

Moving to a Centralized Database for Surveys in Blaise at the National Agricultural Statistics Service

Roger Schou, National Agricultural Statistics Service, USA

Over the past sixteen years, the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) has conducted surveys in Blaise in forty-four of our field offices. The collected data was stored in Blaise datasets on each field office's LAN. In the late 1990's, NASS opened its first data collection center, which collected data for several client states. This introduced a complexity of moving zipped up datasets from one location to another. We now have six data collection centers. Since the data is disseminated, getting a quick snapshot of where a particular survey is on a national level is not an easy task.

Over the last year, NASS has been thinking along the lines of centralized databases in our enterprise architecture. With the evolution of Blaise 4.81, we are able to pursue storing our Blaise data from all of our field offices in one central database. This will enable us to run national level reports quickly, as well as leverage this architecture to perform our pre and post survey activities.

We are developing a WEB-enabled menu with Visual Basic .NET and are planning on storing our data in a MySQL database. Blaise 4.81 will be our main tool for collecting and editing this data.

This paper will discuss the how we moved processes from handling forty-four Blaise datasets to one centralized MySQL database. It will concentrate on running CATI with a CATI Service running. It will also address interactive editing in Blaise and some of the MySQL table design. The presentation will show some of our interfaces as well as the architecture used.