (ii) system development and control over program modifications; (iii) control over the compilation of system documents; (iv) access control of program and data; (iv) control of data inputs and outputs; (v) control of data processing; (vi) security control of files and equipment; (vii) control over the procurement, use, and maintenance of hardware and system software; (viii) system recovery plans/systems and control of testing programs; (ix) control over the processes of information disclosure on the assigned websites; (xi) independent IT audit units; and (xii) control of outsourced operations" (Chang et al., 2014).

Besides, reviews indicated the assessment on controls related technology does improve operational performance specifically controls related to data integrity, security, and privacy which can explain 45 percent of the performance difference across the organisations (Phelps & Milne, 2008).

Management support, ICT skills, computer-assisted audit techniques and IT controls, IT auditing techniques, and the current trends in IT enrich the knowledge and effective deployment of audit resources (Hass, Abdolmohammadi & Burnaby, 2006; Pathak, 2004;). A better understanding of technology-related controls among the auditors may integrate the knowledge gap in providing work 'blended audit' processes that ensure risk is identified and mitigated appropriately (Chaney & Kim, 2007). Besides, greater IT expertise among the auditors improves the IT control weakness for their client (Haislip, Peters, & Richardson, 2016).

Stoel et al. (2012) classified and assessed the potential antecedents from the auditing (financial audit and IT audit) literature and designed an instrument to evaluate the impact of antecedents on IT audit quality. Results from the factor analysis indicated that new drivers such as "audit methodology; professional conduct; auditors' IT competency; IT resource availability; and auditor-client relationship are vital for IT-based audit and the importance of drivers varies between financial auditors and IT auditors.

1.1.1.5 Audit Technology Tools

With the growing technology intensified economy and the emphasis on IT-related control by the regulation and standard, 'auditing around the computer' approach began to decline. The auditor needs to incorporate 'state-of-art' auditing application in the auditing process which encourages the auditors to conduct auditing in an electronic environment and permit more efficient and effective audit process through the enlargement on the scope of the transaction being examined at the minimum marginal cost (Braun & Davis, 2003).

The introduction of audit technology began with the utilisation of AUDITAPE – a computer-assisted audit tool (CAAT) by Haskins & Sells in 1967 to motivate auditors towards automated domain in performing audits through the computer. Further, within the year 1960 to late 1970s, Generalised Auditing Software (GAS) was introduced (Vasarhelyi & Lin, 1985).

The International Standard of Supreme Audit Institution (ISSAI), an auditing standard encourage the public sector auditor, encouraged the use of audit technology application and techniques to assess the risk related to fraud and data accuracy, verifies the journal entries and related adjustments, assists in sampling on related transaction, sorting the electronic data and testing the entire population. Some other standards related to audit professions are Statement of Auditing Standards (SAS) based on the US and International Standard on Auditing (ISA) based in the UK. These both standards can be adopted and adapted by the audit organisation in performing their audit functions.

Most frequently recommended audit technology and often promoted by professionals and standards is Computer Assisted Audit Tools (CAATs). Although "CAATs can be broadly defined to include any use of technology to assist in the completion of an audit, a more common definition is to restrict the use of the term to tools and techniques employed to audit computer applications and used to extract and analyse data" (Braun & Davis 2003).

The most widely used CAATs related audit technology namely are: (i) test data, parallel stimulation and integrated test facility assessing the internal logic of the financial application directly and to test the program is functioning as intended and correctly; (ii) generalised audit software being used to access client electronic files, extract related data, and conduct substantive test to examine the details of transaction and balances, perform analytical review to identify unusual transaction; (iii) system control audit review file (SCARF) and embedded audit modules being installed into the system to evaluate flows of transaction and identify exceptions transactions (Braun & Davis, 2003; Hall, 2015; Helms, 2002). The recent audit technologies are continuous auditing (Vasarhelyi & Halper, 2018), audit data analytics tools (Brown-Liburd, Issa, & Lombardi 2015) and artificial intelligence-enabled automated audit (Issa, Sun, & Vasarhelyi, 2016). Figure 1.1 describes the types of audit technology, which commonly refers in the previous literature.

