

Using Basil for ACASI at Westat - From custom to COTS

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Audio Computer-Assisted Self Interviewing (ACASI) is an important data collection mode for many survey, particularly when collecting very sensitive data. This paper discusses our emerging use of the Basil data entry program to collect ACASI information, with specific focus on the technical design and language constructs required for successful implementation. Organizations are increasingly turning away from the limitations inherent in the use of human voice recordings to read the questions during an ACASI interview, and looking instead to the promise of text-to-speech (TTS) software. We discuss here our experience integrating TTS into the Basil application..