Implementing Computer-Audio Recorded Interviewing (CARI) Using Blaise 4.8.2

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Abstract:

Computer Audio-Recorded Interviewing (CARI) is coming of age at the U.S. Census Bureau. After fielding a small-scale CAPI production test a few years ago, the Census Bureau is moving full speed ahead with implementing CARI into the American Community Survey (ACS) Content Test CATI/CAPI instrument, which will be field tested this fall. The implementation of full-scale CARI coincides with the implementation of a CARI Monitoring system that will be used for a behavior coding operation.

The Authoring Team at Census was very excited about the possibility of using Blaise 4.8.2 with this project. However, due to project deadlines and the uncertainty of when a production version of Blaise 4.8.2 would be available, we started the project by implementing our own "home grown" version of CARI. We made good progress with this approach but also uncovered many challenges and were unable to provide all functionality requested by the sponsors. A decision was then made to move this project into a beta version of Blaise 4.8.2 CARI. Blaise 4.8.2 solved a number of challenges, but also raised some new ones. Working with Statistics Netherlands we were able to address most of these challenges.

This paper will briefly review the history of our "home grown" version of CARI and then move into discussing some of our challenges and findings with moving the ACS CARI project into Blaise 4.8.2. The paper will review requirements from our sponsors, the process for adding CARI into a Blaise instrument, image and sound file considerations, integration of CARI into existing control systems, testing challenges, and the invaluable BCI (Blaise CARI settings) file – a sample of file settings.