

The Automation Advantage: Why Modern Accounting Firms are Ahead of the Curve

I. Introduction

If you work in finance, you know the drill. Lots of numbers, lots of paperwork, limited time and the constant worry of making errors. But things are changing. Automated accounting firms use technology to do the tedious manual work, so there's time to work on what's important for the business.

Around [29% of automated technology](#) finds its application within the realm of accounting. Notably, recent reports highlight that the existing technologies can potentially address around 50% of the entire spectrum of accounting tasks.

Gone are the days of manual ledger entries and stacks of paperwork. Today, we delve into the transformation that automation brings to the forefront. This transformation offers an edge and an upper hand to accounting firms navigating the intricacies of modern finance.

In this blog, we'll look at how automated accounting is changing finance for the better. We'll talk about why it's important, how it's changing quickly, and why you still need people to make it all work.

II. The Evolution of Automation Powered Accounting

Manual accounting, as it was called, had its limitations. Tons of paperwork meant lots of scope for mistakes, and not much time for critical thinking – analyzing and making

smart moves. Together, technology and automation changed the game. They turned accounting to be more accurate, fast, and ready for the future.

Imagine an accounting firm where tasks flow seamlessly, powered by intelligent systems. That's the essence of automated accounting firms that have adopted IPA to reduce the complexity of dealing with crunching numbers. IPA integrates advanced AI technologies to streamline financial operations. From processing invoices to generating reports, automation takes the reins, liberating professionals from mundane tasks and allowing them to focus on strategic endeavors.

At the core of automated accounting are potent tools like RPA and AI that use machine learning concepts, natural language processing, etc. These technologies can manage data seamlessly, enabling you to unravel patterns hidden within and insights that guide informed decisions. With cloud-based platforms, collaboration transcends boundaries, enabling teams to work synchronously on real-time data.

III. Advantages of Automated Accounting Firms

Why Automated Accounting Firms Have a Competitive Edge?



Efficiency



Accuracy



Cost Optimization



Scalability

Automated accounting firms stand out in the intricate realm of finance as the guardians of accuracy and efficiency. But the advantages of automated accounting firms are not just limited to efficiency gains. Their impact radiates through precision, scalability, and

strategic insights. Automation safeguards data integrity, reduces operational risks, and allows professionals to focus on high-value tasks. These advantages ripple through the industry, fostering growth and innovation.

Precision: takes the forefront in the world of numbers. Automation brings forth a new era where errors and miscalculations find no refuge. Each calculation is meticulously executed, leaving no room for inaccuracies.

Time management: Tasks that once consumed substantial hours, such as invoice sorting and expense tracking, are now accomplished in minutes. These virtual aides operate at much faster speed, managing tasks faster than ever. This liberates your schedule for the strategic undertakings that demand your attention.

Scalability: As your business flourishes, these digital partners rise. Their capabilities remain unaffected by mounting workloads. Whether a handful of transactions or a deluge of data, these systems stand steadfast, ready to accommodate.

Cost savings: Automated accounting firms also offer cost savings by reducing the need for manual labor and paper-based record-keeping. According to [Forbes](#), [intelligent automation typically results in cost savings of 40 percent to 75 percent](#).

Here's an instance where a [prominent Mutual Fund RTA in India](#). Struggling with a labor-intensive and error-prone manual check processing system, they grappled with issues ranging from substantial financial losses due to errors to prolonged processing times. This case is not unique; the banking sector alone generates around 28 million checks daily, each traversing an average of 2.5 banks for processing.

However, this Mutual Fund RTA successfully transformed its operations by harnessing the power of AI-enabled check processing through Rapid Acceleration Partners'

solutions for finance and accounting, achieving remarkable efficiency, accuracy, and enhanced customer satisfaction. Read more about how they turned around their check processing with automation [here](#).

IV. The Human Touch in Automated Accounting

While automation orchestrates the financial symphony, the human touch remains irreplaceable.

