Converting a CATI Instrument from Blaise 4 to Blaise 5 for Pilot Testing

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Some Background

• NASS
  – Provides Agricultural Statistics for USA
  – Over 120 distinct surveys per year
  – Over 350 survey instances per year
  – Blaise for CATI and CADI modes
  – Use in-house systems for CAWI & CAPI

• Westat
  – North American Distributer
  – They have the expertise
  – Provided high level demo
Project Goal

• Show Blaise 5 capabilities to Senior Level Managers

• Convert a NASS project to Blaise 5
  – How much time?
  – How much effort?
  – Do we need to reprogram everything?
NASS Mink Survey

Blaise 4.8 – CATI and CADI
Simple survey
Only 30 data items
NASS shell code – 30 complex moduels
Edit data across years
Preload database

Of the total in Items 2 and 3, how many are in each of the following color classes?

- **a. Black** - (Standard, Pure Dark)
- **b. Demi/Wild** - (Dark Brown, Ranch Wild, Demi-buff)
- **c. Pastel** - (Dawn, Orchid)
- **d. Sapphire**
- **e. Blue Iris** - (Aleutian, Gunmetal)
- **f. Mahogany**
- **g. Pearl**
- **h. Lavender** - (Lavender-Hope)
- **i. Violet** - (Cameo, Winterblue, Glacial)
- **j. White**
- **k. Palomino**
- **l. Other (Specify: ______________________) . .

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pelts taken from 2015 crop for marketing</th>
<th>Females bred &amp; to be bred to produce kits in 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Number)</td>
<td>(Number)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>101</td>
<td>201</td>
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<td>102</td>
<td>202</td>
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<td>112</td>
<td>212</td>
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<tr>
<td>111</td>
<td>211</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conversion

Pilot Test
• Utilize multimode capabilities of Blaise 5
• Retail shell code base
• Concentrate proof of concept on larger production activities
  – Ignored formatting

Conversion Tool
• Converts most of source code
• Database
  – Blaise 4 to 5
  – Blaise 5 to 4
Process – Source Code

Blaise4to5Source.exe

- Click button in Control Centre
Process – Source Code

**Blaise4to5Source.exe**
- Click button in Control Centre
- Fill in information
- Click Convert
Process – Source Code

Blaise4to5Source.exe
- Click button in Control Centre
- Fill in information
- Click Convert

Minor Issues
- EnvVar
- Attributes
- Primary Key
Blaise4to5Data.exe

- Converts bdb or boi to bdix
- Configure bdix
  - Your choice of DB format
Process – Database
Process – Database
Multimode

Layout Set Groups

Reflects Resource Database
Resource Database Changes

CAWI

• Changed a TextSource to “Name”
  – Display field’s descriptive text instead of field name
• Deleted groupText cell
• Added fieldText cell
  – Added display for question text of columns

• AnswerListArea cell
  – Added Category button
  – Added Special Answer button
• SpecialAnswerArea cell
  – Added Special Answer button
Resource Database Changes

CATI

- Copied Default Table template
  - Named it MinkTable

- Added Field Question Text as 1st Row
Code Modifications for Layouts

**Grouped**
- Enumerated field & Other specify
- Address information
  - City
  - State
  - Zip code

**Tables**
- Already separate blocks
- No changes needed!
More Modifications

**Layouts**
- Fields made “critical” on tables
  - Resolve display fields when moving rows
- Different templates for
  - Other Specify
  - Address group
  - Tables
- Page breaks

**Resource Database**
- Changed font
- Field Text Property – TextSource to “Value”
- Applicably condition
  - POSITION(‘Label’, FieldDefinition.LocalName)>0
- Moved LabelTextOnly above Vertical template
  - Auto-assign auxfields containing “label” to green
- Renamed table template Abreast as CityStateZip
End Product

OLD

NEW

Web Mink

Please update any field that is incorrect.

The street address/route number of this operation is: 1234 SOMEWHERE LANE

- Rather not answer
- Don’t know

The additional street address/route number of this operation is:

- Rather not answer
- Don’t know

The zip code for this operation is: 22222

- Rather not answer
- Don’t know

The state abbreviation is: ID

- Rather not answer
- Don’t know

Back Next
Results

• Successfully converted from Blaise 4 to Blaise 5
  – Blaise 5 allows CATI, CAWI, and CAPI modes
• Conversion Tools are easy to use