Building a CAPI Case management system for a small/medium size organization

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Overview

- Brief history of UWSC case management tools
 - How and why did we build our own system?
- Evolution to current system
 - Key features and components of current system
- Demonstration
- Q&A
- Go build / modify your own system



UWSC 101

- UWSC uses CASES 5.5 for CATI, CAPI, and Data Entry
 - Data stored in proprietary CASES data format
 - No field case management tools in 5 series
- We now do several CAPI projects each year, but for years we did CATI and mail only



Our first CAPI project in 1996

- How does a CATI organization manage a CAPI project?
- We'd like to use the CATI system we know
- But...CASES had no field case management tools...so we need to build our own



Essential CASES Programs

- OUTPUT: export data for fixed-width items to text files
- SHOWHIST: export data for open-ended items to text files
- MOVECASE: create archive files containing case data
- RELOAD: reload archive files containing case data
- If your system can do something like this you can build a system like the one we're about to describe



Paleolithic case management tools

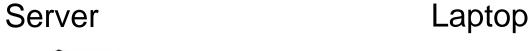


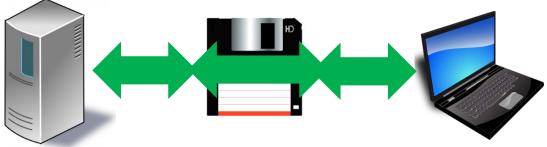






Crude but effective



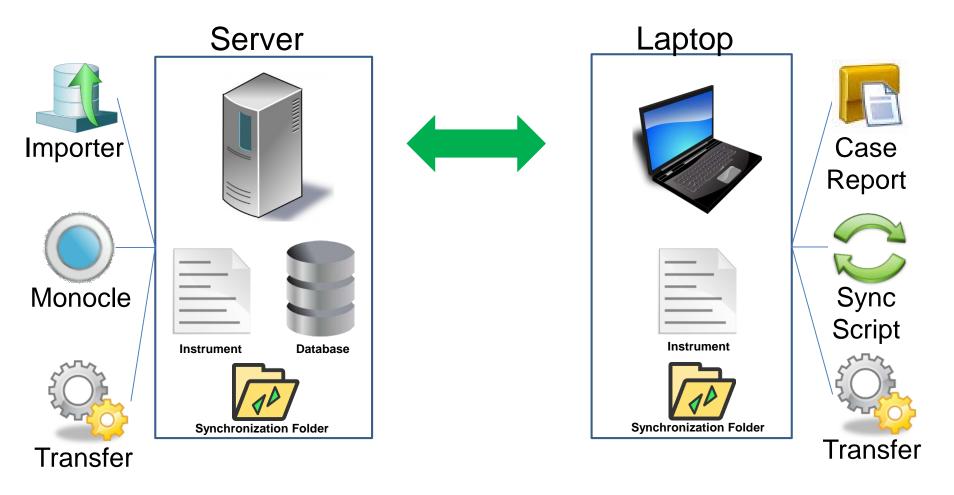


CASES MOVECASE and RELOAD CASES MOVECASE and RELOAD

MS Office



Modern Case Management Tools





Prerequisites - Server





Prerequisites - Server



- Survey Instrument
 - CASES 5.5
 - Sample setup
- Database
 - MySQL
 - Schema configured for the study
 - Importer application configured to import data from survey into MySQL
- Synchronization folder structure



Importer Application







Importer Application



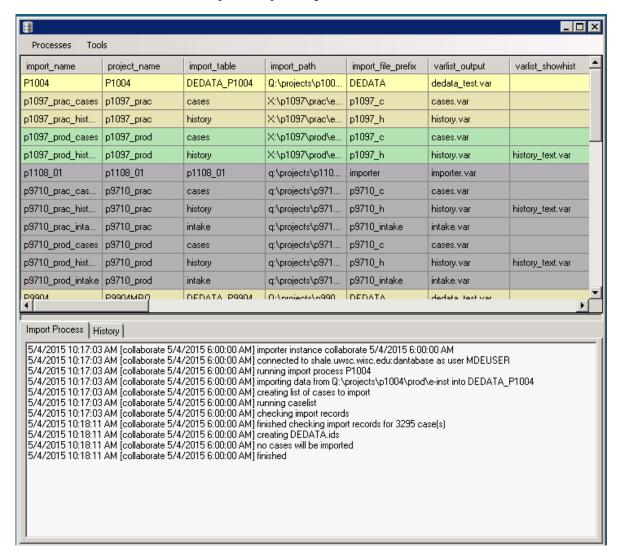
- Copies data from surveys into MySQL database
 - Makes data more readily available for case management and reporting tools
- Create text file containing survey data
 - Uses CASES programs OUTPUT and SHOWHIST
 - Only cases modified since last import
- Imports data from text files into MySQL
 - Creates or alters the MySQL table structure as needed



