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

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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

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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

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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

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DEMO

◆ All project tables

◆ Interviewer performance query

◆ Wisconsin Longitudinal Study status

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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

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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

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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

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