Automatic generation of Blaise data models

Lars Jørgensen, Saliha Zayoum and Leif Bochis Madsen,
Statistics Denmark
Who are we?

• Interview Service division provides telephone interviewing and web questionnaire services for internal and external customers
• 50-60 new or updated surveys every year
• Short turn-around from contract via specification to data collection
Background

• A mature Survey Management System
• A set of datamodel templates
• Several studies in ”How to achieve your goals without really working for it...”
• Excel spreadsheets, Word macros, etc.
• Innovation is just fun!
Purpose

• Autogenerate as much as possible
• Let the customers do as much of the work as possible
• (or: Involve the customers in the development process in order to increase quality and mutual understanding of the project...)
Work flow

- Specification
- Modification
- Generation
Technique

• Structured Word documents as input
• XSLT to generate Blaise code
• Manipula programs to modify Blaise code
• Blaise API to modify and install web questionnaires etc.
Transformation

Word xml → XSLT (2) → Blaise source, ver. 1

Without rules (bmi) → Modify (3) and prepare (4)

Modify rules (5) → Blaise source, ver. 2

BLA, INC, ...
Demo
Conclusions

• Faster development
• Fewer errors
• Improved cooperation
• In short: Faster, cheaper, better
• 90 %
• 2 years old and still growing...
Thank you!