

Blank Data Export Issue Reproduction

Issue overview

When editing a survey response, all NULL data items become instead blank.

When exporting survey responses with Answers set to Question Codes + Convert Y/N to 1/2, blank data items for Yes/No questions are exported as 2.

Reproduction of the issue

Create test survey

Two questions, one of which is a Yes/No that is only displayed if the other is answered a certain way, so as to produce naturally NULL data. In every response in which Q113 is not asked, the data will be NULL.

Question summary Q13 (ID: 4056)		Question summary Q113 (ID: 4057)	
Question group:	Test group (ID:395)	Question group:	Test group (ID:395)
Code:	Q13 : (Mandatory question)	Code:	Q113 : (Mandatory question)
Question:	blahl blah 1 2 3 4	Question:	blah blah yes no
Help:		Help:	
Type:	List (radio)	Type:	Yes/No
Mandatory:	Yes	Mandatory:	Yes
Relevance equation:	1	Relevance equation:	Q13 == 3

Submit a few surveys, some with null data for the Yes/No question

In Limesurvey's responses view:



Display mode: Extended Compact

id	lastpage	completed	startlanguage	Q13 blahl blah 1 2 3 4	Q113 blah blah yes no	
		All				
1	1	✓	en	Answer 1 [1]		
2	1	✓	en	Answer 2 [2]		
3	1	✓	en	Answer 3 [3]	Yes [Y]	
4	1	✓	en	Answer 3 [3]	No [N]	
6	1	✓	en	Answer 4 [4]		

Displaying 1-5 of 5 result(s). 10 rows per page

In the database:

limesurvey.survey_819672: 5 Zeilen gesamt

 id	 token	submitdate	lastpage	startlanguage	819672X395X4056	819672X395X4057
1	(NULL)	1980-01-01 00:00:00	1	en	1	(NULL)
2	(NULL)	1980-01-01 00:00:00	1	en	2	(NULL)
3	(NULL)	1980-01-01 00:00:00	1	en	3	Y
4	(NULL)	1980-01-01 00:00:00	1	en	3	N
6	(NULL)	1980-01-01 00:00:00	1	en	4	(NULL)

Note that the empty responses for Q113, where the question was not asked, are NULL values in the database.

Edit the last response

You needn't change anything, but definitely don't set the Yes/No question's response to anything.

Save Save and close Close

Data entry - Editing response (ID 6)

Completed

Yes

Response ID

6

Date submitted

1980-01-01 00:00:00

Start language

en

blahl blah 1 2 3 4

Answer 4

blahl blah yes no

Please choose..

Inspect the responses again

In Limesurvey:

Display mode: Extended Compact

id	lastpage	completed	startlanguage	Q13 blahl blah 1 2 3 4	Q113 blahl blah yes no	
		All				
1	1	✓	en	Answer 1 [1]		
2	1	✓	en	Answer 2 [2]		
3	1	✓	en	Answer 3 [3]	Yes [Y]	
4	1	✓	en	Answer 3 [3]	No [N]	
6	1	✓	en	Answer 4 [4]		

Displaying 1-5 of 5 result(s). 10 rows per page

In the database:

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🔑 id	🔑 token	submitdate	lastpage	startlanguage	819672X395X4056	819672X395X4057
1	(NULL)	1980-01-01 00:00:00	1	en	1	(NULL)
2	(NULL)	1980-01-01 00:00:00	1	en	2	(NULL)
3	(NULL)	1980-01-01 00:00:00	1	en	3	Y
4	(NULL)	1980-01-01 00:00:00	1	en	3	N
6	(NULL)	1980-01-01 00:00:00	1	en	4	

Note that the edited response (#6) now has a blank entry (empty string) instead of a NULL entry (no data).

Export the data with various response options and inspect the results

Responses

Answer codes

Full answers

☒ Convert Y to: 1
 ☒ Convert N to: 2

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	id	submitdate	lastpage	startlanguage	Q13	Q113
2	1	1980-01-01 00:00:00	1	en	1	
3	2	1980-01-01 00:00:00	1	en	2	
4	3	1980-01-01 00:00:00	1	en	3	1
5	4	1980-01-01 00:00:00	1	en	3	2
6	6	1980-01-01 00:00:00	1	en	4	2

Note that the Q113 answer for response #6 has come out as 2 instead of blank

Responses

Answer codes

Full answers

☐ Convert Y to: 1
 ☐ Convert N to: 2

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	id	submitdate	lastpage	startlanguage	Q13	Q113
2	1	1980-01-01 00:00:00	1	en	1	
3	2	1980-01-01 00:00:00	1	en	2	
4	3	1980-01-01 00:00:00	1	en	3	Y
5	4	1980-01-01 00:00:00	1	en	3	N
6	6	1980-01-01 00:00:00	1	en	4	

Note that the Q113 answer for response #6 has correctly come out blank

Responses

Answer codes

Full answers

☐ Convert Y to: 1

☐ Convert N to: 2

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	id	submitdate	lastpage	startlanguage	Q13	Q113
2	1	1980-01-01 00:00:00		1 en	Answer 1	N/A
3	2	1980-01-01 00:00:00		1 en	Answer 2	N/A
4	3	1980-01-01 00:00:00		1 en	Answer 3	Yes
5	4	1980-01-01 00:00:00		1 en	Answer 3	No
6	6	1980-01-01 00:00:00		1 en	Answer 4	N/A

Note that the Q113 answer for response #6 has correctly come out as N/A

Responses

Answer codes

Full answers

☒ Convert Y to: 1

☒ Convert N to: 2

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	id	submitdate	lastpage	startlanguage	Q13	Q113
2	1	1980-01-01 00:00:00		1 en	Answer 1	N/A
3	2	1980-01-01 00:00:00		1 en	Answer 2	N/A
4	3	1980-01-01 00:00:00		1 en	Answer 3	Yes
5	4	1980-01-01 00:00:00		1 en	Answer 3	No
6	6	1980-01-01 00:00:00		1 en	Answer 4	N/A

Note that the Q113 answer for response #6 has correctly come out as N/A

Summary of findings

Two things are happening that should not:

1. When the response was edited, the NULL entry for the unanswered Q113 response was changed from NULL to an empty string.
2. When the responses were exported as 'answer codes' with 'Y' and 'N' converted to 1 and 2 respectively, those empty strings were incorrectly exported as 2 instead of no data.