

# Making CATI Production and Study Management Data Web-accessible

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Eric White

University of Wisconsin Survey  
Center





# 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)