Consumer Expenditures Proof of Concept: A Joining of Quarterly and Diary

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Introduction

- Consumer Expenditures (CE) measures important economic indicators.
  - Consumer Price Index (CPI)
  - Consumer spending patterns
  - Sponsor - Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)
- Two Instruments
  - Consumer Expenditures Quarterly (CEQ)
  - Consumer Expenditures Diary (CED)
- Consumer Unit (CU)
  - Single group of household members over 16 who pay their own living expenses.
CEQ Interview

- CU interviewed 4 times
  - Once every 3 months
  - Asked about all expenditures made during the previous 3 months.
- Easy to recall expenditures
  - Electronics, Clothing, Travel
- Expenditures with Records
  - Utilities, Medical, Vehicles
CED Interview

- 2-3 visits to the CU in a 3 week period
  - Brief Interview
  - Place First Diary
    - Record all expenditures for 1 week.
  - Pick up First Diary, Place Second Diary
    - Record all expenditures for 1 week.
- Capture expenses not easily recalled
  - Restaurants, Fuel
Current CE Instruments

- Blaise 4.8.4.1861
- CEQ
  - CAPI Production – April 2003
  - ~5,000 CUs interviewed per month.
  - 22 Expenditure Sections
  - Front, Back, Demographics, Debriefing Sections
- CED
  - CAPI – Production – January 2004
  - ~2,000 CUs interviewed per month
  - Date dependent
  - Diary Double-Placement
Gemini Project

- Improve the CE data collection process.
  - Use the latest technology.
  - Reduce Costs
  - Improve Data Quality
  - Better Expenditure Tracking
- Re-design of the CE instruments.
- Testing changes to diaries
- Create a single CE Instrument
CE Proof of Concept (POC)

- CEQ and CED all in one
- Three main components
  - Recall Interview
  - Web/App Diary
  - Records Interview
- Two visits in a two-week period
- CEQ instrument baseline, CED sections added
Split CEQ Interviews

- **Recall Interview**
  - First visit
  - Sections 8, 6, 17, 18, 19
    - Section Order Effect Test
  - Sections available for second visit if needed

- **Records Interview**
  - Second visit
  - Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 21, 22
  - Skip Recall Interview sections on second visit
Not Without its Challenges...
Outcome Code Implementation

- Standardized status codes for Laptop Case Management (LCM) software and Headquarters staff
  - LCM Software takes action on cases
  - Easy reference of case status
    - Interview
    - Reason for a Non-Interview
- POC using CED’s LCM interface
Multiple Outcome Codes

- **Outcome_Recall**
  - Recall sections completed

- **Outcome_Placement**
  - Diary(s) placed, not placed, CU(s) refused diary

- **Outcome_Pickup**
  - Diary(s) picked up, previous refusal, picked up too late

- **Outcome_Records**
  - Record Sections Completed

- **Outcome**
  - Interview, Non-Interview, Partial Interview
Outcome: 383
Recall Outcome: 201
Placement Outcome: 201
Pick-up Outcome: 201
Records Outcome: 202

1. Enter 1 to Continue

Back

Show Final 1 Continue
Outcome Code Procedure

- CEQ and CED originally coded to set outcome codes in section rules
  - Maintenance challenge
  - If it isn’t broken, don’t fix it
- New instrument means coding flexibility
- Put the setting of the outcome codes into one procedure
  - Easier setup, maintenance, and testing
Diary Types

- Paper
  - Used in CED
  - Single diary for all CU members
- CAPI
  - Recall
- Web
- Mobile
Project Gemini Diary Tests

- Centurion Software
- 2013 – Web Diary Test
  - CUs given option to fill out their diary on the Internet (Web Diary).
- 2014 – Individual Diary Test
  - Each eligible member of the CU given access to their own Web Diary to fill out.
Web/App Diary

- Diary available to be filled out online for each member of the CU
  - Paper diary available for POC if CU member requests one.
- Encouragement to fill out diary at time of expenditure.
- Available for desktop or mobile browsers
  - Requires always-on Internet connection
Web/App Diary Logins

- Security
- Pre-assigned usernames and passwords
  - Password complexity
- Display only the usernames and passwords needed in POC
  - Passwords only displayed during first visit
Instruct the respondent and all available household members on how to use the paper and/or electronic diary(ies) and provide them with user guide(s).

For electronic diaries: Be sure to go over with the respondent:
- how to log in with their username and password (attempt to log in with a respondent, if they are willing)
- creating shortcuts to the web and mobile diaries
- show the respondent(s) the link to the video tutorials in the User Guide and inform them that the links also appear in the electronic diary
Transcribe the Individual Diary username(s) onto the User Guide(s) and password(s) onto appointment card(s) for the respondent(s).

For paper diaries:
Instruct the respondent(s) on how to complete the paper Diary leave the Diary form(s) with the respondent.
Transcribe the control number onto the paper diary. Control Number: 0406013GD3500010110100

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resp</th>
<th>LN</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Diary Type</th>
<th>Username</th>
<th>Password</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>XXX</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>John Citizen</td>
<td>Mobile/Web</td>
<td>web01111</td>
<td>11111111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Jane Citizen</td>
<td>Mobile/Web</td>
<td>web22222</td>
<td>22222222</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Enter 1 to Continue
Spawned CUs

- Most households are a single CU
  - Roommates or Multiple families may be multiple CUs
- Instrument can spawn additional cases to interview additional CUs
  - Roster and case information copied from parent to child case
- How do we grant spawned cases access to Web/App Diary?
  - Copy unused usernames and passwords from parent case to child case using Manipula
Web Diary Home Screen

CONSUMER EXPENDITURE
DIARY SURVEY

Add an Expense

Date
February 8, 2014

Description
Enter Description

Cost
$0.00

Category
Select Category

Clear  Save

Summary of Expenses

Date  Description  Cost  Category

United States Census Bureau
U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
census.gov
Follow Up Fields

CONSUMER EXPENDITURE DIARY SURVEY

Add an Expense

Date: February 8, 2014
Description: Sandwich
Cost: $5.12
Category: Food and Drink Away from Home

Meal Type: Select One

Alcohol Included? (Select all that apply)
- Wine
- Beer
- Other
- None

Cost of Alcohol: $0.00

Clear Save
Follow Up Fields

CONSUMER EXPENDITURE
DIARY SURVEY

Information  User Guide  User Settings  Logout

Add an Expense

Date: February 9, 2014
Description: T-shirts
Cost: $9.58
Category: Clothing, Shoes, Jewelry, and Accessories

Gender: Male
Age: 16 & Over

Purchased for someone outside your household

Clear  Save
Summary and Editing
Future Developments

- Pilot Test – Summer 2015
  - Results applied to future CE instruments
- Multiple Data Collection Methods
  - CAPI – Blaise Instrument
  - Web – Centurion
  - App – Collect data offline
- Modify control systems to handle real-time tracking of diaries and cases.
Conclusions

- Future CE survey likely multi-mode
  - Potential to streamline data collection process
- Blaise handles large and complex surveys efficiently
- Blaise capable of handling merging two instruments together
Questions?

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