



AUTOMATED BUSINESS PROCESSES

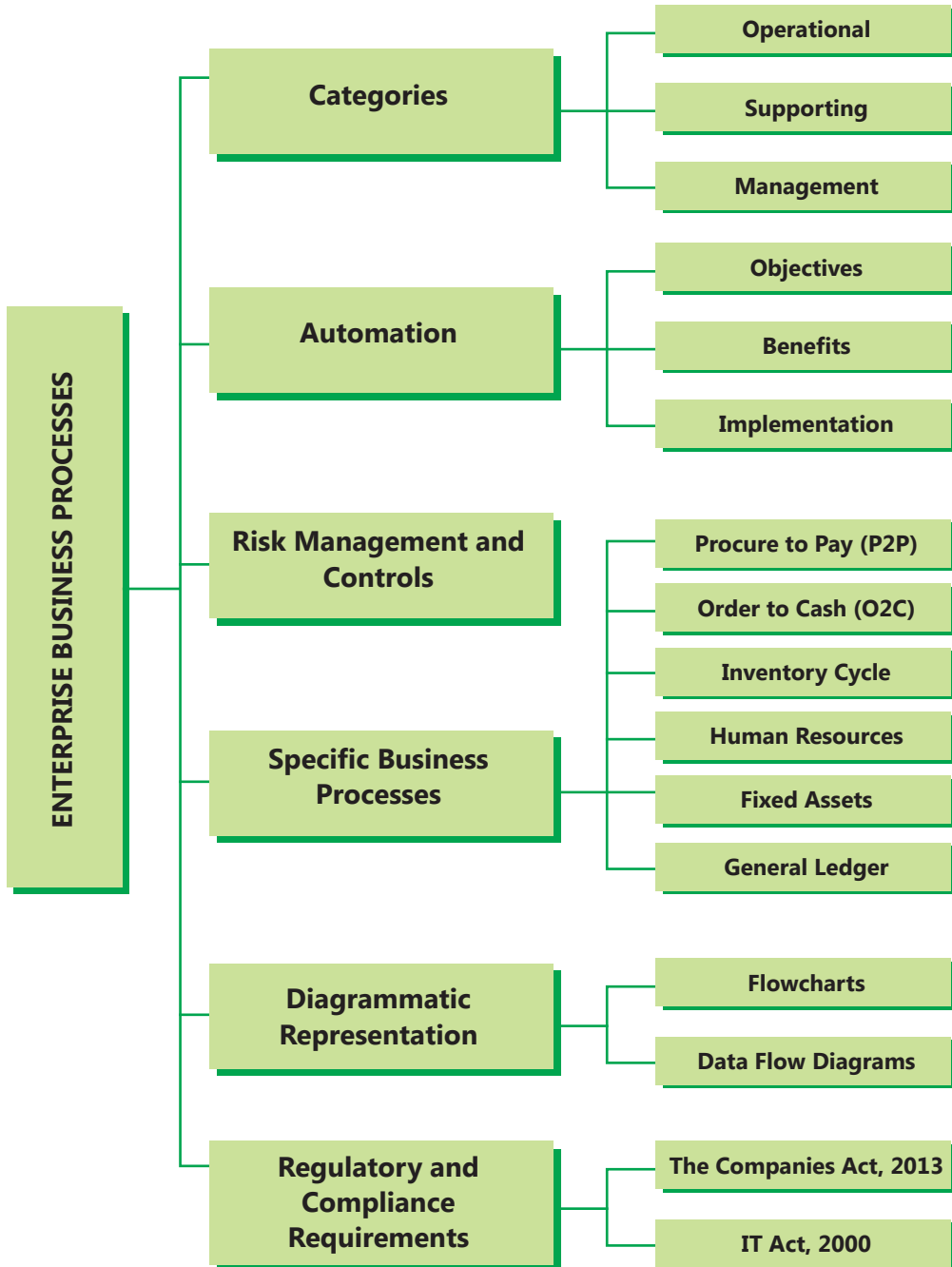


LEARNING OUTCOMES

After reading this chapter, you will be able to -

- ❑ Build an understanding on the concepts of Business Process, its automation and implementation.
- ❑ Understand concepts, flow and relationship of internal and automated controls.
- ❑ Acknowledge risks and controls of various business processes.
- ❑ Grasp the understanding on the structure and flow of business processes, related risks and controls.
- ❑ Comprehend the specific regulatory and compliance requirements of The Companies Act and The Information Technology Act as applicable to Enterprise Information Systems.

CHAPTER OVERVIEW





1.1 INTRODUCTION

A large organization typically has several different kinds of Information systems built around diverse functions, organizational levels, and business processes that can automatically exchange information. This fragmentation of data in hundreds of separate systems, degrades organizational efficiency and business performance. For instance – sales personnel might not be able to tell at the time they place an order whether the ordered items are in inventory, and manufacturing cannot easily use sales data to plan for next production.

Enterprise Information Systems solve this problem by collecting data from numerous crucial business processes in manufacturing and production, finance and accounting, sales and marketing, and human resources and storing the data in single central data repository. An **Enterprise Information System (EIS)** may be defined as any kind of information system which improves the functions of an enterprise business processes by integration. This means classically offering high quality services, dealing with large volumes of data and capable of supporting some huge and possibly complex organization or enterprise. All parts of EIS should be usable at all levels of an enterprise as relevant. The word 'enterprise' can have various connotations. Frequently the term is used only to refer to very large organizations such as multi-national companies or public-sector organizations. However, the term may be used to mean virtually every type of enterprise as it has become the latest corporate-speak buzzword.

An EIS provide a technology platform that enable organizations to integrate and coordinate their business processes on a robust foundation. An EIS is currently used in conjunction with Customer Relationship Management (CRM) and Supply Chain Management (SCM) to automate business processes. An EIS provides a single system that is central to the organization that ensures information can be shared across all functional levels and management hierarchies. It may be used to amalgamate existing applications. An EIS can be used to increase business productivity and reduce service cycles, product development cycles and marketing life cycles. Other outcomes include higher operational efficiency and cost savings.

For example, when a customer places an order, the data flow automatically to other fractions of the company that are affected by them leading to the enhanced coordination between these different parts of the business which in turn lowers costs and increase customer satisfaction.

- ◆ The order transaction triggers the warehouse to pick the ordered products and schedule shipment.
- ◆ The warehouse informs the factory to replenish whatever has depleted.
- ◆ The accounting department is notified to send the customer an invoice.

- Customer service representatives track the progress of the order through every step to inform customers about the status of their orders.



1.2 ENTERPRISE BUSINESS PROCESSES

A **Business Process** is an activity or set of activities that will accomplish a specific organizational goal. **Business Process Management (BPM)** is a systematic approach to improving these processes. The details of these processes are shown in the Fig. 1.2.1 below:

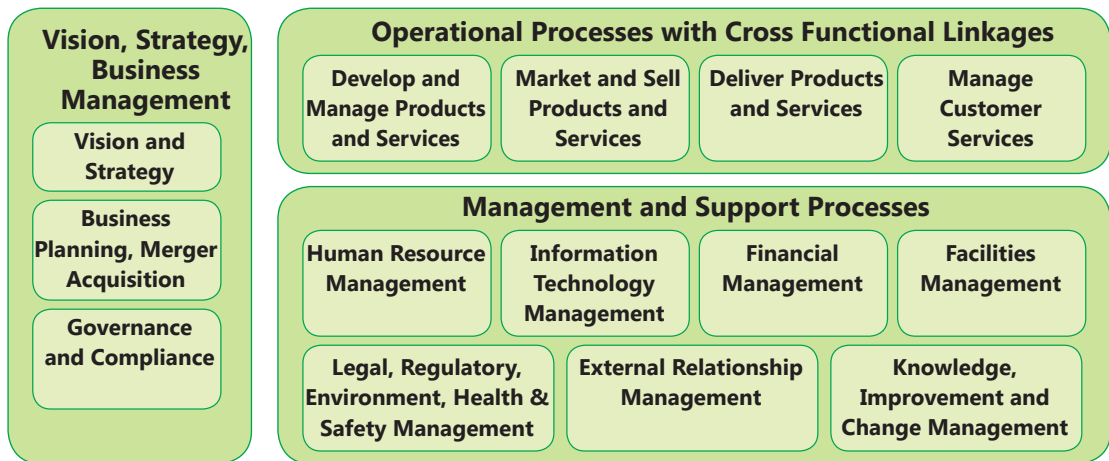


Fig. 1.2.1: Enterprise Business Process Model

1.2.1 Categories of Business Processes

Depending on the organization, industry and nature of work; business processes are often broken up into different categories as shown in the Fig. 1.2.2.

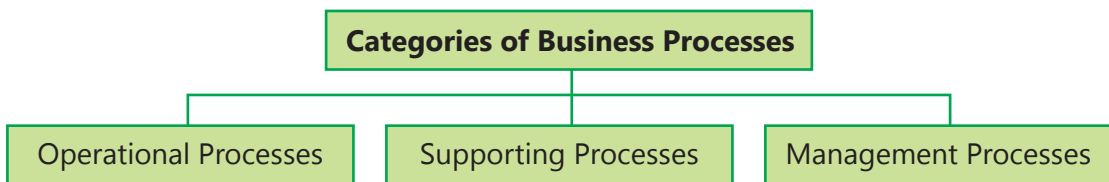


Fig. 1.2.2: Categories of Business Processes

I. Operational Processes (or Primary Processes)

Operational or **Primary Processes** deal with the core business and value chain. These processes deliver value to the customer by helping to produce a product or service. Operational processes represent essential business activities that accomplish business objectives, eg. generating revenue - Order to Cash cycle, procurement – Purchase to Pay cycle.

Order to Cash Cycle(Example)

Order to Cash (OTC or O2C) is a set of business processes that involves receiving and fulfilling customer requests for goods or services.

An order to cash cycle consists of multiple sub-processes as shown in the Fig. 1.2.3.

- ◆ **Customer Order:** Customer order received is documented.
- ◆ **Order Fulfillment:** Order is fulfilled or service is scheduled.
- ◆ **Delivery Note:** Order is shipped to customer or service is performed with delivery note.
- ◆ **Invoicing:** Invoice is created and sent to customer.
- ◆ **Collections:** Customer sends payment /collection.
- ◆ **Accounting:** Collection is recorded in general ledger.



Fig. 1.2.3: Order to Cash Cycle

II. Supporting Processes (or Secondary Processes)

Supporting Processes back core processes and functions within an organization. Examples of supporting or management processes include Accounting, Human Resource (HR) Management and workplace safety. One key differentiator between operational and support processes is that support processes do not provide value to customers directly. However, it should be noted that hiring the right people for the right job has a direct impact on the efficiency of the enterprise.

Human Resource Management (Example)

The main **HR Process** Areas are grouped into logical functional areas and they are as follows:

- ◆ Recruitment and Staffing
- ◆ Goal Setting
- ◆ Training and Development
- ◆ Compensation and Benefits
- ◆ Performance Management
- ◆ Career Development
- ◆ Leadership Development

III. Management Processes

Management processes measure, monitor and control activities related to business

procedures and systems. Examples of management processes include internal communications, governance, strategic planning, budgeting, and infrastructure or capacity management. Like supporting processes, management processes do not provide value directly to the customers. However, it has a direct impact on the efficiency of the enterprise.

Budgeting (Example)

Referring to the Fig. 1.2.4, in any enterprise, budgeting needs to be driven by the vision (what enterprise plans to accomplish) and the strategic plan (the steps to get there). Having a formal and structured budgeting process is the foundation for good business management, growth and development.



Fig. 1.2.4: Budgeting Process

1.3 AUTOMATED BUSINESS PROCESSES

In the days of manual accounting, most business processes were carried out manually. For example, a sales invoice would be raised manually and based on the shipment of goods the inventory would be manually updated for reducing the stock. Subsequently the accounting entries would be manually passed by debiting and crediting the respective accounts, through journal entries.

With the advent of technology, most business process today have been automated to make enterprises more efficient and to handle the large volumes of transactions in today's world. The manual example given above would be performed in an integrated computer system as follows:

- ◆ Raise invoice to customer in a computer system using relevant application software;
- ◆ The system automatically reduces the stock;
- ◆ The system instantly passes the necessary accounting entries by adding relevant transactions in relevant database tables:
 - Debit: Customer
 - Credit: Sales, Indirect Taxes
 - Debit: Cost of Goods Sold
 - Credit: Inventory

Business Process Automation (BPA) is the technology-enabled automation of activities or services that accomplish a specific function and can be implemented

for many different functions of company activities, including sales, management, operations, supply chain, human resources, information technology, etc. In other words, BPA is the tactic a business uses to automate processes to operate efficiently and effectively. It consists of integrating applications and using software applications throughout the organization. BPA is the tradition of analyzing, documenting, optimizing and then automating business processes.

1.3.1 Objectives of BPA

The success of any business process automation shall only be achieved when BPA ensures the following:

- ◆ **Confidentiality:** To ensure that data is only available to persons who have right to see the same;
- ◆ **Integrity:** To ensure that no un-authorized amendments can be made in the data;
- ◆ **Availability:** To ensure that data is available when asked for; and
- ◆ **Timeliness:** To ensure that data is made available in at the right time.

To ensure that all the above parameters are met, BPA needs to have appropriate internal controls put in place.

1.3.2 Benefits of Automating Business Process

The business process is the flow of information, customized by value-added tasks, that begins with the primary contact with a potential customer and continues through deliverance of a finished product. Well-developed business processes can generate a flawless link from initial customer interface through the supply chain. Automation of those processes maintains the accuracy of the information transferred and certifies the repeatability of the value-added tasks performed. Table 1.3.1 elaborates on major benefits of automating Business Processes.

Table 1.3.1: Benefits of Automating Business Processes

Quality & Consistency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures that every action is performed identically - resulting in high quality, reliable results and stakeholders will consistently experience the same level of service.
Time Saving
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automation reduces the number of tasks employees would otherwise need to do manually. • It frees up time to work on items that add genuine value to the business, allowing innovation and increasing employees' levels of motivation.
Visibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automated processes are controlled and consistently operate accurately within the defined timeline. It gives visibility of the process status to the organisation.

Improved Operational Efficiency
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Automation reduces the time it takes to achieve a task, the effort required to undertake it and the cost of completing it successfully. Automation not only ensures systems run smoothly and efficiently, but that errors are eliminated and that best practices are constantly leveraged.
Governance & Reliability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The consistency of automated processes means stakeholders can rely on business processes to operate and offer reliable processes to customers, maintaining a competitive advantage.
Reduced Turnaround Times
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminate unnecessary tasks and realign process steps to optimise the flow of information throughout production, service, billing and collection. This adjustment of processes distills operational performance and reduces the turnaround times for both staff and external customers.
Reduced Costs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manual tasks, given that they are performed one-at-a-time and at a slower rate than an automated task, will cost more. Automation allows us to accomplish more by utilising fewer resources.

1.3.3 Implementation of BPA

The steps to go about implementing Business Process Automation are depicted in Table 1.3.2 One important point to remember is that not all processes can be automated at a time. The best way to go about automation is to first understand the criticality of the business process to the enterprise. Let us discuss the key steps in detail.

(i) Step 1: Define why we plan to implement a BPA?

The primary purpose for which an enterprise implements automation may vary from enterprise to enterprise. A list of generic reasons for going for BPA may include any or combination of the following:

- ◆ Errors in manual processes leading to higher costs.
- ◆ Payment processes not streamlined, due to duplicate or late payments, missing early pay discounts, and losing revenue.
- ◆ Paying for goods and services not received.
- ◆ Poor debtor management leading to high invoice aging and poor cash flow.
- ◆ Not being able to find documents quickly during an audit or lawsuit or not being able to find all documents.
- ◆ Lengthy or incomplete new employee or new account on-boarding.
- ◆ Unable to recruit and train new employees, but where employees are urgently required.
- ◆ Lack of management understanding of business processes.
- ◆ Poor customer service.

Table 1.3.2: Steps involved in Implementing Business Process Automation

Step 1: Define why we plan to implement BPA?	♦ The answer to this question will provide justification for implementing BPA.
Step 2: Understand the rules/regulation under which it needs to comply with?	♦ The underlying issue is that any BPA created needs to comply with applicable laws and regulations.
Step 3: Document the process, we wish to automate.	♦ The current processes which are planned to be automated need to be correctly and completely documented at this step.
Step 4: Define the objectives/goals to be achieved by implementing BPA.	♦ This enables the developer and user to understand the reasons for going for BPA. The goals need to be precise and clear.
Step 5: Engage the business process consultant.	♦ Once the entity has been able to define the above, the entity needs to appoint an expert, who can implement it for the entity.
Step 6: Calculate the RoI for project.	♦ The answer to this question can be used for convincing top management to say 'yes' to the BPA exercise.
Step 7: Development of BPA.	♦ Once the top management grant their approval, the right business solution has to be procured and implemented or developed and implemented covering the necessary BPA.
Step 8: Testing the BPA.	♦ Before making the process live, the BPA solutions should be fully tested.

(ii) Step 2: Understand the rules / regulation under which enterprise needs to comply with?

One of the most important steps in automating any business process is to understand the rules of engagement, which include following the rules, adhering to regulations and following document retention requirements. This governance is established by a combination of internal corporate policies, external industry regulations and local, state, and central laws. Regardless of the source, it is important to be aware of their existence and how they affect the documents that drive the processes. It is important to understand that laws may require documents to be retained for specified number of years and in a specified format. Entity needs to ensure that any BPA adheres to the requirements of law.

(iii) Step 3: Document the process, we wish to automate

At this step, all the documents that are currently being used need to be documented. The following aspects need to be kept in mind while documenting the present process:

- ♦ What documents need to be captured?
- ♦ Where do they come from?
- ♦ What format are they in: Paper, FAX, email, PDF etc.?

