Blaise 5 – In Production

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Outline

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Key Features and Requirements

- Questionnaire Features
- Compatible with Blaise 4 source code
- Program once, deploy in all modes/devices
- Good user experience
- Easy deployment
- Cloud support
- Calling external applications
- ACASI and CARI
- GPS and other sensors
- Audit trail
- Integrate with RTI’s CMSs

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How sure are you that, if you really wanted to, you could say no to smokeless tobacco if...

A very close friend offers it?

A family member offers it?

You are at a party where most people are using it?

Someone you know offers it?
Look and Feel

- RTI default template started with the template provided and adjusted colors, fonts, etc.
  - Can customize every detail displayed on the screen
  - Can customize based on screen size and/or device
  - Beware! One can spend a lot of time doing this!
Look, Feel and Touch

- Experimented with touch screen version
  - Respondent can select the image or the checkbox
  - Respondents tried to swipe up/down and shrink with fingers
  - Virtual keyboard took more space than expected

Please look at the names and pictures of the lightbulbs shown below. Please note that some forms of these light bulbs may look different from the pictures, but you should include any form that you have used.

Which type of lightbulbs do you currently have in your home?
Select all that apply.

- Incandescent
- CFL
- LED

I don’t have any of these types of lightbulbs in my home

Back Next
Blaise Server

- Web surveys
  - Everything is automatic
  - Each survey gets its own subsite
- Mobile Device Surveys
  - Uses port 8033 (HTTPS)
- Server Firewall
  - Open ports 443 and 8033
  - Port 8031 for intra-server park communication
- Lessons Learned
  - Need support from infrastructure staff
Windows and Web Versions

- **Windows Version**
  - Adapted to RTI’s IFMS
  - Used API to launch RTI’s Text-to-Speech

- **Web Version**
  - Used production version in GovCloud
Android App Version

- Adapted to RTI’s Android CMS
- Used APIs to
  - Install instruments
  - Download cases
  - Launch interview
  - Upload data back to RTI

The next questions are about smokeless tobacco, such as
dip, chewing tobacco, snuff, or snus. Common brands include
Copenhagen, Grizzly, Skoal, Camel Snus, Kodiak, and Longhorn.

Have you ever used smokeless tobacco even just a small amount?
Web Interview in GovCloud

- First production project for RTI
- Four web surveys over six months
- Used Blaise version 5.2.5
- Two web servers in our client’s AWS GovCloud, backed by SQL Server
- Fairly light load at ~500 total respondents
ACASI on Touchscreen Devices

- Uses RTI’s Text-to-Speech software
  - WPF application written in C# runs the instrument
  - Uses Blaise API to access question text/response category text for the active question, applies tweaked pronunciations where required and initiates asynchronous audio.
  - Audio can be replayed as necessary
ACASI on Touchscreen Devices (Cont...)

- Touch screen features
  - Automatic pop-up onscreen keypad for questions requiring numeric responses (through event handlers)
  - Pop-up calendar for questions that contain reference dates
  - Select the image or the checkbox in response options
  - Selectable buttons for replaying audio, displaying calendars, or displaying question help
App on MS Surface Tablets

- Converting from paper instrument to CAPI
  - Client unfamiliar with any survey software
- Client is very particular about confidentiality
  - Using Manipula to pull data directly without intermediate files was a big plus
- Initial plan: iPads; Now: MS Surface tablets
  - Proof that switching devices is easier
- Preloaded data need to be verified, updated, and new information added
  - All changes are to be tracked
Web Interview with Photo uploads

- Web interview
- Photo upload for specific questions tested on:
  - desktop in different browsers
  - iPad and Amazon Fire tablet
  - smartphones (Pixel and Samsung)
- Lessons Learned –
  - Need additional instruction to users about status of uploaded file
Compared to Blaise 4

- More involvement from IT staff needed
  - Server installs and firewall rules
- Adjustment for programmers as tools have changed
  - IDE is more like Visual Studio now
  - Features are in different places
  - API calls rather than alien routers
- Look and Feel done differently
  - Lot more flexibility for customization
- Logic programming is largely the same
  - Converter does a great job
  - Might need tweaking (empty field check)
Next Steps

- Rollout Blaise 5 on other production projects
- Test double key verification
- Confirm that instrument changes after production works reliably
Conclusion

Program once and deploy in all modes/devices
Customizable for better User Experience
Feature rich
Powerful logic engine
Hooks for external programs
Thank you for listening!

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Disclaimer: This presentation is simply to report on our experience using Blaise 5. It should not be construed as an endorsement as RTI International does not endorse any software or product.