

Mobile Accounting - The Need of the Hour

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Abstract: *The purpose of this paper is to highlight those topics of managerial accounting that have been affected by the capital budgeting decisions. which has been published in management accounting research journals; discover what capital budgeting methods have been most commonly used; and identify methods that have been infrequently used. This is a descriptive research study that explores the significance of various methods used in capital budgeting and how it affects the managerial decision.*

Keywords: managerial accounting

I. INTRODUCTION

Accounting has always been a field that's associated with piles of paperwork, spreadsheet and staggering numbers. Using computers to carry out all office tasks is no longer a feasible option, and hence more sophisticated choices are cropping up.

Mobile accounting has become the norm and is replacing the traditional form of accounting and book-keeping. Considering the growing number of small business owners, it's easier to conduct transactions without stepping into an office. Owners can now focus on working towards the success of their business rather than spending countless hours logging payments and sending invoices.

The future of accounting is integrated with technology and it is time for us to join that revolution. This paper brings plenty of reasons that justify this change.

Mobile applications are shaping the future of the accounting profession and are a valuable tool for accounting firms. They have a direct impact on the productivity of the enterprise, as it's now easier to get more work done accurately in a shorter amount of time. Some important functions that accountants can perform using mobile accounting softwares are:

Easily create and send invoices

Perform bank reconciliations easily

Track time and total billable hours

Add receipts and other expenses through mobile accounting apps .

SYSPRO ERP, Smaket, Invoay, Busy Accounting , Express Accounts, Bill.com, Tardi, Gnucash, StayFlexi, Deltek Cloud, SAP are few famous accounting softwares used by different types of businesses.

Benefits of mobile accounting software

1. Accessibility:

Mobile accounting software offers users the convenience of accessing their financial data anytime, anywhere, through smartphones and tablets. It is compatible with various devices and often supports web-based access. With a user-friendly interface, users can easily navigate the app and perform accounting tasks efficiently. This accessibility empowers businesses to stay organized and make informed decisions.

2. Real-Time Updates

Real-time updates in mobile accounting software refer to the instant synchronization of financial data between the mobile app and the cloud-based server. Changes made on the app are instantly reflected in the cloud and vice versa. This ensures users always have the most up-to-date financial information. With cloud-based storage, data remains accessible even if the mobile device is lost. It empowers businesses with accurate, real-time insights on the go.

3. Convenience

Mobile accounting software offers unparalleled convenience by enabling users to handle financial tasks on the go effortlessly. With intuitive interfaces and mobile accessibility, users can perform accounting activities anytime, anywhere. Features like expense tracking, invoice creation, and real-time data updates streamline financial

management. Cloud-based storage ensures data is securely accessible from various devices, providing seamless synchronization. The convenience of mobile accounting software empowers users to stay organized, make informed decisions, and manage their finances efficiently with minimal effort.

4. Expense Tracking

It provides robust expense tracking capabilities, enabling users to record and categorize business expenses directly from their smartphones or tablets. Through the app, users can snap photos of receipts, enter expense details, and assign appropriate categories for easy organization. Real-time updates ensure that the expense data is immediately synchronized with the cloud server, providing up-to-date financial insights. The convenience of expense tracking on mobile devices empowers businesses to stay on top of their spending, maintain accurate records, and make informed financial decisions.

5. Invoicing on the go

Mobile accounting software enables users to generate and send invoices directly from their mobile devices, providing convenience and efficiency. Using the app, users can quickly create professional invoices, add necessary details like items, quantities, and prices, and customize the invoice template to reflect their brand. Once the invoice is ready, it can be instantly sent to clients or customers via email or other communication channels. This capability streamlines the billing process, improves cash flow, and helps businesses stay on top of their invoicing needs even when they are on the move.

