

DEP Unchained

IBUC 2013

DEP Unchained

- Rules execution in DEP:
 - Strength
 - Sometimes also weakness
- Selective checking has no direct sense of ‘where you are’
- Example: the Blaise language doesn’t have a direct construct for: ‘Only do this when X is the current question’

DEP Unchained

- Tight coupling between questions, arrays and their nesting - and their upper limits – on the one hand and data storage on the other
- For big and complex questionnaires that coupling can present equally big and complex problems:
 - Either the datamodel doesn't prepare
 - Or it does not write all the data
 - Or the upper limits of arrays are lowered so that 'it works'

DEP Manipula Integration in 4.8

- Blaise 4.8 offers deeper integration of the DEP and Manipula
 - Reading from and writing to DEP record in memory from Manipula code
 - Procedures (procedural code) can be mixed with Blaise rules logic
 - Offers ways to couple datamodels

DEP Manipula Integration in 4.8

- Manipula procedures can be called:
 - automatically, by tying procedures to question types
 - by interviewer actions, e.g. with buttons on panels in the DEP (another new and useful 4.8 feature)
 - Code can be run invisibly (/Q for quiet) in the background
 - Or produce dialog boxes for interviewer choice and/or useful data overviews

DEP Manipula Integration in 4.8

- This integration can be used to accomplish fairly simple things, like an easier Go To statement
 - using the SETACTIVEFIELD and, if needed, the SETACTIVEPARALLEL keyword in Manipula
- as opposed to
- the old conditional emptying of a field on the route to get the DEP to automatically move back there

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- ...or it could be used to 'go where no Blaise datamodel has gone before' like creating the big (array) structures in separate datamodels and have Manipula be smart enough to move between the datamodels, to move data where needed and set the focus on the right question when moving back and forth
- Add to that the capabilities that Manipula already offers:
 - Dialog boxes with data grids, buttons, ...
 - Multi-level sorting

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Short demo