

Summary of Paper: [Patience is Key: The Time It Takes to See Benefits from Continuous Auditing](#)

What is this Study About?

This study investigates why companies are slow to adopt continuous auditing (CA) in their internal audit functions despite its promised benefits. Using field data from a global food retailer, the researchers examine two key factors: (1) the time needed to see measurable reductions in audit risks and (2) the fact that CA doesn't equally improve all types of risks.

What are the major findings of the study?

It takes about three years, on average, to observe meaningful risk reductions from CA implementation. Risk improvements vary by type, with some risks showing up to 51.6% improvement each year, while others show little to no change.

Why is the study important?

For CPAs, internal and external auditors, and risk managers, understanding the timeline for CA benefits is crucial. Unrealistic expectations could lead to premature abandonment of promising systems. By setting realistic timelines, professionals can better "sell" CA investments to stakeholders.

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

The findings stress patience and strategic expectation management. For organizations, especially those managing large operations, this research emphasizes that CA's effectiveness unfolds over time, helping reduce financial risk and improving internal controls. Broader adoption of CA could lead to more reliable corporate governance and improved transparency, benefiting the public and investors.