

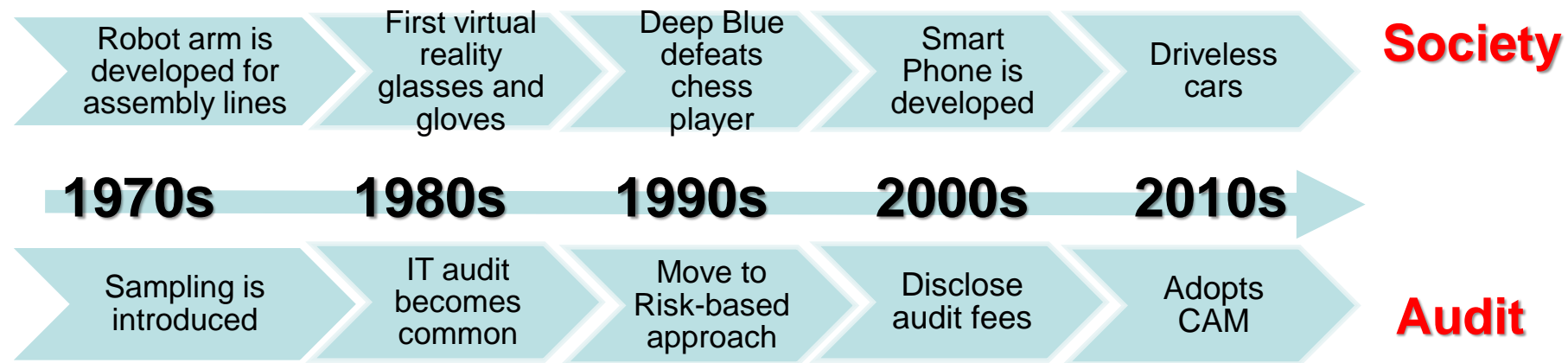


Towards RPA in Audit

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The Story

- The world is rapidly changing, technology enables a 365/24/7 economy
- How has the audit profession evolved?
Some major transformations...



Where are we?

- Audit as an artisanal process composed of practice manuals, templated audit plans, and supportive software
- The advent of many IT tools, potential formalization of decisions and accessibility to large data make it essential to rethink the audit process
- Reengineering of the audit process can be divided into:
 - Audit areas that are prone to the utilization of workflow and time and motion improvements
 - Audit areas with repeatable and deterministic judgments
 - Audit areas with stochastic judgments

What is RPA (Robotic Process Automation)?

- The IEEE defines RPA as *“A preconfigured software instance that uses business rules and predefined activity choreography to complete the autonomous execution of a combination of processes, activities, transactions, and tasks in one or more unrelated software systems to deliver a result or service with human exception management (IEEE Corporate Advisory Group, 2017).”*
- RPA robots conduct work the same way that humans do through the software presentation layer

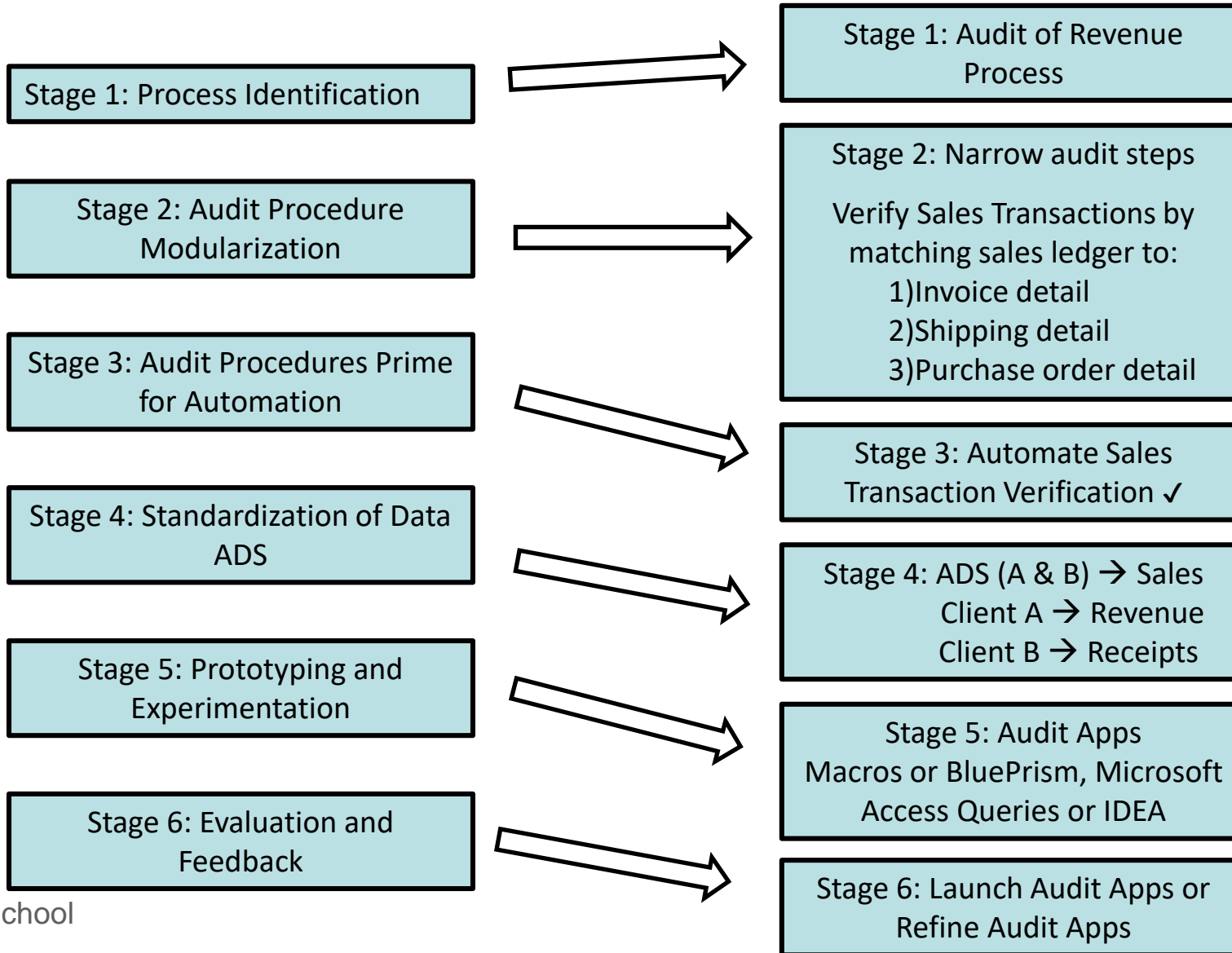
RPA in Audit

- RPA can result in improved audit quality when the steps to perform a rules-based task are repetitive, and manual
- Audit tasks such as reconciliations, internal control testing, and detail testing can be facilitated by RPA
- Transforming auditors' role towards emphasizing higher order thinking skills would lead to enhanced audit quality

RPA Tools

Tools	Tool Execution	Audit Task
Excel	Rules-based functions	Reconciliations,
IDEA	Calculations	Analytical Procedures, Internal Control Testing, Detail Testing (attribute match)
Python	Rules-based functions	Reconciliations,
R		
UiPath	Calculations	Analytical Procedures,
	Web scraping	Internal Control Testing,
	Importing data	Detail Testing (attribute match)
	Exporting data	Input: collection of data Output: compilation of audit test results

Methodology for RPA in Audit



Considerations for RPA-Based Audits

- Verifying the reliability of RPA tools and digital audit evidence
- Handling of numerous notable items
- Privacy and security of digital audit evidence
- Costs related to RPA development and deployment