A. Expert Analysis: Human insight is important in algorithms and data streams. Automated accounting firms don't just crunch numbers; they assist in generating insights. These insights are best interpreted by human experts who extract the story behind the numbers and provide strategic guidance.

B. Client Relationships: In a world of digits and algorithms, personalized client relationships are important. Automated accounting firms augment these relationships. Professionals invest time in understanding clients' aspirations, cultivating trust, and offering informed advice. This bond transforms from a transaction to a partnership.

The partnership between automation and human insight defines the essence of automated accounting firms. It's a harmonious interplay where technology enhances human expertise, resulting in financial strategies that are both successful and customized.

The trajectory of automated accounting firms appears even more promising in the upcoming years. The evolution of technology continues, with AI and automation poised to become an integral part of financial operations.

Accounting firms who opt for automation are positioned to navigate the intricacies of modern finance, creating opportunities for professionals to excel. Embracing

automation has become a necessity to keep up with the dynamic and ever-growing accounting industry.

Ready to embrace the future of accounting? Contact us to discover how our AI-driven accounting solutions can transform your financial operations.

Night Audits Made Easy: Automating the Hotel Night Audit Process

They never hit the 'pause' button. 24/7, 365 days a year, they're alive with activity. Guests arriving at dawn, checking out at midnight, and everything in between. For hoteliers, it's a relentless pursuit of perfection, balancing guest expectations with the bottom line. To stay profitable, they need to optimize the operations and the occupancy rates. But even for these specialists, this accounting process becomes a nightmare owing to the thousands of data points that get generated every day. The entire process becomes repetitive and highly labor-intensive.

Most of the time, the hotel owners are often in the dark about their hospitality night audits. They do not know what's happening in their hotel as most of the time, the audit reports are filled with errors and the absence of many entries.

The only way to resolve these issues is to automate and simplify the night audit reports. But before we deep dive into the solution, let us first understand the different responsibilities of a hotel night auditor.

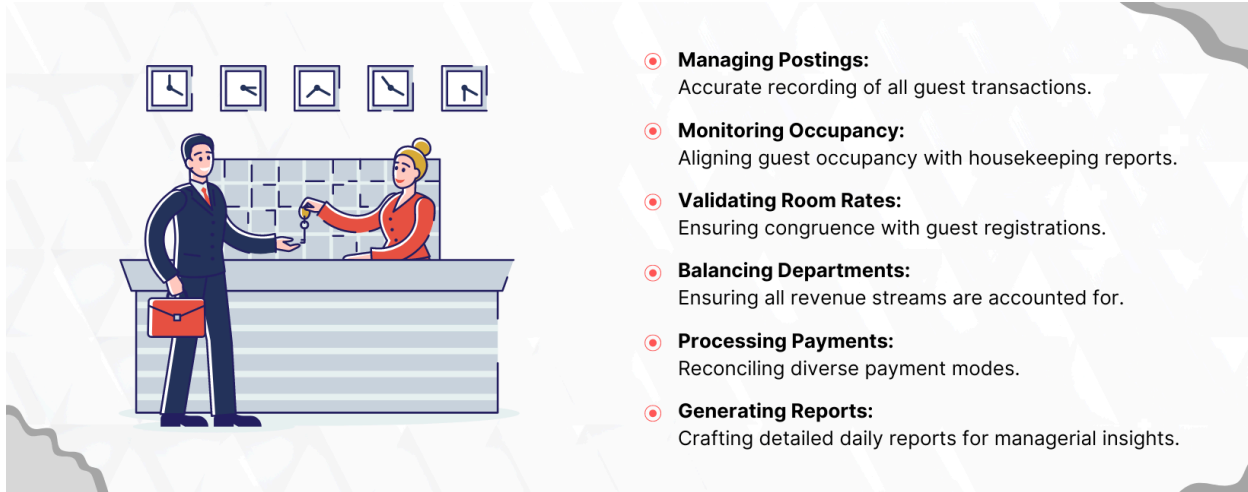
Why Night Audits Are Non-Negotiable

Picture this: It's the dead of night. While the world sleeps, the hotel's night auditor is wide awake, immersed in a sea of numbers, receipts, and reports. Every guest check-in, every room service order, every spa appointment - all these transactions need to be meticulously recorded into the Property Management System (PMS). The task is not just about data entry; it's about ensuring accuracy, balancing accounts, and preparing the hotel for the next day.

