

IBUC 2025

Q&A



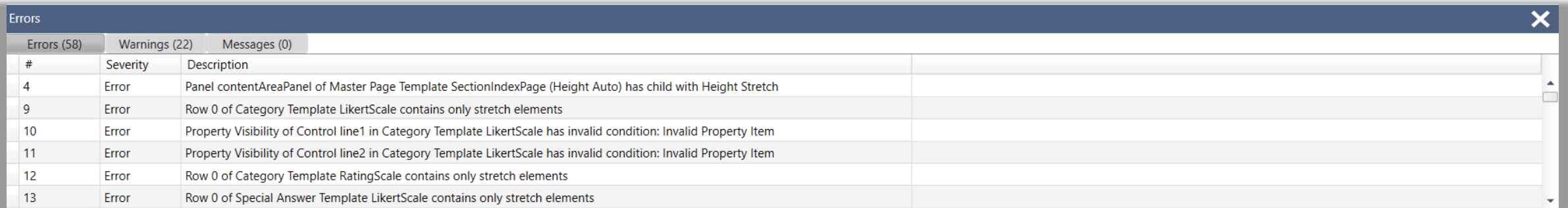
Blaise 5 Layout Errors

- How to solve layout errors?
- Are they serious errors or just warnings?



Validate Resource Editor (1)

- Best practice: Validate the Resource Database before use
- Fix any errors
 - Click on it to jump to the template
- Check the warnings
 - Fix if necessary
- Note that you have to Validate again to get an updated list



#	Severity	Description
4	Error	Panel contentAreaPanel of Master Page Template SectionIndexPage (Height Auto) has child with Height Stretch
9	Error	Row 0 of Category Template LikertScale contains only stretch elements
10	Error	Property Visibility of Control line1 in Category Template LikertScale has invalid condition: Invalid Property Item
11	Error	Property Visibility of Control line2 in Category Template LikertScale has invalid condition: Invalid Property Item
12	Error	Row 0 of Category Template RatingScale contains only stretch elements
13	Error	Row 0 of Special Answer Template LikertScale contains only stretch elements



Validate Resource Editor (2)

- Errors that occur often

Error	Solution
<control/container> of <template> (Height/Width Auto) has child with Height/Width Stretch	Start at the Response Value template, work your way up through the template (or all used templates for this question if this is a Layout Error from the Layout Designer) and check that once you have used a Stretch, all grids/cells/panels above are either Stretch or Fixed. Alternatively, set control/container to Auto.
Row/Column n of <template> contains only stretch elements	Start at the Response Value template, work your way up through all used templates and check that once you have used a Stretch, all grids/cells/panels above are either Stretch or Fixed
Property <name> of control <name> in <template> has invalid condition/expression: <Error message>	Check that the value is valid (of correct type), or that the variable exists. If it doesn't: rename, or recreate.
<action> if Event <name> of <template> is not allowed	Remove or replace the action with another one



Validate Resource Editor (3)

- Warnings that occur often

Warning	Solution
Panel of <template> defines Vertical/Horizontal Scrollbar, but has height Auto	Set Vertical/Horizontal Scrollbar to None, or make sure you only use Auto in that direction for all children (including other templates) Best practice: Panel = Stretch (Take up all available room), Children = Auto (Use all the room needed. If it's more than the available room, you will get the scrollbar)



Demo

- Fix layout errors in Resource Database



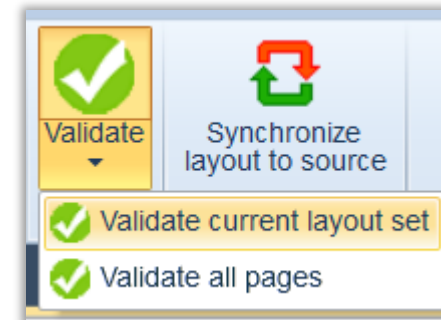
Validate Layout Designer (1)

Why?

- The system will warn you if there are settings in your layout that may/will cause issues during runtime

How?

- In the Layout ribbon, click Validate
 - Or a sub-option
- Solve Errors
 - In Layout Designer
 - Or possibly in Resource Database
- Check if warnings apply to your setup
 - If they do, fix whatever is wrong



Validate Layout Designer (2)

- Two kinds of errors
- Layout Errors/Warnings
 - Errors in templates
 - Often “Do not Stretch in an Auto”-issue due to specific combinations of templates
 - The template may render wrong during runtime if these errors are not fixed
- Accessibility Errors/Warnings
 - Errors in templates, related to Accessibility properties
 - Often a ScreenReaderText is missing in a focusable element



Validate Layout Designer (3)

The screenshot shows the 'Errors' window in Visual Studio, divided into two sections: 'Layout Validation' and 'Accessibility Validation'.

Layout Validation

Type	Message	Control	Template	Applied To	Control Part	Child Template	Child Applied To
✖	Width Auto conflicts with Column 1 (Width *)	Grid mainGrid	FieldPane Vertica		Column 1		

Accessibility Validation

Type	Message	Page	RouteItem	Template	Control	LayoutSet	Parallel
✖	No screenreader text present	AbortPage Defau			companyLogo		
✖	No screenreader text present	AbortPage Cati			companyLogo		
✖	No screenreader text present	ErrorPage Defaul			companyLogo		
✖	No screenreader text present	ErrorPage Retry			companyLogo		

At the bottom of the window, there are icons for 'Errors' (checked), 'Output', 'References List', and 'Find List'.

