

Leveraging the capabilities of the Blaise editor add-in tool to improve the readability of datamodel source code

By
Christopher Oz
University of Michigan

The Blaise Control Center editor is a powerful tool for programmers to develop survey instruments. Many of these surveys are large in scope, and are used over the span of several years. Because of this, it is likely that multiple programmers will work on the same survey programming over the life of the survey. This scenario introduces the possibility for the source code to become formatted in many different ways, making it difficult for future programmers to follow the logic flows as well as increasing the likelihood of programming errors. By using the Blaise Control Center editor's add-in capabilities, this tool will enforce programming best practices, make the source code more scannable, and reduce the likelihood for logic errors due to unreadable code.

This paper will explore the idea of a programming add-in that will aim to "clean up" the source programming, from inside the Blaise Control Center editor. Conceptual ideas, implementation strategies, performance metrics and lessons learned from the implementation will all be discussed.