The challenges are manifold:

- **Data Overload:** With guests continuously checking in and out, availing services, and making payments, the volume of data to be processed is immense.
- **Human Errors:** Manual entry, especially during the graveyard shift, is prone to errors - a missed entry here, a wrong figure there. These mistakes can have cascading effects on the hotel's financials.
- **Time-Consuming:** Cross-referencing data, reconciling payments, and generating reports manually can be incredibly time-intensive, leaving little time for other essential duties.
- **Repetitiveness:** The cyclical nature of the tasks can lead to monotony, affecting the auditor's efficiency and job satisfaction.

Night auditors are the backbone of a hotel's financial health. With responsibilities ranging from managing postings to generating comprehensive reports, their role is both pivotal and challenging. Here's a snapshot:



The stress of ensuring optimal occupancy, generating reports across multiple functions, co-ordinating between multiple departments to solve issues can take a toll on even the best night auditor.

Given the night shift's time-sensitive nature, how can we make the night auditor's responsibilities less daunting and more efficient? Equipping a night auditor with the right technology will ensure that not just his function, but the entire enterprise operates at the highest efficiency. The only solution to ease the complexity of a night auditors job is automation.

But doesn't PMS automate the hospitality accounting process?

The manual accounting process is labor-intensive and prone to errors, which is why many hotels have transitioned to PMS that streamline these tasks and reduce the chances of discrepancies.

However a PMS still requires a lot of manual effort for data entry and verification, which makes the efficiency of the entire process subject to the expertise of the multiple employees involved in the data collection and entry of guest details. Simply put, it

means a lot of errors due to manual entry, delay in posting, erroneous calculations of bills, etc.

Imagine if the night auditor had a virtual assistant, working alongside them, processing data in real-time, cross-referencing, and ensuring accuracy. That's what automation, or Intelligent Process Automaton (IPA) brings to the table. Listed below are a few of the key benefits of IPA:

- Real-time Data Processing: As transactions occur, IPA solution can instantly record them into the PMS, reducing the data entry burden.
- Error Detection: With its AI capabilities, IPA can flag discrepancies, ensuring that errors are caught and corrected promptly.
- Automated Reports: Instead of manually collating data for reports, IPA can auto-generate daily summaries, revenue breakdowns, and occupancy charts.
- Efficiency Boost: With routine tasks automated, night auditors can focus on more strategic activities, like analyzing trends, forecasting, and planning for peak seasons.

By using an IPA solution to boost the performance of a PMS hoteliers can reduce the manual intervention in accounting processes and perform them at higher efficiency too. IPA combines elements of Robotic Process Automation (RPA) with artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities, offering a powerful solution to streamline and optimize business processes.

IPA solutions are easy to implement, low code options which can be seamlessly integrated with the PMS used by the hotel to mimic the human actions, at scale to remove the drudgery of repetitive manual tasks required to complete processes like account payable, accounts receivable, bank reconciliation etc.

By integrating IPA into the posting process, hotels can significantly reduce manual tasks, minimize errors, and enhance efficiency of all accounting processes. This not only ensures a smoother guest experience but also allows hotel staff to focus on more value-added activities, such as guest interactions and service enhancements. In simple terms, IPA handles repetitive tasks with precision, allowing human staff to shine in areas where personal touch and judgment are essential.

IPA doesn't replace the night auditor; it empowers him/her. It transforms the role from a manual data entry position to a more analytical and strategic one, ensuring that the hotel not only runs smoothly but also thrives.

Will implementing an IPA solution lead to any downtime?

For a hospitality leader, the thought of introducing a new technological solution might bring with it a cloud of apprehension. Questions arise: How will it integrate with the existing PMS? Will the transition disrupt regular operations? Is the learning curve steep for our staff?

