Miscellaneous Examples of Programming in Blaise and Manipula

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1. Anonymizing A Blaise Database

Starting with a Blaise database with identifiable records, we would like to get rid of the primary key, which may be some identifying variable like the name of a company or a registration code for a person or company. It is desirable not only to strip the identifier, but also to sort the records in the database in random order so as to nullify the association between the order of the records and the order of the identifying field.

2. Printing Open Fields In Field Order In A Blaise Database

In a Blaise database obtained as a result of a survey, the task is to print the Open Fields in field order, i.e., firstly the answers from all records in the first open field, then the answers from all records in the next open field, and so on. A procedure can do part of the job.

3. Programming Partially Filled, Nested Arrays In A Survey

The usual way of programming an array in a Blaise survey is to first ask for the number of repetitions, e.g., the number of people in the household, followed by a FOR loop to put a set of questions to each member of the household. Another way is asking, after each set of questions, if there is a further set of questions to be asked. Moreover, within each set of questions one or more sets of questions must be asked, i.e., the arrays are nested. It is shown how a datamodel like this can be applied to an inventory of the knowledge of people in a department, both in terms of the areas of expertise and the length of the time spent in specific jobs.