

New Tricks with Old Tools

By

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Blaise has a wealth of utilities, tools and features packaged within its system, and multiple ways of extracting and using information from datamodels, databases, modelib files, datamodel properties, and so forth. Such tools as Manipula/Maniplus, Cameleon, Registry Editor, Delta, Data Centre, BCP, “watch” window, and more allow authors and managers to get the in-depth information they need to effectively perform their job.

However, the Blaise environment allows even richer capabilities beyond typical methods to produce a quality survey. Such features as alien routers & procedures (using BCP and/or Manipula), datamodel & data XML, Modelib, native & BOI databases, menu files, etcetera give even more control. With such information, methods can be used to analyze current programming and provide needed details that help make decisions in the hectic survey programming environment.

This paper examines the capabilities of existing tools in the Blaise suite and explores practical new ways to make use of them, as well as ways of extracting and using information in ways that are relevant to both authors and managers in the Blaise 4.8 environment. Crosswalks, counts, finding dead code & questions, complexity calculations, and more are the sort of tricks that can be added to the survey toolbox that reduces errors and decreases turn-around time.