1. Compatibility and Integration:

IPA solutions like RAPbot are platform agnostic and can be easily implemented on your existing platforms. They are built to seamlessly integrate with a wide range of PMS currently in use across the hospitality industry. This means that rather than overhauling your existing systems, the IPA solution will work in tandem with them, enhancing their capabilities.

2. Smooth Transition

The implementation of an IPA solution is a phased process. It begins with a thorough assessment of your current operations, ensuring that the transition is tailored to your

hotel's unique needs. This step-by-step approach ensures minimal disruption, allowing your hotel to continue its operations unhindered.

3. User-Friendly Interface

One of the core principles behind IPA solutions is user-friendliness. The interfaces are intuitive, ensuring that your staff, whether tech-savvy or not, can quickly adapt.

Moreover, comprehensive training sessions and round-the-clock support ensure that your team feels confident in using the new tools.

4. Continuous Support and Updates

Continuous support ensures that any teething issues are promptly addressed. Regular updates ensure that your IPA solution remains in tune with the latest industry trends and requirements.

5. Data Security and Compliance

Data security is paramount. Rest assured, modern IPA solutions prioritize the protection of your guests' data and ensure compliance with global data protection regulations.

The idea of integrating new technology might seem daunting, the actual process is designed to be as smooth and hassle-free as possible. The goal is simple: to empower your hotel to offer unparalleled service, streamline operations, and ultimately, boost profitability. Embracing IPA alongside your PMS is not just a step towards modernization; it's the next logical step to grow faster.

Even though it's hard, the night auditor's job is essential to the success of a hotel. Automation not only makes it easier for night inspectors to do their jobs, but it also

frees them up to work on tasks that can help the hotel reach new heights. As the hospitality industry continues to change, it's time for hoteliers to embrace automation and set the stage for unmatched success.

If you're looking for an Intelligent Process Automation solution for your hospitality enterprise, you can get started by collaborating with an automation partner who understands your business and hyperautomation.

Revamp Your Hospitality Accounts Payables with a Strategy That Works!

Accounts payable is a vital process in hospitality accounting that directly impacts a business's day-to-day operations and success. With proper execution, vendors may be paid on time, and the business could come to a grinding halt. Unfortunately, traditional manual accounts payable processes can be a nightmare due to multiple vendors, varying timelines, different formats of documents, etc.

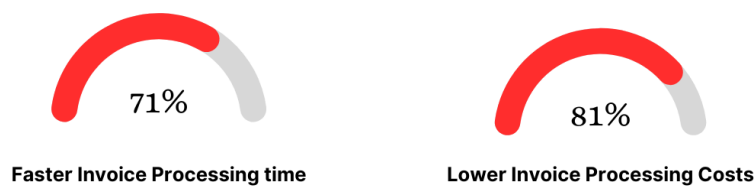
Imagine a day where invoices get lost, data entry errors abound, and processing times take forever, leading to frustrated vendors and missed opportunities for cost savings. Such a reality would undoubtedly keep any hospitality business owner up at night.

IPA is one of the solutions that can help streamline accounts payable processes, and adopting it can be a game-changing strategy in the hospitality industry. This blog will show you how IPA solutions can simplify the AP process, and the benefits of using these solutions. We'll also guide you with best practices for implementing IPA, positioning you for success in the hyper-competitive hospitality industry.

IPA can address issues such as high processing costs, data entry errors, long processing times, and limited visibility into cash flow. Even with the industry's high volume of invoices and various vendor payment terms, IPA can help accounting teams easily navigate these challenges.

[Levvel Research](#), a research and advisory firm, conducted a survey that found that businesses that implemented IPA solutions for their accounts payable processes experienced an average of 71% faster invoice processing times and 81% lower invoice processing costs than businesses that relied on manual processes.

