# REDCap Overview

Health Information Core (HIC)
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Email REDCap questions to REDCap-Help@einsteinmed.edu

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#### What is REDCap?

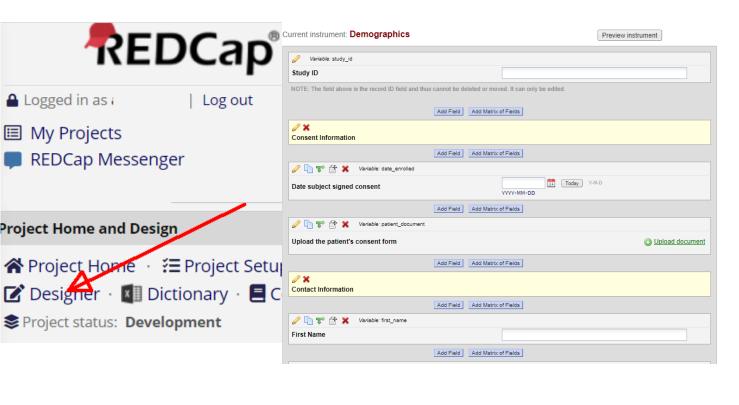
- REDCap = Research Electronic Data Capture
- Web-based Data Collection and Data Management Software
- Developed and maintained by Vanderbilt University
- Data Collection Options
  - Data Entry Forms
    - Entered from paper forms
    - Entered directly
  - Surveys
    - Completed by participants directly
  - Import Data from other sources

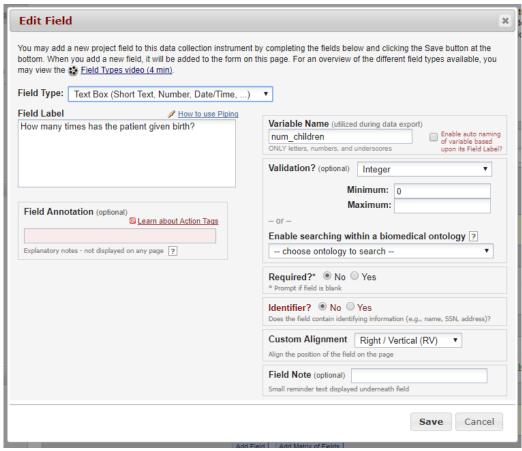
#### **REDCap Major Features**

- Data Collection Instruments
- Field Validation
- Programming features
- Surveys
- Longitudinal Study Design
- Data Export
- Simple Reports
- User Permissions
- Auditing
- Randomization Module
- Offline Data Collection using Mobile App

#### **Data Collection Instruments**

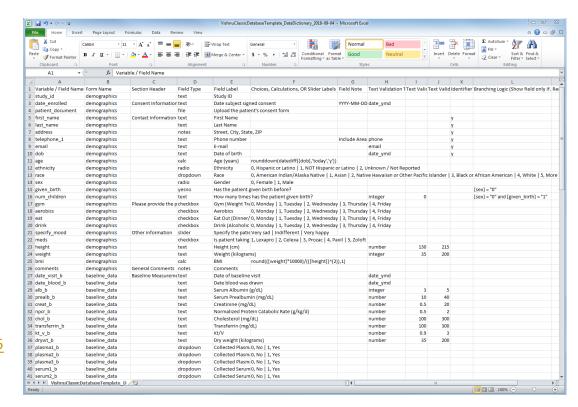
Method 1: Create them with the Online Designer





## Data Collection Instruments (cont...)

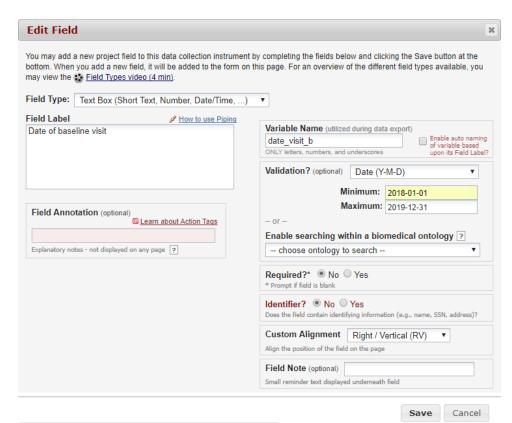
- Method 2: Edit the data dictionary directly as a CSV file
- Good for bulk editing
- Beware of Excel quirks!
  - If you save non-English or non-ASCII characters
     Excel, they may not get encoded correctly
    - You might see strange characters in REDCap like this:
    - Save as CSV UTF-8 within Excel if possible or use Google Sheets, Open Office or LibreOffice instead.
    - https://help.surveygizmo.com/help/encode-an-excel-file-to-utf-8-or-utf-16
  - Excel may drop leading zeros in dictionaries or data files
    - Instead of double-clicking the file to open in Excel, import as text: Data->From Text/CSV, select "Do not detect data types"