- ♦ Who is involved in processing of the documents?
- ♦ What is the impact of regulations on processing of these documents?
- ♦ Can there be a better way to do the same job?
- ♦ How are exceptions in the process handled?

The benefit of the above process for user and entity being:

- ♦ It provides clarity on the process.
- ♦ It helps to determine the sources of inefficiency, bottlenecks, and problems.
- ♦ It allows to re-design the process to focus on the desired result with workflow automation.

An easy way to do this is to sketch the processes on a piece of paper, possibly in a flowchart format. Visio or even Word can be used to create flowcharts easily.

It is important to understand that no automation shall benefit the entity, if the process being automated is error-prone. Investment in hardware, workflow software and professional services, would get wasted if the processes being automated are not made error-free. Use of technology needs to be made to realize the goal of accurate, complete and timely processing of data so as to provide right information to the right people safely and securely at optimum cost.

(iv) Step 4: Define the objectives/goals to be achieved by implementing BPA

Once the above steps have been completed, entity needs to determine the key objectives of the process improvement activities. When determining goals, remember that goals need to be **SMART**:

- ♦ **Specific:** Clearly defined,
- ♦ **Measurable:** Easily quantifiable in monetary terms,
- ♦ **Attainable:** Achievable through best efforts,
- ♦ **Relevant:** Entity must be in need of these, and
- ♦ **Timely:** Achieved within a given time frame.

For example,

Case 1: For vendor's offering early payment discounts, entity needs to consider:

- ♦ How much could be saved if they were taken advantage of, and if the entity has got the cash flow to do so?
- ♦ Vendor priority can be created based on above calculations, for who gets paid sooner rather than later.

Case 2: To determine the average invoice aging per customer. Entity can decide to reduce the average invoice aging from 75 days to 60 days. This will help to dramatically improve cash flow.

(v) Step 5: Engage the business process consultant

This is again a critical step to achieve BPA. To decide as to which company/ consultant to partner with, depends upon the following:

- ◆ Objectivity of consultant in understanding/evaluating entity situation.
- ◆ Does the consultant have experience with entity business process?
- ◆ Is the consultant experienced in resolving critical business issues?
- ◆ Whether the consultant is capable of recommending and implementing a combination of hardware, software and services as appropriate to meeting enterprise BPA requirements?
- ◆ Does the consultant have the required expertise to clearly articulate the business value of every aspect of the proposed solution?

(vi) Step 6: Calculate the RoI for project

The right stakeholders need to be engaged and involved to ensure that the benefits of BPA are clearly communicated and implementation becomes successful. Hence, the required business process owners have to be convinced so as to justify the benefits of BPA and get approval from senior management. A lot of meticulous effort would be required to convince the senior management about need to implement the right solution for BPA. The right business case has to be made covering technical and financial feasibility so as to justify and get approval for implementing the BPA. The best way to convince would be to generate a proposition that communicates to the stakeholders that BPA shall lead to not only cost savings for the enterprise but also improves efficiency and effectiveness of service offerings.

Some of the methods for justification of a BPA proposal may include:

- ◆ Cost Savings, being clearly computed and demonstrated.
- ◆ How BPA could lead to reduction in required manpower leading to no new recruits need to be hired and how existing employees can be re-deployed or used for further expansion.
- ◆ Savings in employee salary by not having to replace those due to attrition.
- ◆ The cost of space regained from paper, file cabinets, reduced.
- ◆ Eliminating fines to be paid by entity due to delays being avoided.
- ◆ Reducing the cost of audits and lawsuits.
- ◆ Taking advantage of early payment discounts and eliminating duplicate payments.
- ◆ Ensuring complete documentation for all new accounts.
- ◆ New revenue generation opportunities.

- ♦ Collecting accounts receivable faster and improving cash flow.
- ♦ Building business by providing superior levels of customer service.
- ♦ Charging for instant access to records (e.g. public information, student transcripts, medical records)

The above can be very well presented to justify the proposal and convince management to go ahead with the project of BPA implementation as required for the enterprise.

(vii) Step 7: Developing the BPA

Once the requirements have been document, ROI has been computed and top management approval to go ahead has been received, the consultant develops the requisite BPA. The developed BPA needs to meet the objectives for which the same is being developed.

(viii) Step 8: Testing the BPA

Once developed, it is important to test the new process to determine how well it works and identify where additional "exception processing" steps need to be included. The process of testing is an iterative process, the objective being to remove all problems during this phase.

Testing allows room for improvements prior to the official launch of the new process, increases user adoption and decreases resistance to change. Documenting the final version of the process will help to capture all of this hard work, thinking and experience which can be used to train new people.

1.3.4 Case Studies on Automation of Business Processes

(i) Case 1: Automation of purchase order generation process, in a manufacturing entity

Various steps of automation are given as follows:

Step 1: Define why we plan to go for a BPA?

The entity has been facing the problem of non-availability of critical raw material items which is leading to production stoppages and delay in delivery. Delay in delivery has already cost company in terms of losing customer and sales.

Step 2: Understand the rules / regulation under which needs to comply with?

The item is not covered by regulation, regarding quantity to be ordered or stored. To keep cost at minimum entity has calculated economic order quantity for which orders are placed.

Step 3: Document the process, we wish to automate.

The present process is manual where the orders are received by purchase department from stores department. Stores department generates the order based on manual

stock register, based on item's re-order levels. The levels were decided five years back and stores records are not updated timely.

Step 4: Define the objectives/goals to be achieved by implementing BPA

The objective behind the present exercise is to ensure that there are no production losses due to non-availability of critical items of inventory. This shall automatically ensure timely delivery of goods to customer.

Step 5: Engage the business process consultant

ABC Limited, a consultant of repute, has been engaged for the same. The consultant has prior experience and knowledge about entity's business.

Step 6: Calculate the ROI for project

The opportunity loss for the project comes to around ₹100/- lakhs per year. The cost of implementing the whole BPA shall be around ₹50/- lakhs. It is expected that the opportunity loss after BPA shall reduce to ₹50 lakhs in year one, ₹25/- lakhs in later years for the next five years.

For students:

- ◆ Is the project worth going ahead?
- ◆ What is the RoI, based on three years data?
- ◆ What is the payback period?

Step 7: Developing the BPA

Once the top management says yes, the consultant develops the necessary BPA. The BPA is to generate purchase orders as soon as an item of inventory reaches its re-order level. To ensure accuracy, all data in the new system need to be checked and validated before being put the same into system:

- ◆ Item's inventory was physically counted before uploading to new system.
- ◆ Item's re-order levels were recalculated.
- ◆ All items issued for consumption were timely updated in system.
- ◆ All Purchase orders automatically generated are made available to Purchase manager at end of day for authorizations.

Step 8: Testing the BPA

Before making the process live, it should be thoroughly tested.

(ii) Case 2: Automation of employee attendance

Various steps of automation are given as follows:

Step 1: Define why we plan to go for a BPA?

The system of recording of attendance being followed is not generating confidence in employees about the accuracy. There have been complaints that salary payouts are not as per actual attendance. It has also created friction and differences between employees, as some feels that other employees have been paid more or their salary has not been deducted for being absent.

Step 2: Understand the rules/regulation under which needs to comply with?

A number of regulations are applicable to employee attendance including Factories Act 1948, Payment of Wages Act 1936, State laws, etc. This is a compliance requirement and hence, any BPA needs to cater to these requirements.

Step 3: Document the process, we wish to automate.

The present system includes an attendance register and a register at the security gate. Employees are expected to put their signatures in attendance registers. The register at the gate is maintained by security staff, to mark when an employee has entered. There is always a dispute regarding the time when an employee has entered and what has been marked in the security register. The company policy specifies that an employee coming late by 30 minutes for two days in a month shall have a ½ day salary deduction. There are over-writing in attendance register, leading to heated arguments between human resource department staff and employees. As the time taken to arrive at the correct attendance is large, there is a delay in preparation of salary. The same has already lead to penal action against company by labor department of the state.

Step 4: Define the objectives/goals to be achieved implementing BPA

The objective for implementing BPA, being:

- ◆ Correct recording of attendance.
- ◆ Timely compilation of monthly attendance so that salary can be calculated and distributed on a timely basis.
- ◆ To ensure compliance with statutes.

Step 5: Engage the business process consultant

XYZ Limited a consultant of repute has been engaged for the same. The consultant has prior experience and also knowledge about entity's business.

Step 6: Calculate the RoI for project

The BPA may provide Tangible benefits in the form of reduced penalties and intangible benefits which may include:

- ◆ Better employee motivation and morale,
- ◆ Reduced difference between employees,
- ◆ More focus on work rather than salary, and
- ◆ Improved productivity.

Step 7: Developing the BPA

Implementing BPA includes would result in the following:

- ◆ All employees would be given electronic identity cards.
- ◆ The cards would contain details about employees.
- ◆ The attendance system would work in the following manner:
 - ◇ Software with card reading machine would be installed at the entry gate.
 - ◇ Whenever an employee enters or leaves the company, he/she needs to put the card in front of machine.
 - ◇ The card reading machine would be linked to the software which would record the attendance of the employee.
 - ◇ At the end of month, the software would print attendance reports employee-wise. These reports would also point out how many days an employee has reported late in the month.
 - ◇ Based on this report monthly attendance is put in the system to generate the monthly salary.

Step 8: Testing the BPA

Before making the process live, it should be thoroughly tested.

The above illustrations are of entities, which have gone for business process automation. There are thousands of processes across the world for which entity have gone for BPA and reaped numerous benefits. These include:

- ◆ Tracking movement of goods,
- ◆ Sales order processing,
- ◆ Customer services departments,
- ◆ Inventory management,
- ◆ Employee Management System, and
- ◆ Asset tracking systems.



1.4 ENTERPRISE RISK MANAGEMENT

In implementing controls, it is important to adapt a holistic and comprehensive approach. Hence, ideally it should consider the overall business objectives, processes, organization structure, technology deployed and the risk appetite. Based on this, overall risk management strategy has to be adapted, which should be designed and promoted by the top management and implemented at all levels of enterprise operations as required in an integrated manner. Regulations require enterprises to

adapt a risk management strategy, which is appropriate for the enterprise. Hence, the type of controls implemented in information systems in an enterprise would depend on this risk management strategy. **The Sarbanes Oxley Act (SOX)** in the US, which focuses on the implementation and review of internal controls as relating to financial audit, highlights the importance of evaluating the risks, security and controls as related to financial statements. In an IT environment, it is important to understand whether the relevant IT controls are implemented. How controls are implemented would be dependent on the overall risk management strategy and risk appetite of the management.

Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) may be defined as a process, effected by an entity's Board of Directors, management and other personnel, applied in strategy setting and across the enterprise, designed to identify potential events that may affect the entity, and manage risk to be within its risk appetite, to provide reasonable assurance regarding the achievement of entity objectives.

The underlying premise of Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) is that every entity, whether for profit, not-for-profit, or a governmental body, exists to provide value for its stakeholders. All entities face uncertainty, and the challenge for management is to determine how much uncertainty the entity is prepared to accept as it strives to grow stakeholder value. Uncertainty presents both risk and opportunity, with the potential to erode or enhance value. ERM provides a framework for management to effectively deal with uncertainty and associated risk and opportunity and thereby enhance its capacity to build value.

It is important for management to ensure that the enterprise risk management strategy considers implementation of information and its associated risks while formulating IT security and controls as relevant. IT security and controls are a sub-set of the overall enterprise risk management strategy and encompass all aspects of activities and operations of the enterprise.

1.4.1 Benefits of Enterprise Risk Management

No entity operates in a risk-free environment, and ERM does not create such an environment. Rather, it enables management to operate more effectively in environments filled with risks. ERM provides enhanced capability to do the following:

- ◆ **Align risk appetite and strategy:** Risk appetite is the degree of risk, on a broad-based level that an enterprise (any type of entity) is willing to accept in pursuit of its goals. Management considers the entity's risk appetite first in evaluating strategic alternatives, then in setting objectives aligned with the selected strategy and in developing mechanisms to manage the related risks.
- ◆ **Link growth, risk and return:** Entities accept risk as part of value creation and preservation, and they expect return commensurate with the risk. ERM provides

an enhanced ability to identify and assess risks, and establish acceptable levels of risk relative to growth and return objectives.

- ◆ **Enhance risk response decisions:** ERM provides the rigor to identify and select among alternative risk responses – risk avoidance, reduction, sharing and acceptance. ERM provides methodologies and techniques for making these decisions.
- ◆ **Minimize operational surprises and losses:** Entities have enhanced capability to identify potential events, assess risk and establish responses, thereby reducing the occurrence of surprises and related costs or losses.
- ◆ **Identify and manage cross-enterprise risks:** Every entity faces a myriad of risks affecting different parts of the enterprise. Management needs to not only manage individual risks, but also understand interrelated impacts.
- ◆ **Provide integrated responses to multiple risks:** Business processes carry many inherent risks, and ERM enables integrated solutions for managing the risks.
- ◆ **Seize opportunities:** Management considers potential events, rather than just risks, and by considering a full range of events, management gains an understanding of how certain events represent opportunities.
- ◆ **Rationalize capital:** More robust information on an entity's total risk allows management to more effectively assess overall capital needs and improve capital allocation.

1.4.2 Components of Enterprise Risk Management

ERM consists of eight interrelated components. These are derived from the way management runs a business, and are integrated with the management process. These components are as follows:

- (i) **Internal Environment:** The internal environment encompasses the tone of an organization, and sets the basis for how risk is viewed and addressed by an entity's people, including risk management philosophy and risk appetite, integrity and ethical values, and the environment in which they operate. Management sets a philosophy regarding risk and establishes a risk appetite. The internal environment sets the foundation for how risk and control are viewed and addressed by an entity's people. The core of any business is its people – their individual attributes, including integrity, ethical values and competence – and the environment in which they operate. They are the engine that drives the entity and the foundation on which everything rests.
- (ii) **Objective Setting:** Objectives should be set before management can identify events potentially affecting their achievement. ERM ensures that management has a process in place to set objectives and that the chosen objectives support and align with the entity's risk appetite.

- (iii) **Event Identification:** Potential events that might have an impact on the entity should be identified. Event identification includes identifying factors – internal and external – that influence how potential events may affect strategy implementation and achievement of objectives. It includes distinguishing between potential events that represent risks, those representing opportunities and those that may be both. Opportunities are channelled back to management’s strategy or objective-setting processes. Management identifies interrelationships between potential events and may categorize events to create and reinforce a common risk language across the entity and form a basis for considering events from a portfolio perspective.
- (iv) **Risk Assessment:** Identified risks are analyzed to form a basis for determining how they should be managed. Risks are associated with related objectives that may be affected. Risks are assessed on both an inherent and a residual basis, and the assessment considers both risk likelihood and impact. A range of possible results may be associated with a potential event, and management needs to consider them together.
- (v) **Risk Response:** Management selects an approach or set of actions to align assessed risks with the entity’s risk tolerance and risk appetite, in the context of the strategy and objectives. Personnel identify and evaluate possible responses to risks, including avoiding, accepting, reducing and sharing risk.
- (vi) **Control Activities:** Policies and procedures are established and executed to help ensure that risk responses that management selected, are effectively carried out.
- (vii) **Information and Communication:** Relevant information is identified, captured and communicated in a form and time frame that enable people to carry out their responsibilities. Information is needed at all levels of an entity for identifying, assessing and responding to risk. Effective communication also should occur in a broader sense, flowing down, across and up the entity. Personnel need to receive clear communications regarding their role and responsibilities.
- (viii) **Monitoring:** The entire ERM process should be monitored, and modifications made as necessary. In this way, the system can react dynamically, changing as conditions warrant. Monitoring is accomplished through ongoing management activities, separate evaluations of the ERM processes or a combination of the both.



1.5 RISKS

Risk is any event that may result in a significant deviation from a planned objective resulting in an unwanted negative consequence. The planned objective could be any aspect of an enterprise’s strategic, financial, regulatory and operational processes,

products or services. The degree of risk associated with an event is determined by the likelihood (uncertainty, probability) of the event occurring, the consequences (impact) if the event were to occur and its timing.

1.5.1 Risks of Business Process Automation

As indicated above, BPA gives substantial benefits to enterprises. However, it should be noted that it does have some inherent risks which should be understood. The risks of BPA are classified below:

- ◆ **Input & Access:** All input transaction data may not be accurate, complete and authorized.
- ◆ **File & Data Transmission:** All files and data transmitted may not be processed accurately and completely, due to network error.
- ◆ **Processing:** Valid input data may not have been processed accurately and completely due to program error or bugs.
- ◆ **Output:** Is not complete and accurate due to program error or bugs and is distributed to unauthorized personnel due to weak access control.
- ◆ **Data:** Master data and transaction data may be changed by unauthorized personnel due to weak access control.
- ◆ **Infrastructure:** All data & programs could be lost if there is no proper backup in the event of a disaster and the business could come to a standstill.

1.5.2 Types of Business Risks

Businesses face all kinds of risks related from serious loss of profits to even bankruptcy and are discussed below:

- ◆ **Strategic**
Risk that would prevent an organization from accomplishing its objectives (meeting its goals).
- ◆ **Financial**
Risk that could result in a negative financial impact to the organization (waste or loss of assets).
- ◆ **Regulatory (Compliance)**
Risk that could expose the organization to fines and penalties from a regulatory agency due to non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- ◆ **Reputational**
Risk that could expose the organization to negative publicity.
- ◆ **Operational**
Risk that could prevent the organization from operating in the most effective and efficient manner or be disruptive to other operations.



1.6 CONTROLS

Control is defined as policies, procedures, practices and organization structure that are designed to provide reasonable assurance that business objectives are achieved and undesired events are prevented or detected and corrected.