Impact of IPA Solutions on Accounts Payable Processes



Source: Levvel Research

With the combined powers of AI and machine learning, IPA solutions streamline the accounts payable processes by automating tasks such as invoice processing, payment approvals, and vendor management. The result is a faster, more efficient, and more accurate accounts payable process. It allows hospitality businesses to manage their finances better, maintain positive vendor relationships, and focus on providing exceptional guest experiences.

The Power of IPA Solutions for Accounts Payable in the Hospitality Industry

Without timely and accurate payment processing, hospitality enterprises risk damaging their relationships with vendors, incurring late payment fees, and disrupting their cash flow.

One key area where IPA can be particularly useful is invoice processing. Using machine learning algorithms to read and categorize invoices, IPA solutions can quickly process invoices and flag any discrepancies or errors for human review. This can reduce processing times from days or weeks to hours, ensuring vendors are paid on time and without errors.

IPA can also automate payment approvals, routing invoices to the appropriate approvers, and provide real-time visibility into the approval process. This can reduce processing times and help businesses avoid late fees or missed payments.

IPA can be used to manage vendor relationships more effectively. By automating vendor management tasks such as onboarding, contract management, and compliance checks, hospitality enterprises can better manage vendor relationships and negotiate more favorable payment terms.

Value of Simplifying the Account Payables Process with IPA

Using IPA for accounts payable in the hospitality industry can offer numerous benefits to businesses. One of the most significant advantages is increased efficiency and accuracy.

In addition, IPA solutions give businesses real-time visibility into their accounts payable processes, which is essential for managing cash flow effectively.

Enterprises can leverage this visibility to identify areas to optimize their operations and negotiate more favorable payment terms with vendors. This helps businesses make informed financial decisions and improve their financial health.

Another key benefit of using IPA solutions is that they help businesses comply with industry regulations and internal policies. By automating compliance checks and other regulatory requirements, hospitality businesses can minimize the risk of fines, legal action, and reputational damage.

This ensures that the accounts payable process is conducted securely and competently, which is essential for maintaining the trust and confidence of stakeholders.

IPA Solutions for Accounts Payable in the Hospitality Industry

There are several IPA solutions available for accounts payable in the hospitality industry. These solutions range from standalone software platforms to integrated systems that can be customized to meet the specific needs of hospitality businesses.

Solutions developed using RAPFlow use AI and machine learning algorithms to automate invoice processing, payment approvals, and vendor management, providing a fast and efficient accounts payable process for hospitality businesses. RAPFlow uses process automation to manage workflows and approvals, reducing processing times and ensuring invoices are paid on time and without errors.

Best Practices for Implementing IPA for Accounts Payable in the Hospitality Industry

Successfully implementing IPA for accounts payable in the hospitality industry requires careful planning and execution. Some best practices for implementing IPA in the hospitality industry include:

- Ensuring data quality and security: IPA solutions rely on accurate and secure data to function effectively. It's essential to ensure that data is clean, accurate, and protected from unauthorized access.
- Providing employee training: IPA solutions can be complex and require practical training. Providing employee training and support can help ensure that employees are comfortable using the system and can maximize its benefits.
- Managing change effectively: Implementing IPA solutions can significantly change an organization. Effective change management ensures successful implementation, and employees support the new system.

In conclusion, the hospitality industry can significantly benefit from implementing IPA solutions in its accounts payable processes. With the help of automation, businesses can streamline their invoice processing and reduce the risk of fraud and errors. Not only does this increase efficiency and accuracy, but it also saves time and resources for the company.

Schedule a demo today and discover how we can help streamline your Account Payable process.

Navigating Volatility in the Mortgage Industry: The State of the MBS Market in 2023

The United States housing market has been on a rollercoaster ride lately, leaving mortgage lenders to navigate uncharted waters. With interest rates soaring in 2022, demand from prospective home buyers has been cooling off, leading to increased risks for those holding MBS

(Mortgage-Backed Securities). In the last five years alone, banks have added a staggering \$1.3 trillion MBS to the market, totaling more than \$12 trillion.

