

# Jumping around in Blaise IS

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In recent years CentERdata developed several Life History Calendars (LHC). For CAPI projects we developed this in Blaise using the Blaise API and Visual Basic. For a web version we scripted it in PHP, independent of Blaise. Recently CentERdata was again asked to support a study that used the LHC to interview people with a criminal record. This was a face to face interview of about two hours, but since the laptops had an internet connection, we decided to try to support this online using Blaise IS.

In a questionnaire with a LHC it should be possible to jump around in any order regardless of the routing instructions. All information the calendar holds should be stored and displayed on every page. There are multiple large loops over events persons have in their lives. This resulted in a large number of fields, pages and tables, which initially slowed down the questionnaire a lot. This speed issue was solved using empty checks that worked around the forward on route checking.

We ended up creating a service outside Blaise to generate the html code that displayed the calendar. In Blaise we called this service using Javascript commands to asp scripts and importing the html code snippets inline.

Based on these experiences a tool was developed that can be used in the testing phase of the questionnaire development. It can easily be included in any Blaise IS questionnaire. This tool builds a history of the questionnaire fields visited and represents them as links that can jump to any question that was encountered. For each field a status can be set and remarks can be made, giving us the basic features of an online testing application for Blaise IS questionnaires.