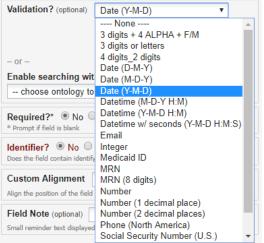


#### **Field Validation**

- Set sanity checks for your variables
  - Validate by type: integer, number, date, datetime, etc...
  - By precision: 1 decimal place, 2 decimals, etc...
  - By standard formats
    - Emails, Phone Number, Zip Code, SSN
  - Custom validation
    - Montefiore MRN
    - Can request a new custom validation
  - Min/max values
- Validation by type is a "hard check" REDCap won't let you save an invalid response
- In REDCap, min/max are "soft" checks, and can be overridden:

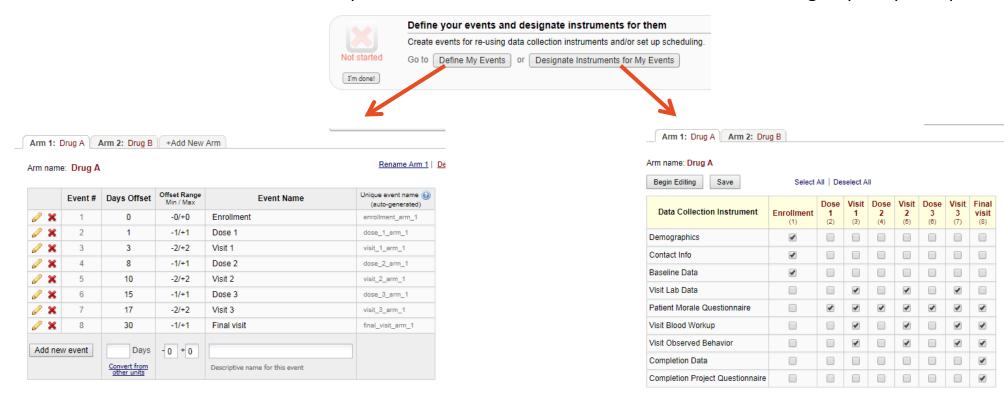






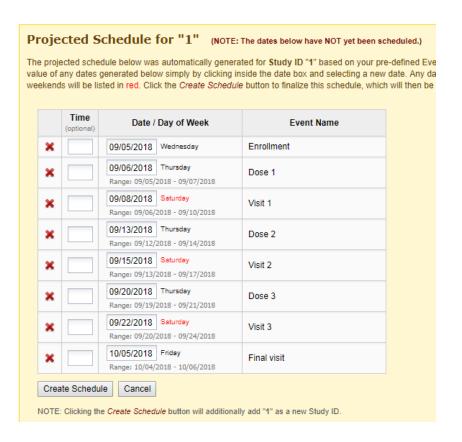
### **Longitudinal Study Design**

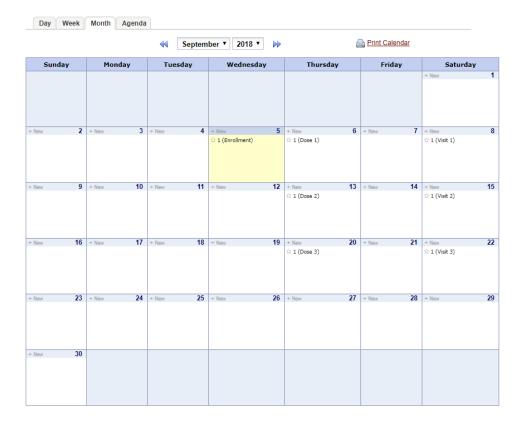
- Produce repeating forms by creating events (Ex: Visit 1, Visit 2, etc...) and designating the same instrument for multiple
  events
- Enable in the Main Project Settings and then define events and designate instruments
- Can also define "arms" to create separate schedules of events/instruments for different groups of participants