SA-315 defines the system of internal control as the plan of enterprise and all the methods and procedures adopted by the management of an entity to assist in achieving management's objective of ensuring, as far as practicable, the orderly and efficient conduct of its business, including adherence to management policies, the safeguarding of assets, prevention and detection of fraud and error, the accuracy and completeness of the accounting records, and the timely preparation of reliable financial information. The system of internal control extends beyond those matters which relate directly to the functions of the accounting system. The internal audit function constitutes a separate component of internal control with the objective of determining whether other internal controls are well designed and properly operated. The system of internal control is said to be well designed and properly operated when:

- ♦ All transactions are executed in accordance with management's general or specific authorization;
- ♦ All transactions are promptly recorded in the correct amount, in the appropriate accounts and in the accounting period during which it is executed to permit preparation of financial information within a framework of recognized accounting policies and practices and relevant statutory requirements, if any, and to maintain accountability for assets;
- ♦ Assets are safeguarded from unauthorized access, use or disposition; and
- ♦ The recorded assets are compared with the existing assets at reasonable intervals and appropriate action is taken to reconcile any differences.

The above definition of internal control captures the essence of control.

Example - Purchase to Pay: Given below is a simple example of controls for the Purchase to Pay cycle, which is broken down to four main components as shown in the Fig. 1.6.1.

- ♦ **Purchases:** When an employee working in a specific department (i.e., marketing, operations, sales, etc.) wants to purchase something required for carrying out the job he/she will submit a Purchase Requisition (PR) to a manager for approval. Based on the approved PR, a Purchase Order (PO) is raised. The PO may be raised manually and then input into the computer system or raised directly by the computer system.
- ♦ **Goods Receipt:** The PO is then sent to the vendor, who will deliver the goods as per the specifications mentioned in the PO. When the goods are received at the warehouse, the receiving staff checks the delivery note, PO number etc. and

acknowledges the receipt of the material. Quantity and quality are checked and any unfit items are rejected and sent back to the vendor. A Goods Receipt Note (GRN) is raised indicating the quantity received. The GRN may be raised manually and then input into the computer system or raised directly by the computer system.

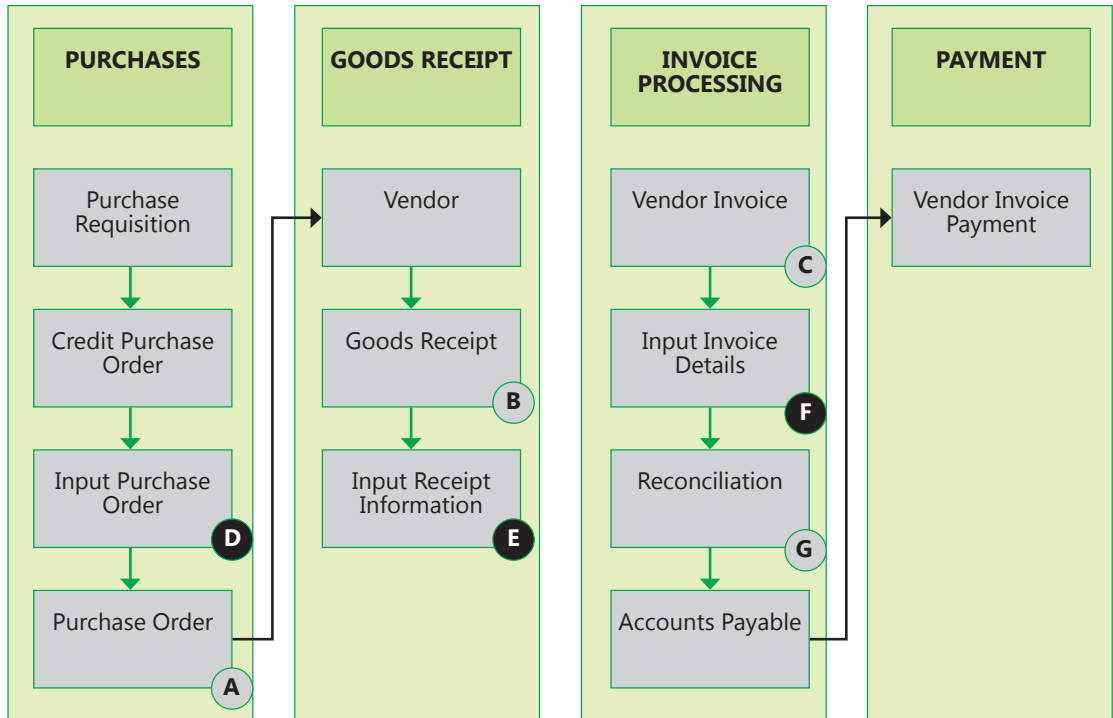


Fig. 1.6.1: Purchase Cycle – Sample Controls

- ◆ **Invoice Processing:** The vendor sends the invoice to the accounts payable department who will input the details into the computer system. The vendor invoice is checked with the PO to ensure that only the goods ordered have been invoiced and at the negotiated price. Further the vendor invoice is checked with the GRN to ensure that the quantity ordered has been received.
- ◆ **Payment:** If there is no mismatch between the PO, GRN and vendor invoice, the payment is released to the vendor based on the credit period negotiated with the vendor.

Based on the mode of implementation, these controls can be manual, automated or semi-automated (partially manual and partially automated). The objective of a control is to mitigate the risk.

- ◆ **Manual Control:** Manually verify that the goods ordered in PO (A) are received (B) in good quality and the vendor invoice (C) reflects the quantity and price that

- ♦ **Automated Control:** The above verification is done automatically by the computer system by comparing (D), (E) & (F) and exceptions highlighted.
- ♦ **Semi-Automated Control:** Verification of Goods Receipt (E) with PO (D) could be automated but the vendor invoice matching could be done manually in a reconciliation process (G).

1.6.1 Internal Control

Internal Controls are a system consisting of specific policies and procedures designed to provide management with reasonable assurance that the goals and objectives it believes important to the entity will be met. "**Internal Control System**" means all the policies and procedures adopted by the management of an entity to assist in achieving management's objective of ensuring, as far as practicable, the orderly and efficient conduct of its business, including adherence to management policies, the safeguarding of assets, the prevention and detection of fraud and error, the accuracy and completeness of the accounting records, and the timely preparation of reliable financial information.

An Internal Control System:

- ♦ Facilitates the effectiveness and efficiency of operations.
- ♦ Helps ensure the reliability of internal and external financial reporting.
- ♦ Assists compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- ♦ Helps safeguarding the assets of the entity.

Effective Internal Control

The control environment sets the tone of an organization, influencing the control consciousness of its people. The control environment includes the governance and management functions and the attitudes, awareness, and actions of those charged with governance and management concerning the entity's internal control and its importance in the entity.

Evaluating the design of a control involves considering whether the control, individually or in combination with other controls, is capable of effectively preventing, or detecting and correcting, material misstatements. Implementation of a control means that the control exists and that the entity is using it. An improperly designed control may represent a material weakness or significant deficiency in the entity's internal control.

An entity's system of internal control contains manual elements and often contains automated elements. The use of manual or automated elements in internal control also affects the manner in which transactions are initiated, recorded, processed, and reported. An entity's mix of manual and automated elements in internal control varies with the nature and complexity of the entity's use of information technology. Manual elements in internal control may be more suitable where judgment and discretion are

required such as for the following circumstances:

- ◆ Large, unusual or non-recurring transactions.
- ◆ Circumstances where errors are difficult to define, anticipate or predict.
- ◆ In changing circumstances that require a control response outside the scope of an existing automated control.
- ◆ In monitoring the effectiveness of automated controls.

The extent and nature of the risks to internal control vary depending on the nature and characteristics of the entity's information system. The entity responds to the risks arising from the use of IT or from use of manual elements in internal control by establishing effective controls considering the characteristics of the entity's information system.

1.6.2 Components of Internal Control

SA 315 explains the five components of any internal control as they relate to a financial statement audit. The five components are as follows:

- ◆ Control Environment
- ◆ Risk Assessment
- ◆ Control Activities
- ◆ Information and Communication
- ◆ Monitoring of Controls

I. Control Environment

The **Control Environment** is the set of standards, processes, and structures that provide the basis for carrying out internal control across the organization. The Board of Directors and senior management establish the tone at the top regarding the importance of internal control, including expected standards of conduct. Management reinforces expectations at the various levels of the organization. The control environment comprises the integrity and ethical values of the organization; the parameters enabling the board of directors to carry out its governance responsibilities; the organizational structure and assignment of authority and responsibility; the process for attracting, developing, and retaining competent individuals; and the rigor around performance measures, incentives, and rewards to drive accountability for performance. The resulting control environment has a pervasive impact on the overall system of internal control.

II. Risk Assessment

Every entity faces a variety of risks from external and internal resources. **Risk** may be defined as the possibility that an event will occur and adversely affect the achievement of objectives. Risk assessment involves a dynamic and iterative process for identifying and assessing risks to the achievement of objectives. Risks to the achievement of these objectives from across the entity are considered relative to established risk tolerances.

Thus, risk assessment forms the basis for determining how risks will be managed. A precondition to risk assessment is the establishment of objectives, linked at different levels of the entity. Management specifies objectives within categories of operations, reporting, and compliance with sufficient clarity to be able to identify and assess risks to those objectives. Risk assessment also requires management to consider the impact of possible changes in the external environment and within its own business model that may render internal control ineffective.

III. Control Activities

Control Activities are the actions established through policies and procedures that help ensure that management's directives to mitigate risks to the achievement of objectives are carried out. Control activities are performed at all levels of the entity, at various stages within business processes, and over the technology environment. They may be preventive or detective in nature and may encompass a range of manual and automated activities such as authorizations and approvals, verifications, reconciliations, and business performance reviews.

Segregation of Duties (SOD) is the process of assigning different people the responsibilities of authorizing transactions, recording transactions, and maintaining custody of assets. Segregation of Duties is intended to reduce the opportunities to allow any person to be in a position to both perpetrate and conceal errors or fraud in the normal course of the person's duties. Segregation of Duties is typically built into the selection and development of control activities. Where Segregation of Duties is not practical, management selects and develops alternative control activities.

General Controls include controls over Information Technology management, Information Technology infrastructure, security management and software acquisition, development and maintenance. These controls apply to all systems – from mainframe to client/server to desktop computing environments. General controls include information technology management controls addressing the information technology oversight process, monitoring and reporting information technology activities, and business improvement initiatives.

Application Controls are designed to ensure completeness, accuracy, authorization and validity of data capture and transaction processing. Individual applications may rely on effective operation of controls over information systems to ensure that interface data are generated when needed, supporting applications are available and interface errors are detected quickly.

IV. Information & Communication

Information is necessary for the entity to carry out internal control responsibilities in support of the achievement of its objectives. Management obtains or generates

and uses relevant and quality information from both internal and external sources to support the functioning of other components of internal control. **Communication** is the continual, iterative process of providing, sharing, and obtaining necessary information. Internal communication is how information is disseminated throughout the enterprise, flowing up, down, and across the entity. It enables personnel to receive a clear message from senior management that control responsibilities should be taken seriously. External communication is two-fold: it enables inbound communication of relevant external information and provides information to external parties in response to requirements and expectations.

V. Monitoring of Controls

Ongoing evaluations, separate evaluations, or some combination of the two are used to ascertain whether each of the five components of internal control, including controls to effect the principles within each component are present and functioning. Ongoing evaluations built into business processes at different levels of the entity, provide timely information. Separate evaluations, conducted periodically, will vary in scope and frequency depending on assessment of risks, effectiveness of ongoing evaluations, and other management considerations. Findings are evaluated against management's criteria and deficiencies are communicated to management and the board of directors as appropriate.

1.6.3 Limitations of Internal Control System

Internal control, no matter how effective, can provide an entity with only reasonable assurance and not absolute assurance about achieving the entity's operational, financial reporting and compliance objectives. Internal control systems are subject to certain inherent limitations, such as:

- ◆ Management's consideration that the cost of an internal control does not exceed the expected benefits to be derived.
- ◆ The fact that most internal controls do not tend to be directed at transactions of unusual nature. The potential for human error, such as, due to carelessness, distraction, mistakes of judgement and misunderstanding of instructions.
- ◆ The possibility of circumvention of internal controls through collusion with employees or with parties outside the entity.
- ◆ The possibility that a person responsible for exercising an internal control could abuse that responsibility, for example, a member of management overriding an internal control.
- ◆ Manipulations by management with respect to transactions or estimates and judgements required in the preparation of financial statements.



1.7 DIAGRAMMATIC REPRESENTATION OF BUSINESS PROCESSES

1.7.1 Introduction to Flowcharts

Flowcharts are used in designing and documenting simple processes or programs. Like other types of diagrams, they help visualize what is going on and thereby help understand a process, and perhaps also find flaws, bottlenecks, and other less-obvious features within it. There are many different types of flowcharts, and each type has its own repertoire of boxes and notational conventions. The two most common types of boxes in a flowchart are as follows:

- ◆ a processing step, usually called **activity**, and denoted as a **rectangular box**.
- ◆ a decision, usually denoted as a **diamond**.

A **Flowchart** is described as “cross-functional” when the page is divided into different swimlanes describing the control of different organizational units. A symbol appearing in a particular “lane” is within the control of that organizational unit. This technique allows the author to locate the responsibility for performing an action or deciding correctly, showing the responsibility of each organizational unit for different parts of a single process.

I. Flowcharting Symbols

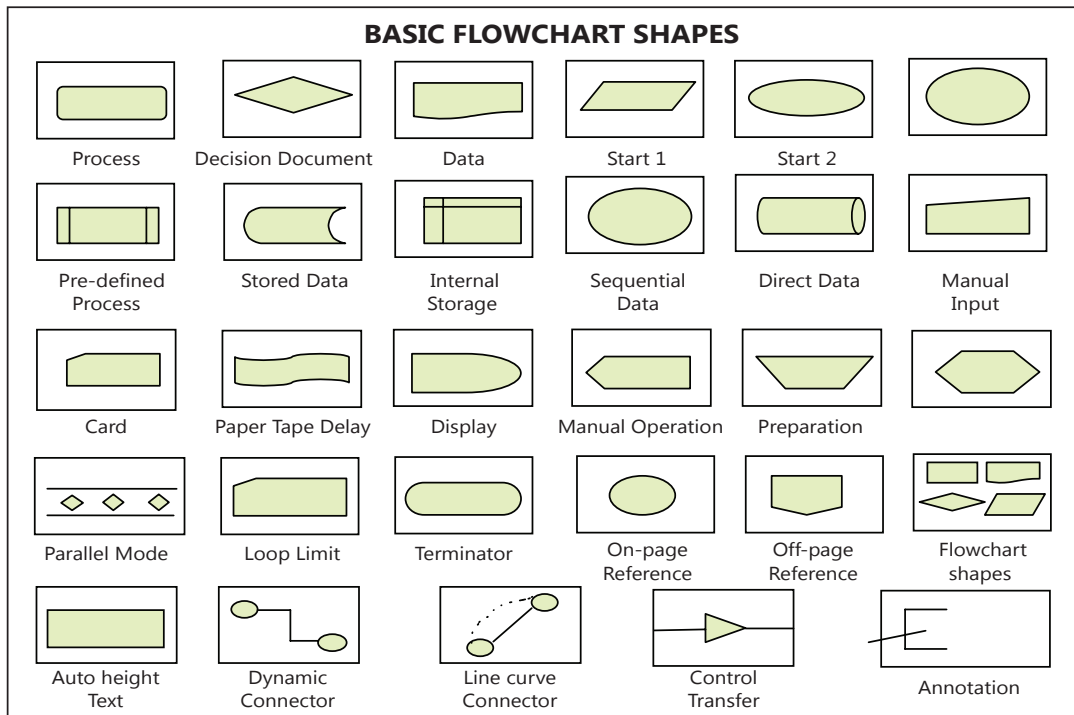


Fig. 1.7.1: Flowcharting Symbols

II. Steps for creating flowcharts for business processes

- ◆ Identify the business process that are to be documented with a flowchart and establish the overall goal of the business process.
- ◆ Based on inputs from the business process, owner obtain a complete understanding of the process flow.
- ◆ Prepare an initial rough diagram and discuss with the business process owner to confirm your understanding of the processes.
- ◆ Obtain additional information about the business process from the people involved in each step, such as end users, stakeholders, administrative assistants and department heads. During this phase, you may find that some employees do not follow certain processes or some processes are redundant. This should be highlighted so that corrective steps can be taken by the management.
- ◆ Identify the activities in each process step and who is responsible for each activity.
- ◆ Identify the starting point of the process. The starting point of a business process should be what triggers the process to action. In other words, it is the input that the business seeks to convert into an output. Starting points generally fall into one of several categories:
 - **External events:** These include the initiation of a transaction or a transmitted alert from another business system. For example, creation of a purchase order in a computer system or a sales order alerting a production system that a product should be manufactured due to lack of available stock.
 - **Content arrival:** For content management systems, the starting point might be the arrival of a new document or other form of content.
 - **Human intervention:** This includes customer complaints and other human intervention within or outside of the business.
- ◆ Separate the different steps in the process. Identify each individual step in the process and how it is connected to the other steps. On the most general level, you will have events (steps that require no action by the business), activities (performed by the business in response to input), and decision gateways (splits in the process where the path of the process is decided by some qualifier). Between these objects, there are connectors, which can be either be solid arrows (activity flow), or dashed (message/information flow).
- ◆ In traditional **Business Process Modeling Notation (BPMN)**, the steps are represented by different shapes depending on their function. For example, we would use steps such as "customer order" (an event), "process order" (an activity), "Check credit" (an action), "Credit?" (a decision gateway that leads to one of two other actions, depending on a "yes" or "no" determination), and so on.

