CTT: CAI Testing Tool

Jeff Smith and Mary Dascola
The University of Michigan

Without adequate tools for systematic testing of the instruments, a research study may experience production delays, interviewer frustration with instruments that don’t function properly, or collection of imperfect or incomplete data that fails to meet the needs of the research project.

To increase the over-all quality of Computer-Aided Instruments through standardized testing procedures, reduce the cost of testing, increase access to information concerning CAI development and software de-bugging through preset and ad hoc performance metrics reports, the Computer-Aided Instrument Testing Tool was developed.

The Computer-Aided Instrument Testing Tool (CTT) is comprehensive tool set that is used for testing and reviewing survey instruments and reporting on the testing process. The CTT application was developed to facilitate the testing of Blaise survey instruments by a variety of local and remote users. The CTT application automatically captures and consolidates testing comments, provides bug reports, assigns items to application developers and records testing outcomes.

This paper will discuss the major components of the CTT application which will include the Preload builder, Instrument testing, bug recording, random case generator and reporting on testing notes. The CTT Administration system will be reviewed as well.