



Integrated Management of Survey Processes at Westat

Fedcasic March 5, 2015 Jerry Wernimont

Integrated Management



Large-scale survey operations involve numerous distinct processes that present challenges for coordination, data integrity, and flexibility.

- Many systems managing multiple data collection modes and tracking participants, cases, and contacts.
- Back-end processing including notifications, forms receipt, data processing, biological sample receipt, data editing, verification, quality control.
- Need for structured, integrated approach
 - Need for consolidated data and reporting
 - Need to leverage existing systems
 - Need for flexible architecture
 - Need for reusable platform



Approach to a Platform



- Institutionalize production and processing concepts
 - Production Lines (CAPI, Web, CATI, GIS, CARI, Paper)
 - Routing of work
- Logical assignment and separation of responsibilities
 - Keep details at edges of architecture where possible
 - Put complexity in the right place
- Integrate existing systems
 - Provide choices of systems for survey modes
 - Leverage existing investments
- Develop standard model and study protocol control
 - Central database, reporting capabilities, and control
- Provide standardized services
 - Reusable, flexible, and low-cost to provide







M3 is a platform for establishing a robust integrated environment for conducting complex multi-mode surveys.

- Provides integration framework for survey management systems and other supporting applications.
- Enables interoperability for heterogeneous applications.
- Controls work through task management engine
- Isolates projects from changes to management systems
 - Single interface to M3
- Provides extreme configurability for ease of setup
 - Supporting quick changes and adaptive techniques
 - Supports custom code injection and content
- Eliminates duplicate development efforts



Functional Features



- Routes cases to production lines, performs services, or moves data based on rules, conditions and timing.
- Controls routing of case data to downstream processing
 - Sample management, CARI coding, data editing
- Transforms management data between applications.
- Provides standard support services.
 - Participant Messaging (Email, Text, Mail)
 - Incentive Management (Cash, Debit, Check, Amazon)
- Provides authentication and integration to launch external web surveys.
- Collect tracing information updates from participants.
- Supports management and reporting functions across all survey processes and collection modes.



Architectural Features



- "Master" data model with superset of management data
 - Handles complex study model across collection modes
 - Includes detailed task statuses and outcomes
 - Simplifies mapping data accurately for data exchange
 - Implemented in a central repository for a project
- Rules-Based Task Management Engine
 - Manages cases, tasks, artifacts
 - Supports explicit and relative timing of tasks
 - Can apply different rules to different waves and releases
- Flexible footprints to support large and small
 - Right sized solutions
 - Reusable integration components (e.g. Production Line Nodes)
- Is designed for adaptability
 - Adjust rules for response rate, cost, or other reasons
 - Handles multiple waves and release protocols

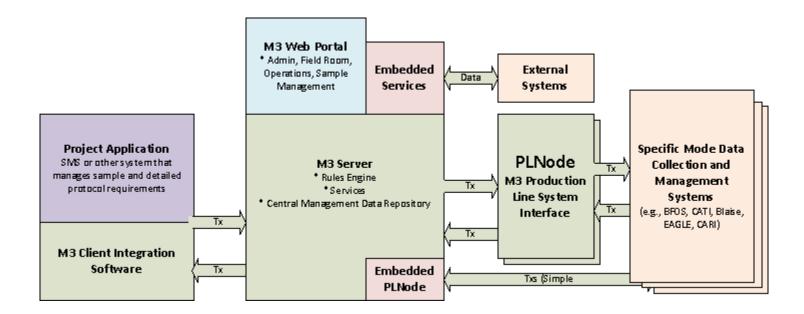


M3 Components



M3 components work to integrate project applications, data collection systems, and other external systems with a flexible footprint.