- ♦ Clarify who or what performs each step. To make the process as clear as possible, you should determine which part of the business completes each step. Different parts of the process may be completed by the accounting department, customer service, or order fulfillment, for example. Alternately, for a small business, these steps may be completed by specific individuals. In BPMN, the associated person or department for each activity is either denoted by a designator next to the step or by a horizontal division or “lanes” in the flow chart that shows which part of the business performs each step, i.e., person or department.

Fig. 1.7.2 is a very simple flowchart which represents a process that happens in our daily life.

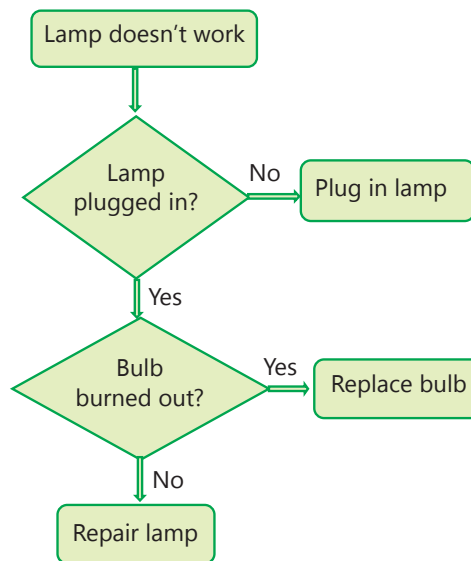


Fig. 1.7.2: Simple Flowchart

III. Advantages of Flowcharts

- (i) **Quicker grasp of relationships** - The relationship between various elements of the application program/business process must be identified. Flowchart can help depict a lengthy procedure more easily than by describing it by means of written notes.
- (ii) **Effective Analysis** - The flowchart becomes a blue print of a system that can be broken down into detailed parts for study. Problems may be identified and new approaches may be suggested by flowcharts.
- (iii) **Communication** - Flowcharts aid in communicating the facts of a business problem to those whose skills are needed for arriving at the solution.
- (iv) **Documentation** - Flowcharts serve as a good documentation which aid greatly in future program conversions. In the event of staff changes, they serve as training function by helping new employees in understanding the existing programs.

- (v) **Efficient coding** - Flowcharts act as a guide during the system analysis and program preparation phase. Instructions coded in a programming language may be checked against the flowchart to ensure that no steps are omitted.
- (vi) **Program Debugging** - Flowcharts serve as an important tool during program debugging. They help in detecting, locating and removing mistakes.
- (vii) **Efficient program maintenance** - The maintenance of operating programs is facilitated by flowcharts. The charts help the programmer to concentrate attention on that part of the information flow which is to be modified.
- (viii) **Identifying Responsibilities** - Specific business processes can be clearly identified to functional departments thereby establishing responsibility of the process owner.
- (ix) **Establishing Controls** - Business process conflicts and risks can be easily identified for recommending suitable controls.

IV. Limitations of Flowchart

- (i) **Complex logic** – Flowchart becomes complex and clumsy where the problem logic is complex. The essentials of what is done can easily be lost in the technical details of how it is done.
- (ii) **Modification** – If modifications to a flowchart are required, it may require complete re-drawing.
- (iii) **Reproduction** – Reproduction of flowcharts is often a problem because the symbols used in flowcharts cannot be typed.
- (iv) **Link between conditions and actions** – Sometimes it becomes difficult to establish the linkage between various conditions and the actions to be taken there upon for a condition.
- (v) **Standardization** – Program flowcharts, although easy to follow, are not such a natural way of expressing procedures as writing in English, nor are they easily translated into Programming language.

Example 1: Draw a Flowchart for finding the sum of first 100 odd numbers.

Solution : The flowchart is drawn as Fig. 1.7.3 and is explained step by step below. The step numbers are shown in the flowchart in circles and as such are not a part of the flowchart but only a referencing device.

Our purpose is to find the sum of the series 1, 3, 5, 7, 9.....(100 terms.) The student can verify that the 100th term would be 199. We propose to set $A = 1$ and then go on incrementing it by 2 so that it holds the various terms of the series in turn. B is an accumulator in the sense that A is added to B whenever A is incremented. Thus, B will hold:

1

$1 + 3 = 4$

$4 + 5 = 9$,

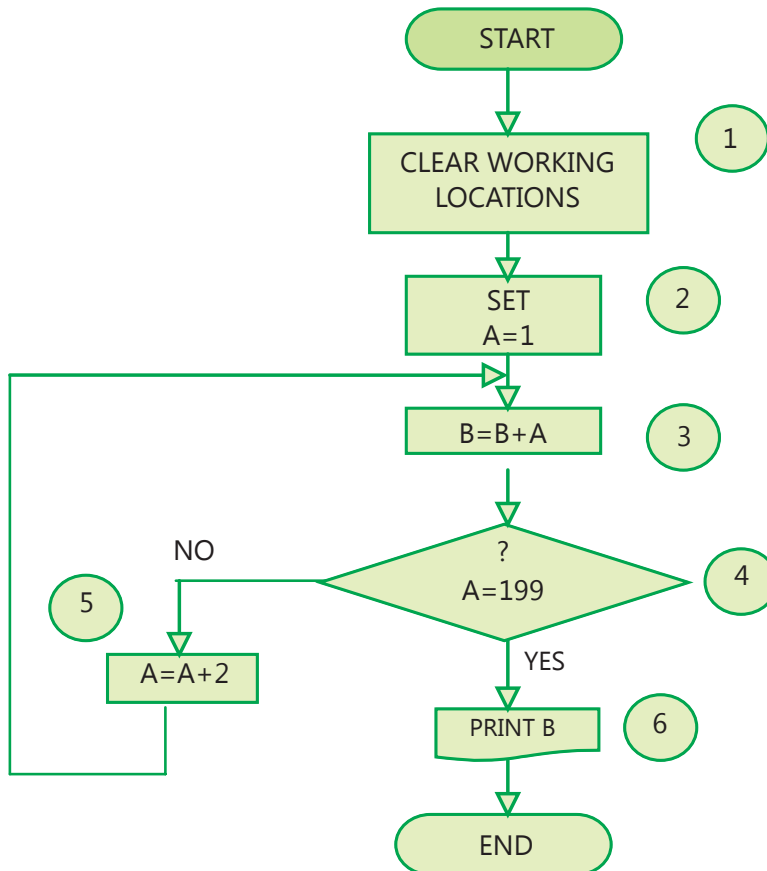
$9 + 7 = 16$, etc. in turn.

Step 1 - All working locations are set at zero. This is necessary because if they are holding some data of the previous program, that data is liable to corrupt the result of the flowchart.

Step 2 - A is set at 1 so that subsequently by incrementing it successively by 2, we get the wanted odd terms: 1,3,5,7 etc.

Step 3 - A is poured into B i.e., added to B. B being 0 at the moment and A being 1, B becomes $0 + 1 = 1$.

Step 4 - Step 4 poses a question. "Has A become 199?" if not, go to step 5, we shall increment A by 2. So that although at the moment A is 1, it will be made 3 in step 5, and so on. Then go back to step 3 by forming loop.



© The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India **Fig. 1.7.3 Flowchart for addition of first 100 odd numbers**

Since we must stop at the 100th term which is equal to 199, Thus, A is repeatedly incremented in step 5 and added to B in step 3. In other words, B holds the cumulative sum up to the latest terms held in A.

When A has become 199 that means the necessary computations have been carried out so that in step 6 the result is printed.

Example 2

An E-commerce site has the following cash back offers.

- (i) If the purchase mode is via website, an initial discount of 10% is given on the bill amount.
- (ii) If the purchase mode is via phone app, an initial discount of 20% is given on the bill amount.
- (iii) If done via any other purchase mode, the customer is not eligible for any discount.

Every purchase eligible to discount is given 10 reward points.

- (a) If the reward points are between 100 and 200 points, the customer is eligible for a further 30% discount on the bill amount after initial discount.
- (b) If the reward points exceed 200 points, the customer is eligible for a further 40% discount on the bill amount after initial discount.

Taking purchase mode, bill amount and number of purchases as input; draw a flowchart to calculate and display the total reward points and total bill amount payable by the customer after all the discount calculation.

Solution

Refer Fig. 1.7.4, let us define the variables first:

PM: Purchase Mode

BA: Bill Amount

TBA: Total Bill Amount

NOP: Number of Purchases

TRP: Total Reward Points

IN_DISC: Initial Discount

ET_DISC: Extra Discount on purchases eligible to Initial Discount

N: Counter (to track the no. of purchases)

1.7.2 Introduction to Data Flow Diagrams (DFDs)

The Fig. 1.7.5 depicts a simple business process (traditional method) flow. The limitation of this diagram is that processes are not identified to functional departments.

Data Flow Diagrams – Processes are identified to functional departments. Data Flow Diagrams (DFD) show the flow of data or information from one place to another. DFDs describe the processes showing how these processes link together through data stores and how the processes relate to the users and the outside world.

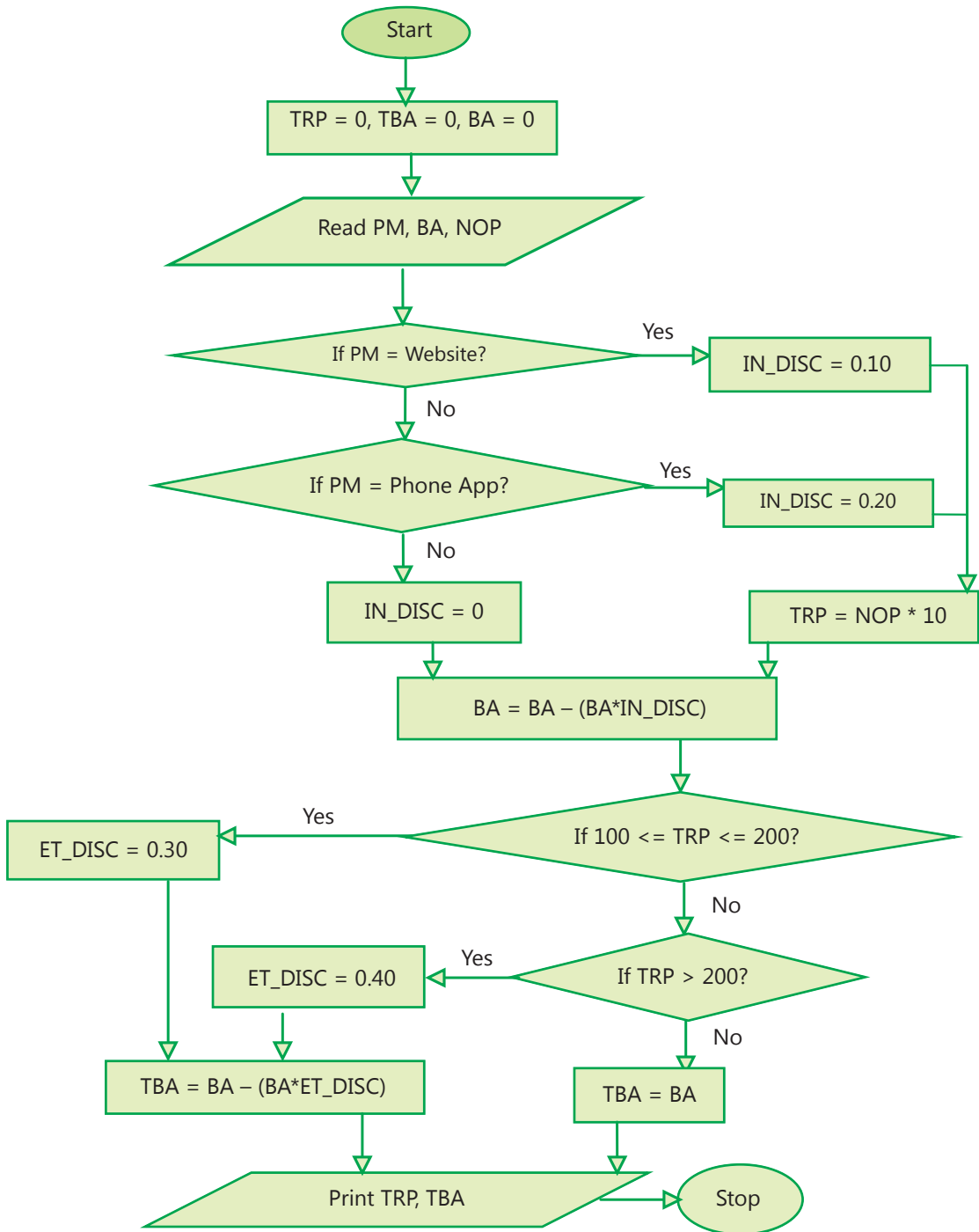


Fig. 1.7.4: Flowchart for Example 2

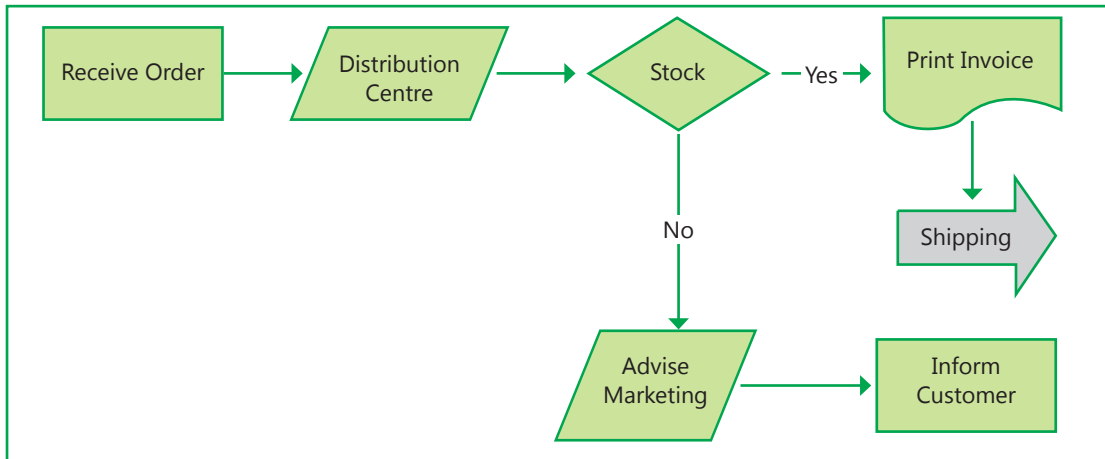


Fig. 1.7.5: Simple Flow chart of Sales (Example)

In the simple DFD shown in Fig. 1.7.6, please note that the processes are specifically identified to the function using “swimlanes”. Each lane represents a specific department where the business process owner can be identified. The business process owner is responsible for ensuring that adequate controls are implemented, to mitigate any perceived business process risks.

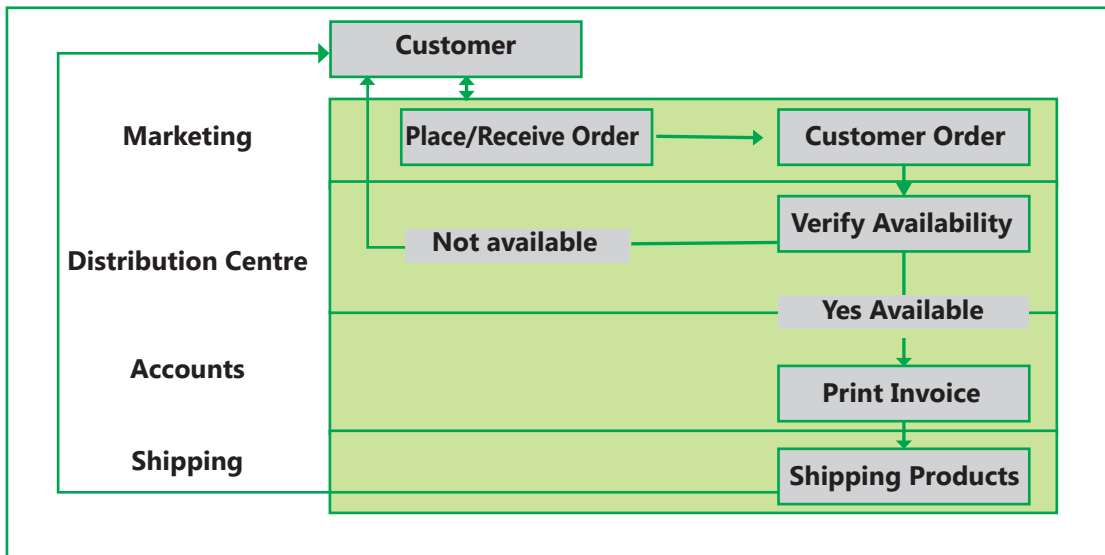


Fig. 1.7.6: Process flow of Sales (Example)

DFD basically provides an overview of:

- ◆ What data a system processes;
- ◆ What transformations are performed;
- ◆ What data are stored;

- ♦ What results are produced and where they flow.

It is mainly used by technical staff for graphically communicating between systems analysts and programmers.

Main symbols used in DFD (Refer Fig. 1.7.7)






	Process	Step-by-step instructions are followed that transform inputs into outputs (a computer or person or both doing the work)
	Data flow	Data flowing from place to place, such as an input or output to a process
	External agent	The source or destination of data outside the system.
	Data Store	Data at rest, being stored for later use. Usually corresponds to a data entity on an Entity-Relationship diagram.
	Real-time link	Communication back and forth between an external agent and a process as the process is executing (e.g. credit card verification).

Fig. 1.7.7: DFD Symbols

Data Flow Diagrams – Processes are identified to functional departments.

Given below in Fig. 1.7.8 is a simple scenario depicting a book borrowed from a library being returned and the fine calculated, due to delay.

