User experience of the Blaise 5.12 version upgrade at Statistics Finland

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Abstract

This article discusses Statistics Finland's transition to the Blaise 5.12 version. The transition had to take into account the requirements of the Statistics Finland's current production environment, the measures resulting from upgrading the surveys and standard layout (resource database), and planning the timing of the version updates of the survey installation packages. The timing of the update was perceived as a challenge, especially updating the work environment of the interviewers during the specified short period to avoid long interruptions in the interview work.

In addition, the resource database was re-configured to work with the new rendering options such as CSS (Cascading Style Sheets) grids to ensure a good user experience for user interface users. In the update of the resource database, the key changes in relation to the standard resource database of the new Blaise 5.12 version were compared and the necessary updates to the resource database of Statistics Finland were carried out.

In connection with the update, it was also researched to switch to using the Blaise DEP (Data Entry Program) application in CAPI (Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing) mode and to test the Blaise 5 CATI (Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing) system. The goal was to ensure the operation of the user interface and the survey package generated without pages in the DEP application. Regarding the CATI system, the transition from Blaise4 to Blaise5 was studied using a test survey. Based on the results, Statistics Finland's first Blaise5 CATI production environment concept was created.

Other tools examined in connection with the version update were Blaise's new testing tools and paradata viewer. Regarding these tools, a report was drawn up for the organization regarding their utilization in Statistics Finland's processes.