



## What role will robots play in your tax function?

Helping the tax function of the future manage operational risk, costs and efficiency through the power of automation

### A What is RPA

Robotic Process Automation ('RPA') is an application of a cost-effective software that mimics human actions and connects multiple fragmented systems together through automation without changing the current enterprise IT landscape.

### B Why should you consider RPA

RPA can dramatically increase speed, accuracy and volume of select repetitive processes performed within a tax function. Additionally, it removes the potential for transposition and other human errors that otherwise may arise.

An RPA program can emulate human tasks using existing technology user interfaces. The program can execute key strokes much faster than its human counterpart and can continue to do so without taking breaks. This ultimately results in a faster, and more accurate process that can handle additional capacity requirements without the addition of staff or alternative resources. It also offers a tax function the opportunity to refocus members of the team from manual data manipulation to more valuable tasks (such as tax planning or tax controversy). Your employee engagement could increase as tax professionals spend less time on data manipulation and data entry.

### C Costs of implementation

More often than not IT departments already subscribe to RPA software. Hence, the yearly license costs associated with RPA use and design are minimal. The implementation costs are typically recovered in less than one year. Accordingly, the costs of adoption are not prohibitive.

D

Minimal IT disruption

Software Robots do not change the existing IT enterprise framework. Typically, RPA software sits within existing infrastructure, which is governed and controlled by IT departments thereby diminishing the potential for IT disruption.

E

Forecasted adoption

EY forecasts that approximately 30–40% of existing business process services are likely to be impacted by RPA because of the above noted benefits.

F

How are Tax departments using software robots?

The best way to assess the opportunity within your organization is to have EY conduct a Technology Assessment of your tax function to enhance RPA opportunities.

Some examples of our automation services are:

- Tax provision - using RPA to import data from ERP systems, subsystems and other supporting documents, including the consolidation of data from foreign operations
- Tax compliance – using RPA to populate tax, VAT and Intrastat return software, related schedules and supporting working papers
- Using RPA to improve the speed and accuracy of excel spreadsheets
- Using RPA to identify Scientific Research and Experimental Development (SR&ED) or other Research & Development (R&D) eligible projects and associated costs
- Using RPA in Tax shared services centers where we typically find that organizations conduct many repetitive processes

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