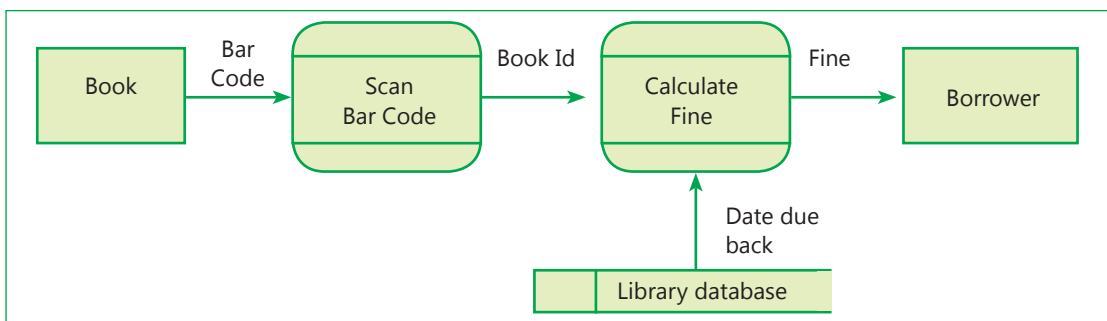


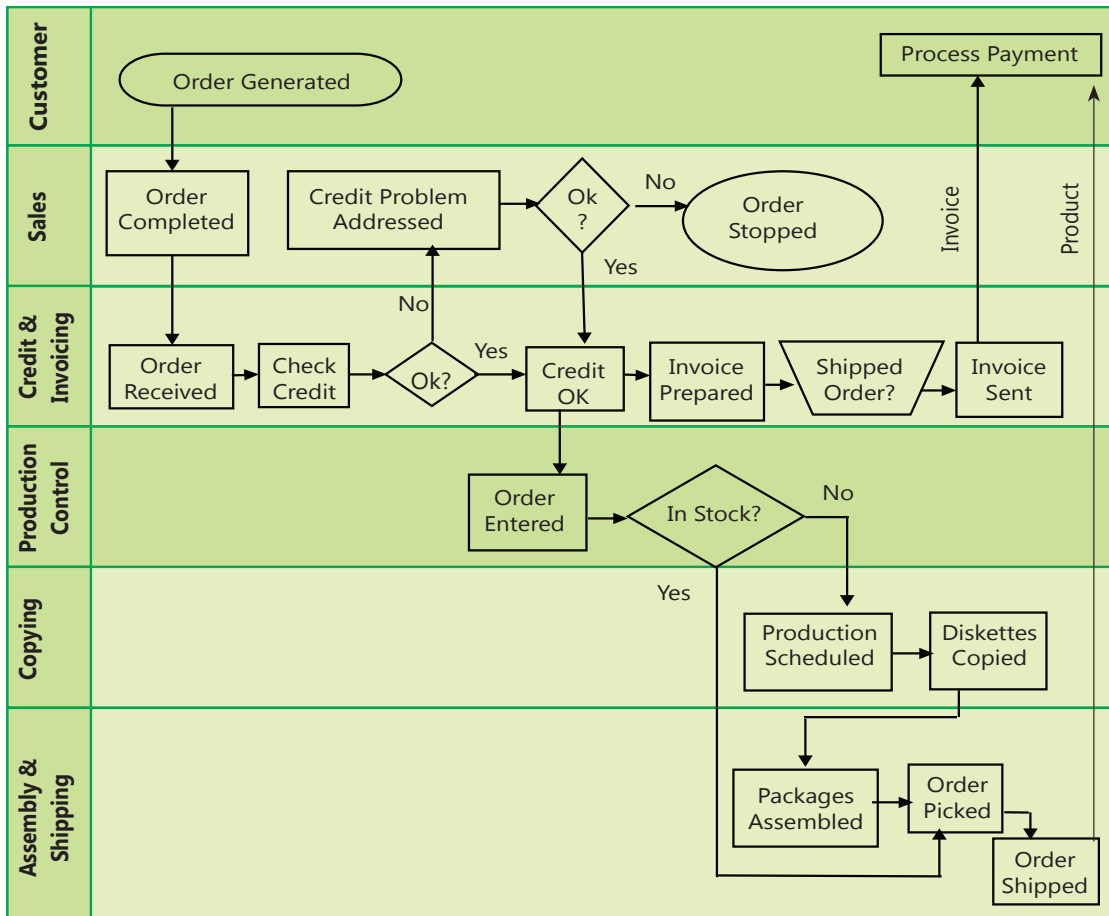
Fig. 1.7.8: Simple DFD (Example)

- ♦ The book is represented as an external entity and the input is the bar code.
- ♦ The process is the scanning of the bar code and giving an output of the Book ID.
- ♦ The next process calculates the fine based on accessing the “library database” and establishing the “due back” date.
- ♦ Finally, the fine is communicated to the borrower who is also shown as an external

1.7.3 Diagrammatic Representation of Specific Business Processes

I Customer Order Fulfilment (Refer Fig. 1.7.9)

- ◆ The process starts with the customer placing an order and the sales department creating a sales order.
- ◆ The sales order goes through the Credit & Invoicing process to check credit (an activity) is it OK? (a decision gateway).
- ◆ If the customer’s credit check is not OK, you would move to the step “credit problem addressed” (an activity), followed by a decision “OK?”. If, “No” the order will be stopped.
- ◆ If the customer’s “credit check” response is “yes”, and if stock is available, an invoice is prepared, goods shipped and an invoice is sent to the customer. If the stock is not available, the order is passed to “production control” for manufacture and then shipped to customer with the invoice.
- ◆ The process ends with the payment being received from customer.



© The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India **Fig. 1.7.9: Customer Order Fulfilment (Example)**

II Order to Cash (Refer Fig. 1.7.10)

Fig. 1.7.10 indicates the different sub processes within the main processes in the Order to Cash cycle. It should be noted that this is only a simple example to illustrate the concept. However, in large enterprises the main processes, sub processes and activities could be much more.

(i) Sales and Marketing (SM)

- ♦ Advertises and markets the company's products and books sales orders from customers.

(ii) Order Fulfilment

- ♦ Receives orders from SM.
- ♦ Checks inventory to establish availability of the product. If the product is available in stock, transportation is arranged and the product is sent to the customer.

(iii) Manufacturing

- ♦ If the product is not available in stock, this information is sent to the manufacturing department so that the product is manufactured and subsequently sent to the customer.

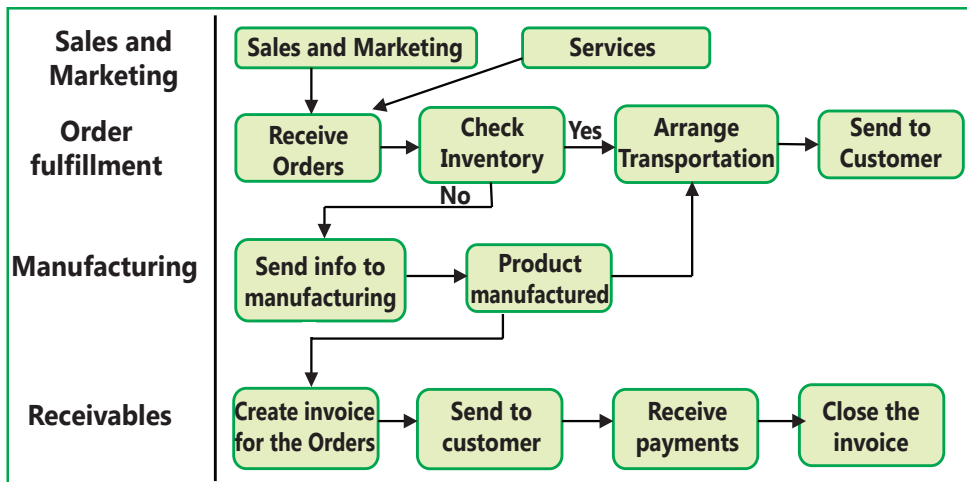


Fig. 1.7.10: Order to Cash (Example)

(iv) Receivables

- ♦ The invoice is created, sent to the customer, payment received and the invoice closed.
- ♦ It should be noted that under each sub process, there could be many activities. For example:

- o **Main Process** - Order Fulfilment

- o **Other Activities** – Check correctness and validity of information in order, enter order in computer system, check credit worthiness of customer, check credit limit, obtain approval for any discrepancy etc.

III Procure to Pay (Refer Fig. 1.7.11)

The **Purchase to Pay** Process in Fig. 1.7.11 indicates the different processes identified specifically to department/entity through “swimlanes” so that the responsibilities are clearly defined. Let’s understand flow from the perspective of each department/entity.

(i) User Department

- ♦ A user in an enterprise may require some material or service. Based on the need and justification, the user raises a Purchase Request (PR) to the Procurement department.

(ii) Procurement Department (PD)

- ♦ PD receives the PR and prioritises the request based on the need and urgency of the user.
- ♦ It is then the responsibility of the PD to find the best source of supply, for the specific material/service. PD will then request the potential vendors to submit their quotes, based on which negotiations on price, quality and payment terms, will take place.
- ♦ The Purchase Order (PO) will then be released to the selected vendor.

(iii) Vendor

- ♦ The vendor receives the PO and carries out his own internal checks.
- ♦ Matches the PO with the quotation sent and in the event of any discrepancy will seek clarification from the enterprise.
- ♦ If there are no discrepancies, the vendor will raise an internal sales order within the enterprise.
- ♦ The material is then shipped to the address indicated in the PO.
- ♦ The Vendor Invoice (VI) is sent to the Accounts Payable department, based on the address indicated in the PO.

(iv) Stores

- ♦ Receives the material.
- ♦ Checks the quantity received with the PO and quality with the users. If there is any discrepancy the vendor is immediately informed.
- ♦ The Goods Received Note (GRN) is prepared based on the actual receipt of material and the stores stock updated. The GRN is then sent to the Accounts Payable department for processing the payment.
- ♦ A Material Issue Note is created and the material is sent to the concerned

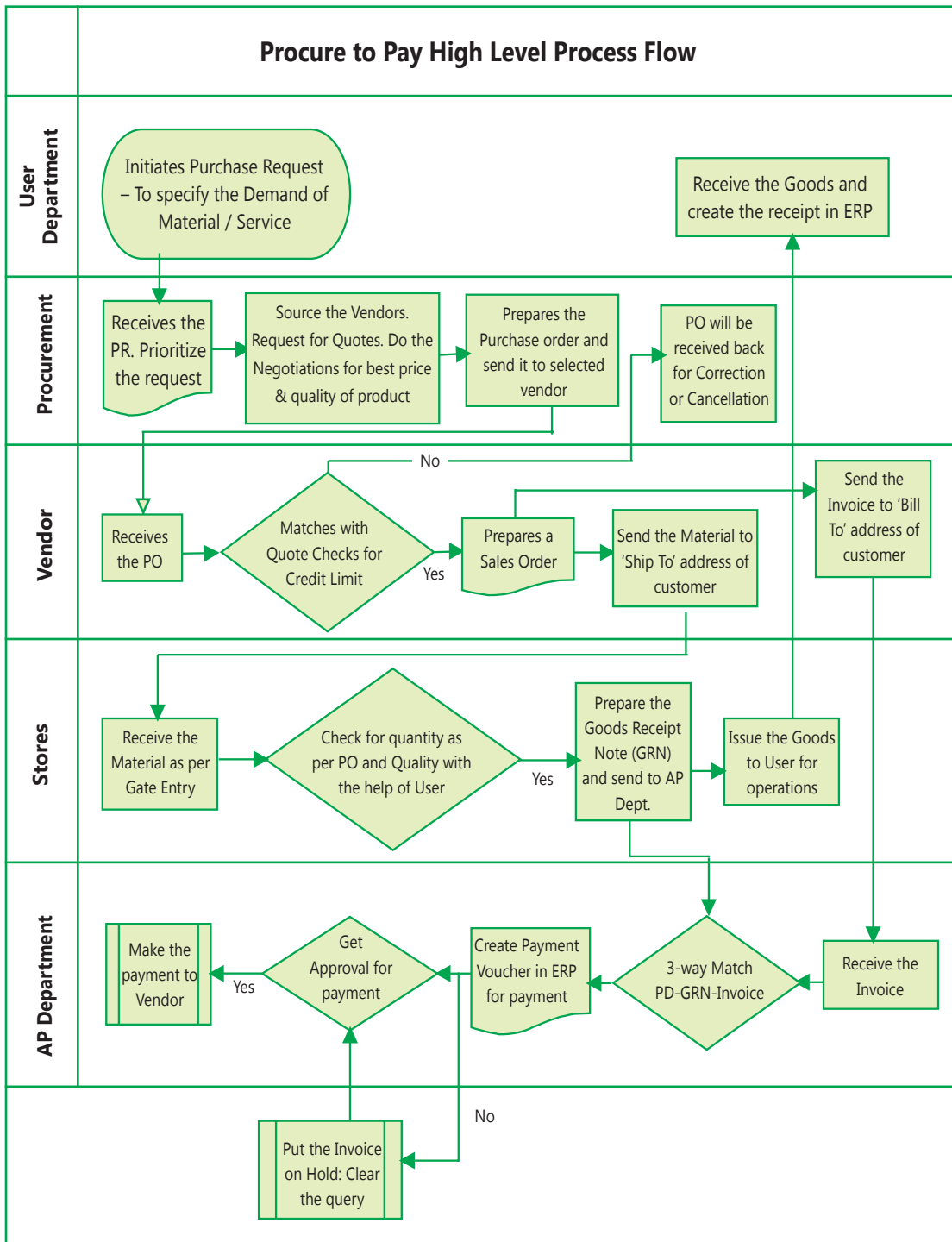


Fig. 1.7.11: Procure to Pay (Example)

(v) Accounts Payable (AP)

- ♦ AP will do a “3-way match” of PO/GRN/VI. This is to ensure that the price, quantity and terms indicated in the VI matches with the PO and the quantity received in the PO matches with the GRN quantity. This check establishes that what has been ordered has been delivered.
- ♦ If there is no discrepancy, the payment voucher is prepared for payment and the necessary approvals obtained.
- ♦ If there is a discrepancy, the VI is put “on hold” for further clarification and subsequently processed.
- ♦ Finally, the payment is made to the vendor.



1.8 RISKS AND CONTROLS FOR SPECIFIC BUSINESS PROCESSES

1.8.1 Business Processes - Risks and Controls

Suitable controls should be implemented to meet the requirements of the control objectives. These controls can be manual, automated or semi-automated provided the risk is mitigated. Based on the scenario, the controls can be Preventive, Detective or Corrective. In computer systems, controls should be checked at three levels, namely **Configuration, Master & Transaction level.**

1. Configuration

Configuration refers to the way a software system is set up. Configuration is the methodical process of defining options that are provided. When any software is installed, values for various parameters should be set up (configured) as per policies and business process work flow and business process rules of the enterprise. The various modules of the enterprise such as Purchase, Sales, Inventory, Finance, User Access etc. have to be configured. Configuration will define how software will function and what menu options are displayed. Some examples of configuration are given below:

- ♦ Mapping of accounts to front end transactions like purchase and sales
- ♦ Control on parameters: Creation of Customer Type, Vendor Type, year-end process
- ♦ User activation and deactivation
- ♦ User Access & privileges - Configuration & its management
- ♦ Password Management

2. Masters

Masters refer to the way various parameters are set up for all modules of software, like Purchase, Sales, Inventory, Finance etc. These drives how the software will process

relevant transactions. The masters are set up first time during installation and these are changed whenever the business process rules or parameters are changed. Examples are Vendor Master, Customer Master, Material Master, Accounts Master, Employee Master etc. Any changes to these data have to be authorised by appropriate personnel and these are logged and captured in exception reports. The way masters are set up will drive the way software will process transactions of that type. For example: The Customer Master will have the credit limit of the customer. When an invoice is raised, the system will check against the approved credit limit and if the amount invoiced is within the credit limit, the invoice will be created if not the invoice will be put on "credit hold" till proper approvals are obtained.

Some examples of masters are given here:

- ◆ **Vendor Master:** Credit period, vendor bank account details, etc.
- ◆ **Customer Master:** Credit limit, Bill to address, Ship to address, etc.
- ◆ **Material Master:** Material type, Material description, Unit of measure, etc.
- ◆ **Employee Master:** Employee name, designation, salary details, etc.

3. Transactions

Transactions refer to the actual transactions entered through menus and functions in the application software, through which all transactions for specific modules are initiated, authorized or approved. For example:

- ◆ Sales transactions
- ◆ Purchase transactions
- ◆ Stock transfer transactions
- ◆ Journal entries
- ◆ Payment transactions

Implementation or review of specific business process can be done from risk or control perspective. In case of risk perspective, we need to consider each of the key sub-processes or activities performed in a business process and look at existing and related control objectives and existing controls and the residual risks after application of controls. The residual risk should be knowingly accepted by the management.

If we review this from a control objective perspective, then for each key sub-process or activity, we will consider what is sought to be achieved by implementing controls and then evaluate whether risks are mitigated by controls which are implemented at present and what are the residual risks and whether there is need to complement/add more controls.

Given below are some examples of risks and controls for a few business processes. The checklist provided below are illustrative. It is not necessary that all the sub-processes/activities given below are applicable for all enterprises. However, they are provided to illustrate the concept of risk and related controls and

control objectives. This list can be practically used for implementation/evaluation of risk/controls of business processes detailed below. However, it should be customized specifically as per the nature of business processes and how these are implemented in the enterprise. The checklist given below is categorized into Configuration, Masters and Transactions.