### **Longitudinal Study Design**

- Scheduler feature to schedule participant visits
- Calendar feature to view appointments (can also be used for non-longitudinal studies)





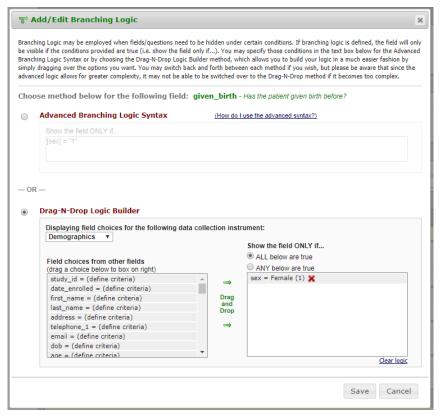
# Programming Features: Branching Logic

- Determines whether to show or hide a field during data entry
- In REDCap, "branching logic" is used to implement skip patterns
- Variables are referenced with brackets []
  - [sex] = "1" to show question if sex=Female
  - For longitudinal studies, you must also specify the event using the format [event name][variable name] e.g.

```
[enrollment arm 1][sex] = "1"
```

• When testing for equality, enclose values with plain quotes ("") instead of smart quotes (""). Use either single quotes or double quotes, but you can't mix the two. Ex: '6' is fine but '6" invalid



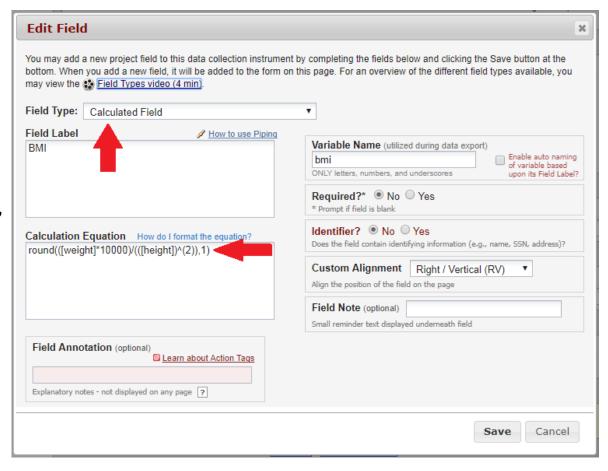


# Programming Features: Branching Logic (cont...)

- Can create complex conditions with **and**, **or** operators
  - [sex] = "1" and [age] > 25
  - [smokes] = "1" or [drinks alcohol]="1"
- You can also test for inequality:
  - [language] != "1" => testing that language is "not equal" to English
  - [language] <> "1" => this test is also testing for "not equal" to English => <> and != are equivalent in REDCap
- It's also possible to test for the absence of a value:
  - [age] = "" or [sex] = "" => testing if either age or sex is blank

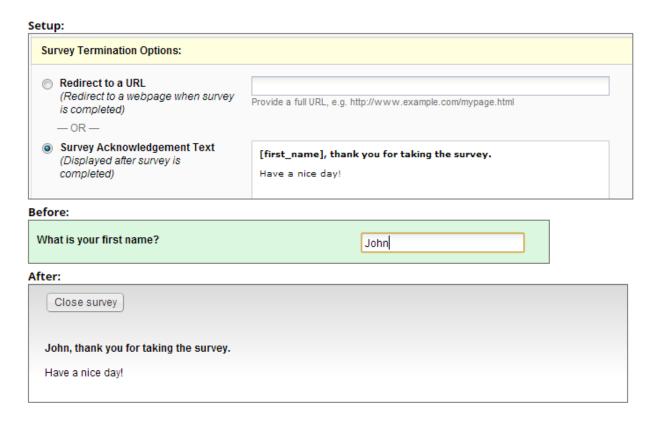
# **Programming Features: Calculated Fields**

- Calculate a numeric field by referencing other fields
- Can use arithmetic operators: + \* / ^
- Useful built-in functions:
  - Round, roundup, rounddown, mean, median, sum, etc... see Help Menu
- Supports if-then-else logic:
  - if (CONDITION, VALUE if condition is TRUE, VALUE if condition is FALSE)
  - To create a categorical variable for "Age greater than 25", set calculation to:
    - If([age] > 25,1,0)
  - Can nest if statements. For "Age 25-64":
    - If([age] >= 25,(if([age] <= 64,1,0),0)



### **Programming Features: Piping**

- Insert the contents of a variable into display text
- Can be used with question text, field labels, survey instructions, etc...