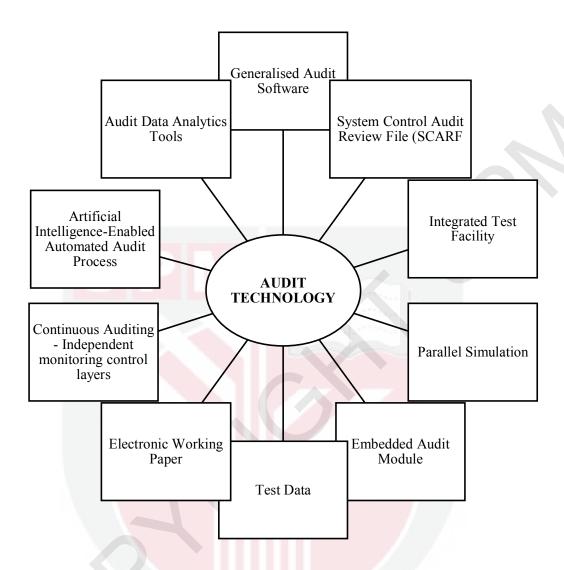


Figure 1.1: Types of Audit Technology

Audit tools enable auditors to perform audit task efficiently and quickly as well as effectively by analysing the whole population of electronic data based on established testing criteria (Braun & Davis 2003; Zhao, Yen & Chang, 2004). It was also noted that the usage of CAATS assists in the performance of IT related Audit (Abu Musa, 2008; Hermanson et al., 2000). Audit-related technology widely been applied in producing audit working papers audited financial statements as well as during the audit sampling (Mustapha & Lai, 2017). Audit analytics offer auditors to evaluate potential risk, operational inefficiency, detect anomalies (Li et al., 2018) and use of technology to enhance the audit process (Brown-Liburd et al. 2015; Rose, Rose, Sanderson & Thibodeu, 2017).

However, reviews indicated that audit technology application is not being used broadly in practice (Curtis & Payne 2008; Debreceny, Lee, Neo & Toh, 2005; Liang, Lin, &

Wu, 2001; Shaikh 2005) and it was noted that technology in audit practises was lagged behind compared to business (Oldhouser 2016).

IT allows auditors to attain a new level of testing assurance and technology audit application helps as a tool for automating auditors' works and auditing process in clients' system. Now auditors through IT can test the entire population of transaction and processes as well as latest software that enable to obtain information from a variety of database within the system and verify controls related to technology are operating efficiently and effectively. In an advanced audit context, technologies considered to be an important necessity and not a luxury as it continuously assesses and monitors the risk in an effective manner (Hespenheide, 2006). As such, audit technology is anticipated in assisting audit methodology effectiveness and efficiency, improving fraud detection and reducing the cost of litigation. However, the substantial benefit of audit technology is only able to materialise if the technology is applied and used in the conduct of audit task (Curtis & Payne, 2014). Further, it was featured that auditing profession would be the last to embrace new technologies (Appelbaum, Kogan, & Vasarhelyi, 2018).

1.1.2 Malaysian Public Sector Audit

Auditor General Office of Malaysia was established during British Colonisation in the initial 20th century in order to reinforce the financial administration of the public sector organisation and to safeguard all public sector regulations and procedures were fulfilled and implemented. In 1906, W.J.P. Hume as the Director of Audit Malaya for the Federated Malay States systematically organised the structure and the scope of the audit function. The title of Director of Audit Malaya was replaced with the Auditor General once the Federation of Malaya obtained its independence in 1957. The Auditor General's appointment and accountabilities were clearly stated under Article 105 of the Federal Constitution and the Audit Act 1957. These laws require the Auditor General to inspect the programs and financial records of the government at federal and states, federal and state statutory bodies, local councils, Islamic religious councils and government-owned companies. Subsequently, the name of the institution was changed to Auditor General Office (AGO). Commonly in Malaysian public sector administration, the Auditor General Office of Malaysia was named as the National Audit Department of Malaysia (NADM). Internationally, the AGO office was also referred to Supreme Audit Institution (SAI).

The Malaysian Government has actively embarked on digital government with the execution of the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) initiatives supporting the frameworks of the National IT Agenda in 1997 (Hussein, Karim, Mohamed, & Ahlan, 2007a). The execution of electronic government began through the public management reform in modernising and improving public service delivery. The main agenda related to technology reform was to escalate the quality, efficiency, and effectiveness of government-related services as well as allowing for prompt decision making which will enable the public sector organisations to be more receptive to the needs of its citizens (Siddiquee, 2007). Information Technology (IT) from this perspective may include IS, ICT, communication technology, e-government and info-structure and infrastructure,

technologies that manage and transmit the information to improve individuals and the organisation's performance (Ghobakhloo, Arias-Aranda, & Benitez-Amado, 2011).

