

Methods for Simultaneous Meta and Data Manipulation in Blaise

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This paper describes a number of practical aspects for different methods in Blaise to combine the manipulation of meta and data.

Firstly, Blaise III introduced Cameleon to produce meta descriptions. It addresses the meta only and it is mostly combined with Manipula setups when data should be addressed.

Secondly, Blaise Windows introduced the Blaise Component Pack (BCP), which can address the meta and the data simultaneously in one Visual Basic application.

Thirdly, related to this, Blaise 4.8 possesses two new features: In Manipula you can read and manipulate meta and data simultaneously, and: the data entry program (DEP) can be combined with Manipula setups more easily than before. A data form edited in the DEP can be manipulated in manipula while the record is still in memory and not saved in the data file. When calling manipula the edited form is available in the manipula process and values can be returned from Manipula to the DEP.

The paper describes a number of specific practical survey tasks and concludes with a number of advantages and disadvantages of the three methods for performing these tasks.

Abstract