

## **Blaise Editing Rules + Relational Data Storage = Best of Both Worlds?**

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Data editing is a critical part of the system lifecycle for survey research projects. Blaise offers flexible and powerful data editing capabilities, and performing editing within the Blaise environment allows us to continue to enforce the rules that were in force during data collection. While the native Blaise data storage format (bdb files) provides an efficient mechanism to support case-by-case editing, it is not as well-suited for supporting aggregate queries that would typically be expressed using SQL.

Since the Blaise Datalink facility now allows Blaise, using OLE DB, to access data in relational databases such as Microsoft SQL Server, it is now possible to use a single data storage format (relational database tables) to support both Blaise-based data editing activities and relational data queries. Blaise 4.8.1 also adds built-in versioning to Datalink, thus providing an off-the-shelf mechanism for tracking all changes made by the data editors. This paper describes our incorporation of these capabilities into a corporate data editing system.