In order to streamline its IT initiatives, the Malaysian government has initiated Public Sector ICT Plan (PSISP) which is "a blueprint that defines the vision, strategic direction and framework for the usage of IT; the objectives and strategic thrust areas of IT development; as well as the implementation strategies and activities, plans to be taken to realise the objectives of the plan" (Veerankutty, 2009, p. 11). Beginning with the first IT strategic blueprint in 2003 and subsequently, the government launched PSISP (2005 – 2010) and PSISP (2011 – 2015). The systematic way of incorporating technology into public service delivery can be seen through various electronic services offered by government agencies and some recent achievement of PSISP (2011-2015). The Government's commitment in fulfilling the aspirations of the people is further reflected in the 11th Malaysia (2016 – 2020) to ensure that its citizens and economy keep pace with the digital global economy (NADM, 2015). As at to date, the Malaysian government has utilised more than 500 IT related system in numerous bureaus, divisions and agencies at the federal government level to escalate public service delivery (Buang, 2015).

Even though, the e-government initiatives have been fruitful, but the effect on the public service delivery and its inclusive impact has continued to be restricted owing to various limitations and slower adoption. The limited types of electronic services and the not materialised expectation are due to inadequate accessibility to resources, lack of technology awareness and e-readiness which has further weakened the achievement (Siddiquee, 2008).

Various studies relating to the new public management reform in Malaysia have stated that despite many reforms the Malaysian public sector continued to suffer from inefficiency, corruption, lack of financial discipline, ownership and accountability (Siddiquee, 2006; Siti Nabiha, 2008). Further literature recommended that strengthening accountability mechanism (Siddiquee, 2006) and closely monitoring the implementation of the system (Bakar, Salleh, & Mohamad, 2011) may help in achieving the desired outcome of the reforms. Besides, future research needs to focus on the implementation of the reform rather than focusing on the introduction of the reforms (Siddiquee, 2006). Thus, it is vital to understand the practices and adoption of IT within the public sector, particularly in the public sector audit organisation.

Additionally, the government financial accounting system has experienced a remarkable revolution in the year 2000 which resulted in modifications in the financial system of federal and state governments as well as and statutory bodies (Veerankutty, 2009). These transformations of the accounting system gave major impact to the public sector auditing practices. Subsequently, these developments have impacted the quality of auditing process in improving the accountability of public sector financial management.

In line with this change, NADM has restructured its organisation in 2008 to escalate NADM into a resourceful organisation that focusing its core activities and to perform specialised audits on water management, environment, and ICT. Malaysian public sector

audit organisations under the scrutiny of NADM can be divided into three main division of (i) Federal audit division is accountable for the audit of the federal ministries, departments and government-linked companies (GLC); (ii) State audit division is in charge of conducting audit on accounts of state departments, respective Islamic religious councils, and state statutory bodies; (iii) Federal statutory bodies division is responsible in performing auditing on accounts related to statutory bodies at federal level.

Further, the new Government Transformation Program (GTP) has imposed fresh challenges and has a substantial impact on the public sector auditing to continuously servicing high-quality audit.

1.1.2.1 Technology Enabled-Auditing in Malaysian Public Sector

The implementation of technology-related initiatives in Malaysian public sector audit organisations began as early as 1980's with the introduction of technology audit software in performing the financial audit task. Further, the initiatives took a remarkable turn in 1997 after the beginning of e-government into 5 phases: Phase I (1996); Phase II (1997 -1998); Phase III (1999 -2000), Phase IV (2001 – 2002) and Phase V (in year 2003) which mainly involved in the procurement of infrastructure and info-structure as well as human capability development (Buang, 2015).

In 1992, Malaysian public sector audit organisations commenced performing the attestation audit using computer-assisted audit tools and techniques. Primarily, the data were transferred and downloaded from Accountant General Office accounting database using round tape and cartridge platform. With the recent significant advancement in information technology, data downloading is conducted using an infra - network, which directly connected to the client information system. Public sector audit organizations use the Audit Command Language (ACL), an audit tool, application that intensely enhances the audit processes.

With regards to system development, IT audit team execute concurrent audit during development as well as at the pre and post implementation to evaluate the effectiveness of these IT projects management, planning, implementations and monitoring practices which involved system performance and an assessment of the business process with IT process (NADM, 2015). In approaching the capacity development of auditors, public sector audit organisation is continuously formulating the ICT related training for their workforce and issues Audit Manual related to IT audit (Buang 2015).

The remarkable commitment of Malaysian public sector audit organisations using technology in carrying out the audit task to escalate audit quality has resulted in the investment in technology-based audit approach in this area and became an important agenda to assure public sector audit remains relevant and effective.