- Validate the Resource Database
 - Fix any errors in templates that you plan to use
- Validate Pages in the Layout Designer
 - Fix all errors (and preferably warnings as well)
 - Use another template
 - Change the value of a parameter
 - Go back to the Resource Editor and change the value there if the error occurs a lot and you need it fixed in the same way everywhere



Demo

- Fix errors in Layout Designer



Are they serious errors or just warnings?

- Error situations (auto – stretch) are solved by the client
 - Dep/DepApp – Windows Presentation Foundation (WPF)
 - Web: HTML5/MVC
 - Android/Apple: Xamarin.Forms
- It's possible that 'render errors' are solved differently across platforms
 - An auto/stretch problem can look fine in DEP, but not in Web (or vice versa)
- But ... if you don't experience any problems (or only just use DEP), then it's not necessary to solve these errors



Print layout – 5.14 > Pagination

- Use pagination for layout, or define layout pages yourself?
 - Pagination since 5.14
 - Controlled by UseLegacyMode
 - Looks at the Content Area
 - Includes the surrounding usable fields when something is split




Print layout - Modes

- Legacy Mode (*UseLegacyMode = true*)
 - Full manual control over layout
 - Requires defining page breaks
 - Recommended for large surveys with complex formatting
- New Pagination (*UseLegacyMode = false*)
 - Automatic page breaks based on content
 - Easier setup but requires testing. Especially with large tables
 - Still add manual page breaks where needed



Legacy Mode

 Locally add and remove rows [Print](#) [Print](#)

	First Name	Last Name	Age	
Person 1	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Person 2	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Delete
Person 3	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Delete
Person 4	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Delete
Person 5	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Delete
Person 6	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Delete
Person 7	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Delete
Person 8	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Delete
Person 9	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Delete
Person 10	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Delete
Person 11	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Delete
Person 12	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Delete
Person 13	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Delete
Person 14	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Delete
Person 15	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Delete
Person 16	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	Delete



Normal Mode

Person 6	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Delete
Person 7	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Delete
Person 8	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Delete
Person 9	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Delete
Person 10	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Delete
Person 11	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Delete
Person 12	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Delete
Person 13	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Delete
Person 14	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Delete
Person 15	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Delete

 **Locally add and remove rows**

[Print](#)

	First Name	Last Name	Age	
Person 16	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Delete
Person 17	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Delete
Person 18	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Delete
Person 19	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Delete
Person 20	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Delete
Person 21	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Delete
Person 22	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Delete
Person 23	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Delete
Person 24	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Delete
Person 25	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Delete
Person 26	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Delete



Available Courses

- Full Courses; powerpoint, explanation, samples and exercises
 - Blaise Basic (4 days)
 - New in Blaise 5 for Blaise 4 programmers (1 day)
 - Layout Designer (2 days)
 - Resource Editor (2 days)
 - Manipula (1.5 day)



Available Courses

- Partial courses; PowerPoint, explanation + demo's (but no exercises)
 - Case Management Application
 - Case Management Application Admin Tool
 - CATI
 - CATI Supervisor
 - Custom Angular Coding
 - Blaise 5 APIs
 - Accessibility (available soon)



Available Courses

- Reading material / PowerPoint presentations
 - Manipula Dialogs
 - Databases
 - Data Entry Programs
 - Cloud



Future plans

- What are the plans for a .NET Core-based Blaise API?



API Wrapper

- At ONS, we've developed our own RESTful API wrapper around Blaise, providing endpoints for tasks such as installing questionnaires, loading and editing questionnaire data, querying data, managing users, creating daybatches, etc.
- To keep our RESTful API layer lightweight, we encapsulate the business logic in a separate NuGet package, which in turn interacts with the Stats Neth Blaise provided NuGet package.
 - This is where the complexity lies, handling class casting, executing various Blaise methods, and efficiently passing data between them.



API Wrapper

- With the latest Blaise version introducing REST support beyond WCF, we're curious about the implications.
 - Will Blaise provide a built-in RESTful API for interacting with the system?
 - If so, will it follow a similar approach to what we've developed, where business logic (e.g., installing a questionnaire) can be handled via RESTful API endpoints?



Data Export Tools

- Missing values
 - Can the missing values (DK ad REF) be set as negative, rather than export these as positive values (e.g. 98, 99)
- Multicodes
 - Blaise 4 exported dichotomous 0/1 multi coded variables in questionnaire order. The data export tool for Blaise 5 appends multi codes to the end of the file (i.e., out of questionnaire order which is harder to read and process. Could these be exported in question order?
- Multicodes in loops
 - When multicodes within Blaise 5 are exported we have multicode option as first digit and loop iteration as second. Is it possible to swap these around: so we have first digit as loop iteration and the second one as multicode option?



Questions

- Multi-Topic

- When in the Topic instrument is it possible to assign a field back to the Launcher instrument (Outcome, for example)?

- Mixed-Mode

- What are the options for closing down the survey (CATI or WEB) just for subset of sample that meet a certain condition and keep the survey open for other respondents?

- Speeders

- Any thoughts on how we can measure timings during an interview session, to prevent 'speeders' (always selecting the first response category; spending no time reading the text on the page etc.) from going through the questionnaire, and potentially providing random or unrealistic responses?