Importer



Imports data for multiple projects





Import Processes



- Each process imports survey data into a single MySQL table
- A study may have multiple processes, importing data into separate tables
- Run in a separate thread every 5 minutes
- Import processes are defined in a MySQL table
 - Path to survey instrument
 - Name of files containing lists of variables to import
 - Name of table into which variables should be imported
 - Connection settings for database, with user and password encrypted
 - Run frequency



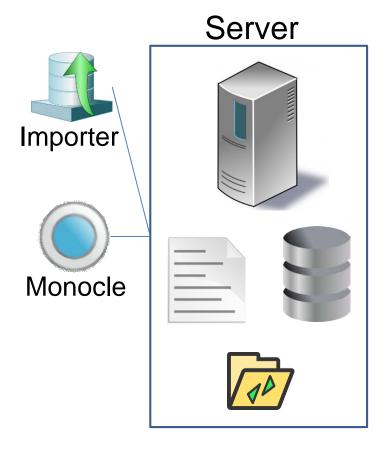
Import Monitor



- Perl script that runs continuously
- Runs on different server from the Importer
- Alerts users via email
 - Importer server is down
 - Idle processes
 - Errors encountered
 - When idle processes or errors are resolved
- Errors are typically caused by invalid items in variable lists



Monocle





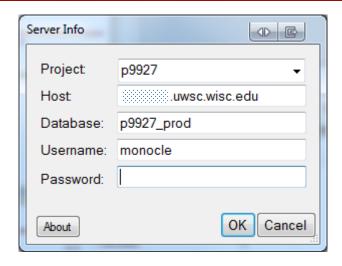
Monocle



- Custom software developed at the UW Survey Center
 - Stand-alone application that sits on top of databases
 - Data-collection-tool agnostic
- Provides a (very-close-to) real-time view into a project's data
- Used by project directors and supervisors
- Perform case assignment



