A Review of DIY Online Survey Tools Threat or opportunity?

Tim Macer, meaning limited

Presented to BIG, London

1 April 2008

© meaning ltd, 2008. All rights reserved. Reproduction prohibited.



Agenda

- What do we mean by DIY Surveys and Tools?
- Choices to make
- Avoiding the hazards
- DIY' tools available on the market
- Threat or Opportunity



1. What do we mean by DIY surveys and tools?

What are DIY Surveys?

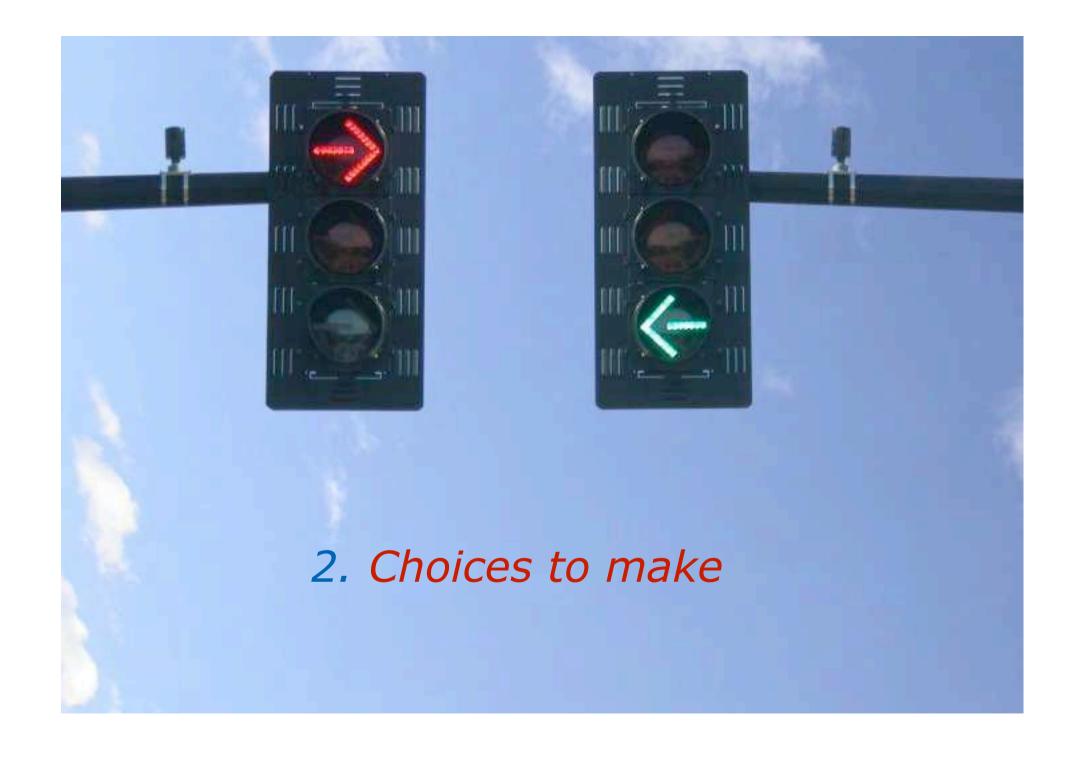
- Surveys carried out by companies among their customers?
- Surveys carried out by by non-researchers?
- Surveys not done by research agencies?



What typifies a DIY survey tool?

- Allows researcher to be self-contained
- Low cost or affordable
- Does not require specialist technical skills
- Provides a simple and clear workflow to follow
- Provides tools for all stages
 - Survey authoring
 - Sample creation, invitations and reminders
 - Progress reporting and real-time stats
 - Data processing editing, reformatting, tables





Choices to make

- Desktop versus Hosted (ASP)
- Web only or Mixed Mode
- Cost models
- Integrated analysis or Export
- Essential features to look for
- Advanced survey design requirements
- Advanced operational requirements



Using a desktop tool



ON THE DESKTOP OR LAPTOP

- Create survey
- Create sample
- Issue invitations and reminders
- Download results
- Edit and clean
- Analyse

ON THE WEB SURVER

- Upload survey files
- Deploy survey
- View progress



Using a hosted or 'ASP' tool



ON THE WEB SURVER

- Create survey
- Issue invitations and reminders
- Deploy survey
- View progress
- Analyse

ON THE DESKTOP OR LAPTOP

- Access host via web browser
- Download results



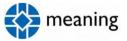
Hosted or Desktop? Some key advantages

Hosted

- Much simpler deployment: easier to get going
- No software to install
- Independent of in-house IT
- Easier to collaborate with colleagues
- Avoids proliferation of versions of a questionnaire
- Usually low cost of entry

Desktop

- Design tools usually faster, more productive
- Can work offline
- Tool may support other modes such as CATI or paper
- Not dependent on an external supplier



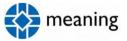
Web only or Mixed Mode?

Web only (all hosted/ASP)

- Web survey features may be more developed
- Dedicated tool less complex to master
- Not paying for options not required
- Design method often truly WYSWYG

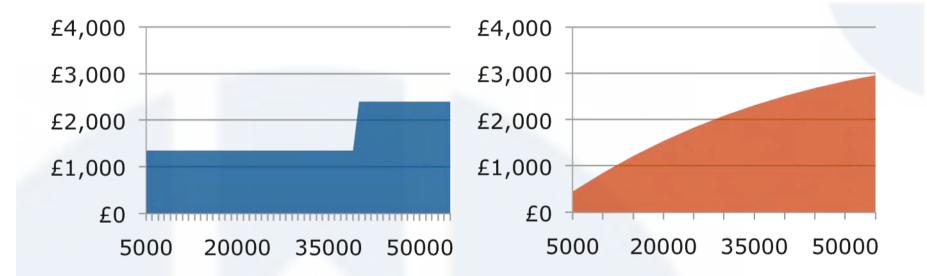
Mixed mode (+CATI, paper etc)

- Just one tool to learn for all surveys
- Can use more than one channel at once
- All results will feed into the same analysis method

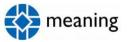


Fixed cost or Pay per use?