1.8.2 Procure to Pay (P2P) – Risks and Controls

Procure to Pay (Purchase to Pay or P2P) is the process of obtaining and managing the raw materials needed for manufacturing a product or providing a service. It involves the transactional flow of data that is sent to a supplier as well as the data that surrounds the fulfillment of the actual order and payment for the product or service. Using automation, it should be possible to have a seamless procure to pay process covering the complete life-cycle from point of order to payment.

Masters

Table 1.8.1: Risks and Control Objectives (Masters-P2P)

Risk	Control Objective
Unauthorized changes to supplier master file.	Only valid changes are made to the supplier master file.
All valid changes to the supplier master file are not input and processed.	All valid changes to the supplier master file are input and processed.
Changes to the supplier master file are not correct.	Changes to the supplier master file are accurate.
Changes to the supplier master file are delayed and not processed in a timely manner.	Changes to the supplier master file are processed in a timely manner.
Supplier master file data is not up to date.	Supplier master file data remain up to date.
System access to maintain vendor masters has not been restricted to the authorized users.	System access to maintain vendor masters has been restricted to the authorized users.

Transactions

Table 1.8.2: Risks and Control Objectives (Transactions-P2P)

Risk	Control Objective
Unauthorized purchase requisitions are ordered.	Purchase orders are placed only for approved requisitions.
Purchase orders are not entered correctly in the system.	Purchase orders are accurately entered.
Purchase orders issued are not input and processed.	All purchase orders issued are input and processed.
Amounts are posted in accounts payable for goods or services not received.	Amounts posted to accounts payable represent goods or services received.

Amounts posted to accounts payable are not properly calculated and recorded.	Accounts payable amounts are accurately calculated and recorded.
Amounts for goods or services received are not input and processed in accounts payable.	All amounts for goods or services received are input and processed to accounts payable.
Amounts for goods or services received are recorded in the wrong period.	Amounts for goods or services received are recorded in the appropriate period.
Accounts payable amounts are adjusted based on unacceptable reasons.	Accounts payable are adjusted only for valid reasons.
Credit notes and other adjustments are not accurately calculated and recorded.	Credit notes and other adjustments are accurately calculated and recorded.
All valid credit notes and other adjustments related to accounts payable are not input and processed.	All valid credit notes and other adjustments related to accounts payable are input and processed.
Credit notes and other adjustments are recorded in the wrong period.	Credit notes and other adjustments are recorded in the appropriate period.
Disbursements are made for goods and services that have not been received.	Disbursements are made only for goods and services received.
Disbursements are distributed to unauthorized suppliers.	Disbursements are distributed to the appropriate suppliers.
Disbursements are not accurately calculated and recorded.	Disbursements are accurately calculated and recorded.
All disbursements are not recorded.	All disbursements are recorded.
Disbursements are recorded for an inappropriate period.	Disbursements are recorded in the period in which they are issued.
Adjustments to inventory prices or quantities are not recorded promptly and not done in the appropriate period.	Adjustments to inventory prices or quantities are recorded promptly and in the appropriate period.
System access to process transactions has not been restricted to the authorized users.	System access to process transactions has been restricted to the authorized users.

1.8.3 Order to Cash (O2C) – Risks and Controls

Order to Cash (OTC or O2C) is a set of business processes that involve receiving and fulfilling customer requests for goods or services. It is a set of business processes that involve receiving and fulfilling customer requests for goods or services. An order to cash cycle consists of multiple sub-processes including:

1. Customer order is documented;
2. Order is fulfilled or service is scheduled;
3. Order is shipped to customer or service is performed;
4. Invoice is created and sent to customer;
5. Customer sends payment /Collection; and

6. Payment is recorded in general ledger.

Masters

Table 1.8.3: Risks and Control Objectives (Masters-O2C)

Risk	Control Objective
The customer master file is not maintained properly and the information is not accurate.	The customer master file is maintained properly and the information is accurate.
Invalid changes are made to the customer master file.	Only valid changes are made to the customer master file.
All valid changes to the customer master file are not input and processed.	All valid changes to the customer master file are input and processed.
Changes to the customer master file are not accurate.	Changes to the customer master file are accurate.
Changes to the customer master file are not processed in a timely manner.	Changes to the customer master file are processed in a timely manner.
Customer master file data is not up-to-date and relevant.	Customer master file data is up to date and relevant.
System access to maintain customer masters has not been restricted to the authorized users.	System access to maintain customer masters has been restricted to the authorized users.

Transactions

Table 1.8.4: Risks and Control Objectives (Transactions-O2C)

Risk	Control Objective
Orders are processed exceeding customer credit limits without approvals.	Orders are processed only within approved customer credit limits.
Orders are not approved by management as to prices and terms of sale.	Orders are approved by management as to prices and terms of sale.
Orders and cancellations of orders are not input accurately.	Orders and cancellations of orders are input accurately.
Order entry data are not transferred completely and accurately to the shipping and invoicing activities.	Order entry data are transferred completely and accurately to the shipping and invoicing activities.
All orders received from customers are not input and processed.	All orders received from customers are input and processed.
Invalid & unauthorized orders are input and processed.	Only valid & authorized orders are input and processed.
Invoices are generated using unauthorized terms and prices.	Invoices are generated using authorized terms and prices.
Invoices are not accurately calculated and recorded.	Invoices are accurately calculated and recorded.

Credit notes and adjustments to accounts receivable are not accurately calculated and recorded.	Credit notes and adjustments to accounts receivable are accurately calculated and recorded.
Goods shipped are not invoiced.	All goods shipped are invoiced.
Credit notes for all goods returned and adjustments to accounts receivable are not issued in accordance with organization policy.	Credit notes for all goods returned and adjustments to accounts receivable are issued in accordance with organization policy.
Invoices are raised for invalid shipments.	Invoices relate to valid shipments.
Credit notes do not pertain to a return of goods or other valid adjustments.	All credit notes relate to a return of goods or other valid adjustments.
Invoices are not recorded in the system.	All invoices issued are recorded.
Credit notes issued are not recorded in the system	All credit notes issued are recorded.
Invoices are recorded in the wrong period.	Invoices are recorded in the appropriate period.
Credit notes are recorded in the wrong period.	Credit notes issued are recorded in the appropriate period.
Cash receipts are not recorded in the period in which they are received.	Cash receipts are recorded in the period in which they are received.
Cash receipts data are not entered correctly.	Cash receipts data are entered for processing accurately.
Cash receipts are not entered in the system for processing.	All cash receipts data are entered for processing.
Cash receipts data are not valid and are not entered in the system for processing more than once.	Cash receipts data are valid and are entered for processing only once.
Cash discounts are not accurately calculated and recorded.	Cash discounts are accurately calculated and recorded.
Collection of accounts receivable is delayed and not properly monitored.	Timely collection of accounts receivable is monitored.
System access to process transactions has not been restricted to the authorized users.	System access to process transactions has been restricted to the authorized users.

1.8.4 Inventory Cycle – Risks and Controls

The **Inventory Cycle** is a process of accurately tracking the on-hand inventory levels for an enterprise. An inventory system should maintain accurate record of all stock movements to calculate the correct balance of inventory. The term “inventory cycle” means different things to companies in different verticals. For those who source, assemble and create inventory, it refers to a time-based process which is basic to understanding how to maximize resources and cash flow. To businesses that buy, store

and sell inventory it focuses on the process of understanding, planning and managing inventory levels, from purchasing through more-efficient auditing. The typical phases of the Inventory Cycle for Manufacturers are as follows:

1. **The ordering phase:** The amount of time it takes to order and receive raw materials.
2. **The production phase:** The work in progress phase relates to time it takes to convert the raw material to finished goods ready for use by customer.
3. **The finished goods and delivery phase:** The finished goods that remain in stock and the delivery time to the customer. The inventory cycle is measured in number of days.

Masters

Table 1.8.5: Risks and Control Objectives (Masters-Inventory)

Risk	Control Objective
Invalid changes are made to the inventory management master file.	Only valid changes are made to the inventory management master file.
Invalid changes to the inventory management master file are input and processed.	All valid changes to the inventory management master file are input and processed.
Changes to the inventory management master file are not accurate.	Changes to the inventory management master file are accurate.
Changes to the inventory management master file are not promptly processed.	Changes to the inventory management master file are promptly processed.
Inventory management master file data is not up to date.	Inventory management master file data remain up to date.
System access to maintain inventory masters has not been restricted to the authorized users.	System access to maintain inventory masters has been restricted to the authorized users.

Transactions

Table 1.8.6: Risks and Control Objectives (Transactions-Inventory)

Risk	Control Objective
Adjustments to inventory prices or quantities are not recorded accurately.	Adjustments to inventory prices or quantities are recorded accurately.
Raw materials are received and accepted without valid purchase orders.	Raw materials are received and accepted only if they have valid purchase orders.
Raw materials received are not recorded accurately.	Raw materials received are recorded accurately.
Raw materials received are not recorded in system.	All raw materials received are recorded.

Receipts of raw materials are not recorded promptly and not in the appropriate period.	Receipts of raw materials are recorded promptly and in the appropriate period.
Defective raw materials are not returned promptly to suppliers.	Defective raw materials are returned promptly to suppliers.
Transfers of raw materials to production are not recorded accurately and are not in the appropriate period.	All transfers of raw materials to production are recorded accurately and in the appropriate period.
Direct and indirect expenses associated with production are not recorded accurately and are posted in an inappropriate period.	All direct and indirect expenses associated with production are recorded accurately and in the appropriate period.
Transfers of completed units of production to finished goods inventory are not recorded completely and accurately and are posted in an inappropriate period.	All transfers of completed units of production to finished goods inventory are recorded completely and accurately in the appropriate period.
Finished goods returned by customers are not recorded completely and accurately and are posted in an inappropriate period.	Finished goods returned by customers are recorded completely and accurately in the appropriate period.
Finished goods received from production are not recorded completely and accurately and are posted in an inappropriate period.	Finished goods received from production are recorded completely and accurately in the appropriate period.
Shipments are not recorded in the system.	All shipments are recorded.
Shipments are not recorded accurately.	Shipments are recorded accurately.
Shipments are not recorded promptly and are in an inappropriate period.	Shipments are recorded promptly and in the appropriate period.
Inventory is reduced when goods are not shipped and made based on unapproved customer orders.	Inventory is reduced only when goods are shipped with approved customer orders.
Costs of shipped inventory are not transferred from inventory to cost of sales.	Costs of shipped inventory are transferred from inventory to cost of sales.
Costs of shipped inventory are not accurately recorded.	Costs of shipped inventory are accurately recorded.
Amounts posted to cost of sales does not represent those associated with shipped inventory.	Amounts posted to cost of sales represent those associated with shipped inventory.
Costs of shipped inventory are not transferred from inventory to cost of sales promptly and not done in the appropriate period.	Costs of shipped inventory are transferred from inventory to cost of sales promptly and in the appropriate period.
System access to process inventory related transactions has not been restricted to the authorized users.	System access to process inventory related transactions has been restricted to the authorized users.

1.8.5 Human Resources – Risks and Controls

The **Human Resources** life cycle refers to human resources management and covers all the stages of an employee's time within a specific enterprise and the role the human resources department plays at each stage. Typical stage of HR cycle includes the following:

1. **Recruiting and On-boarding:** Recruiting is the process of hiring a new employee. The role of the human resources department in this stage is to assist in hiring. This might include placing the job ads, selecting candidates whose resumes look promising, conducting employment interviews and administering assessments such as personality profiles to choose the best applicant for the position. In a small business where the owner performs these duties personally, the HR person would assist in a support role. In some organizations, the recruiting stage is referred to as "hiring support." On boarding is the process of getting the successful applicant set up in the system as a new employee.
2. **Orientation and Career Planning:** Orientation is the process by which the employee becomes a member of the company's work force through learning her new job duties, establishing relationships with co-workers and supervisors and developing a niche. Career planning is the stage at which the employee and her supervisors work out her long-term career goals with the company. The human resources department may make additional use of personality profile testing at this stage to help the employee determine her best career options with the company.
3. **Career Development:** Career development opportunities are essential to keep an employee engaged with the company over time. After an employee, has established himself at the company and determined his long-term career objectives, the human resources department should try to help him meet his goals, if they're realistic. This can include professional growth and training to prepare the employee for more responsible positions with the company. The company also assesses the employee's work history and performance at this stage to determine whether he has been a successful hire.
4. **Termination or Transition:** Some employees will leave a company through retirement after a long and successful career. Others will choose to move on to other opportunities or be laid off. Whatever the reason, all employees will eventually leave the company. The role of HR in this process is to manage the transition by ensuring that all policies and procedures are followed, carrying out an exit interview if that is company policy and removing the employee from the system. These stages can be handled internally or with the help of enterprises that provide services to manage the employee life cycle.

Configuration

Table 1.8.7: Risks and Control Objectives (Configuration-Human Resources)

Risk	Control Objective
Employees who have left the company continue to have system access.	System access to be immediately removed when employees leave the company.
Employees have system access in excess of their job requirements.	Employees should be given system access based on a "need to know" basis and to perform their job function.

Masters

Table 1.8.8: Risks and Control Objectives (Masters-Human Resources)

Risk	Control Objective
Additions to the payroll master files do not represent valid employees.	Additions to the payroll master files represent valid employees.
New employees are not added to the payroll master files.	All new employees are added to the payroll master files.
Terminated employees are not removed from the payroll master files.	Terminated employees are removed from the payroll master files.
Employees are terminated without following statutory requirements.	Employees are terminated only within statutory requirements.
Deletions from the payroll master files do not represent valid terminations.	Deletions from the payroll master files represent valid terminations.
Invalid changes are made to the payroll master files.	Only valid changes are made to the payroll master files.
Changes to the payroll master files are not accurate.	Changes to the payroll master files are accurate.
Changes to the payroll master files are not processed in a timely manner.	Changes to the payroll master files are processed in a timely manner.
Payroll master file data is not up to date.	Payroll master file data remain up to date.
Payroll is disbursed to inappropriate employees.	Payroll is disbursed to appropriate employees.
System access to process employee master changes has not been restricted to the authorized users.	System access to process employee master changes has been restricted to the authorized users.

1.8.6 Fixed Assets – Risks and Controls

Fixed Assets process ensures that all the fixed assets of the enterprise are tracked for the purposes of financial accounting, preventive maintenance, and theft deterrence. Fixed assets process ensures that all fixed assets are tracked and fixed asset record maintains details of location, quantity, condition, maintenance and depreciation status.

Typical steps of fixed assets process are as follows:

1. **Procuring an asset:** An asset is most often entered into the accounting system; when the invoice for the asset is entered; into the accounts payable; or purchasing module of the system.
2. **Registering or Adding an asset:** Most of the information needed to set up the asset for depreciation is available at the time the invoice is entered. Information entered at this stage could include; acquisition date, placed-in-service date, description, asset type, cost basis, depreciable basis etc.
3. **Adjusting the Assets:** Adjustments to existing asset information is often needed to be made. Events may occur that can change the depreciable basis of an asset. Further, there may be improvements or repairs made to asset that either adds value to the asset or extend its economic life.
4. **Transferring the Assets:** A fixed asset maybe sold or transferred to another subsidiary, reporting entity, or department within the company. These inter-company and intra-company transfers may result in changes that impact the asset's depreciable basis, depreciation, or other asset data. This needs to be reflected accurately in the fixed assets management system.
5. **Depreciating the Assets:** The decline in an asset's economic and physical value is called depreciation. Depreciation is an expense which should be periodically accounted on a company's books, and allocated to the accounting periods, to match income and expenses. Sometimes, the revaluation of an asset, may also result in appreciation of its value
6. **Disposing the Assets:** When a fixed asset is no longer in use, becomes obsolete, is beyond repair; the asset is typically disposed. When an asset is taken out of service, depreciation cannot be charged on it. There are multiple types of disposals, such as abandonments, sales, and trade-ins. Any difference between the book value, and realized value, is reported as a gain or loss.

Masters

Table 1.8.9: Risks and Control Objectives (Masters-Fixed Assets)

Risk	Control Objective
Invalid changes are made to the fixed asset register and/or master file.	Only valid changes are made to the fixed asset register and/or master file.
Valid changes to the fixed asset register and/or master file are not input and processed.	All valid changes to the fixed asset register and/or master file are input and processed.
Changes to the fixed asset register and/or master file are not accurate.	Changes to the fixed asset register and/or master file are accurate.
Changes to the fixed asset register and/or master file are not promptly processed.	Changes to the fixed asset register and/or master file are promptly processed.

Fixed asset register and/or master file data are not kept up to date.	Fixed asset register and/or master file data remain up to date.
System access to fixed asset master file / system configuration is not restricted to the authorized users.	System access to fixed asset master file / system configuration is restricted to the authorized users.
System configuration pertaining to definition of the depreciation base, depreciation rate, life of asset and accounting of transactions has not been correctly defined.	System configuration pertaining to definition of the depreciation base, depreciation rate, life of asset and accounting of transactions has been correctly defined.

Transactions

Table 1.8.10: Risks and Control Objectives (Transactions-Fixed Assets)

Risk	Control Objective
Fixed asset acquisitions are not accurately recorded.	Fixed asset acquisitions are accurately recorded.
Fixed asset acquisitions are not recorded in the appropriate period.	Fixed asset acquisitions are recorded in the appropriate period.
Fixed asset acquisitions are not recorded.	All fixed asset acquisitions are recorded.
Depreciation charges are not accurately calculated and recorded.	Depreciation charges are accurately calculated and recorded.
Depreciation charges are not recorded in the appropriate period.	All depreciation charges are recorded in the appropriate period.
Fixed asset disposals/transfers are not recorded.	All fixed asset disposals/transfers are recorded.
Fixed asset disposals/transfers are not accurately calculated and recorded.	Fixed asset disposals/transfers are accurately calculated and recorded.
Fixed asset disposals/transfers are not recorded in the appropriate period.	Fixed asset disposals/transfers are recorded in the appropriate period.
Records of fixed asset maintenance activity are not accurately maintained.	Records of fixed asset maintenance activity are accurately maintained.
Fixed asset maintenance activity records are not updated in a timely manner.	Fixed asset maintenance activity records are updated in a timely manner.
Accounting entries pertaining to acquisition, disposals, transfers, retirement are not recorded in the correct GL account.	Accounting entries pertaining to acquisition, disposals, transfers, retirement are recorded in the correct GL account.
System access to process fixed asset transactions has not been restricted to the authorized users.	System access to process fixed asset transactions has been restricted to the authorized users.