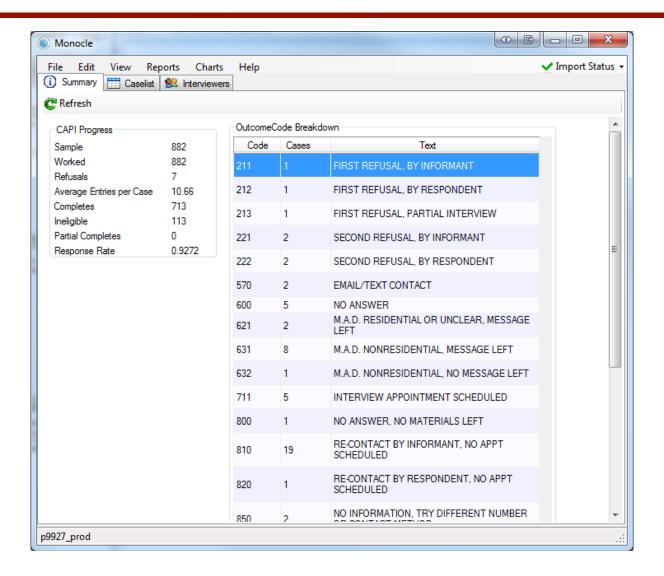
Monocle – Login Screen



 Monocle has a login screen to allow users to connect to different studies

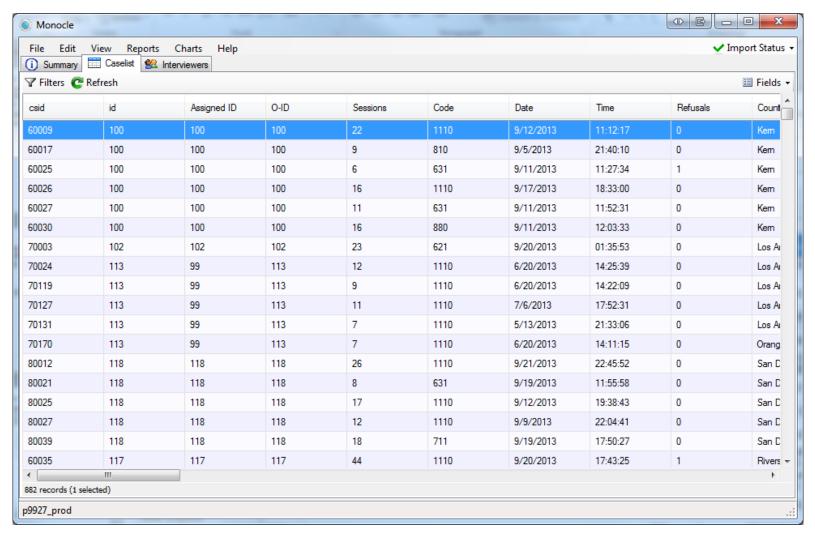


Monocle – Summary



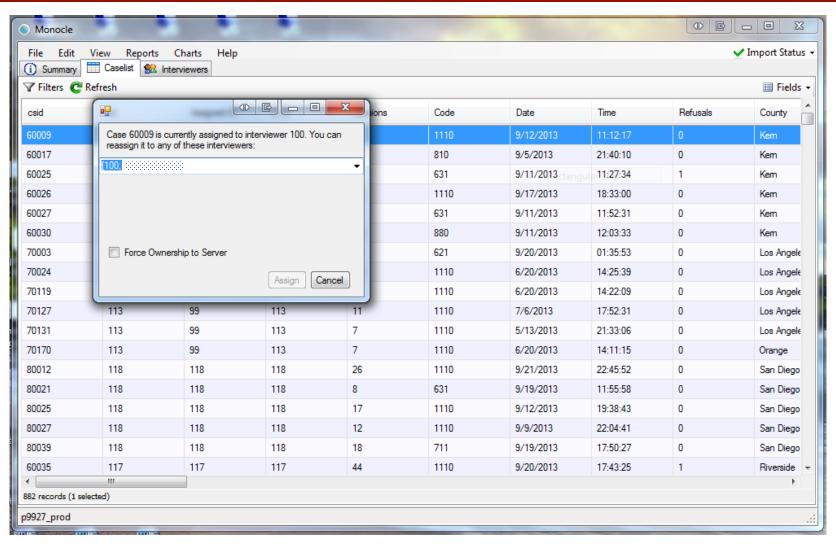


Monocle – Caselist Tab



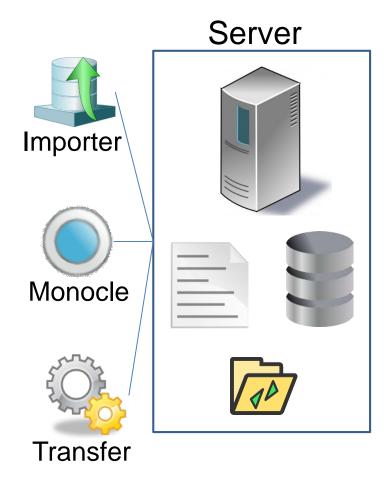


Monocle – Assign Case





Transfer Application - Server





Transfer Application – Server

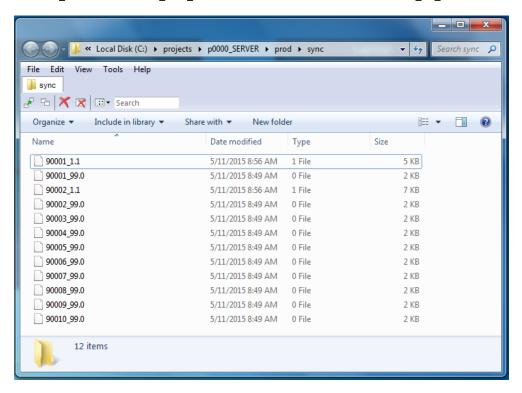


- Manages files containing survey data
 - Used to copy data between server and laptops
 - Runs on the server and the laptops
- Scheduled task on the server
 - Configured to run every 5 minutes
- Creates and reloads files containing archived data from surveys
 - Uses CASES program MOVECASE to create files
 - Uses CASES program RELOAD to reload files, importing data into the survey instrument
 - We refer to these as transfer files



Transfer File

- Contains an archive of all survey data for a single case
 - Includes all activity up to and including the most recent session
- File name is [caseid]_[user ID number].[session number]