Source: median costs obtained by meaning from a range of software suppliers



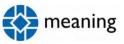
Look at costs over 3-5 years

Fixed cost

Pay per use



Source: median costs obtained by meaning from a range of software suppliers



3. Avoiding the Hazards



Missing functionality

Check the software meets all your essential considerations

- ☑ Questions and grids

- ✓ Progress bars
- ☑Simple skip logic
- ☑ Randomisation of questions and/or answers
- ☑ Data is saved after each Q.
- ☑ Respondent can break off and resume without redoing interview from start

- ✓ Personalised invitations
- ☑ Reminders to non-completes
- Authentication by ID or password
- ☑ Realtime response reporting
- ☑ Absolutely no HTML required



Advanced operational considerations

some of these may also apply to you!

- ☑ Multiple languages and translations, with export and re-import of translated texts
- ✓ Non-roman alphabets (UNICODE compliant)
- ☑ Complies with accessibility criteria: W3C AAA, UK DDA
- ✓ Integrated panel management module

- ☑ Data protection hosted within EU, or in US under a Safe Harbor agreement

- ✓ Mass coding for Other specify answers
- ✓Interface to other software or databases via API (application program interface)



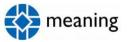
Common weaknesses we observe in web survey software products

HOSTED SOLUTIONS

- Inadequate tools for editing data
- Limited and inconvenient tools for analysis
- Inadequate exports
- Looped and rotated data difficult to analyse

DESKTOP SOLUTIONS

- Complex process when deploying on the web server
- Separate screenlayout step required to make a generic interview into HTML



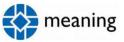
Other hidden costs and time sinks

- Obtaining sample
 - From internal/company sources such as CRM systems
 - From sample providers, panel companies
- Setting up the survey
- Improving the look of the survey, adding graphics etc
- Handling invitations, reminders and bouncebacks
- Editing and cleaning data
- De-rotating data and retyping text labels prior to analysis



Other non-software induced perils

- Designing the survey as if it were on paper (or on the telephone)
- Interactivity for the sake of it which respondents don't know how to [or can't] use
- Gratuitous images that distract or influence results
- Population differences
- Modal influences rating scales, verbatims
- Detecting fraud and satisficing

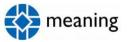




Hosted solutions: some examples

There are well over 100 to choose from

- SurveyMonkey
- Demographix
- MarketTools Zoomerang & Ztelligence
- DataStat Illume
- **Vovici** (was Perseus and WebSurveyor)
- Confirmit
- Globalpark
- mr Interivew SPSS



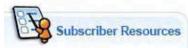
Home

Create Survey

My Surveys

My Contacts

Support/Help | My Account | Log Out



Zoomerang Features

Learn how to use 3 of Zoomerang's most powerful features in our recorded webinar: Skip Logic, Filters & Crosstabs



Zoomerang Services

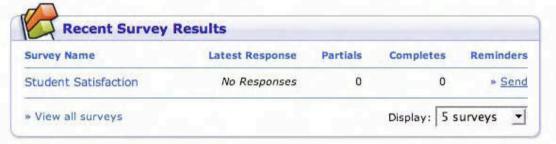
Zoomerang Sample Survey Coach Consulting Survey Programming Survey Translation Confidential Deployment Telephone Survey Deployment





Exchange survey ideas and advice with other Zoomerang users. Enter User Forums.











Products & Services | About Us | Support/Help | Zoomerang Forums

SEARCH

@ 2007 Copyright MarketTools Inc. All Rights Reserved. | Privacy Policy | Terms Of Use



Create Survey Home

My Surveys

My Contacts

My Surveys

Your surveys are listed below. Click the name of a survey to manage, or choose a specific action by clicking an arrow icon.

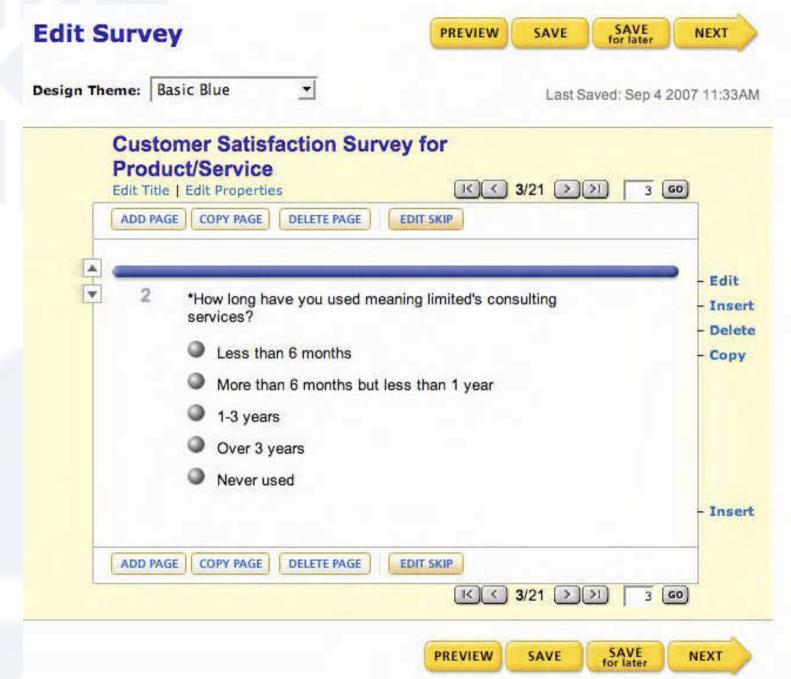
Total Survey Completes for this Account: 0