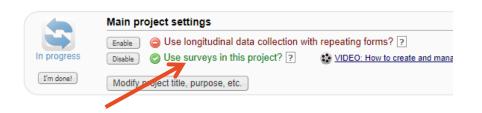


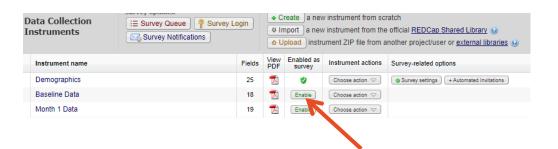
#### **Programming Features: API**

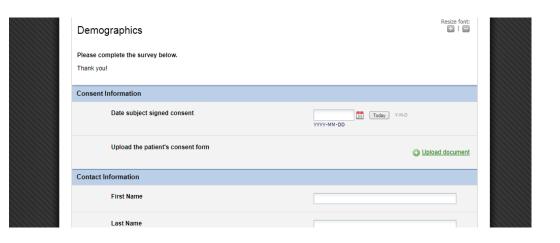
- REDCap has an API (Application Program Interface) for interacting with the back-end database directly
  - Requires permission to use (an API token)
  - Can use any programming language capable of issuing HTTPS requests:
    - Ex: PHP, JavaScript, Java, Python, R, SAS, etc...
  - Can import/export records, files, events, etc...
  - API use will be monitored because excessive/improper use can negatively impact server performance

#### **REDCap Surveys**

- Surveys can be enabled for any project and any data collection instrument can be converted to a survey
- When taking a survey, the REDCap menu system is not visible
- Participants don't need a REDCap login
- Dissemination Options:
  - Public URL
  - Email a unique link
  - Send a unique link via text (Twilio)
  - Clinical settings: Open the survey on a tablet or laptop and hand it to respondent

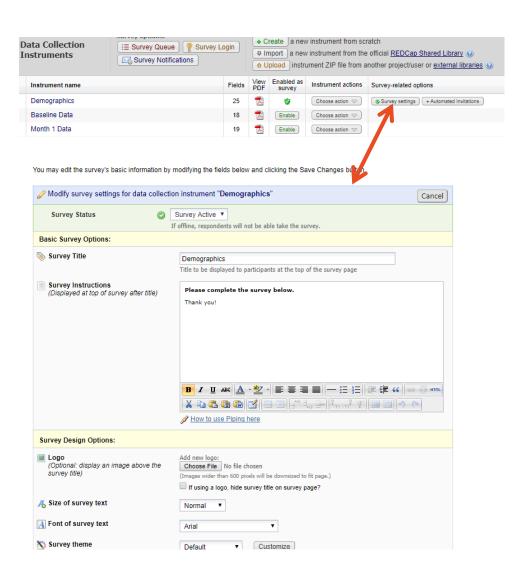






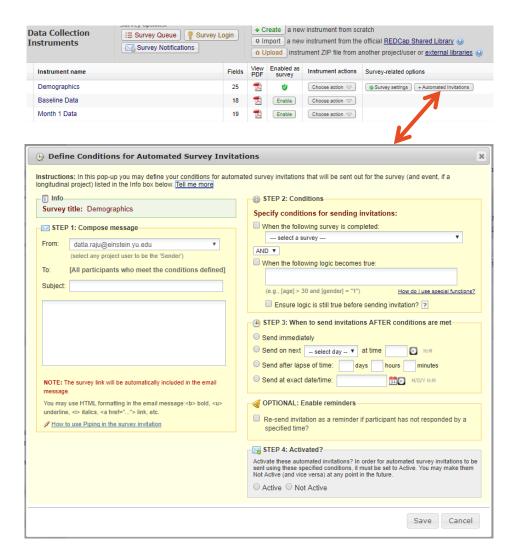
### **REDCap Surveys: Survey Settings**

- Define Instrument-level settings in "Survey Settings"
  - Status (Active or Offline)
  - Title & Instructions
  - Logo, font, style template
  - Single page vs. multiple
  - Allow "Save and Return Later"
  - Auto-continue to next survey
  - Survey completion text / Thank you



