Different Methods of Working with Blaise in the Israel Central Bureau of Statistics

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  - Methods of working with Blaise and parameters for each method
  - Advantages and Disadvantages for each method
  - Example
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Introduction

- 10 years using Blaise for families and individual surveys:
  - Labor force survey, family income survey, social survey, health survey, first degree graduates survey, crime survey
  - Population and housing census
- Three questionnaire languages: Hebrew, Arabic and Russian (right to left and left to right)
- Combined different modes of data collection: CAPI, CATI, CADI
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Methods of working with Blaise

- “Blaise + Manipula”
- “Blaise + .Net”
- “.Net + SQL”
Parameters in the Different Methods

- Questionnaire tools
- Management system tools
- Database
“Blaise + Manipula” Method

- Questionnaire language – Blaise
- Management system language – Manipula
- Database – Blaise DB
“Blaise + .Net” Method

- Questionnaire language – Blaise
- Management system language – .Net
- Database
  - Questionnaire data in Blaise DB
  - Management data in SQL DB
“.Net + SQL” Method

- Questionnaire language – Blaise
- Management system language – .Net
- Database
  - Questionnaire data in SQL DB
  - Management data in SQL DB
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Advantages and Disadvantages
“Blaise + Manipula” Method

○ Advantages
  ● Quick development
  ● Stability and efficiency

○ Disadvantages
  ● Limitation of Manipula: screen designs, batch activities
  ● Multi users capabilities
Advantages and Disadvantages
“Blaise + .Net” Method

○ Advantages

- Using the abilities of Blaise for quick development of questionnaire
- Wide opportunities for the screen design, development options
- Management system is much more friendly and with good performance

○ Disadvantages

- The performance of activities using Blaise tables is relatively slow compared to SQL tables
Advantages and Disadvantages
“.Net + SQL” Method

- **Advantages**
  - Great performance compared to the first two methods
  - Using the Blaise strong abilities as a language for questionnaire development
  - Management system is much more friendly and with good performance

- **Disadvantages**
  - Creation of an SQL table for questionnaire data
  - Two additional modules for transferring the data between the Blaise tables and the SQL tables
  - Long development and debugging time
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Example of “.Net + SQL” Method
Population Census

- Questioning of 20% of the population, 320,000 households
- Questionnaire held approximately 300 questions in three parts:
  - Questions about the apartment
  - Questions about the household
  - Questions about the individual
- Developed two SQL tables for questionnaire data:
  - Table with values of answers
  - Table for statuses "response", "don't know" and "refuse"
Example of “.Net + SQL“ Method
Population Census

- Modules for data transfer between Blaise and SQL were written in C-Sharp

- First experience to combine developing tools in the flow .Net -> Blaise -> .Net
  - Management system was written in .Net
  - Questionnaire in Blaise
  - DLL from DEP for finding and marking of streets was written in .Net
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"Blaise + Manipula" method is good for relatively small and simple surveys with CATI and/or CADI modes of data collection

- Example: first degree graduates survey, public transport satisfaction survey

"Blaise + .Net" method is good for big and complicated surveys with CAPI mode of data collection

- Example: labor force survey, social survey
Conclusion

- “.Net + SQL” method is good for surveys that require great performance and have enough developing time
  
  - Example: Census

- The best development method for a specific survey is chosen according to the requirements of that specific survey, the different modes of data collection and other special requests
THE END