Move To Folder→ Manage Folders New Folder						My Sur	veys 🕌
Select All	Status	Survey Filename	Launch Date	Completes	Analyze Results		
Г	READY	360 degree appraisal		0			
Г	ACTIVE	Student Satisfaction	Sep 4 2007 11:52AM	0		0	
Г	READY	New Customers		0			

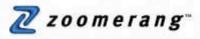
Products & Services | About Us | Support/Help | Zoomerang Forums

@ 2007 Copyright MarketTools Inc. All Rights Reserved. | Privacy Policy | Terms Of Use









Home

Create Survey

My Surveys

My Contacts

Edit a Question

CANCEL

CONTINUE

CHECK SPELLING

This question is used in skip logic; therefore, you have limited edit capabilities.

If you wish to change the question type and/or edit answer options, you must first remove this question from skip logic. To do so, click "Continue" to return to the current page of the survey. Then click "Edit Skip." Next to this question, click "Remove."

Question?

What is your question? The text for your question appears in this field. Please type over text appearing in the space below. Tips and guidance for formatting your question. Learn More

How long have you used meaning limited's consulting services?

CLEAR

Answer Options:

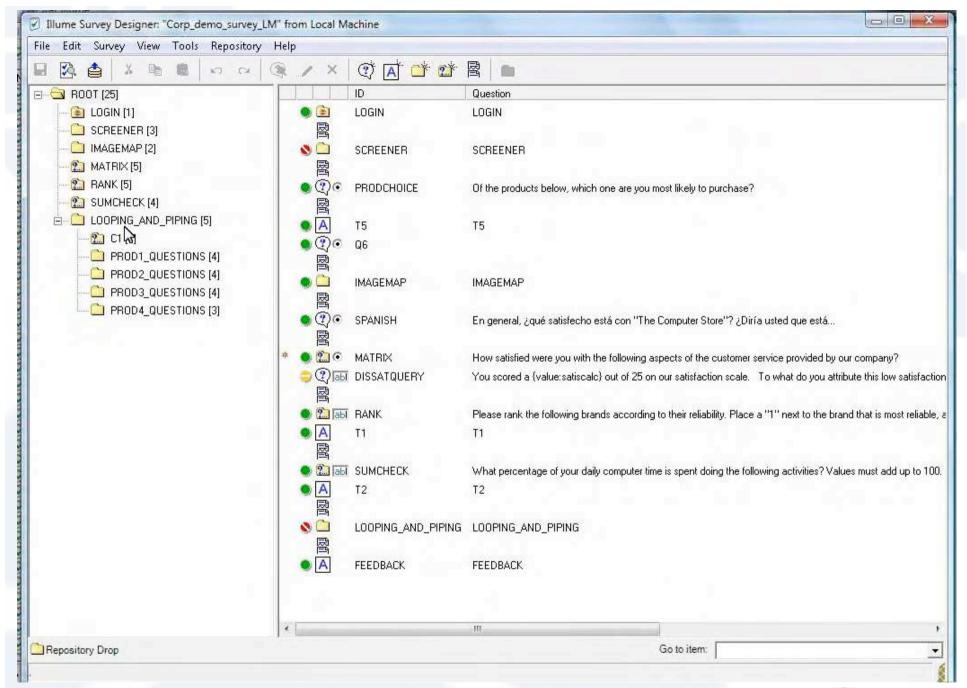
Type the specific answers to your question over the text below. (Note each answer will appear on separate lines in the survey; type additional answer options on new lines.)

Less than 6 months More than 6 months but less than 1 year 1-3 years Over 3 years Never used

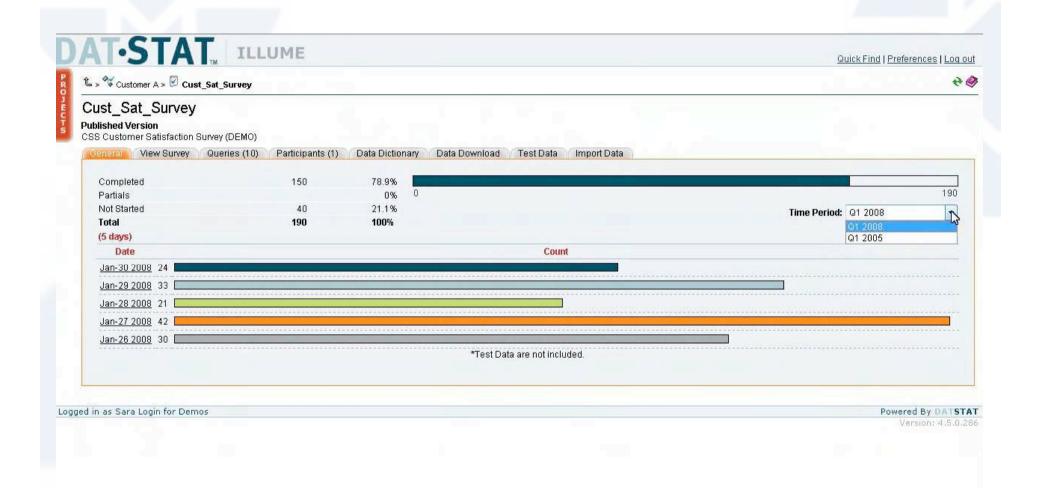
Randomize Answers

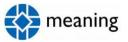
Mandatory (require recipient to answer this question).