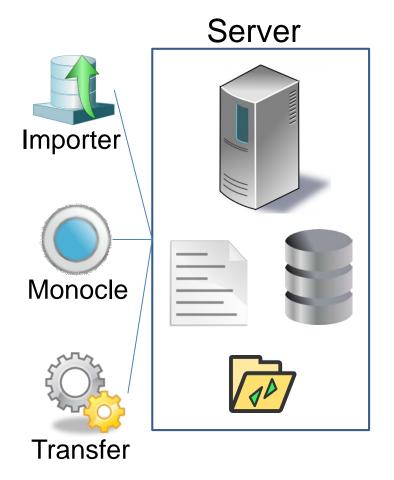
Transfer - MySQL Data Structure



- Transfer uses MySQL tables
 - Case ownership and assignment
 - Assignment is managed on the server
 - Ownership is managed on the laptop
 - Information about most recent server session and most recent laptop session



Laptop Prerequisites







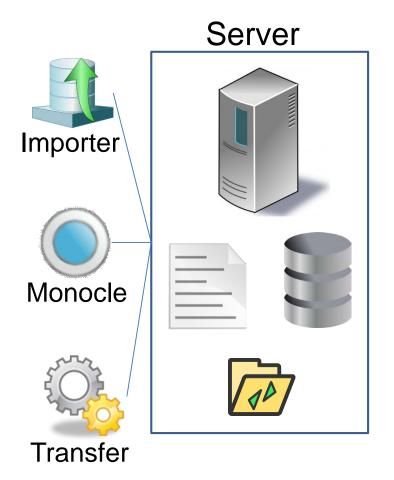
Prerequisites - Laptop

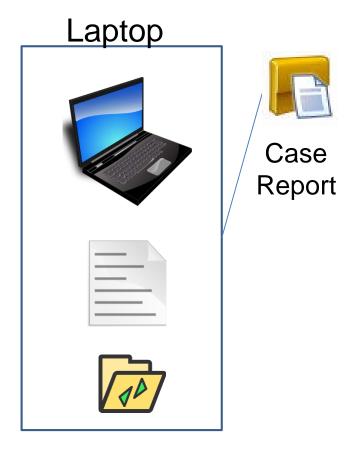


- Survey Instrument
 - CASES 5.5
- Synchronization folder
 - Used to upload/download files to server
- Laptop connects to MySQL server during synchronization



Case Report Application







Case Report Application



- Application to manage cases on laptops
 - Used by interviewers and supervisors
- No internet connection required
 - Reads survey data on laptop
 - Uses CASES program OUTPUT
- Displays data for cases on laptop
 - Variable list customizable via configuration file
 - Outcome code
 - Respondent name, address, and telephone
 - Date and time of appointment
 - Appointment calendar



Case Report with Practice Cases

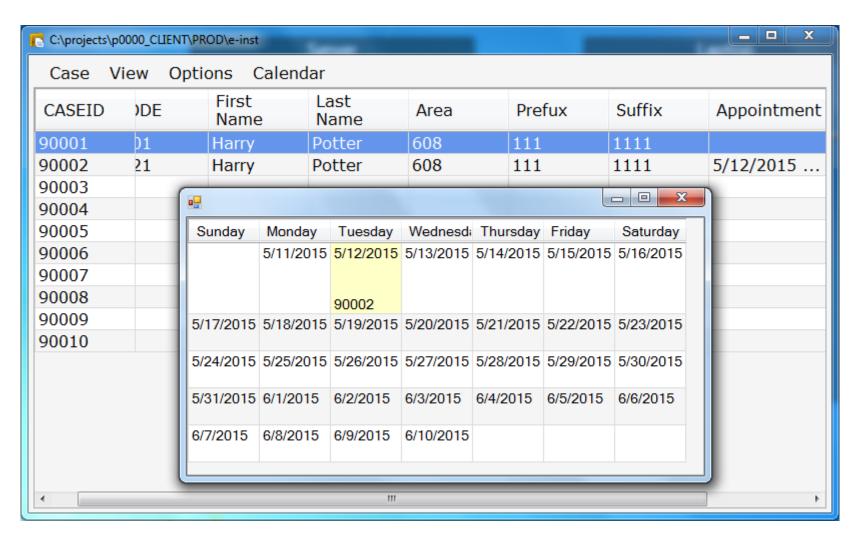


Case View Options Calendar								
CASEID	CODE	First Name	Last Name	Area	Prefux	Suffix	Appointment	Locked
90001	0801	Harry	Potter	608	111	1111		
90002	0821	Harry	Potter	608	111	1111	5/12/2015	
90003								
90004								
90005								
90006								
90007								
90008								
90009								
90010								