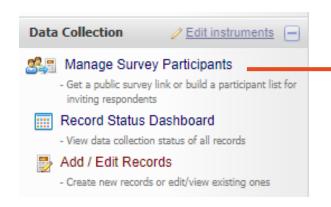
#### **REDCap Surveys: Automated Invitations**

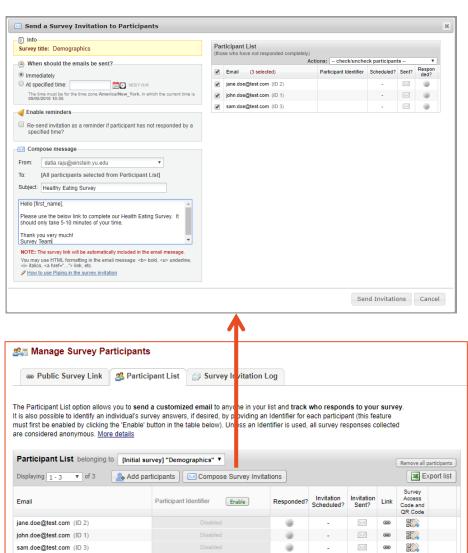
- Program your email/text invitations in advance
- Use filtering logic to target the invitations
  - Ex: Send to all men age 25-44 that had a migraine headache in the past month
- More options for setting the time
  - Ex: Send invitation for Part 2 of the survey the next Monday at 9am after Part 1 was completed
  - Ex: Send invitations to PTID 1-100 at 9am, send to PTID 101-200 at 10am, etc...
- Make sure you test your invitations thoroughly



#### **REDCap Surveys: Manual Invitations**

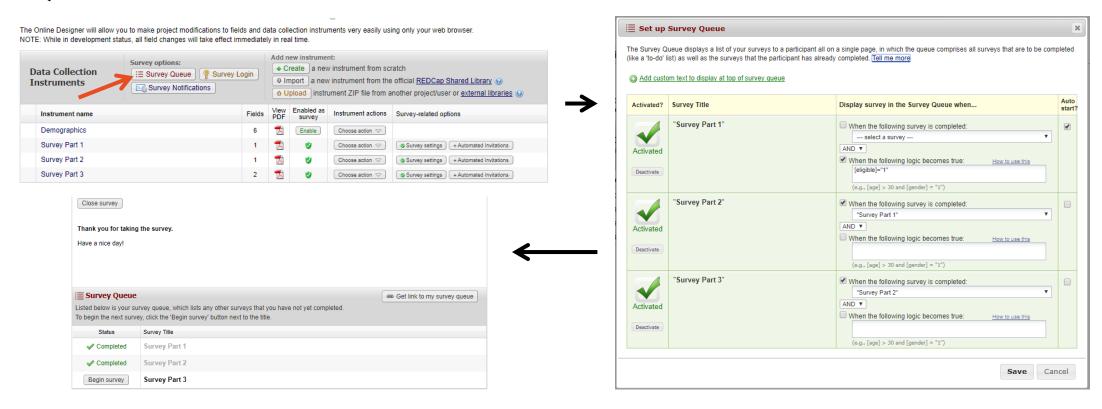
- Send "manual" invitations using "Manage Survey Participants"
- Compose and send immediately or schedule for a later time
- Can select individual participants from a list
- Or send to entire categories of people
  - Ex: Not sent to previously, yet to respond, etc...
- Can optionally pre-program reminders





#### **REDCap Surveys: Survey Queue**

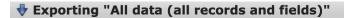
- Use the Survey Queue to create a list of surveys for the participant to complete
  - Can use conditional logic to ensure a specific sequence or skip surveys under certain conditions
  - Can optionally display the list to the participant by leaving "Auto start?" unchecked
- The Auto-continue feature (see Survey Settings) is an alternative to the Survey Queue for defining a sequence of surveys where the next survey opens automatically. However, you cannot determine the next survey dynamically with branching logic as you can with the Survey Queue.