Mortgage lenders are facing a myriad of challenges, with regulatory changes such as increased trading margins and the Federal Reserve balance sheet being unwound. To make matters worse, a widening mortgage/treasury basis further complicates matters. The market is experiencing unprecedented volatility, primarily due to the Federal Reserve's commitment to raising interest rates and the 'quantitative tightening' (QT) program.

To survive and thrive in this volatile market, mortgage lenders must find ways to streamline processes and improve their data analytics capabilities. By doing so, they can continue providing viable mortgage options to consumers and successfully position themselves to navigate the current market conditions. It's all about being adaptable and staying ahead of the curve.

Banks Reduce Mortgage-Backed Securities Hold

As the market shifted, banks were forced to reduce their MBS holdings by approximately \$100 billion, bringing total MBS portfolios down to roughly \$2.8 trillion by November 2022. This was in response to increasing risks and a Federal Reserve commitment to raising interest rates.

According to Ethan Heisler, strategic advisor at bond rating agency KBRA, this change affected the entire \$8.7 trillion agency or government-backed MBS market. It could lead to further price decline as banks seek ways to minimize losses. Consequently, sales of fixed-rate mortgage bonds by entities such as Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae are predicted to drop nearly 50% in 2023, down to around \$300 billion from the estimated \$550 billion in 2022.

Navigating Unprecedented Market Volatility

The market is currently facing unprecedented volatility, primarily due to the Federal Reserve's commitment to raising interest rates and the 'quantitative tightening' (QT) program. This has caused a shift in MBS holdings by banks, reducing them by approximately \$100 billion since November 2022. As a result, sales of fixed-rate mortgage bonds from entities such as Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae are expected to drop nearly 50% throughout 2023.

Mortgage lenders need to determine how high rates will need to go before the economy begins showing signs of strain and prices start trending lower. This uncertainty has created a liquidity crunch and encouraged buyers to remain on the sidelines, making it difficult to predict the MBS market's future accurately.

Navigating Volatility in the Housing Market.

The housing market has been struggling lately, with Bright MLS predicting that home prices could drop an additional 10% in the coming year due to affordability issues and low inventory. To make matters worse, sales of homes reached a nine-year low at 4.87 million. While this is a concerning trend, Coleman believes the decline will not be as drastic as during the 2008-2009 Mortgage Crisis, when housing prices plunged by as much as 30%. This is primarily due to most homeowners having some equity in their homes, meaning they are less likely to have negative equity. As such, the situation has some buffer for those that own homes.

Embracing Mortgage Lending Automation Solutions

As the challenges in the market become more complex and harder to anticipate, mortgage lending solutions are becoming increasingly necessary. Streamlining the processes efficiently would mean faster processing of the bundles of documents

related to the MBS process, giving your lending enterprise more time to strategize about the right prospects for lending and investment.

Additionally, Automation helps lenders quickly process loan applications, reduce processing time and manage risk more effectively. Mortgage lenders should look for ways to use data strategically and leverage technology to improve customer experiences. By taking a proactive approach and leveraging the right solutions, lenders can ensure that they are well-prepared for whatever the future of the MBS market may bring.

If you're a mortgage lender looking to stay ahead of the game in a rapidly changing market, it's time to embrace technology and automate your processes. Doing so will allow you to manage risk more effectively and provide a better customer experience.

To learn more about how AI-enabled automation solutions can help you streamline your mortgage document management process, check out our blog post "[The Role of AI-enabled Automation in Mortgage Document Management](#)". With this blog, you can better understand how technology can help you stay competitive in the market and position your lending enterprise for long-term success.

Thriving Amidst Chaos: Strategies to Bulletproof Your Accounting KPO

You're in the middle of a raging storm, trying to keep your balance amidst the chaos. The winds are howling, the rain is pouring down in sheets, and you can barely see two feet in front of you. Amid all this turmoil, you look up and see a beacon of light shining through the darkness. It's a lighthouse, standing tall and strong, guiding ships safely to shore.

In the same way, accounting KPO stakeholders find themselves in the middle of a storm - a storm of unpredictable market conditions, regulatory changes, and technological advancements. But just like the lighthouse that stands strong amidst the storm, there are unconventional strategies that can help accounting KPOs thrive amidst the chaos. This blog will explore these strategies and show you how to bulletproof your accounting KPO.