1.8.7 General Ledger – Risks and Controls

General Ledger (GL) process refers to the process of recording the transactions in the system to finally generating the reports from financial transactions entered in the system. The input for GL Process Flow is the financial transactions and the outputs are various types of financial reports such as balance sheet, profit and loss a/c, funds flow statement, ratio analysis, etc.

The typical steps in general ledger process flow are as follows:

1. Entering financial transactions into the system
2. Reviewing Transactions
3. Approving Transactions
4. Posting of Transactions
5. Generating Financial Reports

Configuration

Table 1.8.11: Risks and Control Objectives (Configuration-General Ledger)

Risk	Control Objective
Unauthorized general ledger entries could be passed.	Access to general ledger entries is appropriate and authorized.
System functionality does not exist to segregate the posting and approval functions.	System functionality exists to segregate the posting and approval functions.
Interrelated balance sheets and income statement accounts do not undergo automated reconciliations to confirm accuracy of such accounts.	Interrelated balance sheets and income statement accounts undergo automated reconciliations to confirm accuracy of such accounts.
Systems do not generate reports of all recurring and non recurring journal entries for review by management for accuracy.	Systems generate reports of all recurring and nonrecurring journal entries for review by management for accuracy.
Non standard journal entries are not tracked and are inappropriate.	All non standard journal entries are tracked and are appropriate.
Out-of-balance entries are not prohibited.	Out-of-balance entries are prohibited.
Enterprise wide consolidation, including standard inter company eliminations, is not automated and not performed.	Enterprise wide consolidation, including standard inter company eliminations, is automated and performed.
Variance reports are not generated for use to identify posting errors/out-of-balance conditions.	Variance reports are generated for use to identify posting errors/out-of-balance conditions.
System controls are not in place for appropriate approval of write-offs.	System controls are in place for appropriate approval of write-offs.

Journal entries of exceptional amount that were posted to the general ledger during the month are not flagged by the system and not subsequently reviewed for accuracy and approved by the controller or CFO after month-end.	Journal entries of exceptional amount that were posted to the general ledger during the month are flagged by the system and subsequently reviewed for accuracy and approved by the controller or CFO after month-end.
Automated amortization timing, periods and methods are not appropriate and not accurately entered.	Automated amortization timing, periods and methods are appropriate and accurately entered.
Standard, recurring period-end journal entries submitted from subsidiary ledger systems are not automated, not appropriately approved and not entered accurately.	Standard, recurring period-end journal entries submitted from subsidiary ledger systems are automated, appropriately approved and entered accurately.
Transactions can be recorded outside of financial close cutoff requirements.	Transactions cannot be recorded outside of financial close cutoff requirements.
The sources of all entries are not readily identifiable.	The sources of all entries are readily identifiable.
Transactions are not rejected, accepted and identified, on exception reports in the event of data exceptions.	Transactions are rejected, or accepted and identified, on exception reports in the event of data exceptions.
Account mappings are not up to date.	Account mappings are up to date.
Adding to or deleting general ledger accounts is not limited to authorized accounting department personnel.	Adding to or deleting general ledger accounts is limited to authorized accounting department personnel.

Masters

Table 1.8.12: Risks and Control Objectives (Masters-General Ledger)

Risk	Control Objective
General ledger master file change reports are not generated by the system and are not reviewed as necessary by an individual who does not input the changes.	General ledger master file change reports are generated by the system and reviewed as necessary by an individual who does not input the changes.
A standard chart of accounts has not been approved by management and is not utilized within all entities of the corporation.	A standard chart of accounts has been approved by management and is not utilized within all entities of the corporation.

Transactions

Table 1.8.13: Risks and Control Objectives (Transactions-General Ledger)

Risk	Control Objective
General ledger balances are not reconciled to sub ledger balances and such reconciliation are not reviewed for accuracy and not approved by authorized personnel.	General ledger balances reconcile to sub ledger balances and such reconciliation are reviewed for accuracy and approved by authorized personnel.

Interrelated balance sheets and income statement accounts do not undergo automated reconciliation to confirm accuracy of such accounts.	Interrelated balance sheets and income statement accounts undergo automated reconciliation to confirm accuracy of such accounts.
Account codes and transaction amounts are not accurate and not complete, and exceptions are not reported.	Account codes and transaction amounts are accurate and complete, with exceptions reported.
A report of all journal entries completed as part of the closing process is not reviewed by management to confirm the completeness and appropriateness of all recorded entries.	A report of all journal entries completed as part of the closing process is reviewed by management to confirm the completeness and appropriateness of all recorded entries.
Actual-to-actual, actual-to-budget and yield reports are not produced from the general ledger system on a monthly basis prior to the final close of the general ledger. Reports are not distributed to and reviewed by the controller and CFO. Unusual amounts or variances are not investigated and reclassified when applicable.	Actual-to-actual, actual-to-budget and yield reports are produced from the general ledger system on a monthly basis prior to the final close of the general ledger. Reports are distributed to and reviewed by the controller and CFO. Unusual amounts or variances are investigated and reclassified when applicable.
Entries booked in the close process are not complete and accurate.	Entries booked in the close process are complete and accurate.

1.9 REGULATORY AND COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

Major corporations worldwide have used Information Technology (IT) to stay ahead in business. The competitive edge in terms of fast information flow, to support the business, can be an important factor between success and failure.

The efficiency of an enterprise depends on the quick flow of information across the complete supply chain i.e., from the customer to manufacturers to the suppliers. With the globalization of the market place coupled with competition and increasing customer expectations enterprises should address certain fundamental areas like lowering costs in the supply chain, reducing throughput times, optimizing stock levels, improving product quality, improving service to the customer, efficiently handling cross border data flow etc. Today's IT systems achieve all this.

The core to any enterprise's success is to have an efficient and effective financial information system to support decision-making and monitoring. The risks, controls and security of such systems should be clearly understood in order to pass an objective opinion about the adequacy of control in an IT environment.

1.9.1 The Companies Act, 2013

The Companies Act, 2013 has two very important Sections - **Section 134** and **Section 143**, which have a direct impact on the audit and accounting profession.

(i) Section 134**Section 134 of the Companies Act, 2013 on “Financial statement, Board’s report, etc.” states inter alia:**

The **Directors’ Responsibility Statement** referred to in clause (c) of sub-section (3) shall state that:

the Directors had taken proper and sufficient care for the maintenance of adequate accounting records in accordance with the provisions of this Act for safeguarding the assets of the company and for preventing and detecting fraud and other irregularities;

the directors, in the case of a listed company, had laid down internal financial controls to be followed by the company and that such internal financial controls are adequate and were operating effectively.

Explanation: For the purposes of this clause, the term “internal financial controls” means the policies and procedures adopted by the company for ensuring the orderly and efficient conduct of its business, including adherence to company’s policies, the safeguarding of its assets, the prevention and detection of frauds and errors, the accuracy and completeness of the accounting records, and the timely preparation of reliable financial information the directors had devised proper systems to ensure compliance with the provisions of all applicable laws and that such systems were adequate and operating effectively.

(ii) Section 143**Section 143, of the Companies Act 2013, on “Powers and duties of auditors and auditing standards” states inter alia:**

Section 143(3) contains the **auditor’s report** which states:

“whether the company has adequate internal financial controls system in place and the operating effectiveness of such controls”;

When we talk in terms of “adequacy and effectiveness of controls”; it refers to the adequacy of the control design and whether the control has been working effectively during the relevant financial year. The impact of this statement is that it involves continuous control monitoring during the year and not a review “as at” a particular date.

For example, let us assume that a company has a sales invoicing control wherein all sales invoices raised by the salesman which is greater than ₹ 50,000/- are reviewed and approved by the sales manager. In terms of the of the control design this control may seem adequate. However, if during audit, it was found that, during the year, there were many invoices raised by the salesman which was greater than ₹ 50,000/- and not reviewed and approved by the sales manager. In such a case, although the control design was adequate, the control was not working effectively, due to many exceptions without proper approval.

As per ICAI's "Guidance Note on Audit of Internal Financial Controls over Financial Reporting":

Clause (j) of Sub-section 3 of Section 143 of the Companies Act, 2013 ("the 2013 Act" or "the Act") requires the auditors' report to state whether the company has adequate internal financial controls system in place and the operating effectiveness of such controls.

I. Management's Responsibility

The 2013 Act has significantly expanded the scope of internal controls to be considered by the management of companies to cover all aspects of the operations of the company. Clause (e) of Sub-section 5 of Section 134 to the Act requires the directors' responsibility statement to state that the directors, in the case of a listed company, had laid down internal financial controls to be followed by the company and that such internal financial controls are adequate and were operating effectively.

Clause (e) of Sub-section 5 of Section 134 explains the meaning of the term, "internal financial controls" as "the policies and procedures adopted by the company for ensuring the orderly and efficient conduct of its business, including adherence to company's policies, the safeguarding of its assets, the prevention and detection of frauds and errors, the accuracy and completeness of the accounting records, and the timely preparation of reliable financial information."

Rule 8(5)(viii) of the Companies (Accounts) Rules, 2014 requires the Board of Directors' report of all companies to state the details in respect of adequacy of internal financial controls with reference to the financial statements.

The inclusion of the matters relating to internal financial controls in the directors' responsibility statement is in addition to the requirement for the directors to state that they have taken proper and sufficient care for the maintenance of adequate accounting records in accordance with the provisions of the 2013 Act, for safeguarding the assets of the company and for preventing and detecting fraud and other irregularities.

II. Auditors' Responsibility

The auditor's objective in an audit of internal financial controls over financial reporting is to express an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal financial controls over financial reporting and the procedures in respect thereof are carried out along with an audit of the financial statements. Because a company's internal controls cannot be considered effective if one or more material weakness exists, to form a basis for expressing an opinion, the auditor should plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence to obtain reasonable assurance about whether material weakness exists as of the date specified in management's assessment. A material weakness in internal financial controls may exist even when the financial statements are not materially misstated.

III. Corporate Governance Requirements

Corporate Governance is the framework of rules and practices by which a board of directors ensures accountability, fairness, and transparency in a company's relationship with its all stakeholders (financiers, customers, management, employees, government, and the community).

The corporate governance framework consists of:

- (i) explicit and implicit contracts between the company and the stakeholders for distribution of responsibilities, rights, and rewards
- (ii) procedures for reconciling the sometimes-conflicting interests of stakeholders in accordance with their duties, privileges, and roles, and
- (iii) procedures for proper supervision, control, and information-flows to serve as a system of checks-and-balances.

IV. Enterprise Risk Management's Framework

As discussed in the previous section of the chapter, **Enterprise Risk Management (ERM)** in business includes the methods and processes used by organizations to manage risks and seize opportunities related to the achievement of their objectives. As shown in the Fig. 1.9.1, ERM provides a framework for risk management, which typically involves identifying particular events or circumstances relevant to the organization's objectives (risks and opportunities), assessing them in terms of likelihood and magnitude of impact, determining a response strategy, and monitoring progress. By identifying and pro-actively addressing risks and opportunities, business enterprises protect and create value for their stakeholders, including owners, employees, customers, regulators, and society overall.

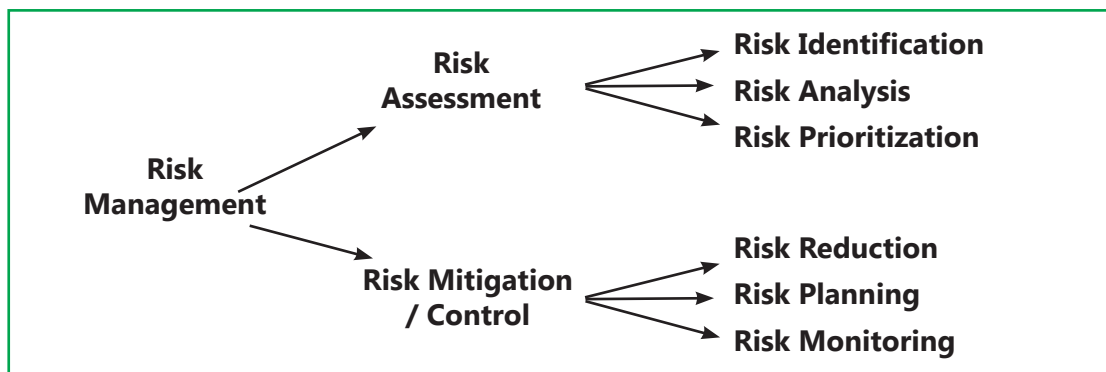


Fig. 1.9.1: Framework Provided by ERM

Management selects a risk response strategy for specific risks identified and analysed, which may include:

- (i) **Avoidance:** exiting the activities giving rise to risk.

- (ii) **Reduction:** taking action to reduce the likelihood or impact related to the risk.
- (iii) **Alternative Actions:** deciding and considering other feasible steps to minimize risks.
- (iv) **Share or Insure:** transferring or sharing a portion of the risk, to finance it.
- (v) **Accept:** no action is taken, due to a cost/benefit decision.

1.9.2 Information Technology Act (IT Act)

This Act aims to provide the legal infrastructure for e-commerce in India. And the cyber laws have a major impact for e-businesses and the new economy in India. So, it is important to understand what are the various perspectives of the IT Act, 2000 (as amended in 2008) and what it offers.

The Act also aims to provide for the legal framework so that legal sanctity is accorded to all electronic records and other activities carried out by electronic means. The Act states that unless otherwise agreed, an acceptance of contract may be expressed by electronic means of communication and the same shall have legal validity and enforceability.

I. Advantages of Cyber Laws

The IT Act 2000 attempts to change outdated laws and provides ways to deal with cyber-crimes. We need such laws so that people can perform purchase transactions over the Net without fear of misuse. The Act offers the much-needed legal framework so that information is not denied legal effect, validity or enforceability, solely on the ground that it is in the form of electronic records.

In view of the growth in transactions and communications carried out through electronic records, the Act seeks to empower government departments to accept filing, creating and retention of official documents in the digital format. The Act has also proposed a legal framework for the authentication and origin of electronic records/communications through digital signature.

From the perspective of e-commerce in India, the IT Act 2000 and its provisions contain many positive aspects which are as follows:

- ◆ The implications for the e-businesses would be that email would now be a valid and legal form of communication in India that can be duly produced and approved in a court of law.
- ◆ Companies shall now be able to carry out electronic commerce using the legal infrastructure provided by the Act.
- ◆ Digital signatures have been given legal validity and sanction in the Act.
- ◆ The Act throws open the doors for the entry of corporate companies in the business of being Certifying Authorities for issuing Digital Signatures Certificates.

- ♦ The Act now allows Government to issue notification on the web thus heralding e-governance.
- ♦ The Act enables the companies to file any form, application or any other document with any office, authority, body or agency owned or controlled by the appropriate Government in electronic form by means of such electronic form as may be prescribed by the appropriate Government.
- ♦ The IT Act also addresses the important issues of security, which are so critical to the success of electronic transactions.
- ♦ The Act has given a legal definition to the concept of secure digital signatures that would be required to have been passed through a system of a security procedure, as stipulated by the Government at a later date.

Under the IT Act, 2000, it shall now be possible for corporates to have a statutory remedy in case if anyone breaks into their computer systems or network and causes damages or copies data. The remedy provided by the Act is in the form of monetary damages, not exceeding ₹ 1 crore.

II. Computer Related Offences

Let us look at some common cyber-crime scenarios which can attract prosecution as per the penalties and offences prescribed in IT Act 2000 (amended via 2008) Act.

- ♦ **Harassment via fake public profile on social networking site**
A fake profile of a person is created on a social networking site with the correct address, residential information or contact details but he/she is labelled as 'prostitute' or a person of 'loose character'. This leads to harassment of the victim.
- ♦ **Email Account Hacking**
If victim's email account is hacked and obscene emails are sent to people in victim's address book.
- ♦ **Credit Card Fraud**
Unsuspecting victims would use infected computers to make online transactions.
- ♦ **Web Defacement**
The homepage of a website is replaced with a pornographic or defamatory page. Government sites generally face the wrath of hackers on symbolic days.
- ♦ **Introducing Viruses, Worms, Backdoors, Rootkits, Trojans, Bugs**
All of the above are some sort of malicious programs which are used to destroy or gain access to some electronic information.

- ◆ **Cyber Terrorism**

Many terrorists use virtual (Drive, FTP sites) and physical storage media (USB's, hard drives) for hiding information and records of their illicit business.

- ◆ **Online sale of illegal Articles**

Where sale of narcotics, drugs weapons and wildlife is facilitated by the Internet.

- ◆ **Cyber Pornography**

Among the largest businesses on Internet, pornography may not be illegal in many countries, but child pornography is.

- ◆ **Phishing and Email Scams**

Phishing involves fraudulently acquiring sensitive information through masquerading a site as a trusted entity (e.g. Passwords, credit card information).

- ◆ **Theft of Confidential Information**

Many business organizations store their confidential information in computer systems. This information is targeted by rivals, criminals and disgruntled employees.

- ◆ **Source Code Theft**

A Source code generally is the most coveted and important "crown jewel" asset of a company.