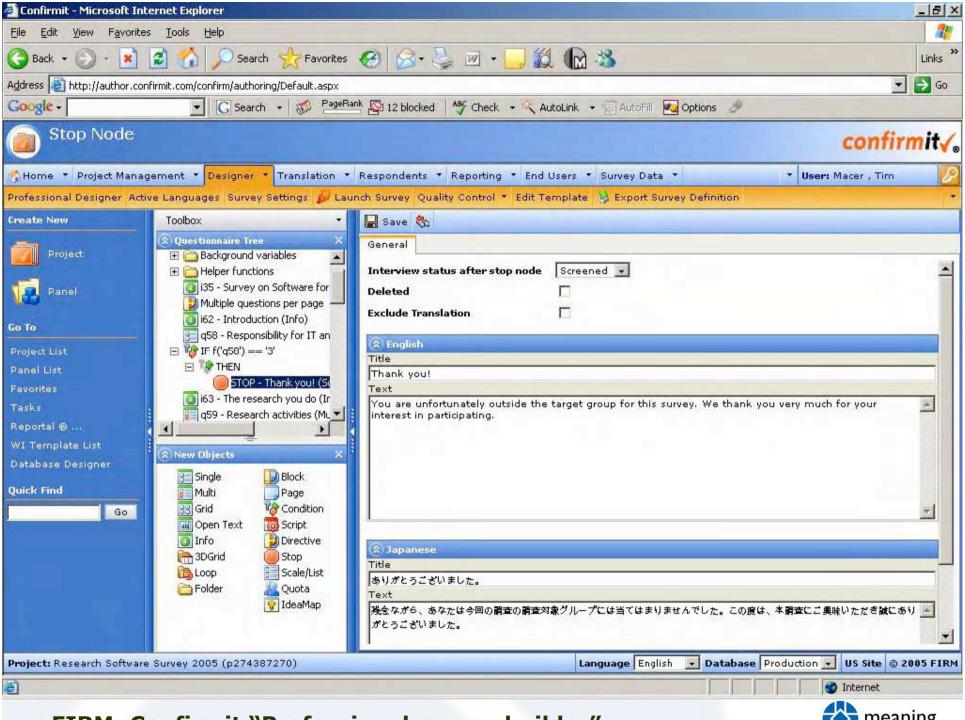




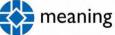


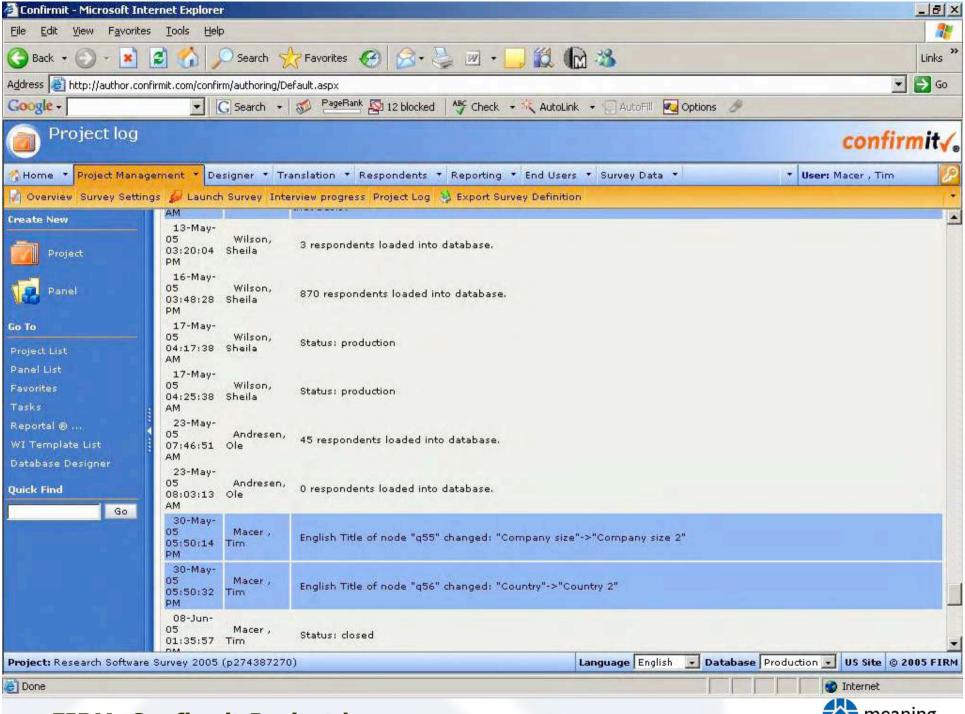


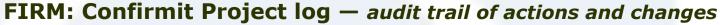


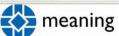


