Making CATI Production and Study Management Data Web-accessible

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What is it?

♦ Every call made on every CATI study is logged in a database

♦ Log interviewer ID, project number, call result code, time call started, time call ended, stratum, etc.

♦ The database lives on a PC running a webserver, allowing us to run queries over the web
Why did we do this?

- CASES 4.x is DOS-based with command line study management tools
- Initially addressed this by writing some custom VB programs
  - VB tools upside: easy to use and provide nice graphic display of data
  - VB tools downside: installed locally on PCs and upgrades and version control became difficult
- Wanted to switch focus from individual PCs to one centralized data source and server
Web-based Pros

• One set of queries / web pages that can be shared / accessed by everyone from any PC with a browser and internet connection

• Everything’s standard HTML, Perl, and MySQL so things are flexible and easily customizable and accessible

• Everyone’s running same queries on same data getting the same results

• Easy to configure different levels of access or different pages for different audiences (Project Directors, Supervisors, clients, interviewers)

• No more local PC installs
DEMO

♦ Show everyone what you’re talking about
Production Use (or, is this actually useful?)

♦ Slowly starting to use it, early indications are yes, it is useful
♦ Project Directors and Phone Room Supervisors like it
♦ Soon to start providing client access
♦ Possible future increase in interviewer-specific features and tools
Problems

♦ Writes to the database fail on occasion
  – Hunting down and fixing problematic PCs takes time
♦ In order for this system to become its most useful we probably need to leave old tools behind and commit to this new approach
Tech Specs

♦ Server = older P3 PC (cheap)
♦ Server OS = Linux (free)
♦ Database = MySQL (free)
♦ Webserver = Apache (free)
♦ Programming = Perl (free)