III. Privacy

The main principles on data protection and privacy enumerated under the IT Act, 2000 are:

- ◆ defining 'data', 'computer database', 'information', 'electronic form', 'originator', 'addressee' etc.
- ◆ creating civil liability if any person accesses or secures access to computer, computer system or computer network
- ◆ creating criminal liability if any person accesses or secures access to computer, computer system or computer network
- ◆ declaring any computer, computer system or computer network as a protected system
- ◆ imposing penalty for breach of confidentiality and privacy
- ◆ setting up of hierarchy of regulatory authorities, namely adjudicating officers, the Cyber Regulations Appellate Tribunal etc.

Example - Privacy Policy

A sample privacy policy is given below which highlights key aspects of how and what

type of information is collected from the customer, how it is used and secured and options for user providing the information:

"At ABC Ltd., we take your privacy very seriously. Because of this, we want to provide you with explicit information on how we collect, gather, and identify information during your visit to our site. This information may be expanded or updated as we change or develop our site. For this reason, we recommend that you review this policy from time-to-time to see if anything has changed. Your continued use of our site signifies your acceptance of our privacy policy.

Personally, identifiable information refers to information that tells us specifically who you are, such as your name, phone number, email or postal address. In many cases, we need this information to provide the personalized or enhanced service that you have requested. The amount of personally identifiable information that you choose to disclose to ABC Ltd. is completely up to you. The only way we know something about you personally is if you provide it to us in conjunction with one of our services.

What information do we collect and how do we use it?

- ◆ ABC Ltd. Collects information on our users by your voluntary submissions (e.g., when you sign up for a white paper or request product information). We also collect, store and accumulate certain non-personally identifiable information concerning your use of this web site, such as which of our pages are most visited.
- ◆ The information ABC Ltd. collects is used in a variety of ways: for internal review; to improve the content of the site, thus making your user experience more valuable; and to let you know about products and services of interest.

Email:

- ◆ If you have provided us your email address, ABC Ltd. Periodically sends promotional emails about products offered by us. If you do not wish to receive email information from ABC Ltd. please let us know by emailing us.
- ◆ ABC Ltd. does not sell, rent, or give away your personal information to third parties. By using our web site, you provide consent to the collection and use of the information described in this by Privacy Policy of ABC Ltd."

IV. Cyber crime

The term 'Cyber Crime' finds no mention either in The Information Technology Act 2000 or in any legislation of the Country. Cyber Crime is not different than the traditional crime. The only difference is that in Cyber Crime the computer technology is involved.

This can be explained by the following instance:

- ◆ **Traditional Theft:** 'A' thief enters in B's house and steals an object kept in the house.
- ◆ **© The Institute of Cyber Crime Accountants of India** Hackling: A Cyber Criminal enters in his own house, through his computer

hacks the computer of 'B' and steals the data saved in B's computer without physically touching the computer or entering in B's house. Hence Cyber Crime is a Computer related crime.

The IT Act, 2000 defines the terms access in computer network in Section 2(a), computer in Section 2(i), computer network in Section 2(j), data in Section 2(o) and information in Section 2(v). These are all the necessary ingredients that are useful to technically understand the concept of Cyber Crime.

Definitions

- 2(a)** "Access" with its grammatical variations and cognate expressions means gaining entry into, instructing or communicating with the logical, arithmetical, or memory function resources of a computer, computer system or computer network;
- (i) "Computer" means any electronic, magnetic, optical or other high-speed data processing device or system which performs logical, arithmetic, and memory functions by manipulations of electronic, magnetic or optical impulses, and includes all input, output, processing, storage, computer software, or communication facilities which are connected or related to the computer in a computer system or computer network;
- 2(j)** "Computer Network" means the interconnection of one or more Computers or Computer systems or Communication device through-
- (i) the use of satellite, microwave, terrestrial line, wire, wireless or other communication media; and
- (ii) terminals or a complex consisting of two or more interconnected computers or communication device whether or not the interconnection is continuously maintained;
- 2(o)** "Data" means a representation of information, knowledge, facts, concepts or instructions which are being prepared or have been prepared in a formalized manner, and is intended to be processed, is being processed or has been processed in a computer system or computer network and may be in any form (including computer printouts magnetic or optical storage media, punched cards, punched tapes) or stored internally in the memory of the computer;
- 2(v)** "Information" includes data, message, text, images, sound, voice, codes, computer programmes, software and databases or micro film or computer generated micro fiche;

In a cyber-crime, computer or the data are the target or the object of offence or a tool in committing some other offence. The definition of term computer elaborates that computer is not only the computer or laptop on our tables, as per the definition computer means any electronic, magnetic, optical or other high speed data processing device or system which performs logical, arithmetic and memory

function by manipulations of electronic, magnetic or optical impulses, and includes all input, output, processing, storage, computer software or communication facilities which are connected or related to the computer in a computer system or computer network. Thus, the definition is much wider to include mobile phones, automatic washing machines, micro wave ovens etc.

V. Sensitive Personal Data Information(SPDI)

Reasonable Security Practices and Procedures and Sensitive Personal Data or Information Rules 2011 formed under section 43A of the Information Technology Act 2000 define a data protection framework for the processing of digital data by Body Corporate.

Scope of Rules: Currently the Rules apply to Body Corporate and digital data. As per the IT Act, Body Corporate is defined as “Any company and includes a firm, sole proprietorship or other association of individuals engaged in commercial or professional activities.”

The present scope of the Rules excludes from its purview a number of actors that do or could have access to Big Data or use Big Data practices. The Rules would not apply to government bodies or individuals collecting and using Big Data. Yet, with technologies such as IoT(Internet of Things) and the rise of Smart Cities across India – a range of government, public, and private organizations and actors could have access to Big Data.

Definition of Personal and Sensitive Personal data: Rule 2(i) defines personal information as “information that relates to a natural person which either directly or indirectly, in combination with other information available or likely to be available with a body corporate, is capable of identifying such person.”

Rule 3 defines sensitive personal information as:

- ◆ Passwords
- ◆ Financial information
- ◆ Physical/physiological/mental health condition
- ◆ Sexual orientation
- ◆ Medical records and history; and
- ◆ Biometric information

The present definition of personal data hinges on the factor of identification (data that is capable of identifying a person). Yet this definition does not encompass information that is associated to an already identified individual - such as habits, location, or activity.

The definition of personal data also addresses only the identification of ‘such person’ and does not address data that is related to a particular person but that also reveals

identifying information about another person - either directly - or when combined with other data points.

By listing specific categories of sensitive personal information, the Rules do not account for additional types of sensitive personal information that might be generated or correlated through the use of Big Data analytics.

Importantly, the definitions of sensitive personal information or personal information do not address how personal or sensitive personal information - when anonymized or aggregated – should be treated.

Consent: Rule 5(1) requires that Body Corporate should, prior to collection, obtain consent in writing through letter or fax or email from the provider of sensitive personal data regarding the use of that data.

In a context where services are delivered with little or no human interaction, data is collected through sensors, data is collected on a real time and regular basis, and data is used and re-used for multiple and differing purposes - it is not practical, and often not possible, for consent to be obtained through writing, letter, fax, or email for each instance of data collection and for each use.



1.10 SUMMARY

Technology is the enabler of business process automation (BPA), and it can automate business processes to the point where human intervention is unnecessary. Automation can save time and money, delight customers who no longer have to wait in line for a person to assist them with a transaction, and avoid human errors.

But not every business process is a good fit for automation, so it's incumbent upon companies to determine which processes are best suited to automation and which ones are best handled manually. How do companies select which business processes to automate? Companies start by looking at the strategic and operating drivers for process improvement in their organizations and industries. For instance, in today's global market, nearly every company is feeling pressure to get goods to market quickly and to be first to market whenever possible. In a highly price-competitive environment, companies are also under great pressure to economize their operations to improve their profitability. Consequently, companies look to automate business processes that are time and resource intensive operationally, that are subject to human error, and that can be accelerated with automated process improvements achievable through computers and technology. If automating business processes speeds product to market, improves revenue, reduces operating expenses so margins can improve and brings efficiency and effectiveness in the enterprise, the case for automation is substantiated.

Enhanced automated controls within accounting and transaction recording applications can control risk much before they can actually materialize. In addition, companies are © The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India

improved standards of risk management at an enterprise level, with special emphasis on good corporate governance. Enterprises are therefore in the process of adopting a variety of automated controls to help them combat risk and advance to a proactive approach that reduces the incidence of errors or focuses on them well before the point of impact.

By definition, an automated control is a mechanism or device inside an application, interface or appliance that enforces or controls a rule-set or validation on one or more conditions inside a process. A very simple example of an automated control in accounting parlance is a “drop-down list” of vendors to ensure that the user selects one of the multiple choices provided therein. This would ensure that the transaction is conducted with the authorized set of vendors, which have been set elsewhere by another team that is responsible for vendor on-boarding. Similarly, there are several applications of automated controls in accounting with the prime objective of:

- ◆ Mitigating/Eliminating Frauds through enforced segregation of duties and ensuring adherence to a set of delegation of financial powers
- ◆ Business Process Improvement through elimination of manual controls thereby enhancing efficiency and reducing costs
- ◆ Reduced Audit Costs by shifting from “transaction” audit to “controls” audit
- ◆ Adherence to Regulatory Compliance requirements such as Companies Act 2013, IT Act, and the likes, entailing testing of key controls through sampling techniques, which again can be reduced substantially by monitoring the effectiveness of automated controls.

IT is primary driver for enterprises to survive and thrive in this digital age. Regulators have recognized critical importance of IT and hence facilitate digital economy by providing legislative framework and mandating compliances as required. The IT Act, 2000 and Companies have been updated to meet the needs of digital economy. Protection of privacy and personal information is also mandated. Cyber-crime is a reality of digital world when operates without geographical boundaries. Various types of computer related defines have been defined and penalties specified for these offences. Digitization of business processes is a should for modern enterprises and this leads to new risks which should be mitigated by implementing appropriate controls.



1.11 TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1.11.1 Theoretical Questions

1. In Enterprise Business Processes, what is the difference between Operational Processes, Supporting Processes and Management Processes? Give examples. (Refer Section 1.2.1)
2. What are the benefits of Automating Business Processes?

3. Explain the different types of Business Risks?
(Refer Section 1.5.2)
4. Explain the main components of Enterprise Risk Management.
(Refer Section 1.4.2)
5. Explain the five components of Internal Control, as per SA315.
(Refer Section 1.6.2)
6. What are the advantages and limitations of using flowcharts?
(Refer Section 1.7.1)
7. Give two examples each of the Risks and Control Objectives for the following business processes:
 - a. Procure to Pay (Refer Section 1.8.2)
 - b. Order to Cash (Refer Section 1.8.3)
 - c. Inventory Cycle (Refer Section 1.8.4)
8. Explain the salient features of Section 134 & Section 143 of the Companies Act 2013.
(Refer Section 1.9.1)
9. Give five examples of computer related offences that can be prosecuted under the IT Act 2000 (amended via 2008)
(Refer Section 1.9.2)
10. Draw a Flowchart for the following process:

Leebay is a new e-commerce web site that is setting up business in India. Leebay and their partner bank Paxis have come up with a joint promotion plan for which the following offers are proposed. Customers can either log in through a mobile app or directly from the website:

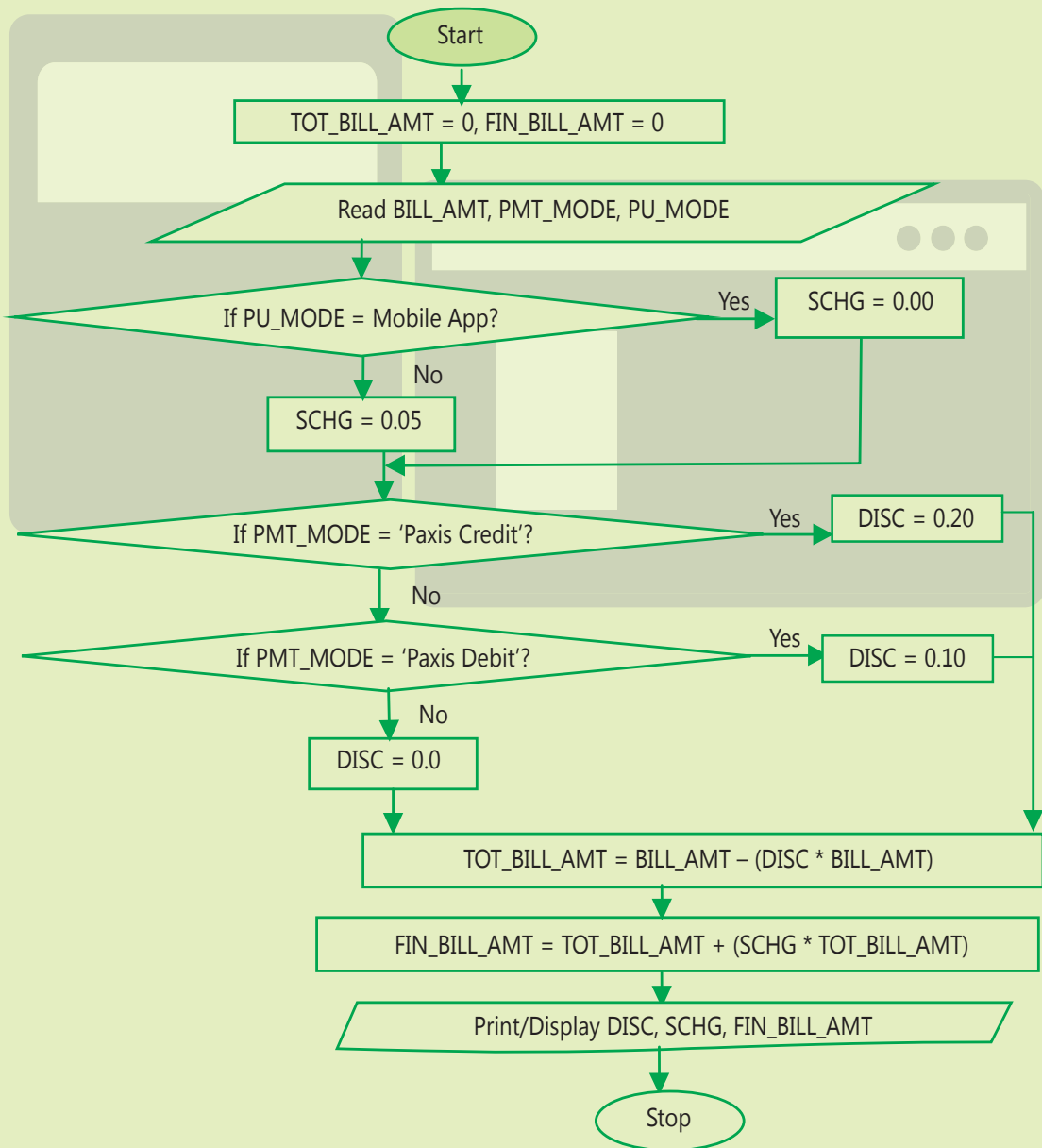
- (1) If the payment mode chosen is 'Paxis Credit', then a 20% discount is given to the user.
- (2) If the payment mode chosen is 'Paxis Debit', then a 10% discount is given to the user.
- (3) If other payment modes are used, then no discount is given.

Also, to promote the downloads of its new smart phone app, the company has decided to give the following offer:

- (1) If the purchase mode is 'Mobile App', then no surcharge is levied on the user.
- (2) If any other purchase mode is used, then additional 5% surcharge is levied on the user. This surcharge is applied on the bill after all necessary discounts have

With bill amount, payment mode and purchase mode as inputs, draw a flowchart for the billing procedure for Leebay.

Solution



The variables used are defined as follows:

PU_MODE: Purchase Mode,

BILL_AMT: Initial Bill Amount,

TOT_BILL_AMT: Bill Amount after Discount,

SCHG: Surcharge,

FIN_BILL_AMT: Final Bill Amount after Surcharge,

DISC: Discount, PMT_MODE: Payment Mode

1.11.2 Multiple Choice Questions

- Which of the following is not an objective of Enterprise Information Systems?
 - Reduce service cycles
 - Identify manual processes
 - Reduce costs
 - Increase operational efficiency
- Which one of the following represents Operational Processes?
 - Deals with legal compliance
 - Deal with the core business and value chain
 - Deal with core processes and functions within an organization
 - Deals with measuring, monitoring and control activities
- Which one of the following is not a benefit of business process automation?
 - Reduce turnaround time
 - Operational efficiency
 - Legal compliance
 - Reduce costs
- Which of the following is not a Business Risk?
 - Strategic
 - Financial
 - Operational
 - Environmental
- Which one of the following does not represent a system of Internal Control?
 - Meeting sales targets
 - Safeguarding assets
 - Prevention and detection of fraud and error
 - Completeness of accounting records

6. Which of the following is not a Flowcharting symbol?
- Process
 - Decision
 - Document
 - Risk
7. Which of the following is not a component of Enterprise Risk Management?
- Internal environment
 - Organisation chart
 - Objective setting
 - Event identification
8. Which one of the following is not an objective of Internal Control?
- Compliance with applicable laws and regulations
 - Meeting sales targets
 - Reliability of reporting
 - Effectiveness and efficiency of operations
9. Which one of the following deals with Section 143 of the Companies Act 2013?
- Acquisition and Mergers
 - Powers and duties of Board of Directors
 - Powers and duties of auditors and auditing standards
 - Penalties due to non-compliance
10. Which one of the following is not defined as Sensitive Personal Information?
- Home address
 - Password
 - Financial information
 - Biometric information

Answers

1.	(b)	2.	(b)
3.	(c)	4.	(d)
5.	(a)	6.	(d)
7.	(b)	8.	(b)
9.	(c)	10.	(a)