



Blaise Team Presents

IBUC 2018



Licensing

- Developer
 - Checked when Control Centre is started
 - Checked when Instrument Builder is used
- CATI
 - Checked when a CATI survey is started
- CASI
 - Checked when an anonymous survey (no login required) is started in Client/Server mode
- RDBMS
 - Checked when a data interface file to a relational database is created
- API
 - Checked in various places where write operations take place with the APIs

License information

- License information is stored in the registry when Blaise is installed
 - HKLM\SOFTWARE\StatNeth\Blaise\5.0
- Standalone programs (DEP, Manipula, API programs):
 - serialnumber.txt can be copied to the same folder as the executable
 - A registry entry (LicenseFile) can be added to point to a central location for the serial number file

Agenda

- What's happened since the last IBUC
- What are we doing now
- Wat are we going to do next

What's happened since the last IBUC

- Testing
 - Regression tests
 - Performance tests
- Jira
 - Workflow system for handling support questions
- Releases
 - 5.2.5
 - 5.3.0
 - 5.4

Highlights 5.2.5

- First MVC Web data entry client
 - AngularJS
- Accessibility
 - WCAG 2.0 AA Compliant
- Dep App
 - Windows application to mimic iOS & Android apps

Highlights 5.3.0

- Layout Language
 - Possibility to define layout in source code
- CARI
 - Computer Assisted Recorded Interviewing
- Generic Data Storage
 - Store data from multiple surveys in the same table of a database
- Disconnected apps

Highlights 5.4

- Event Parameters
 - Events can be set or overridden in the Layout Designer
- Maniplus
 - Maniplus setups are now supported under Windows
 - Manipula 4 setups can be converted
- Data Editing
 - Data Editing keyboard navigation has been implemented
- Harmless Changes
 - Harmless changes to a datamodel do not make the database incompatible

Blaise 5.4 Versioning

- Third number now changes with every release
 - 5.4.0 – Test release
 - 5.4.1 – Test release
 - 5.4.2.1669 – First release (June 29)
 - 5.4.3.1675 – Bug fix version 1 (August 3)
 - 5.4.4.1678 – Bug fix version 2 (August 24)
 - 5.4.5.1691 – Bug fix version 3 (October 12)
- Bug fix releases when needed
- Next release will be 5.4.6

What are we doing now

- Blaise 5.5
- .NET 4.7.2
 - New language features
 - Security patches
- .NET framework 4.7.2 is shipped with the system

Blaise 5.5 new features

- Data Editing
- BLOB data type
- Upload facility
- Maniplus for Apps
- Menu Control
- Video player in all data entry clients
- Intercept upload of data
- MVC improvements
- CATI extensions
- Maniplus procedures from DEP
- Database Queries in Manipula
- Apps extensions

Data Editing

- Record Errors Involved Fields Control
- Record Errors List Box
- FirstField and NextField actions can have a condition

BLOB data type/ Upload facility

- Binary Large Object
- Answer to a BLOBTYPE question is a bunch of bytes
 - Images
 - Audio
 - Video
 - Documents
- Upload control added to the resource database editor
 - You can choose a file to upload
- You still have to do something with the uploaded data!

Maniplus for apps

- Apps can show Maniplus dialogs
- Only in Thick Client mode (or disconnected)
- This can be used to make a custom case management system for your apps

Menu Control

- Menu Control like in Blaise 4
 - Actions
 - Shortcuts

Video player in all data entry clients

- Windows version:
 - Problematic: different libraries support different formats, and have large sizes
 - Finally settled on FFME, a wrapper for FFMpeg
- Already works in browsers
- Apps: still on the to-do list

Intercept upload of data

- Add manipula data processor setup to datamodel project
- Instead of writing to the database, the setup is called
- The setup is also called when uploading records from the apps.

MVC Improvements

- We now use Angular CLI
 - Command line interface for Angular
 - Provides commands to generate Angular code
- Size tree speed improvements
 - Calculate text sizes
 - Experimental at the moment

CATI Extensions

- Skill management
- Operation hours
- Custom reports

Maniplus procedures from DEP

- Call Manipula procedures or Maniplus dialogs
- Specify ProcedureCall action in resource database editor or layout designer
 - Not from rules!

Database Queries in Manipula

- Temporary files can be filled with a SQL statement
- Use the power of databases

Apps extensions

- Control apps from the server
 - Access control
 - Survey synchronization
 - Data synchronization

What are we going to do next

In 2019, we are going to release two versions:

- 5.6
 - Test version on Friday May 17th, 2019
 - Final release on Friday June 28th, 2019
- 5.7
 - Test version on Friday November 1st, 2019
 - Final release on Friday December 13th, 2019

Roadmap 5.6

- Indefinite Arrays
 - Specify arrays without maximum index
- CATI extensions
 - Multi scheduler; Appointment service; Support for quota; Custom reports
- Alien Manipula in datamodel rules
 - Call Manipula procedures from the rules of a datamodel
- Action to call a Manipula procedure during Data Entry
 - With INTERCHANGE and access to state of the data entry session
- Read-only version of DEP
 - /R (no changes allowed) and /RE (experiment with changes, but no save allowed)
- Master-detail project management
 - Specify how different projects are related to each other
- Intercept download of data
 - A Manipula setup can be executed on a data record just after the record is read
- Extension of the meta viewer
 - Display the rules in detail of a block

Roadmap 5.6 – Requested Features

- Thousand Separator in MVC
 - The thousand separator is now applied when after leaving a field
- Exit Page event
 - Specify the actions that need to be executed when leaving a page
- Date Control extension: start date
 - Set the start date of a date control
- Allow write to audit trail
- Enumeration Type extension: allow negative values

Roadmap 5.7

- Randomization
 - Display items in random order (questions and enumeration options)
- Datamodel Properties
 - Limitation on the possible answers for a particular control
- Multi-mode Case Management
 - Event driven basic structure to handle the management of cases
- Primary Key on Block
 - Specify key Fields of Block
- Datamodel Step Debugger
 - Debugger for the rules of a datamodel
- Extension of the meta viewer
 - Graph View

Roadmap 5.7 – Requested Features

- Double key verification
 - Two-pass verification data entry quality control method
- Number Slider extension: ascending/descending
 - Reverse the order of the number slider choices
- Number Textbox extension: out of range behavior
 - Specify how out-of-range characters are handled
- Questionnaire Test Tool
 - Some organizations provided details on what is expected of this tool