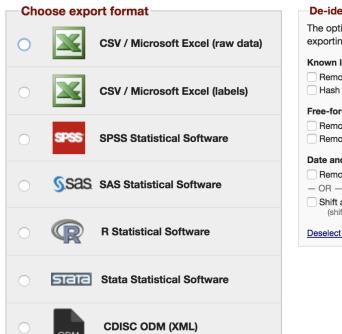
#### **Data Export**

- Users who have been granted permission can export data with a variety of options
- Export data as CSV or XML files
- Export to stats packages: R, SAS, SPSS, Stata
- Can exclude identifiers
- Can filter by forms, variables, etc...
- Can export instruments as PDFs with data values filled – see "Other Export Options" tab





Select your export settings, which includes the export format (Excel/CSV, SAS, SPSS, R, Stata) and if you wish

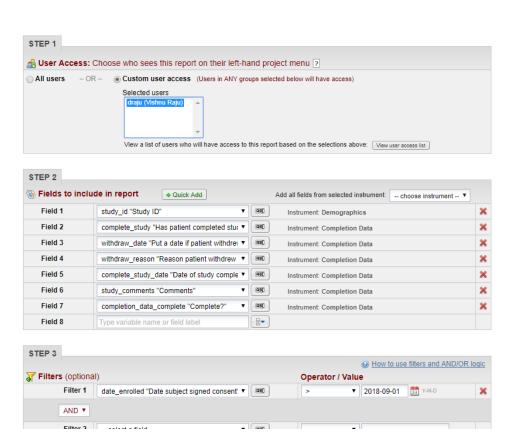


| De-identification options (optional)  |
|---|
| The options below allow you to limit the a exporting out of the project. Check all that |
| Known Identifiers:  |
| Remove all tagged Identifier fields (tagged Hash the Record ID field (converts record n |
| Free-form text:   |
| Remove unvalidated Text fields (i.e. Text fields Remove Notes/Essay box fields          |
| Date and datetime fields:   |
| Remove all date and datetime fields   |
| - OR -  |
| Shift all dates by value between 0 and 364 (shifted amount determined by algorithm for  |
| Deselect all options  |

#### **Create Simple Reports**

- Create and save simple reports lists of cases matching certain criteria
- Can restrict each report to certain users
- Provides some descriptive stats and plots (min/max,
   SD, outliers, bar charts, etc...)
- More complex reports with summary statistics, subtotals, etc... are not possible in REDCap



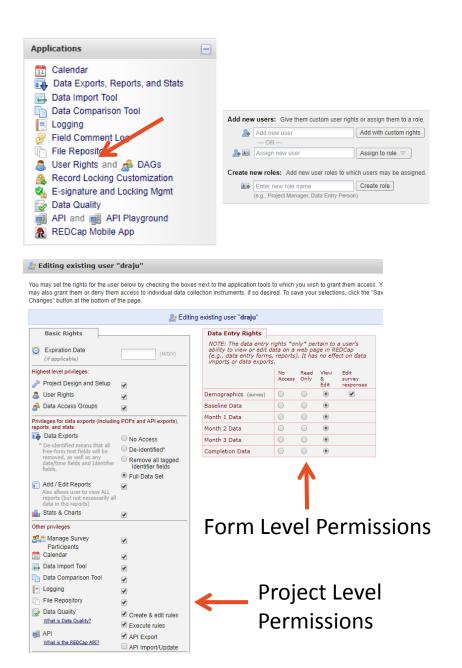


#### Study Completion Report

| Study<br>ID<br>(study_<br>id) | Has patient completed study? (complete_study) | Put a date if patient<br>withdrew study<br>(withdraw_date) | Reason patient withdrew<br>from study<br>(withdraw_reason) | Date of study<br>completion<br>(complete_study_<br>date) | Comments<br>(study_<br>comments) | Complete?<br>(completion_data_<br>complete) |
|-------------------------------|---|--|--|--|----------------------------------|---|
| 1                             | Yes (1)                                       |  |  | 2018-09-04   |                                  | Incomplete (0)                              |
| 2                             | Yes (1)                                       |  |  | 2018-09-02   |                                  | Incomplete (0)                              |
| 3                             | No (0)  | 2018-09-03   | Did not wish to continue in study (1)                      |  |                                  | Incomplete (0)                              |

