BLAISE in The Israeli Bureau of Statistics – Methods and Innovation

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Blaise software is widely used in the Israeli Bureau of Statistics (ICBS) surveys. The implementation of the software is made in four different work methods:

a. Base use of Blaise (including Manipula),. This kind of usage has the advantage of full integration of all the Blaise family applications – Friendly and easy for developers to work with. The main problem with this use is Low performance in multi user functionality, limited management possibilities, and Design options.

b. Integrative Blaise with .NET. and SQL There is actually parallel use of <u>two Data Bases,</u> the data is kept in both Blaise and in SQL databses. Using this method has the advantage of high performance of the MS-SQL database, good multi-user functionality. The main disadvantage of this method is the relatively unstable integration between the two tools (BCP). in addition, there is a lack of help menu, (may change in the 4.8 version).

c. Integrative Blaise – MS SQL, in this method MS SQL <u> is the only database</u> used for keeping the information . There is no survey data saved in the Blaise database. At the end of the each questionnaire the data is moved to the SQL. This is done by planning a classic Blaise architecture and running a specialized DLL file translating the DB architecture to the MS-SQL database.

In this option the dataset is inputted directly to the SQL database and is immediately erased from the Blaise system. The main advantage of this method is the relative easy manipulation of SQL databases; on the other hand in this case every change in the Blaise questionnaire the SQL database must be changed. This means that we loose the flexibility of updating Blaise questionnaire.

d. An innovative system is currently developed in ICBS . A generic management systems for all methods of collecting data   (CATI, CAPI, CAWI) and via the postal service).
In this system we separate the questionnaires part from the management part in each survey. We give the organization the opportunity to decide on the preferred   tool for data collection. The chosen tool has to be able to write a questionnaire once for all collecting types in a Web format. Meantime we use Blaise software.