



*tipalti.*

# The Controller's Guide to AP Automation

# The Role of the Modern Controller

**The Controller role is expanding beyond just numbers.**

In today's increasingly global landscape, it's not enough for a Controller to simply manage the day-to-day financial operations of the business. They're evolving—becoming active strategists and contributing valuable analysis that drives the business forward.

These forward-thinking finance leaders are spending less time closing the books and more time finding actionable solutions. They're on a singular mission to improve productivity, reduce costs, and streamline all financial processes.



# The modern Controller is moving from providing data to providing insights about data.

The main imperative for today's Controller is to ensure that the finance organization is embedded in every operational aspect of the business. And, *to achieve results*, they focus their time and efforts on these five key areas:

1. Efficient transactional processing
2. Clear financial reporting
3. Real-time insights into financial results
4. Contributing to overall solution support
5. Making decisions around strategy and resource allocation

By focusing their attention here, a Controller can be a strategic partner to the entire organization. But as their company scales, so does their responsibility. Oftentimes, they lack the support needed to reach their full potential. To be a successful, modern Controller, there is one key question that needs to be answered...

**Do you have the resources you need to take on a more strategic role?**



# The Pain of Accounts Payable

**For the modern Controller, AP is the most maligned of all finance processes.**

At each step of the payables operation, *from invoice processing to approvals to payments to issue resolution to reconciliation*, there is the potential for numerous operational vortexes for your business.

The time and expense needed to manage this function is a huge bottleneck for today's Controllers. Issues abound, *including*:

- Duplicate, lost, or missing invoices
- An influx of tedious, manual work
- Additional resources needed to scale
- Inefficient or outdated processes
- Lack of visibility
- Increased number of errors & discrepancies
- Challenges due to scaling



# Operations are thriving in the digital age... except for accounts payable.

Today, manual processes are sucking the finance team dry, and the work isn't slowing down. The larger an organization becomes the more bills it needs to pay, invoices will come from everywhere. But it's not just the invoice process that growing companies need to contend with—the entire payables function will be heavily impacted, and the Controller will need to find the right solutions.



# 1 Elevate Your Finance Strategy

As a modern Controller, you're building out your finance processes.

You're tasked with tackling the time-consuming function of accounts payable, and it's up to you to effectively staff your team and implement new technologies to efficiently support your scaling business.

## Controller Tip

Support scaling with internal accounting resources and tools.

To elevate your role to financial strategist, you need to have a streamlined process in place that you can depend on. Empower your team to efficiently manage back-office tasks by providing them with the appropriate internal resources and tools. Automation can provide the relief you need to manage AP. Plus, it can provide clear financial reporting that will give you actionable, strategic insights.

## Controller Corner



### Dash Victor, Docker

For Dash Victor, Docker's Controller, the accounting team was spending a full day each week onboarding new suppliers and managing their tax compliance, invoices, and accounts payable.

In 2017, Docker started using an automated accounts payable solution. Now, they have a smooth, streamlined operation—from inputting invoices into their ERP to making mass weekly payments worldwide.

**“Automating payables accelerates our monthly close, gives us confidence in the numbers each month, frees up time to analyze results, and enables us to focus on the things that matter like working with executives to drive the business forward.”**

# 2 Modernize Your Payments Operations

As a modern Controller, you know that a large aspect of your job is valuing different technology solutions. It's important to the health of your organization that the right tools are in place for your continued success.

## Controller Tip

Don't spend time pushing paper around.

Manual, back-office tasks are a huge time-suck to you and your team. When you're evaluating which aspects of your business to automate, be sure to look at the functions that would alleviate your team and transform your transactional processing. Automation eliminates tedious work and allows you to actively contribute to your company's overall solution support.

## Controller Corner



**Toni Tornell, United Language Group**

For Toni Tornell, ULG's Controller, the finance team had been struggling with their manual accounts payable process for a year and a half.

By adopting an automated accounts payable solution, overall processes improved, international and early payments became more efficient, and the need to hire more headcount was eliminated.

**"Finance processes that used to take our team 1-2 weeks are being completed in 1-2 days."**

# 3 Prioritize Retention & Scaling

As a modern Controller, nobody feels the pain of AP quite like you and your team. As your business continues to scale, it's important to focus on retention, from both an employee and customer standpoint.

## Controller Tip

Make it easy for people to work from anywhere in the world.

In today's landscape, scaling businesses often deal with distributed workforces. Your accounting team can be based anywhere and functioning on a global scale. To retain top talent, you want to provide the best resources available to help them succeed. Automation eliminates the manual drudgery from your team's workload and allows them the flexibility to access key financial data anytime, anywhere.

## Controller Corner



### Richmond Ang, TapJoy

For Richmond Ang, TapJoy's Assistant Controller, the team was prioritizing publisher payments that were critical to the success of their business, but it was a process that no single employee could do efficiently or effectively.

By adopting an automated accounts payable solution, the finance team's workload decreased by over 50 percent. Plus, by ensuring timely and accurate payments, TapJoy's processes were elevated to the highest industry standards.

**"The ability to offer a wider array of payment methods has endeared the company to its publisher partners—building greater loyalty and satisfaction."**



# The Ultimate Controller Checklist

A Controller's job is never done. So, *how do you set your company up for success?* Evaluate your operations using the ultimate Controller checklist.

## People

- Are you supporting your team and making their jobs more efficient?

## Technology

- Have you evaluated and implemented the right automation solutions?

## Reporting

- Is your close process timely, accurate, and dependable?


## Assets

- Are your company's data and resources successfully safeguarded?

## Risk

- Do you have the right level of financial controls?

**If you have clear responses, you're well on your way to building a better business. If not, take a critical look at your operations and see what you can do to improve your finance organization.**





## What Tipalti Can Do for You

Tipalti manages your payables process with technology that eliminates more than 80% of the manual effort. We provide a truly global, multi-entity solution that streamlines the end-to-end AP workflow, including self-service supplier onboarding and management, tax data collection and verification, OCR-based invoice processing, global remittance, automated supply chain financing, and AP reporting.

**Get a Free Product Tour**

### **Contact Us**

*tipalti.com*

1810 Gateway Dr., Suite 300  
San Mateo, CA 94404 USA  
contact@tipalti.com

1055 West Georgia Street  
4th floor  
Vancouver BC V6E 3P3

Kibbutz Glil Yam  
4690500, Israel