Case Report – Appointment Calendar







Case Report – Case Summary



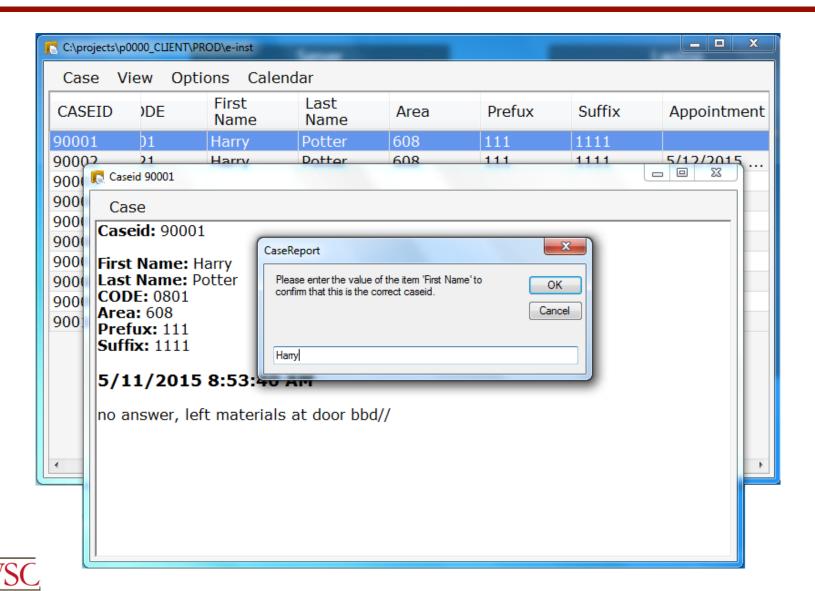
- Portal for opening case in survey instrument
- Selecting a case displays a history of case activity
 - Session date and time
 - Interviewer comments
- User entry-point for survey instrument
 - View summary before opening case
 - Confirm the caseid and respondent name
 - Reduce the likelihood of opening wrong case



Case Report – Confirm First Name

SURVEY CENTER





Case Report – Configuration



- Configuration file contains study-specific settings
 - Path to survey on laptop
 - Variable definitions
 - Item name in survey instrument
 - Variable label
 - Value labels for numeric data
 - Default font name and size



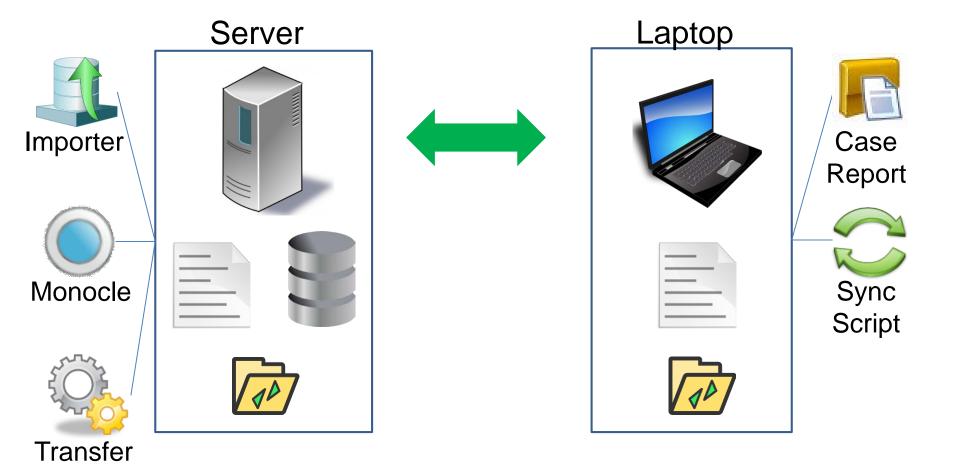
Case Report – User Configuration



- User-specific settings contained in separate file
 - Column sequence
 - Users may drag and drop columns
 - Preferred font name and size
 - Filters to display or conceal cases
 - Held cases
 - Cases reassigned to other interviewers
 - Non-entry cases
 - Completed interviews
 - Other final outcomes



