

Use of Blaise in today's survey research environment

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This paper examines the role of Blaise in the varied survey research environment that Westat and many other organizations face today. Surveys typically involve multi-mode data collections with requirements to use commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) or open source software, meet minimum response rates, and assure data security and confidentiality. Software selection is a key issue as organizations have to invest efforts in training staff and supporting and managing software and systems infrastructures over time, while meeting project budget requirements. This paper discusses the role of Blaise at Westat in this evolving environment and provides perspectives on the challenges of the future.