

Blaise Testing

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Blaise software was introduced at Statistics Canada in 1999. Since then, Blaise has been the designated software used to develop CATI and CAPI survey collection instruments. Currently, there are more than 200 Statistics Canada surveys in production using Blaise 4.6.

Deciding whether to upgrade to a newer version or a newer build of Blaise is always a difficult decision for the development managers. Once the survey is in production, the development managers are reluctant to change to another version of Blaise for future cycles. When upgrading to a new version, significant testing efforts are often needed to ensure that all the functions are working properly. Although a newer version of Blaise may offer many attractive features, the cost and risk for the survey associated with making the change, may not seem worthwhile.

The newest version of Blaise (4.8) offers many new features to improve application connectivity and scalability. In order to test these new features in a cost effective way, Statistics Canada has created a project to develop a testing strategy to certify the new version. This paper describes the complexity of the testing issue and the approach taken to establish a reusable testing process.

Abstract