#### **User Rights**

- Add users to your projects and set individual permissions or assign a role
- Set project wide permissions
  - Design & Setup
  - Reports, Exports, Logging
  - Record Locking
  - Create/Rename/Delete Records
- Set form specific permissions
  - No Access, Read-only, View & Edit



## **Auditing: Logging**

- Logging feature provides an audit trail for:
  - Create/Update/Delete actions
  - Data Exports
  - Design changes
  - Page Views
- Filter by user, record, date, type
- Can export log to CSV



#### Logging

Download entire logging record to Microsoft Excel (CSV)

This module lists all changes made to this project, including data exports, data changes, and the creation or deletion of users



| Time / Date       | Username | Action              | List of Data Changes<br>OR Fields Exported   |
|-------------------|----------|---------------------|--|
| 09/04/2018 1:56pm | draju    | Manage/Design       | Set up survey  |
| 09/04/2018 1:54pm | draju    | Manage/Design       | Modify project settings  |
| 09/04/2018 1:42pm | draju    | Updated Record<br>2 | date_enrolled = '2018-09-04'   |
| 09/04/2018 1:41pm | draju    | Updated Record<br>3 | date_enrolled = '2018-09-04',<br>demographics_complete = '0'   |
| 09/04/2018 1:41pm | draju    | Updated Record<br>2 | date_enrolled = '2018-09-01',<br>demographics_complete = '0'   |
| 09/04/2018 1:40pm | draju    | Manage/Design       | Create report  |
| 09/04/2018 1:37pm | draju    | Created Record<br>3 | complete_study = '0', withdraw_date = '2018-09-03', withdraw_reason = '1', completion_data_complete = '0', study_id = '3'  |
| 09/04/2018 1:36pm | draju    | Created Record<br>2 | complete_study = '1', complete_study_date = '2018-09-02', completion_data_complete = '0', study_id = '2'   |
| 09/04/2018 1:36pm | draju    | Updated Record<br>1 | complete_study = '1', complete_study_date = '2018-09-04', completion_data_complete = '0'   |
| 09/04/2018 1:35pm | draju    | Created Record      | date_enrolled = '2018-09-04', first_name = 'John', last_name = 'Doe', address = '123 flain St, New York, NY 10001', telephone_1 = '(444) 555-6666', email = 'test@test.com', dob = '1975-01-01', age = '43', ethnicity = '0', race = '4', sex = '2', gym(0) = checked, gym(2) = checked, aerobics(1) = checked, eat(4) = checked, cat(4) = checked, dnink(2) = checked, specify_mood = '100', height = '185', weight = '74', bmi = '21.6'. |

## **Auditing: Field History and Comments**

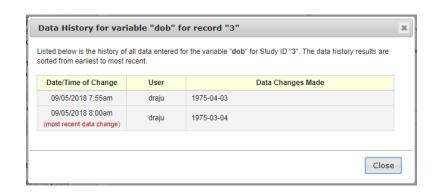
Field Level History





- can disable at project level
- can export comments to CSV

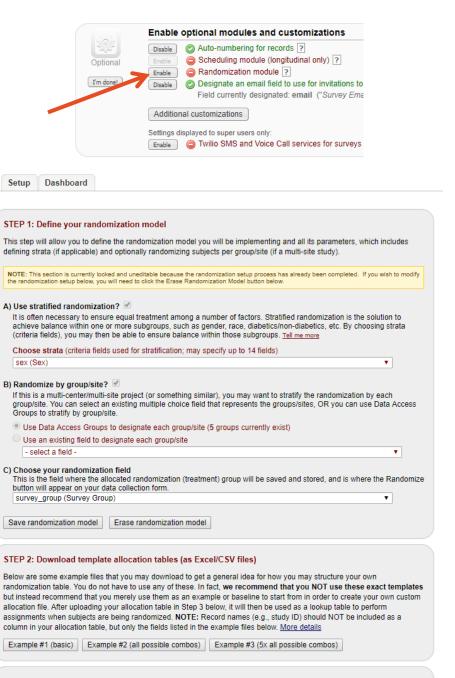






#### **Randomization Module**

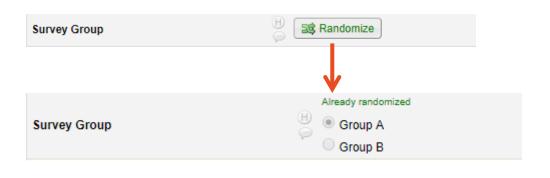
- REDCap can randomly assign participants to specific groups
- Step 1: Define your randomization model and create the required variables:
  - Stratification factors (optional)
  - Group/site (optional)
  - Randomization field to store the result
  - These should all be single response categorical variables
- Step 2: Download template file
  - REDCap can be used to generate a template
  - The actual allocation table should be generated outside of REDCap using statistical software