6. Time Savings

Mobile accounting software saves valuable time by automating repetitive tasks like data entry, invoicing, and expense tracking. With user-friendly features, users can quickly perform accounting activities on the go, reducing manual effort. Real-time updates and cloud-based storage ensure that financial data is instantly accessible and up-to-date, eliminating delays in decision-making. By streamlining workflows and providing instant access to financial information, mobile accounting software empowers users to manage their finances more efficiently, freeing up time for other critical aspects of their business.

7. Improved Accuracy

Mobile accounting software improves accuracy by automating calculations and minimizing human error. With features like automatic data synchronization and cloud-based storage, there is less risk of data loss or discrepancies. By capturing receipts through the app, users ensure accurate expense tracking and eliminate the need for manual entry. Real-time updates provide the latest financial information, enabling informed decision-making. The software's built-in error checks and validation further reduce mistakes. Overall, mobile accounting software promotes precise financial records, mitigates errors, and enhances the reliability of financial data.

8. Data Security

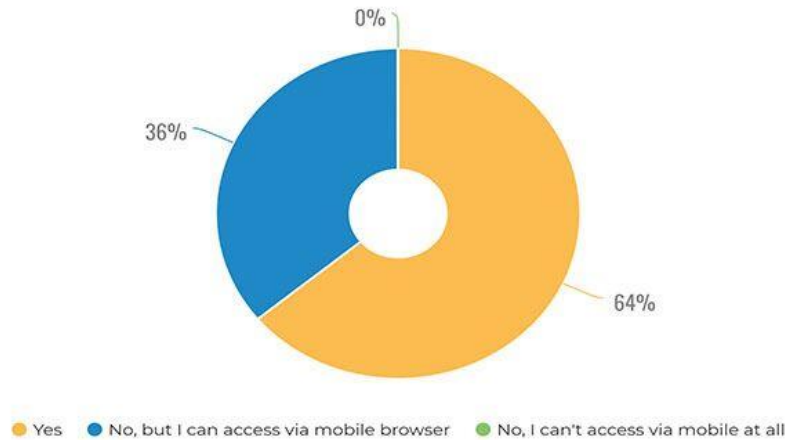
Data security in mobile accounting software is to protect sensitive financial information from unauthorized access, breaches, and cyber threats. Mobile accounting software prioritizes data security through various measures. Encrypted data transmission ensures that financial information remains secure when transmitted between the mobile device and the cloud server. Cloud-based storage employs robust security protocols to safeguard data. Regular software updates and security patches help mitigate vulnerabilities and keep the software protected against emerging threats.

COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the digital transformation of procurement processes, emphasizing the importance of Mobile Accounting Software in ensuring supply chain resilience and business continuity. While some sectors faced budget constraints, the long-term outlook for the Mobile Accounting Software market remains positive as businesses recognize the need for efficient, technology-driven procurement solutions.

North and South America, Europe, Asia-Pacific, Middle east and Africa dominate mobile accounting software market. Over 344,264 companies are using Accounting tools. QuickBooks with 37.55% market share (129,274 customers), NetSuite with 7.74% market share (26,653 customers), Cognos with 6.41% market share (22,074 customers)

According to a survey report by Software Advice, 64% of the respondents could access the mobile version of their accounting app. On the other hand, 36% of users said they could only access it through a mobile browser. However, there was no respondent who could not access the information through their smartphones.

Does your accounting software offer a mobile app? (2019)



If further shows, mobile accounting is being discussed heavily in recent times and also gaining popularity with the practice.

Risks involved with the use of mobile accounting software

Certain problems and disadvantages are worth considering if businesses are looking to use mobile accounting software. There are some reasons that make Online Accounting not suitable for certain business. And some people find offline/desktop accounting more comfortable to have everything under their control.

Such accounting softwares may sometimes have a steep learning curve, so if businessmen are more comfortable writing up ledgers and books, keeping manual accounts may be a simpler option.

