

Blaise CARI

Now everybody can do it

Jim O'Reilly

FedCasic 2010

March 17, 2010

Background--BCLUB CARI Working Group

- Blaise users implementing CARI variously
 - As data, paradata, alien procedures, extending audit trail dll ...
- June 2008: Blaise Team asked BCLUB if CARI should be added to the core product.
- BCLUB agreed CARI's important and should be in Blaise
- Working group created to discuss approach, technical requirements and testing
 - Battelle, Bureau of Census, Michigan, NatCen, NORC, RTI, StatCan, SN, Stats NZ, Westat and others participated..
- Online working group responsive, effective, enthusiastic

Blaise CARI Milestones

- December 2008: Finalized work plan
- March 2009: Members submitted current practices and requirements
- May 2009
 - SN proposed first draft
 - Members reviewed and commented
 - SN finalized CARI Specification
- June 2009: SN released first CARI prototype
- July – November 2009: Testing-feedback-fix cycle
- December 2009: Blaise 4.82 beta released including CARI

Blaise CARI

- Built into core system
- To run CARI in a survey
 - Prepare data model
 - On a PC with microphone, run datamodel with CARI option checked
 - Blaise starts instrument and captures audio at each field.

CARI Logging

- [20090709 12:10:34.031] Info: Used default settings.
- [20090709 12:10:34.609] Info: Directory D:\CARISurvey1\SoundRecordings created.
- [20090709 12:10:34.921] Info: Directory D:\CARISurvey1\ScreenShots created.
- [20090709 12:10:34.921] Info: Form entered. Key: to determine further.
- [20090709 12:10:34.968] Info: Recording to D:\CARISurvey1\SoundRecordings\\${TMPKEY01}Id.wma started by DEP.
- [20090709 12:10:36.812] Info: Recording to D:\CARISurvey1\SoundRecordings\\${TMPKEY01}Id.wma stopped by DEP.
- [20090709 12:10:36.859] Info: Image saved: D:\CARISurvey1\ScreenShots\\${TMPKEY01}Id.jpg.
- [20090709 12:10:36.906] Info: Recording to D:\CARISurvey1\SoundRecordings\\${TMPKEY01}Person.FirstName.wma started by DEP.
- [20090709 12:10:39.046] Info: Recording to D:\CARISurvey1\SoundRecordings\\${TMPKEY01}Person.FirstName.wma stopped by DEP.
- [20090709 12:10:39.078] Info: Image saved: D:\CARISurvey1\ScreenShots\\${TMPKEY01}Person.FirstName.jpg.
- [20090709 12:10:39.093] Info: Recording to D:\CARISurvey1\SoundRecordings\\${TMPKEY01}Person.SurName.wma started by DEP.
- [20090709 12:10:41.562] Info: Recording to D:\CARISurvey1\SoundRecordings\\${TMPKEY01}Person.SurName.wma stopped by DEP.
- [20090709 12:10:41.593] Info: Image saved: D:\CARISurvey1\ScreenShots\\${TMPKEY01}Person.SurName.jpg.

Logging

- Log file 'CARIsurvey1.carilog' shows
 - Settings used
 - Sub folders for sound recordings and screen shots.
 - Lines on WMA recordings for each field in data model
 - Before the form is left recordings moved to the final destination.

CARI Settings

- Stored in '.bci' file
- Audio recording
 - Type, granularity, size, chance, max # fields, 13 more
- Consent fields
 - Any regular field can be a consent field with an associated “lent” value indicating consent to record has been given.
 - If lent field is not true, recording disabled.
- Fields
 - Specific fields to record or not record--Timelimit, Chance, Snippet, Enabled

CARI Settings (2)

- Screen shots—image file of screens captured,
- Audio background sound—convey information to users or to ascertain the authenticity of the recordings
- Audio playback--name and path for the audio files in the audio playback settings section
- Log--file, name and path for the log file in the log settings section.
- Special functions--special string functions to access information on the current state of the data entry session

Documentation

The screenshot shows the 'Blaise 4.8 Online Assistant' window. The title bar includes standard window controls and a menu bar with 'Hide', 'Locate', 'Back', 'Forward', 'Refresh', 'Font', 'Print', and 'Options'. A left-hand navigation pane contains a tree view with categories like 'About Blaise', 'How to Use...', 'Control Centre', 'Data Entry', 'CATI', 'CARI', 'Web Surveys', 'Manipula', 'Maniplus', 'Internet Tools', 'Data Centre', 'OLE DB Tools', 'Other Tools', 'Programming Languages', 'Programming and Customizir', 'Reference Manual', 'Quick Guides', 'Monitoring the Statistical Proc', and 'Miscellaneous'. The 'CARI' folder is expanded, and 'What is CARI' is selected. The main content area is titled 'Data Entry Program - CARI' and contains the following text:

Computer Audio Recorded Interviewing (CARI) is a technique that records the conversation between the interviewer and the respondent on the computer during an interview. The Blaise Data Entry Program (DEP) supports CARI. CARI does not require interviewer intervention for starting or stopping the recording in the DEP. Besides sound recording and screen capturing during the data entry process, the DEP can also play back the recorded files.

The system offers various settings to influence the recording process, for instance which questions to record, it allows respondent consent to be given or revoked at any time and it offers ways to specify the naming of the sound files that contain the recordings. The CARI settings can be specified in a [Cari settings file](#). In this CARI settings file the recording process can be configured such that neither the respondent nor the interviewer knows exactly which portions of the interview are being recorded.

To activate DEP CARI features use the commandline parameter '/CARI=RECORD' or '/CARI=PLAY' and possibly '/BCI=SettingsFileName'. To activate DEP CARI features in the Blaise Control Centre use the CARI checkbox in the 'Options' page of the 'Run | Parameters' dialog.

Please note that the play mode is not a complete playback of the whole interview. As you step through an existing form, DEP acts as a player of the soundtracks available at each field on route. Multiple recordings are concatenated and off route recordings will not be played. During playback mode the answers in the form can be changed. However this can be avoided by using '/CARI=PLAY' together with the '/R' (read-only) parameter.

The next screen shows how to activate DEP CARI features in the Control Centre.

At the bottom of the window, a 'Run Parameters' dialog box is open, showing the 'Options' tab. It lists 'DEP' and 'Basil' under 'Files'. Under 'Dep Options', there are checkboxes for 'Browse forms', 'Disable CATI', 'Read only', and 'Allow editing'. The 'Design' and 'Page layout' sections are also visible.

Summary

- Blaise CARI provides powerful, robust CARI process
- Comprehensive, flexible, easy-to-implement array of settings
- Highly customized approaches are enabled, as well as out-of-the-box defaults
- Specialized, custom-built CARI no longer needed
- Just use Blaise and CARI is there