

## **Data Transfer in Blaise Surveys with CAPI collection method**

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### **Abstract:**

Many surveys conducted by the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) in Israel are developed in Blaise. The most common data collection method in these surveys is the CAPI method, and therefore, there is a constant need to transfer data from the CBS network to the field and back.

The data from the field is transmitted through the 'Generic Broadcast System' - a user-transparent remote component which provides service for data transfer between remote environments and the internal network of the CBS. The data transfer is performed in both directions.

In order to connect the 'Generic Broadcast System' component, we have developed a set of four generic applications which are used in all the surveys that are using Blaise for saving data on the one hand and using CAPI collection method on the other. These applications have been developed in Manipula and .Net using the BCP utility.

Two of these generic applications are used on the client side (interviewer's laptop), and they perform the following functions:

1. Preparing and 'packing' the data collected on the laptop to be shipped through the 'Generic Broadcast System' to the internal CBS network.
2. Updating the Blaise DB on the laptop with the data received from the internal CBS network, as well as software version updates.

The two other applications are used on the server side (internal CBS network), and perform the following functions:

1. Preparing and 'packing' Blaise files that are ready to be sent to the interviewer's laptop, and placing those files within a dedicated collection server.
2. Updating the Central Blaise DB at the CBS network with the data received from the field through the 'Generic Broadcast System'. This action could be performed by the initiative of survey coordinators or automatically through different management applications.

There are a few problems that arise occasionally during the above mentioned processes, which can be classified into two main types:

1. Applicative problems
2. Network problems

In this paper we will explain in details the process of sending Blaise files from the interviewer's laptop to the internal network and back, as well as possible solutions and ways of troubleshooting.