

Conversion of Blaise Database to Relational Databases

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Blaise database (.bdb) files can be converted to relational databases such as Access, SQL Server, Oracle, etc.

This paper demonstrates the use of the BOI (Blaise OLE DB Interface) file, in Blaise 4.7, along with Maniplus to convert the Blaise databases into an Access relational database format. This task was earlier accomplished using BCP (Blaise Component Pack) and API library.

Blaise version 4.7 provided a toolbox to automate the transformation process by creating the BOI files. Since this release there have been further enhancements to improve the transformation process. With the deployment of the Blaise IS for use in Internet data collection we see opportunities to apply this tool in the client-server environment.

This paper will discuss some of the advantages of exporting data directly to another database and data manipulations that can be done in Microsoft Access (for example) to support end user applications. Understanding the relationship between the Blaise Datamodel and the relational database format, often familiar to the client, is essential to integrating the data collection effort with their end user systems. Some of the benefits of relational databases will be reviewed including: the normalization of the data structure; Blaise for data collection; relevance of post interview data processing and data security.

Abstract