Synchronization Script





Synchronization Script



- Batch file on laptops
- Synchronizes files between laptop and server
- Run on demand by the interviewer
 - Daily, or at request of supervisor
- Requires VPN connection to server
- Uses rsync program to copy files



rsync Program



- Third-party application
- Synchronizes contents of a folder on the server with its corresponding folder on the laptop
 - Transfer files containing survey data
 - Latest version of instrument from server
 - Audio files
 - Images
- Only copies files which have been modified
 - Compares server and laptop directories
 - File size and timestamp



Synchronization Script – Sequence



- Download from Server
 - Run rsync program
 - Download transfer files from server
 - Run Preflight batch file
 - Copy survey instrument to laptop
 - Initial deployment
 - Updates while in field
 - Copy shortcuts to desktop
 - Copy applications and configuration files to laptop
 - Run Transfer Application
 - Reload transfer files downloaded from server
 - Create transfer files to upload to server



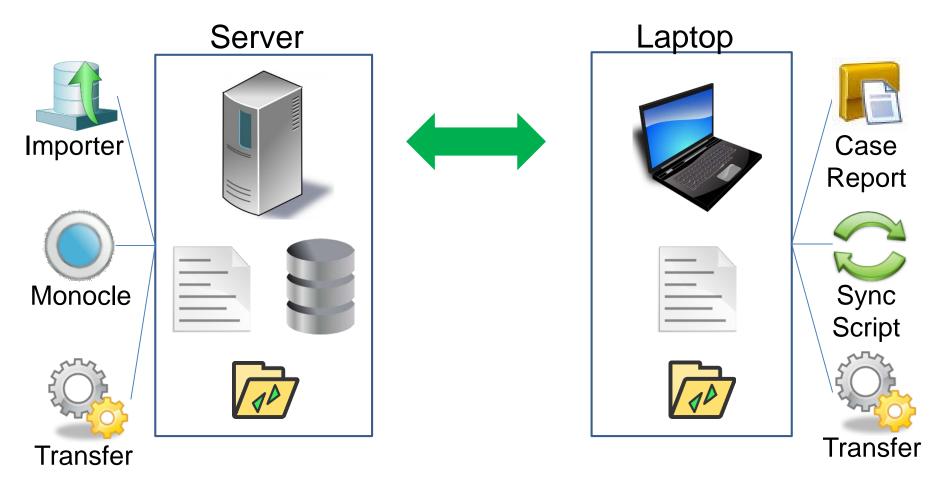
Synchronization Script – Sequence



- Upload to Server
 - Run rsync program
 - Upload transfer files to server
 - Upload pictures and audio files
 - Run Postflight batch file



Transfer - Laptop





Transfer – Laptop



- Invoked by the synchronization script
- Manages files containing survey data
 - Processes the files copied by rsync
- Creates and reloads files containing archived data from surveys
 - Uses CASES program MOVECASE to create files, exporting data from the survey instrument
 - Uses CASES program RELOAD to reload files, importing data into the survey instrument



Transfer – Case Assignment and Ownership



- Assignment
 - ID of user to whom case is assigned
 - Supervisors assign cases on server
- Ownership
 - ID of user who currently owns case
 - Transfer program manages ownership on laptops
 - Relinquish ownership of cases no longer assigned to user after uploading data
 - Take ownership of cases assigned to user if those cases are not owned by other users



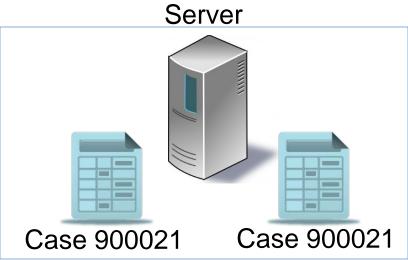
Transfer – Case Ownership



- Strict case ownership model
 - Prevents conflicts when a case is reassigned
 - Original owner must synchronize to relinquish ownership of the case before newly assigned interviewer can assume ownership
 - Only one interviewer can access a case