Technology enabled auditing conducted by Malaysian public sector auditors comprises "General ICT Audit; System Development Audit; Performance Audit in ICT environment" and usage of audit technology during the audit task (Veerankutty, 2009, p. 14). Auditors are required to assess the client computerised accounting system/information system to assure the system is producing accurate, complete, reliable and timely information in line with management's intention.

Most public sector auditors in Malaysia performed their financial and compliance audit by incorporating evaluation of general technology-related audit as postulated in the IT Audit Manual of NADM that comprises generally IT controls and application IT controls of the government financial accounting system. Further, each division of public sector audit organisation is being supported by IT audit team who conducts a more specialised audit on IT project implementation and system development which focuses on performance audit and system development audit.

The current transformations in the public sector have implicated the way audit process being carried out. Accordingly, auditors should be well-informed about the clients' technology advancement with regards to audit methodology, tools, and techniques (Buang, 2015). Hay (2017) highlighted that auditing research is largely centred on practical issues and it can be investigated using qualitative, quantitative, mixed methods or be interdisciplinary.

1.1.3 Information Technology (IT) Governance Practices

As organizations rely on IT to some degree to conduct their business, IT governance (ITG) has gained importance in recent years as a key aspect of governance (Bhattacharjya & Chang 2007). IT governance is important for an organization to attain its organizational objectives. ITG is defined as a framework that determines the decisions rights and accountability to stimulate anticipated behaviour in the use of technology. Effective ITG stimulates and influences the workforces in technology usage and warrants compliance with the business vision, norms and beliefs (Weill & Ross, 2004). The governance mechanism acts as the mechanism on behalf of principals (*i.e.*, government, stakeholders) in monitoring the behaviour of management (*i.e.*, agent).

In order to employ an effective IT governance, a set of ITG mechanisms is compulsory (e.g., IT steering committee, IT organizational structure; Management support) that able to boost actions consistent with the organization's mission, standards, rules and values (Vaswani, 2003; Weill, 2004). Recent concern towards IT Governance was mainly due to the advancement in information systems, legal requirements as well as social actors' defective actions towards technology (Novotny, Bernroider, & Koch, 2012). Besides, ITG becomes important to effectively manage the internal control frameworks in mitigating compliance and financial risks (Rubino & Vitolla, 2014a). Thus, governance is imperative to warrant the successful implementation of public service delivery to accomplish the corporate goals, whereby the decision-making process and monitoring system are aligned with the organisational goals and citizen expectation (Mukhtar & Ali, 2011).

Organisations' that have implemented ITG noticeably enhanced their performance specifically in terms of profitability by increasing the operation thru the effective use of technology and cost minimisation. As such, adoption of IT governance practices is associated with improvements in different financial metrics, thus, the maturity of IT governance initiatives can affect the governance performance and, consequently, the organisation performance (Lunardi, Becker, Macada & Dolci, 2014). Besides, a study conducted to understand the perceived level of IT Governance implementation among different stakeholders revealed that the understanding among the different group can be improved further when the organisation identifies what are the issues and take necessary action in order to enhance the benefit from IT investments (Joshi, Huygh, De Haes & Van Grembergen, 2017).

In Malaysia, basically the implementation of IT Governance practises was led by the Malaysian Administrative Modernisation and Management Planning Unit (MAMPU). The Public Sector ICT Strategic Plan (PSISP) sketches the strategic path of ICT implementation that aimed to supports the technology usage with the organisational direction of the public sector, to assure return of investment through exploitation of technology and a well-structured ICT execution (MAMPU, 2016). Government IT and Internet Committee (GITIC) is a high-level governance structure that was established on 6 February 1998 to set the mission and strategy direction of ICT expansion and oversee the Public Sector ICT program. Whereas, Public Sector ICT Technical Committee (JTISA) is responsible to assess and approve the technical aspect of ICT initiatives centred on PSISP of respective agencies. In addition, Public Sector ICT Project Monitoring Committee (JPPI) is responsible to reinforce the governance structure of the implementation of the existing ICT initiatives.

Specifically, the implementation of IT related initiatives in NADM are stipulated in the ICT Strategic Plan of NADM (i.e. Pelan Strategik Teknologi Maklumat Jabatan Audit Negara) monitored through the ICT Steering Committee. Implementation of IT Governance practices across NADM involving the various branches and state offices. The policy on IT Governance practices were developed at strategic level in headquarters of Putrajaya and the implementation of such policies and procedures were at tactical level involving numerous audit branches and state offices across Malaysia. Each implementation at tactical level differs according the respective individuals and offices. NADM has actively engaged in these ICT initiatives formally since in year 2012 by developing its own PSISP as required by the circulars.

