Faysal Aziz

ACL Fundamentals

Unlocking the Power of Data Analytics in Auditing

FA-0024 · 1-day

Data & Analytics

Introduction

In today's data-driven world, auditors and data analysts need robust tools to extract, analyze, and interpret data to make informed decisions quickly. Audit Command Language (ACL) is a powerful data analytics software widely used by professionals to enhance audit efficiency, detect fraud, and ensure compliance.

This 1-day course on "ACL Fundamentals" is designed to introduce you to the core functionalities of ACL, allowing you to leverage its capabilities for data analysis and risk assessment. With over 30 years of industry experience, your instructor will guide you through practical, real-world scenarios, helping you develop skills that are immediately applicable in the field.

Learning outcomes

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Understand the basic functionalities and interface of ACL.
- Import, manipulate, and analyze data sets using ACL.
- Perform essential data analytics tasks such as filtering, sorting, and summarizing data.
- Apply ACL functions to detect anomalies, trends, and patterns in data.
- Generate reports and visualizations to present audit findings effectively.

Prerequisites

- Basic understanding of data analytics concepts.
- Familiarity with auditing principles and procedures.
- Experience with Excel or similar spreadsheet tools is helpful but not mandatory.

Training outline

1. Introduction to ACL and Its Relevance in Auditing

1. Overview of Audit Command Language (ACL)
2. The role of ACL in modern auditing and data analytics
3. Key features and benefits of using ACL for auditors and data analysts

2. Getting Started with ACL Software

1. Installing and setting up the ACL environment
2. Navigating the ACL interface: menus, toolbars, and workspaces
3. Understanding the data view and project navigator

3. Data Import and Management in ACL

1. Importing data from various sources (Excel, CSV, databases)
2. Understanding data types and formats in ACL
3. Techniques for cleaning and preparing data for analysis
4. Saving and managing ACL projects and logs

4. Basic Data Analysis Techniques

1. Using filters and expressions to isolate relevant data
2. Sorting and indexing data for efficient analysis
3. Grouping and summarizing data to identify patterns
4. Calculating fields and performing arithmetic operations

5. Applying Key ACL Functions for Auditing

1. Introduction to ACL scripting and automated tasks
2. Performing data validation checks and control totals
3. Identifying duplicates and gaps for fraud detection
4. Conducting trend analysis to identify anomalies

6. Creating Reports and Visualizations

1. Generating standard and customized reports

2. Exporting results to Excel and other formats
3. Creating visualizations: graphs and charts to present findings
4. Best practices for communicating audit results

7. Hands-On Exercises and Real-World Case Study

1. Guided exercises to practice importing, analyzing, and reporting data
2. Interactive case study simulating a real-world audit scenario
3. Group discussion on findings and interpretation

8. Final Review and Q&A

1. Recap of key concepts and functionalities
2. Q&A session to clarify doubts and explore advanced queries
3. Resources for continued learning and certification paths in ACL

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