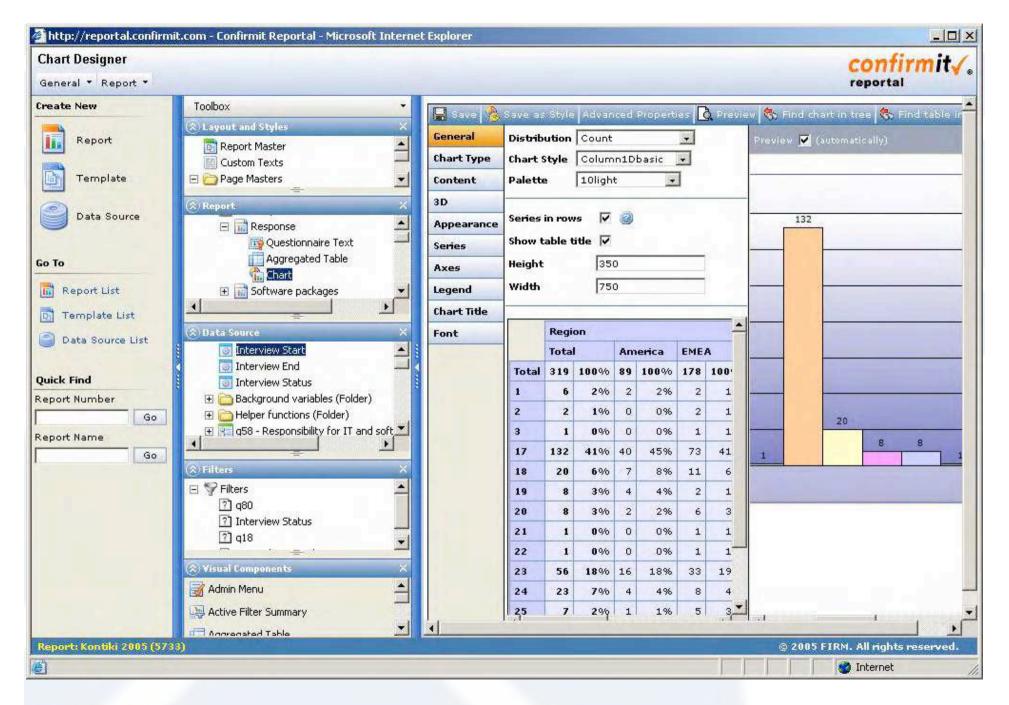




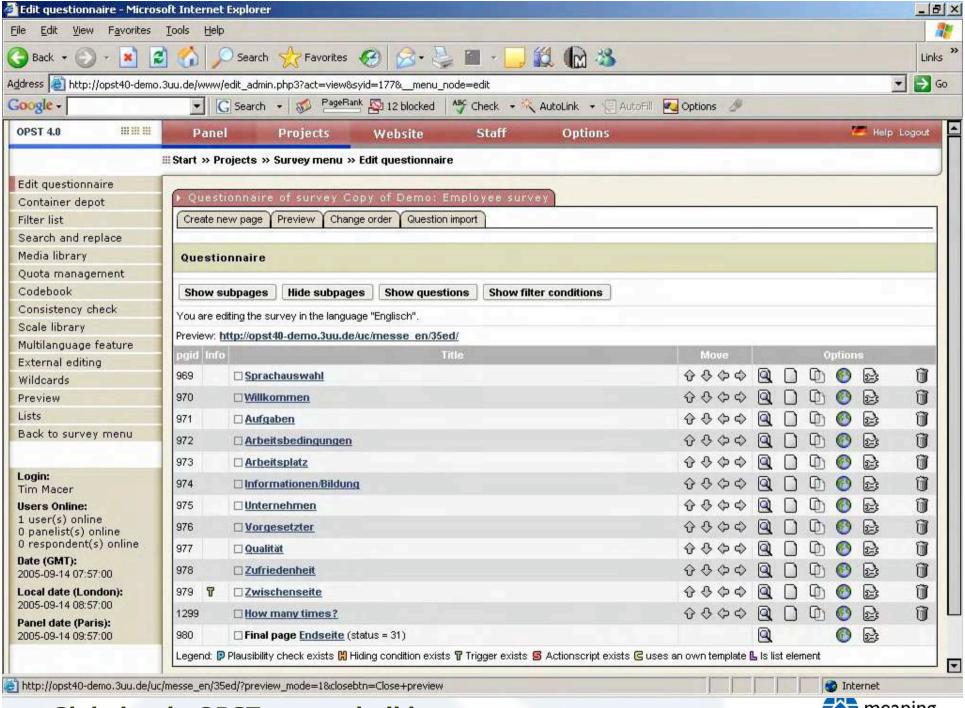


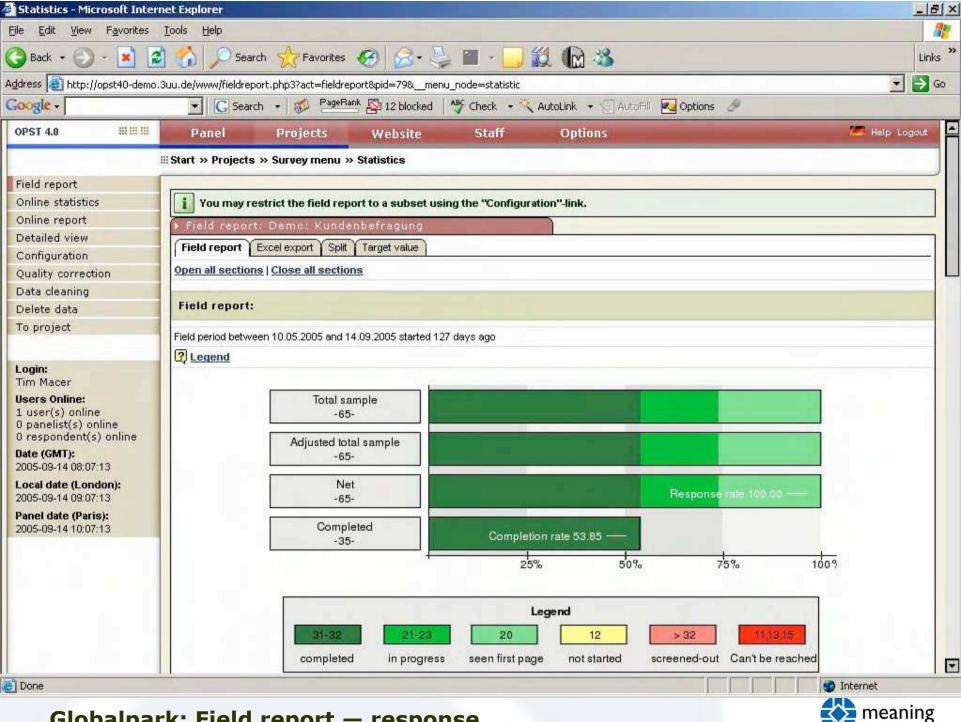


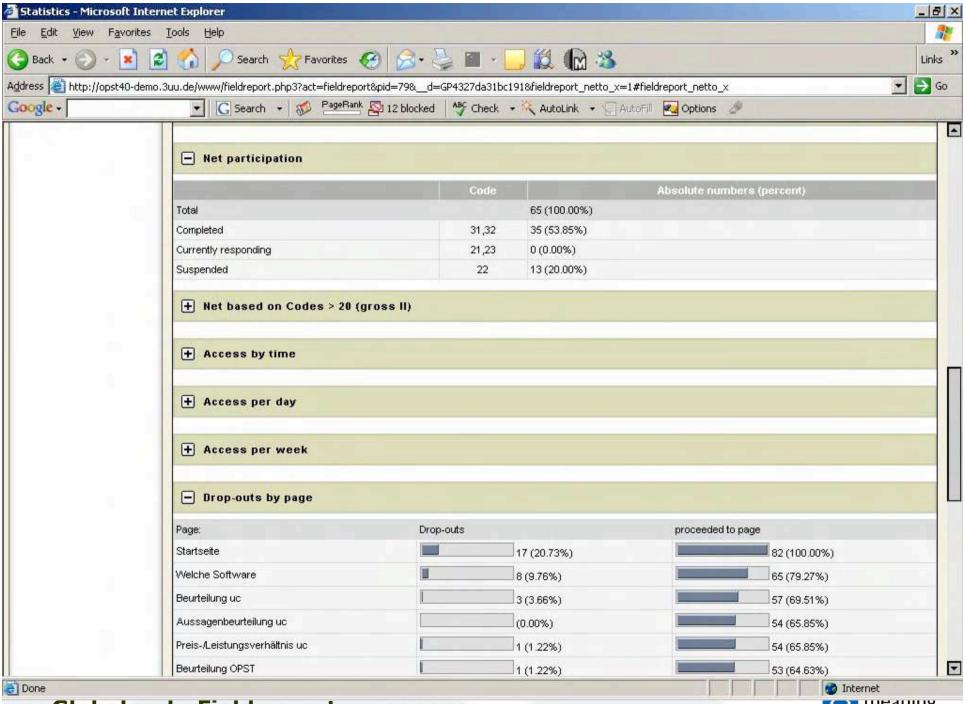


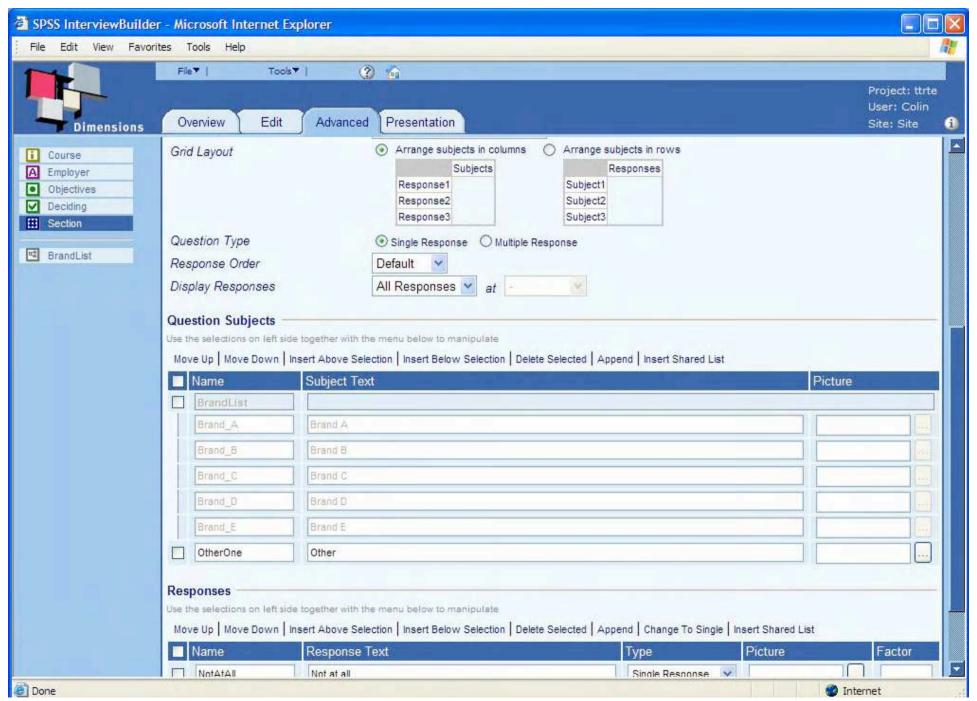




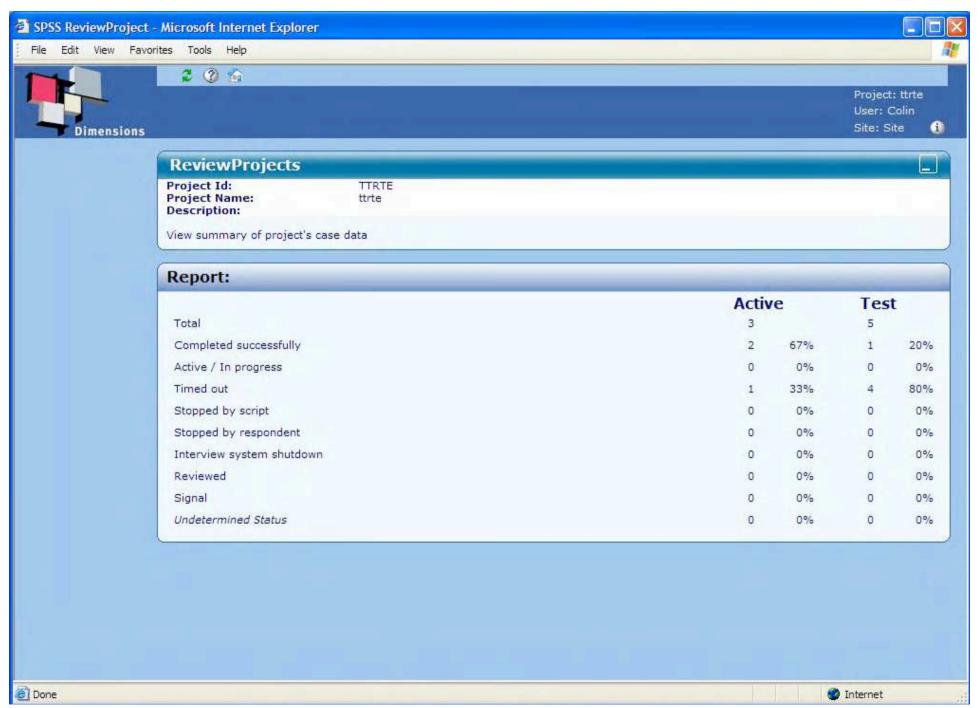








