

Moving to BlaiseIS

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Abstract:

Blaise has had Internet support since Version 4.6, but the University of Michigan's Survey Research Center has only recently started using Blaise IS, with the release of Blaise 4.8. This paper will look at their experiences in implementing Blaise IS in their production environment, the difficulties encountered, and the solutions found. It will cover lessons learned in each of the following areas--written specifications, programming, server setup, data storage choices, case management, paradata capture, data export; and will summarize remaining challenges.

Specifically, this paper will discuss:

- Preparing written specifications for Blaise IS
- Programming (global settings, rules changes, layouts, modelib, menu files, ASP files, stylesheet customizations, grouping, critical questions, BOI files)
- Server setup (Web, rules, and data)
- Database (SQL stream, BDB, access and Datalink)
- Case management (Surveytrak, email jobs, suspended interviews)
- Paradata (browser actions)
- Data export (from SQL stream, BDB)
- Remaining challenges