

Studies in Blaise 5

What's in it for Statistics Denmark?

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2 Studies

- CATI/CAWI surveys in Blaise 5
 - Majority of Stat. DK surveys
- CAPI on tablets
 - Household Expenditure Survey

CATI/CAWI

- Interesting CAWI features in Blaise 5 😊
- Blaise 5 not for CATI 😞
- The short-cut: Combine Survey Management and CATI Management in Blaise 4.8 and develop questionnaires in Blaise 5:
 - All the new features for the CAWI versions
 - All CATI management as usual
 - A clean cut?

CATI/CAWI: PoC

- First: No problem to start a Blaise 5 instrument from a Blaise 4.8 instrument
- Second: Proof of concept carried out briefly after IBUC/2013
- Some remaining issues:
 - Communication: Form status
 - Return codes?
 - API-based extraction after completion

CAWI/CATI: The problems

- Developing for a release
- Poorer performance in DEP
- Missing shortcut keys in Blaise 5
- End of story: A CAWI study...

CAWI: The study

- An internal study with interviewers and other staff as respondents
- Setup ready April 2015

CAWI: Conclusions

- Users:
 - A lot of layout issues to examine further
 - Performance slower than Blaise 4.8 (especially first page)
- Developers:
 - Hard to learn all the new layout concepts
 - Great when you have learned to exploit the benefits, e.g. automatic layout application

CAPI: Android Study

- Background:
 - Household Expenditure Survey (HES)
 - A main CAPI questionnaire (potentially quite large)
 - Interviewing carried out in one or two visits
 - A two-week diary filled by the respondent (CAWI or paper)
 - 1000-1500 completed forms per year
 - Carried out using Blaise since 1995
 - External provider of CAPI interviewing
 - Changed to using Android based tablets
 - Put a mild pressure on us...

HES: Initial timetable

- May 2014: Start of project
- Summer 2014: Investigate Blaise 5 on Android
- Autumn 2014: Implement HES in Blaise 5
- Late autumn: Pilot study
- January 2015: Start production

Oops...

- The Blaise 5 Android app was withdrawn
- A new version was released September
- Unfortunately, it lacked functionality
 - Server/client communication
 - Could not store negative numbers
 - Could not handle signals
 - Missing support for remarks

HES: Revising aims

- Plan A: Doing a study with Blaise 5 on Android based tablets
- Plan B: A version with reduced functionality in a shorter period until Blaise 5 fills our needs
- Plan C: Using a Blaise 5 web questionnaire (on Android tablets)
- Plan D: Carry on with our Blaise 4.8 instrument on laptops

HES: CAPI instrument

- Plan A (mostly)
- Remarks implemented for all amount fields
 - Block with two fields: Amount and Comment
- Signals postponed until post-processing
- Post-processing in Blaise 4.8
 - Including SAS export etc.

HES: Post-processing (1)

- Good news:
 - Xml Data format from Blaise 5 is compatible with Blaise 4
 - Blaise 5 IDE supports export of a Blaise 4 datamodel
- Bad news:
 - The ETL program (for some still unknown reason) won't export all data in Blaise 5 database

HES: Post-processing (2)

- Good news:
 - The ETL program exports all data in text format
- Bad news:
 - The text format is not compatible with Blaise 4
- Good news:
 - Manipula can handle it all!

Text format (example)

FIELDS

ID : INTEGER

MySet : SET OF (a, b, c)

Comment : STRING

Blaise 5 text format: **100;1-2-3;some text**

Blaise 4 text format: **100;1;2;3;some text**

Blaise 5 → Blaise 4

- Conversion of meta: 2 shapes
 - Blaise 4 input datamodel
 - SET fields replaced by STRING fields
 - Blaise 4 post-processing datamodel
 - Blocks (Amount + Comment) replaced by Amount fields
- Conversion (Manipula)
 - Convert string fields with SET content
 - Move Amount fields
 - Move Comments into Remarks

HES: Now...

- We are actually collecting data!
- Data are uploaded to our server
- Data from web-server are exported to our in-house post-processing system

General experience (bad)

- Performance
 - Data Entry slightly slower than Blaise 4.8
 - IDE considerably slower than Blaise 4.8
- DEP: Short-cut keys important for CATI
- Remark handling missing
- Incompatibility between builds

General experience (good)

- Faster development of questionnaires
 - E.g. automatic application of layout groups
- A lot of nice and promising features that we'd love to exploit...
- Blaise 5 is steadily maturing

At last:

We REALLY need Manipula!

Thanks!