Summary of Paper: Leveraging ChatGPT for Enhancing the Internal Audit Process—A Real-World Example from Uniper, a Large Multinational Company

What is this Study About?

This study explores how Uniper, a multinational energy company, has incorporated ChatGPT into its internal audit function to enhance efficiency and effectiveness. The research examines how ChatGPT is used in audit planning, fieldwork, and reporting, highlighting its potential to streamline tasks, reduce costs, and improve audit quality.

What are the major findings of the study?

Uniper's internal audit team found that ChatGPT significantly improved efficiency in multiple audit processes, with time savings estimated between 50% and 80% for specific tasks. Key benefits include risk identification, audit scoping, text analysis, interview preparation, and report writing. Uniper also used AI to generate video explanations of audit findings, which was considered highly successful in helping executives understand complex topics. However, risks such as data security, misinformation, and loss of personal expression in audit reports were also identified, along with continuing challenges regarding governance and future regulatory actions.

Why is the study important?

With the increasing adoption of AI in accounting, this study provides practical insights into how generative AI can be applied to real-world audit functions. Internal auditors and other accounting professionals can use these findings to assess AI's role in improving efficiency while maintaining compliance, accuracy, and security.

What is the impact on professional practice and society at large?

This study demonstrates how AI can enhance audit efficiency without replacing human judgment. It also highlights the importance of responsible AI governance in mitigating risks such as data privacy concerns and biased outputs. As AI adoption grows in accounting, organizations must develop policies and safeguards to ensure ethical and effective implementation.