Using the BCP for creating SAS datasets and codebooks

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Blaise Component Pack (BCP) allows us to create applications that read meta information from Blaise meta file. This paper will describe a .Net application (BlzToSAS) developed at RTI International that allows automatic preparation of SAS datasets.

The application uses an initialization file and creates a few intermediate files along with the SAS dataset. These files can be used during the development phase of the instrument to examine testing data and in the production phase to prepare deliverable SAS datasets. The initialization file is created dynamically using the Blaise Structure Browser and holds a number of settings such as maximum length of characters allowed in variable names or variable labels, requirements for renaming Blaise variables, and many others. The application can also be used to check how variable names from the Blaise database will be presented in the SAS dataset.

The application is easy to use for any Blaise instrument regardless of its complexity and size. Recently new features have been added to the application for creation of codebooks. BlzToSAS application helps make preparation of delivery files efficient, accurate, and timely.