STEP 3: Upload your allocation table (CSV file)

#### Randomization Module (cont...)

- Step 3: Upload Allocation Table
  - Use different tables for development mode (testing) and production mode
  - Once in production, table is locked and can't be modified
- Press the "Randomize" button on form to assign a code and lock the variable
- Dashboard shows aggregated totals of used codes
- Can restrict access to randomization features:
  - Setup
  - Dashboard
  - Randomize button



Dashboard

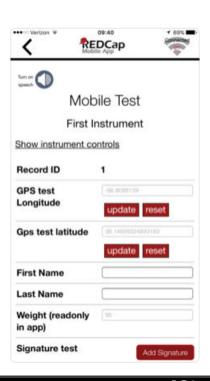
The table below displays the allocation dashboard for use in DEVELOPMENT status. All assignments are grouped to show in aggregate the count of records that have been randomized for each row (i.e. combinations). Assignments that have been used will get counted in the 'Used' column while those that are still unallocated will get counted in the 'Not Used' column. Once all assignments have been used for a given row/combination, it will display a checkmark icon in its row. The headers in the table may be clicked to sort the table by that column either in ascending or descending order.

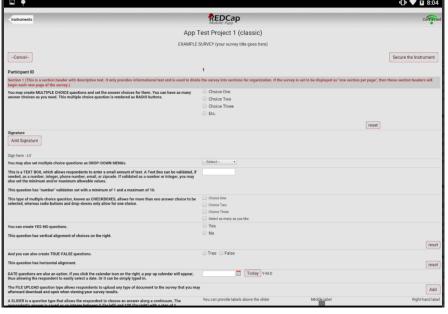
| Used | Not Used | Allocated records | Data Access Group | Survey<br>Group (survey_group) | Sex (sex)  |
|------|----------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|------------|
| 0    | 5        |                   | Manhattan (821)   | Group A (1)                    | Female (1) |
| 0    | 5        |                   | Manhattan (821)   | Group A (1)                    | Male (2)   |
| 0    | 5        |                   | Manhattan (821)   | Group B (2)                    | Female (1) |
| 0    | 5        |                   | Manhattan (821)   | Group B (2)                    | Male (2)   |
| 0    | 5        |                   | Bronx (822)       | Group A (1)                    | Female (1) |
| 1    | 4        | <u>5</u>          | Bronx (822)       | Group A (1)                    | Male (2)   |
| 0    | 5        |                   | Bronx (822)       | Group B (2)                    | Female (1) |
| 0    | 5        |                   | Bronx (822)       | Group B (2)                    | Male (2)   |
| 1    | 4        | <u>6</u>          | Brooklyn (823)    | Group A (1)                    | Female (1) |
| 0    | 5        |                   | Brooklyn (823)    | Group A (1)                    | Male (2)   |
| n    | 5        |                   | Brooklyn (823)    | Group R (2)                    | Female (1) |

#### **Mobile App**

- Designed for offline data collection in areas with limited internet access
- Support for Android 4.3+ and iOS 9+ devices
- Designed for research staff to enter the data with a dedicated device - NOT for participants to enter information from their own smart phones.
- Data resides on the devices until it is synced to your web-based REDCap project
- Allow extra time for testing and plan for contingencies







#### **New Features**

- Repeatable Instruments/Events
  - Great for recording ad-hoc events or for high frequency data collection, e.g. daily surveys
- Customizable Record Status Dashboard
- Smart Variables
  - Variables whose values depend on the current context, e.g. [user-name] or [previous-event]
- MyCap mobile app to allow participants to fill out surveys on their own devices
- External Modules extend REDCap features (e.g., Multilingual)