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 and date, stratum, workstation address, 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
♦ More complicated queries required several data munging steps
First Pass – custom VB apps

♦ 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 to manage

♦ Wanted to switch focus from individual PCs to one centralized data source and server
Web-based Pros

♦ Data accessible from any PC with a browser and internet connection
♦ 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

♦ All project tables
♦ Interviewer performance query
♦ Wisconsin Longitudinal Study status
Production Use (or, is this actually useful?)

- Phone room supervisors like access to past projects’ records
- Clients like ability to check project status
- Planning on adding more features this Summer
Potential Problems

♦ Writes to the database fail on occasion
♦ Need good error checking code
♦ Need system in place that easily allows you to correct for these failures
Tech Specs

♦ Server = older P3 PC (cheap)
♦ Server OS = Linux (free)
  – http://www.linux.org
♦ Database = MySQL (free)
  – http://www.mysql.com
♦ Webserver = Apache (free)
  – http://httpd.apache.org/
♦ Programming = Perl & Zope (free)
  – http://www.perl.com
  – http://www.zope.org