No access without Internet

Online Accounting Software purely depends on Internet. So when the Internet fails, your accounting work will get stopped which in turn will impact your productivity. Frequent loss of Internet might cause serious problems in business and there will no access to data without Internet. Also, the Internet Speed is very important. Slow speed of Internet will affect the performance of software.

Browser Reliance

There might be problem to access the web app using certain browsers of various versions. Some features / display in the web app may not be supported in some browsers. So while purchasing web applications, it is necessary to ensure that it supports the web browsers that you and other users are using in your company. It is better to purchase a web application which supports variety of browsers.

Server Down Concerns

At times, your server might go down which will also affect your clients from accessing the application. This may occur rarely but when it occurs will impact your work. And a lot of time will be wasted until the server is back to form.

On going Cost

Online Accounting Software does not require huge amount initially but monthly charge will add up as a higher cost which is an important disadvantage. But some software like Output Books provides web app as one time payment.

Data Theft over Internet

Even with the good encryption in web app provider side, there might be data theft while transferring data over Internet. So you should always remember accessing from anywhere through Internet & transferring data over Internet is vulnerable. It is the user's responsibility to make your account secure.

Less customizable

Usually, web app accounting can only be less customized, changed or configured when compared to desktop accounting software.

Reduced Speed

The speed will be lighter slow when compared to offline accounting software installed locally on a server.

Less Flexible

It might not support all the functionality that you require. Also some software might not allow you to transfer your data from their one to other software if you need to move to new application in future.

II. CONCLUSION

Finally, it is in the hands of business owners to decide which one is better for their business. Though Online Accounting software has security concerns in the user side, it can be made more secure by taking certain measures such as protective point of access, safe password management, avoiding access of public Wifi networks, using authorized devices alone, etc.

Mobile computing is thus an important concept in business today as it helps an organization to use it as a competitive advantage. The ultimate result if it is well used will be an organization that will prosper in light of stiff competition. An example of an organization that has done so well in terms of mobile computing and it has worked to their advantage is the Apple Company.

The major effects of mobile computing include increased productivity. This is attributed to the ease with which data is acquired making those in the field save on time that could otherwise be used on unproductive activities. Organizations known to adopt this concept have tremendously cut down on their operation costs. Organizations have successfully streamlined how they acquire data. Additionally mobile computing has addressed the issue of data duplication. On the same note paper work as well as paper costs has been saved by adopting the technology of mobile computing. It also goes without saying that the cost of travelling as well as calling has been reduced. This has made it possible for organization to report increasing profitability. Similarly, it is a fact that knowledge is power. As suggested by Jagst, 2011 organizations that embrace mobile computing and accounting have the ability to access information with regards to customers needs, they are better placed to be responsive firm which separates such organizations with its competitors down the streets. On the same note, real time data acquisition translates to making quicker and better strategies to meet the ever changing customers demand hence an organization will be seen to provide its customers with high quality services (Fuller & Millett, 2011).

According to Fraser &Soumitra, 2008 social network ensures that individuals who share common interests and activities are connected. It is no doubt that mobile computing individuals will have an avenue of sharing information whenever they deem fit and at their convenience. With regards to emerging technologies such as Web 3.0 and Windows 8, mobile computing and accounting is enhanced through such platforms.

In my opinion, it is no doubt that mobile computing will have tremendous impact on design as well as accounting systems. Having in mind that there is rapid improvements in “*applications and capabilities that has allowed scanning, editing, ability to view documents in their full stretch, full editing while in the field, ability of clients accessing their tax returns from their mobile phones*” (Fuller & Millett, 2011: 25) there will be plan to enhance these capabilities. Applications similar to Mobile CS released by Thomson Reuters that provided organizations with real time data, client information including all notes and project status, and staff-related data will be made available. All these will change the manner with which current accounting is carried out as it will no longer be done in an office but whenever the user will be. However issues related to privacy, control, protection from malware, data management will continue to attract attention more than ever (Inskeep, 2011).

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