SPSS: Dimensions InterviewBuilder (mr Interview)



SPSS: Dimensions InterviewBuilder (mr Interview)

Multimode desktop tools some examples

■ Askia WEB PAPER SCAN CAI

■ **Keypoint** Cambridge Software WEB PAPER SCAN

■ Remark Office* Gravic WEB PAPER SCAN

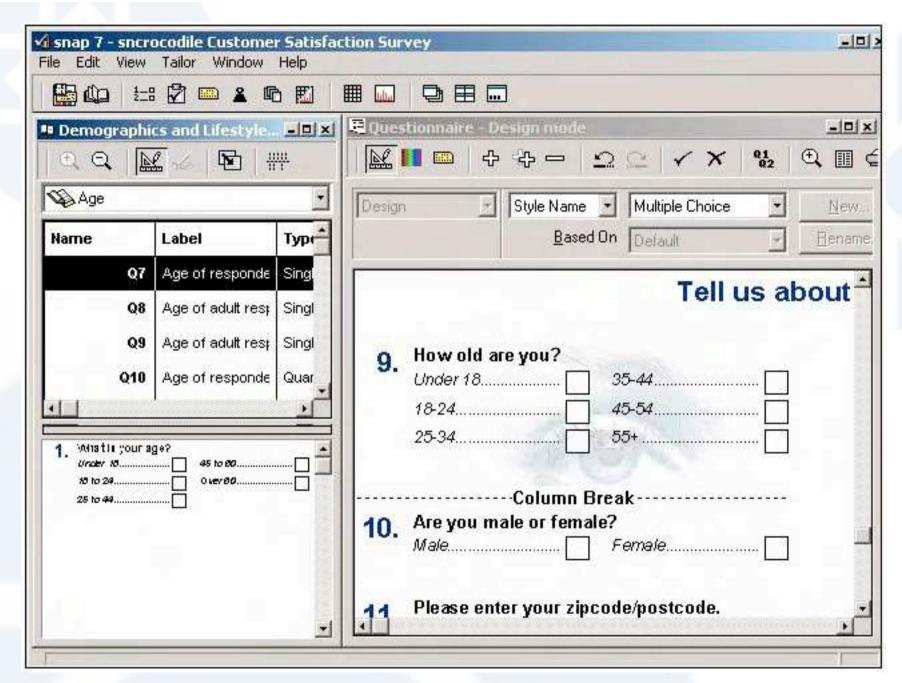
■ Snap Snap surveys WEB PAPER SCAN CAI

■ Sphinx WEB PAPER SCAN CAI

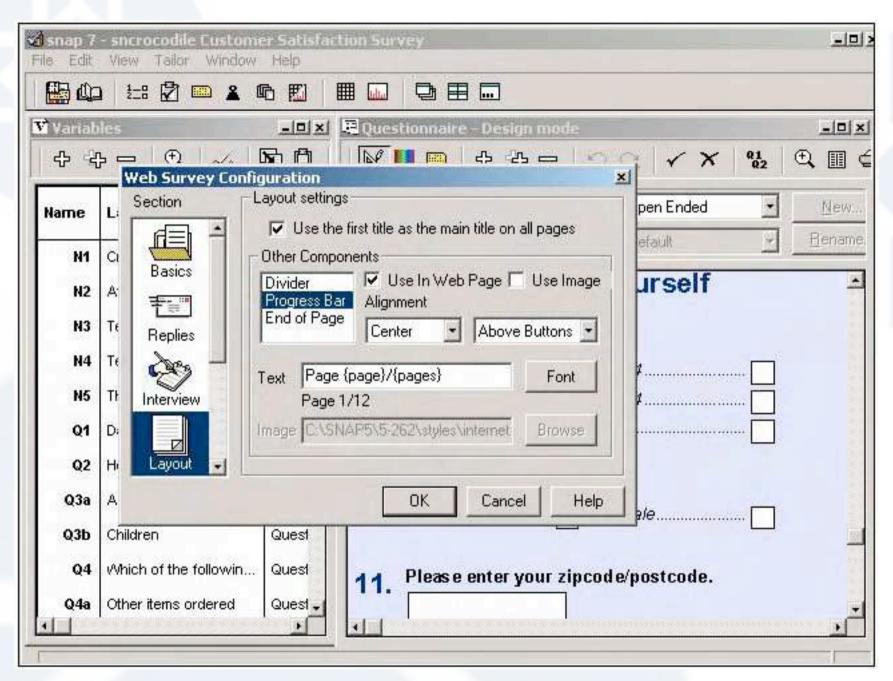
■ The Survey System CRS WEB PAPER SCAN CAI

