

Web-based CAI System for Blaise Instruments Development

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Over the course of conducting data collection for many studies, RTI recognized the need to unify the instrument design and documentation process for all web-based and CAPI studies. To achieve this goal, RTI developed a full featured web-based CAI system, Hatteras™, which allows instrument designers and programmers to work concurrently and supports multi-mode data collection efforts for CAWI, CAPI, and CATI instruments.

Hatteras™ consists of two major components: SurveyEditor and SurveyEngine. All specifications are stored in database tables through the user interface provided by SurveyEditor. For web-based instruments SurveyEngine reads the tables to produce the web pages. For Blaise instruments a client utility Hatteras™ Commander is used to generate Blaise source code and scripts for ACASI.

Hatteras™ provides multiple language support. Translation specialists can edit and comment the instrument via the SurveyEditor. Through version control, Hatteras permits multiple tasks to be performed on the same instrument, allowing programmers, translators, reviewers, and the design team to work simultaneously. It keeps an audit trail or history of any change made to the instrument.

The paper will describe in some details how Hatteras™ SurveyEditor and Hatteras™ Commander were adapted to speed-up development of multilingual Blaise instruments.