1.2 Problem Statement

Information Technology (IT) has been considered as one of the impactful factors which have changed the way organisations and government doing their business. Recent industry surveys showed that 60 percent of organisations globally were undergoing IT transformations and 54 percent believed the transformation may take longer time than expected and may significantly disrupt the organisation performance (Protiviti, 2016a). In addition, board directors, executive management and financial executives perceived IT risk and technology advancement may significantly impact the performance (Protiviti, 2016b; Protiviti, 2016c; Protiviti 2018).

Specifically, in Malaysia, the total budget for ICT related project in the 9th Malaysian Plan (2006 – 2010) has increased to more than 180% as compared with the previous Malaysian Plan. This has triggered the significance of IT investment in the Malaysian public service delivery and the expected return from these investments also being an important concern among government agencies and citizen. However, in most of the ICT project being audited, the major issue was under-utilisation of the system in terms of functionality particularly due to lack of knowledge, system specifications were not clearly defined, as well as the database was not updated and mostly attributable to inadequate governance measures as stipulated in the circulars (NADM, 2015). The Malaysian Administrative Modernisation and Management Planning Unit (MAMPU) circulars have required all government agencies should have committees to deal with ICT related issues such as Steering Committee, Technical Committee, and Project Management Team. Nevertheless, in many cases, the agencies do not set up these committees because project owners assumed that the project implementation team is sufficient to manage the projects, and in cases where the committees are set up, their roles are uninformed (NADM, 2015). Thus, the under-utilization of technology is still a key issue in practice (Maruping et al., 2017).

Additionally, technology has affected the accounting system of the government and most of the Malaysian government financial system has been computerised. In 2012 alone, public sector auditors have verified transactions worth RM475 billion and RM488.2 billion for Financial Year 2013 through concurrent audit processes. A recent study shows a growing concern among the public audit profession on the rise of big data and the use of data analytics among the audit clients which has triggered new risk as well as opportunities (Appelbaum, Kogan, and Vasarhelyi, 2017). This computerised accounting system has largely impacted the way the auditors performing their audit tasks and has implicated the current audit practices into new path which led into the necessity of new audit procedures, techniques, and tools to evaluate the control in order to mitigate the new business risk (Masli et al., 2010; Pathak & Lind, 2003). The new requirements of audit guidelines and law have given rise to the significant role for technology-enabled audit involving attestation and compliance audit (Carlin & Gallegos, 2007).

Although the use of technology by public sector auditors during audit task has begun since 1980 most recently the head of the public sector audit organisation, Auditor General of Malaysia has expressed his concern over the under-utilisation of technology among the auditors (Buang, 2015). Despite the usage of technology in auditing, public sector auditors still fall apart from what's being expected by the management and the professional standard. Auditor General of Malaysia has recently quoted that "public sector auditors do not use analytics on unstructured data in performing data mining and collecting of audit evidence due to limitation of technical expertise and facing problems related to system complexities, data from different sources and platform, human resource capacity and capabilities, liability and compatibility issues" (Buang, 2015). A study conducted in Malaysia indicated that only 47 percent of private statutory auditors were using audit technology such as GAS and e-working paper (Rosli et al., 2013). Additionally, prior studies indicated that IT controls evaluated during the audit were merely on the traditional control (application processing control and data integrity, privacy and security control) rather than advanced IT control such as system maintenance and program change control and system implementation control (Mahzan & Veerankutty, 2011).

The utilisation of audit tools/technology during the substantive testing was also facing slower adoption instead of its introduction to audit work were more than 20 years (Ahmi & Kent, 2013; Braun & Davis, 2003; Debreceny et al., 2005; Janvrin, Bierstaker, & Lowe, 2008). Additionally, industry surveys suggesting that over a decade audit function are not attaining sufficient progress in their competency and use of technology during auditing (Protiviti, 2016d). Some of the challenges faced by public sector external auditors in digital environments are limited knowledge on emerging risks such as technology, weak auditor-client relationship and limited accessibility to audit evidence (Al-Omari, Barnes, & Pitman, 2012).

Thus, these significant issues need to be further explored as the inefficient and ineffective utilisation of audit technology during the audit task may impact the quality of audit work and indirectly on the quality of the audit report. Deficiencies in IT can lead to material weaknesses in internal controls (Bedard & Graham 2011). IT related material weaknesses are more likely to be associated with misstatements which can negatively affect financial information (Klamm et al., 2012; Li, Peters, Richardson, & Watson, 2012). As such, it raised the concern of government and public on the reliability of financial information used in preparing the audited financial statement.