Strategies to Bulletproof Your Accounting KPO

Here are a few tried and tested strategies to help you stay ahead of the curve and to future-proof your business:

Implement Agile Work Methodologies

Agile methodologies are a set of values and principles for software development that prioritize flexibility, collaboration, and continuous improvement. The Agile approach emphasizes adaptability and customer satisfaction by breaking down complex projects into smaller, manageable parts that can be delivered in short cycles.

Accounting KPOs can benefit from adopting agile principles too. By embracing collaboration, flexibility, and continuous improvement, you can increase efficiency, prioritize tasks, and deliver quality work faster. Customized agile methodologies like Scrum, Kanban, and Lean can help you adapt quickly to changes and stay competitive in a fast-paced market.

Embrace Automation and Technology

Automation is a game changer in the accounting industry. By leveraging cloud-based accounting software, robotic process automation, and machine learning, you can streamline your operations, reduce manual labor, and improve accuracy. Real-time

insights into financial data can help you make informed decisions and provide better client services.

For instance, [Rapid Acceleration Partners](#) has been consistently working to develop and implement automation solutions that are specifically designed to meet the need of Accounting KPOs.

Harness the Power of Collective Intelligence

Collective intelligence is the key to making informed decisions in accounting KPOs. You can gain valuable insights that inform your decision-making process by gathering data from multiple sources like customer feedback, predictive analytics, and market trends. Leveraging collective intelligence can help you identify growth opportunities and stay ahead of the competition.

Embrace Gamification for Improved Performance

Gamification is an excellent tool for driving performance and engagement in accounting KPOs. You can build a culture of excellence in your organization by incentivizing collaboration, creativity, and innovation. Companies that have embraced gamification have significantly improved productivity, morale, and workflow efficiency.

Cultivate a Culture of Innovation and Experimentation

To future-proof your accounting KPO, you need to foster a culture of innovation and experimentation. This means creating an environment where employees are encouraged to take risks, view obstacles as growth opportunities, and learn from failures. By embracing innovation and experimentation, you can stay ahead of the curve, create sustainable success, and provide value to your clients.

Invest in Employee Training and Development:

Investing in employee training and development is essential for accounting KPOs to stay competitive in the market. By providing your employees with the necessary skills and knowledge, you can ensure that they are equipped to handle the changing landscape of the accounting industry.

One way to invest in employee training is to offer certification programs that allow employees to gain specialized knowledge in areas like tax accounting, auditing, or financial analysis. You can also provide ongoing training sessions to keep employees up-to-date with the latest technologies and best practices in the industry.

In addition to training, it's important to create a culture of continuous learning and development. Encourage employees to take ownership of their professional growth by providing them with opportunities to attend industry events, participate in webinars, and read industry publications. This helps foster a culture of innovation and experimentation, as employees are encouraged to share their new knowledge and ideas with the team.

Embrace Change Management: Enable Your Team to be More Adaptable

Change management involves preparing and supporting employees through the process of organizational change. It's important to involve employees in the change process by communicating the reasons for change, providing training and resources, and addressing concerns and questions.

When implementing new technology or practices, it's important to involve employees from the beginning. This can help build buy-in and increase the chances of successful

adoption. You can also assign change champions or advocates to help lead the change process and provide support to other team members.

Encourage an open and collaborative culture where employees are empowered to share their ideas and feedback. This can help identify potential issues early on and ensure that the change process is as smooth as possible.

By embracing change management and enabling your team to be more adaptable, you can ensure that your Accounting KPO can keep up with the changing demands of the market. This will help you stay competitive, improve customer satisfaction, and drive sustainable growth.

In conclusion, bulletproofing your accounting KPO requires a combination of innovative strategies, technologies, and a culture of excellence. By adopting these strategic moves, you can steer clear of any storm and stay ahead of the competition while building a future-proof business that delivers value to clients.