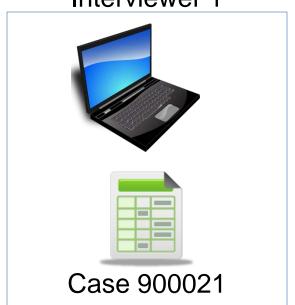






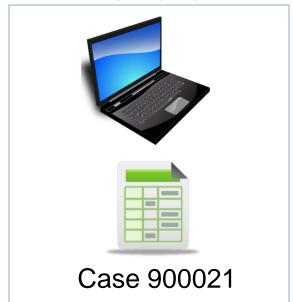


Interviewer 1





Interviewer 2





Transfer – Setting and Clearing Holds



- Transfer program puts cases on hold when they are no longer owned by interviewer
 - Uses CASES program MANAGER to set and clear holds
 - Cases on hold concealed by Case Report
 - Cases on laptop are never deleted
 - Cases held if no longer owned by interviewer



Transfer Logs



- Date and outcome of transfer sessions
 - Text files on laptop and server
 - MySQL tables on server

autoid	user_id	transfer_started	transfer_finished	transfer_outcome
1	1	2015-05-11 08:50:28	2015-05-11 08:50:41	5/11/2015 8:50:28 AM transfer duration 0 minute(s) 12 second(s); 10 taken; 10 imported; 10 reloaded
2	1	2015-05-11 08:56:41	2015-05-11 08:56:50	5/11/2015 8:56:41 AM transfer duration 0 minute(s) 8 second(s); 2 exported; 2 created
3	1	2015-05-11 09:05:13	2015-05-11 09:05:21	5/11/2015 9:05:13 AM transfer duration 0 minute(s) 8 second(s)



Transfer Logs

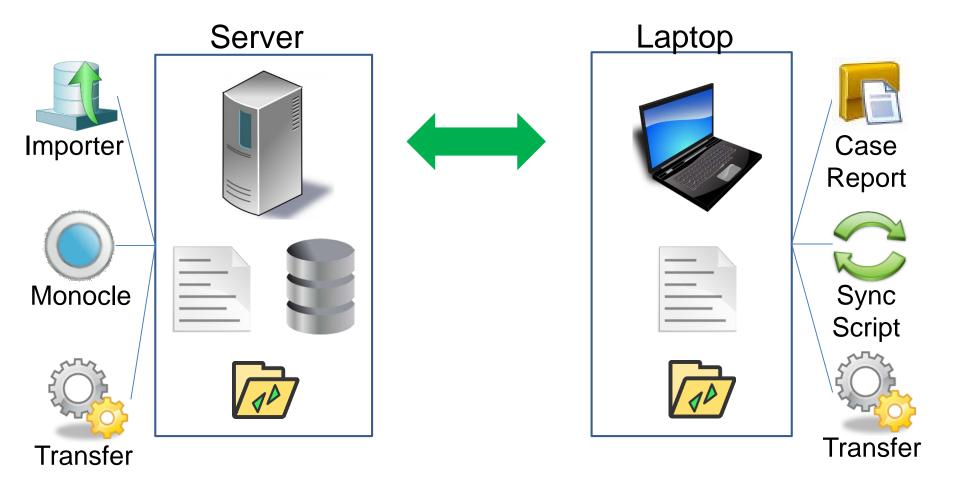


- Transfer activity for individual cases
 - MySQL tables on server

autoid	csid	user_id	event_date	event_text	event_error
1173	90001	1	2015-05-11 08:56:45	transfer file 90001_1.1 created	0
1174	90002	1	2015-05-11 08:56:45	transfer file 90002_1.1 created	0
1175	90001	1	2015-05-11 08:56:46	exporting 90001_1.1	0
1176	90002	1	2015-05-11 08:56:47	exporting 90002_1.1	0
1177	90001	99	2015-05-11 08:58:59	importing 90001_1.1	0
1178	90002	99	2015-05-11 08:58:59	importing 90002_1.1	0
1179	90001	99	2015-05-11 08:59:09	transfer file 90001_1.1 reloaded on server	0
1180	90002	99	2015-05-11 08:59:09	transfer file 90002_1.1 reloaded on server	0



System Summary





Tool Summary

- Server
 - Survey instrument
 - MySQL database
 - Importer
 - Import Monitor
 - Monocle
 - Transfer program
 - Synchronization folder

- Laptop
 - Survey instrument
 - Case Report
 - Transfer program
 - Synchronization folder
 - Synchronization script
 - rsync program



System Features

- Customizable
- Scales well
 - Server load
- Case-level granular management capability
- Meta-data on processes
 - Aid with support and debugging
- Fault tolerant
 - Transfer files function as archives to reload data
 - rsync tolerates interruptions
 - Data are not deleted from laptops



Questions?



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- Steve Bochte
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Thank you!

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