Reviews indicated that the reason for the slower adoption of audit technology have yet to be raised despite the importance of technology-enabled auditing in improving the auditor's task in the electronic environment has been recognised widely. Only few studies have investigated the antecedents of quality IT audit and exploratory in nature (Merhout & Havelka, 2008; Stoel, Havelka, & Merhout, 2012) but limited studies (Ahmi, 2012) have tested the factors in a collective manner. Though many studies have investigated factors influencing audit technology, but they have been many inconsistent and inconclusive findings (e.g. Ahmi & Kent, 2013; Axelsen, Green, & Ridley, 2017; Curtis & Payne, 2014; Gonzalez, Sharma, & Galletta, 2012b; Li et al., 2018; Mahzan & Lymer, 2014; Pedrosa et al., 2015; Razi & Madani, 2013; Vasarhelyi & Romero, 2014; Zainol et al., 2017).

Despite, multiple initiatives have been taken to improve the use of technology among the auditors, IT utilisation among the auditors are still low. It may also indicate that the current strategies and policy may not effectively support the technology implementation. Reviews showed that major factors related to IT project failure were lack of governance, specifically no clear direction of IT with business performance, inadequate management supports, improper IT plan and insufficient IT support services (Amid, Morteza, & Ravasan, 2012; Nawi, Rahman, & Ibrahim, 2011). Significantly, the major challenges faced by the audit function were the evolving technologies and risk related to information security, limited qualified human resource capabilities and skills, inadequate reporting structures for IT audit function and IT infrastructure, misalignment between technology and organisation performance, and insufficient audit methodology related to IT risk assessment as well as limited usage of technology in data analytics (Protiviti, 2016e).

Moreover, Governments with ineffective ITG may cause in low performance of technology assets such as vague information quality, unproductive operational costs, delay in IT project and the close down of its IT department (Nfuka & Rusu, 2011). Thus,

effective IT governance is anticipated to display a role in improving the successful utilisation of audit technology through the effective management of organisation resources. Therefore, an effective role of governance may improve the implementation of IT related activities which further empower the individual and organisational performance.

Additionally, reviews indicated that public sector auditing is a huge segment of auditing practice that is multifaceted and relatively unexplored (Hay & Cordery, 2018). Furthermore, reviews showed that most of the research respondents were the auditors in a private setting and limited studies have discussed the performance of technology-enabled auditing among public sector auditors. Although the usage of some IT controls will be very similar to both the private and the public sector, many differences can be expected due to specific public sector characteristics (Bolscher, 2014).

Few scholars have highlighted that developing economies such as Malaysia has significant dissimilarities in IS implementation, particularly in term of social, economic, legal, cultural and political context as compared to developed countries (Gonzalez, Sharma, & Galletta, 2012a; Venkatesh, Sykes, & Venkatraman, 2014). Thus, having established an approach in measuring the success factors that influence the audit technology performance in Malaysian public sector audit, it is possible to test what types of success factors have an impact on individual job performance (audit task) in a developing country like Malaysia.

Thus, this study intends to supplement the present knowledge by understanding the audit technology performance and identify the drivers that influence the successful utilisation of audit technology during the audit task among the external public sector auditors in developing country like Malaysia. The under-utilisation of audit technology during the audit task among the auditors can be induced by stimulating the factors that influence the technology usage behaviours which expected to improve the audit technology performance. Besides, literature also indicates the lower adoption of technology may directly relate to the users' defective actions towards technology (Novotny et al., 2012), thus, IT governance needs to be put in place to enhance the audit technology performance.

1.3 Research Questions

This research intends to investigate the following research questions (RQ):-

Research Question One (RQ1):

What is the level of technology enabled auditing (IT control evaluation) among public sector auditors in Malaysia?

Research Question Two (RQ2):

What is the extent of influence that the success factors namely auditors attributes, auditor competencies, technology attributes, technology readiness, organisation readiness, professional conduct, client system, client readiness and institutional support have on the audit technology performance among Malaysian public sector auditors?

Research Question Three (RQ3):

Does IT Governance moderate the relationship between success factors and audit technology performance?

