

# The ScriptWriter Tool: An Application for Interviewer Training Script Development

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Interviewer training scripts play an integral role in Computer Assisted Interviewing (CAI) studies. They are used in interviewer trainings to provide interviewers with practice through a Blaise questionnaire, while trainers highlight important features. Scripts are also used to: assess interviewer questionnaire administration; ensure the quality of data; and offer a means to standardize training elements. Standardization is crucial to the proper training and certification of interviewers, especially across training teams with multiple training sessions.

Script development can often present a challenge for those involved. The difficulty of their production is primarily technical. Traditionally, script writers have hand-entered information from the Blaise screen. This consumes significant time and staff resources, while increasing the likelihood of inaccurate and inconsistent entry by multiple writers. The need for a more efficient, automated approach to script development led to the creation of an application, called Scriptwriter.

The ScriptWriter Tool is a Visual Basic .NET program. It allows users to enter survey responses within a stand-a-lone version of the Blaise instrument, while entering training annotations in parallel. Through an interface in ScriptWriter, users have the option to edit training annotations, specify output settings, and produce script output in .HTML format. This paper will outline the development and subsequent use of the ScriptWriter Tool, and discuss the challenges in creating a user-friendly application with the flexibility to serve the needs of many projects and diverse Blaise applications.