CATI Followup Application: Resolving Communications Links Between Applications Using XML

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Abstract:
Designing a Blaise application to be used in a Multi-Mode environment has resulted in a strong tool that can be used for CATI, CADE and failed edit follow-up. Having Blaise interface with external systems in this Multi-Mode environment has given us some interesting design challenges in terms of methods for transferring the data between the systems and evaluating the completeness of the data.

This presentation reviews the solutions we originally designed and where we see ourselves moving to in the near future. Within each of these phases we will review the pros and cons of each strategy and of any lessons we have learned in the attempt. Some of the interesting challenges and considerations we need to face involve managing the separation of different collection methods between different groups of users within a distributed environment. We also need to weigh the pros and cons of distributing the samples between different collection applications or managing users from different locations through one centralized sample.

The original design involved electronic collection over the web with the data stored in an SQL database. The SQL database had a mapping table within it where each field collected could be mapped to a field within the Blaise database. The collected data would be parsed nightly and loaded into the Blaise application where it was evaluated for completeness and accuracy.

The current design is similar but extracting the data into an XML format has replaced the parsing tool and has improved the speed of loading the data into the Blaise application. In addition, the evaluation method has evolved to be more robust and versatile. The application has also been improved within its Multi-mode functionality by introducing the solutions we have for evaluating the loading of external data to the Data Capture flows and evaluation.