1.4 Research Objectives

The main purpose of this study is to enhance the understanding of audit technology usage during the audit task by Malaysian public sector auditors. Exploring the current research question permits the enhancement of the understanding of the factors influence the audit technology performance which in turn improves the implementation of computer-based audit procedures involving testing of IT control and substantive test. Specifically, the current study is intended to achieve the following research objectives (RO):

Research Objective One (RO1):

 To determine the level of frequency that Malaysian public sector auditors placed on the type of IT control evaluation (technology enabled auditing);

Research Objective Two (RO2):

- To identify the success factors namely auditors attributes, auditor competencies, technology attributes, technology readiness, organisation readiness, professional conduct, client system, client readiness and institutional support that have an impact on audit technology performance among Malaysian public sector auditors;
- To examine the relationship between the success factors namely audit auditors' attributes, auditor competencies, technology attributes, technology readiness, organisation readiness, professional conduct, client system, client readiness,

and institutional support and audit technology performance among Malaysian public sector auditors; and

Research Objective Three (RO3):

 To test the moderation effect of IT Governance practices on the relationship between success factors and audit technology performance among Malaysia public sector auditors.

1.5 The Scope of the Study

This study focuses on the current state of technology-enabled auditing performance and the factors influencing the successful application of audit technology during the technology-enabled auditing among Malaysia public sector auditors as well as the effect of IT Governance practices on the audit technology performance specifically in the National Audit Department of Malaysia. The scope of the study are auditors who are using audit technology during the audit; represented by the auditors in the National Audit Department of Malaysia who are conducting the external audit function on federal, state and statutory bodies which were under the administration of the National Audit Department of Malaysia.

1.6 The Contribution of the Study

This thesis is intent to investigate technology-enabled auditing in Malaysia which is being under-researched. This research is anticipated to improve the awareness of IT control assessment and audit technology usage among the public sector auditors in Malaysia. The current study is expected to contribute to the current literature at different levels.

1.6.1 Theoretical Contributions

In terms of theoretical contribution, firstly, this study develops a conceptual framework which covers different streams of literature which are auditing literature, accounting information system literature, information system literature and governance literature. By combining the perspective of auditing and information system, the model is expected to create a synergistic effect of key success factors for successful utilisation of audit technology (audit technology performance). Technology enabled auditing also involves in information system management which implies a rethinking of all audit processes and methodologies from a new perspective involving IT (Masli et al., 2010; Chen, Smith, Cao & Xia, 2014). Empirical evidence reported that technology-enabled auditing has been reflected to be critical to the process of financial and compliance auditing (Axelsen, et al., 2011; Carlin & Gallegos, 2007; Vilsanoiu & Serban, 2010).

Secondly, the originality of this research lies in the new aspect of IT governance practices being introduced as a moderator that may stimulate the audit technology performance which have yet to be investigated particularly involving technology enabled auditing from the context of public sector auditing. The finding of the study expected to enrich the existing body of knowledge on the significant role of IT governance in assuring the successful utilisation of audit technology.

Thirdly, this study theoretically has contributed in supporting the associations between the success factors and audit technology performance. This study integrates audit antecedents into audit technology performance which is expected to provide fresh insight into the current literature. Further, the adaptation of audit quality attributes from auditing literature into the IT adoption theoretical framework from IS literature in developing a conceptual framework of an Audit Technology Performance Model for the public sector will deepen the current knowledge.

1.6.2 Methodological Contributions

This study utilise the measures from IS Success Model (DeLone & McLean, 1992) in assessing the audit technology performance as the predictor for successful utilisation of audit technology which is anticipated to provides fresh insight in auditing and IS literature on the audit technology performance.

Notably, in this study, the current state of technology-enabled audit performance is measured using computer-related audit procedures/evaluations stipulated in public sector auditing standard (e.g. ISSAI) and further supplemented with the specific IT control test delineated from Information Technology in Accounting Curriculum, education guidelines (IFAC, 1995). Attributes from the Control Objectives for Information Related Technology (CobiT) framework also being integrated into the measure as its application and suitability have been validated by previous studies in information system literature (Chang, Yen, Chang, & Jan, 2014; Kerr & Murthy, 2013; Tuttle & Vandervelde, 2007). Thus, the application of IFAC and CobiT framework attribute in audit standard attributes in measuring the technology-enabled auditing may give new insight into the auditing literature.

1.6.3 Practical Contributions

From the practical perspectives, this study is to give an insight and assessing the IT control evaluations performed by the public sector auditors during the technology-enabled auditing which are often being recognised as one of the important risk elements to the organisations involved in the e-business environment. The intention of the study is to help the public sector auditors in Malaysia to assess the extent to which auditors performed a technology-enabled audit in public sector organizations as well to analyse the area where IT control assessments are not currently being performed.

Besides this study is intended to identify the success factors that influence the audit technology performance and the moderating role of IT governance in the successful utilisation of audit technology, which may help to improve the performance and adoption of technology-enabled auditing among Malaysian public sector auditors specifically and among public sector auditors globally.