*Web forms approach

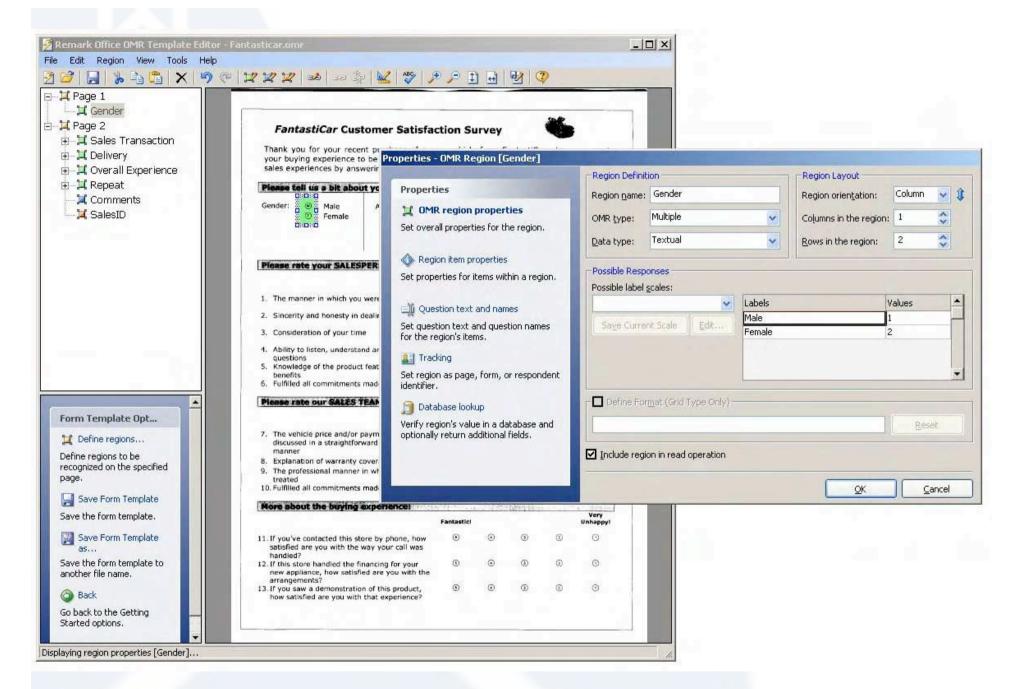




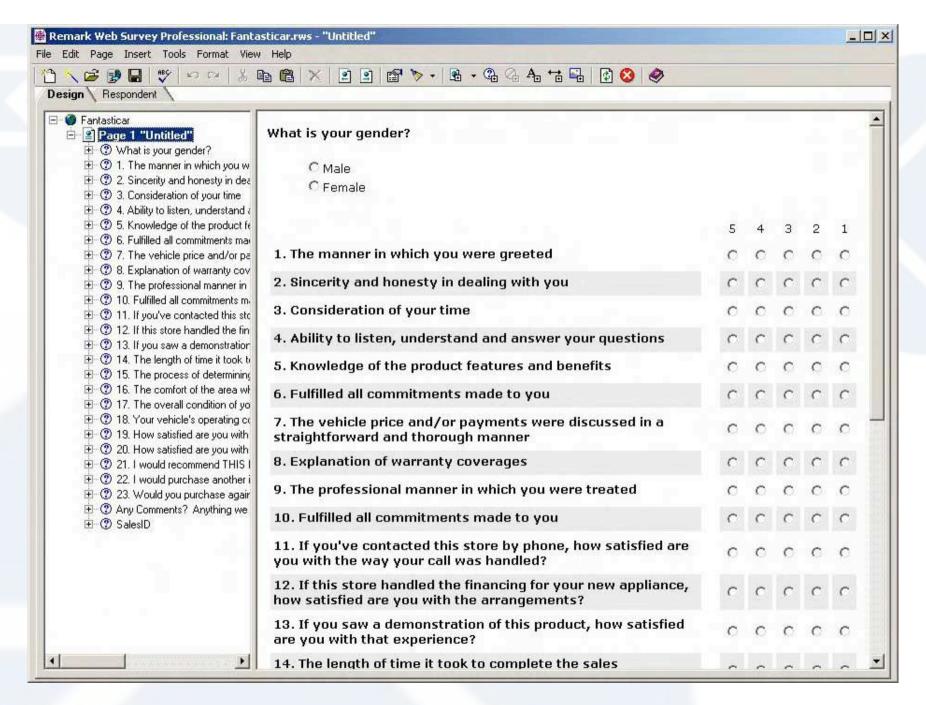






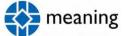












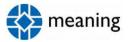
Threats

- Usurp professional MR
- Drive down costs further
- Lower response rates further by spamming respondents with poor quality surveys
- Blur the distinction between 'real' research and sales/marketing
- Inconsistent and contradictory findings within enterprises, as different units go it alone
- Devalue MR as a whole?



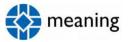
Opportunities

- Re-connects the researcher with the research and puts her/him back in control
- It is encouraging experimentation and the development of new methods
- Reduce the cost of research for everyone
- Allows research buyers to do more research
- Provides a route in for those who could not previously commission MR
- Encourage the MR industry to be 'up its game'...



Responding to the challenges

- Encourage would-be DIYers with consulting and advisory services to do it properly
- Get smarter and more efficient to narrow the price gap
- Have confidence in research professionalism and emphasise what DIYers wil find difficult
 - e.g. sampling, specialist panels, international research, advanced techniques and modelling
- Partner with software providers





020 3291 2930

www.meaning.uk.com

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This presentation is **Copyright** © **2008 by meaning ltd**. It may not be copied in part or in whole without the permission of the copyright owner.

Images contained within the presentation are the intellectual property and/or copyright of their respective owners and are used here with permission. REPRODUCTION OR REUSE OF ANY IMAGES HEREIN IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

Contact **meaning** (www.meaning.uk.com or tel. +44 20 3291 2930) for permission or further information, stating BIG Forum Arpil 2008.

