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 remaning 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- The Blaise 5 Android app was withdrawn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 considerately 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!