Although considerable research exists in the technology-related audit from the context of internal auditing, there is a limited study that has explored technology control assessment and audit technology usage in public sector auditing. Thus, the results may breed new insights to augment the current knowledge of technology-enabled auditing specifically on IT control assessment activities. The results of the study enable the auditors to better understand the internal control assessment activities in the computerised information system and confer more attention to the factors which influence the use of audit technology in order to improve the performance of technology-enabled auditing.

Further, this study may provide insights for standard setters regarding the usage of audit technology and the types of IT control have been performed by public sector auditors as well as whether or not auditors in compliance with audit standards. The findings may help the standard setters to develop appropriate policy to enhance the audit technology usage and IT controls assessment which is being less emphasised by public sector auditors

1.7 Operational Definition of Keywords

There are 13 main terms being used throughout this thesis, which are important to this current study. The detailed descriptions are summarised in Table 1.1.

Table 1.1: Description of Keywords

No.	Construct	Description
1	Technology Enabled Auditing	refers as "a process which collects and evaluates evidence to determine the IS and related resources are adequate safeguard assets, maintain data and system integrity, provide relevant and reliable information, achieve organisational goals effectively and provide reasonable assurance that objectives are met" (ISACA, 2009).
		Specifically it related to evaluation performed on the types of IT related controls during the audit task in the electronic environment whereby most of the audit evidences were kept in digital forms and most of the internal controls are embedded in the system being audited.

Table 1.1: Description of Keywords

No.	Construct	Description
2	Audit Technology Performance	measures effectiveness/success of IS and it is the influence of the system and information on the users' task specifically refers to the aspect of user satisfaction and the impact of the system/technology on the individual job performance (DeLone and McLean, 2003)
3	Success Factors	refer to important independent variables related to IS success (i.e., success factors) (Petter et al., 2013)
4	Auditors Attributes	explain the influence of individual character and attitude toward the adoption of innovation and new technology (Rogers, 1995) specially on innovativeness, experience and job relevance.
5	Auditors Competencies	refer to their skills and knowledge in conducting the task (Tornatzky & Fleischer, 1990) particularly related to auditing, IT and industry knowledge.
6	Technology Attributes	refer to the characteristics of the technology innovation being used in performing the task (Roger, 1995) mainly on relative advantage, compatibility, complexity and flexibility of the technology.
7	Technology Readiness	refers perceived availability of technological infrastructure that is important to technology utilisation (Oliveira, Thomas & Espadanal, 2014) mainly related to audit tools, data accessibility and ICT facilities.
8	Organisation Readiness	refers to the perceived availability of resources within the audit organisation (Ahmi & Kent, 2013) particularly related to financial budget, training, maintenance cost, time and staff.
9	Professional Conduct	signifies aspect related to audit profession (Ahmi & Kent, 2013). It refers perceived requirement of audit profession which related to audit procedures and techniques applied during the audit tasks.
10	Client System	signifies the perceived attributes and nature of the client system being audited which is not within the control of the audit organisation (Havelka & Merhout, 2008). It refers to the quality of the system design and the information of the system (DeLone & McLean, 1992).
11	Client Readiness	denotes perceived aspect relating to the client being audited (Ahmi & Kent, 2013) specifically on the level of automation, audit trail and client data.
12	Institutional Support	denotes the perceived support/pressure come from the competitors, regulators, professional bodies, partners, and government (DiMaggio & Powell, 1983).

Table 1.1: Description of Keywords

No.	Construct	Description
13	IT Governance Practices	refer to perceived availability of practices that determines the decisions rights and accountability to stimulate anticipated behaviour in the use of technology (Weill & Ross, 2004). IT governance can be deployed using a mixture of various structures, processes and relational mechanisms (DeHaes & Van Grembergen, 2008).

1.8 Structure of the Thesis

The chapters in this thesis are organised to facilitate the readers to clearly understand the subject matter under investigation. Chapter Two is focusing on literatures reviews which describe on the concepts and theory related to technology adoption, concepts on technology enabled auditing as well as IT governance practices. Chapter Three is discussing on the selection of theoretical constructs and its framework as well as hypotheses development while Chapter Four is regarding research methodology and data analysis tool. Chapter Five is displaying the results from the data analysis using SPSS v.23 and PLS-SEm v3.0. Finally, Chapter Six is on discussion and conclusion of the study.

1.9 Summary

This chapter signifies a synopsis about the current research, particularly on the background of the study, highlighting the problem statement, related research questions and research objectives of the study as well as the significance of the study. The next chapter (Chapter 2) is focusing on literatures reviews on the concepts and theory related to this study.

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