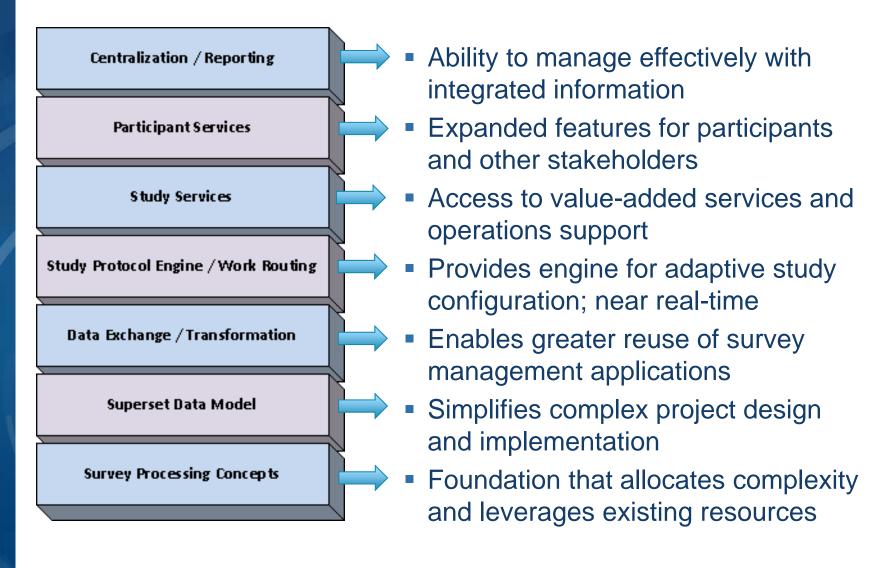
Each system needs a single interface to M3 and can be reused.





M3 Benefit Layers







Production Line and Service Examples



A sample of integrated systems and services...

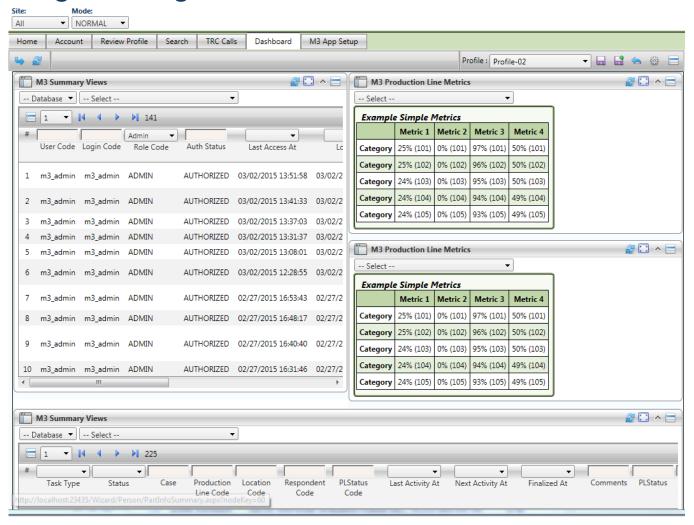
- CAPI Field Surveys (BFOS, mFOS)
- CATI (Blaise, Cheshire)
- Paper (Teleform)
- Web (Blaise, Voxco, Verint, SurveyBuilder)
- CARI Coding
- Critical Data Element extraction
- Specimen Tracking (BEST)
- GIS Analysis (EAGLE)
- Supply Provisioning (Sharepoint)
- Dietary Recall (ASA24, AM/PM)
- Incentives (Payoneer, Checks, Cash, Amazon)







Pulling it all together..





Projects Deployed



Used on more than 15 projects so far at Westat

- Simple Projects: Paper, Web, notifications, incentives
- Common
 - Paper to Web to TRC, some CAPI
 - Multiple paths, notifications, incentives
- Larger
 - Multiple instruments, household and participants subjects
 - Multiple paths, notifications, incentives
 - Participant services
- Large Longitudinal Example:
 - Custom study management system
 - 6+ production lines, GIS integration
 - > 150K Participants, > 2.1m units of work



Questions?



My contact information:

- JeromeWernimont@westat.com
- **(240) 314-2396**

