

# PC-Axis

## Country Report - Finland 2007

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## Briefly on the background

- According to Statistics Finland's web-based service policy drawn up in November 2003: **“Both free and charged dissemination of data from table databases shall concentrated into the PX-Web service.”**
- The transfer of the free StatFin database service from the StatLine platform to the PX-Web platform was started in September 2006. The project is due for completion in October 2007.
- PC-Axis has been in use some 15 years, but only in pay services. Majority of the 200 topic production teams staff was unfamiliar with it in 2005

## Introduction of PC-Axis applications throughout the agency

- **PC-Axis file format manual** published in May 2006. It includes the in house standards for mandatory keywords and metadata quality
- **Training programme** from August 2006 to April 2007
  - Altogether 64 courses were organised in the training
  - Approximately 550 staff-days were spent on them at the level of the whole agency.
- **PC-Axis version 2006 and PX-Edit** has been installed to all workstations (to 1,000 of total 1,200 workstations) in the agency

## Introduction of PC-Axis applications throughout the agency

### ■ Training was provided in

- PC-Axis (including PC-Axis file format),
- PX-Edit and PX-Edit-Batch,
- standardised tabulation design,
- principles and in house standards applying to the use of classifications,
- optimisation of tables on the terms of a cubic database (PX-Web),
- optimisation of tables for other web-based and multi-channel dissemination methods

## Introduction of PX-Web 2006 version

### ■ **Largest server update since 2001**

- Disc directory names were changed to short codes and set given alias names (=names seen by the customers) in three languages.
- Large number of the links between the static pages and the database service also had to be updated. However, most of the links could be updated as a centrally because the subject/topics structure in the web and database are now the same.

## Introduction of PX-Web 2006 version

- The multiple-language contents can be disseminated both
  - in the old manner in which each language version of a table is a separate px file,
  - and in the new way so that one px file contains metadata in several languages.
  
- Not yet multilingual px-files in production
- PX-Web 2006 system is stable and working well

## Service volumes

- **PX-Web for external customers** contains
  - free StatFin database
  - 20 charged databases
- Total number of px-files is 5,500 which contain a total of approximately 12 Gb of data
- Free StatFin service contains 500 px-files and the size of the free database is good 400 million data cells, 1.5 Gb
- Use of the free service accounts for over 80 per cent of all searches from the PX-Web service

## PX-Web services - Retrievals and downloaded data cells

Statistics Finland

		StatFin- free of charge		PX-Web total		Free of charge per cent
		Retrievals	Number of cells	Retrievals	Number of cells	
<b>2006</b>	<b>January</b>	..	..	23627	130036426	..
	<b>February</b>	..	..	23500	53934735	..
	<b>March</b>	..	..	31588	47741176	..
	<b>April</b>	..	..	27687	45346034	..
	<b>May</b>	..	..	29797	56596034	..
	<b>June</b>	..	..	21710	65929650	..
	<b>July</b>	..	..	14069	23778067	..
	<b>August</b>	..	..	24296	61179944	..
	<b>September</b>	..	..	22277	40557478	..
	<b>October *)</b>	838	247156	31484	53433472	2,7
	<b>November</b>	13139	9156269	43478	87208387	30,2
	<b>December</b>	4993	2028990	27163	82024709	18,4
<b>2007</b>	<b>January</b>	7365	3109350	41583	42251341	17,7
	<b>February</b>	8593	4391925	35158	54358023	24,4
	<b>March **)</b>	48176	30595661	80222	74749712	60,1
	<b>April</b>	12514	11094206	36661	62403078	34,1
	<b>May</b>	15150	11533626	38668	60970647	39,2
	<b>June **)</b>	29338	38429591	34915	82075075	84,0
	<b>July</b>	29085	17980362	32706	21850062	88,9

## PC-Axis table production Tools

<b>Tool</b>	<b>Use</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>SAS to PC-Axis</b> macroapplication	Used in all types statistics	Only if needed: PX-Edit and PX-EditBatch used for file validation and adding metadata
<b>Super STAR</b> version II	Especially used in population statistics and other register based large production systems	Minimal metadata (mandatory keywords only)  Always needed: PX-Edit or PX-EditBatch used for file validation and adding metadata
<b>PX-Edit</b>	Several data sources: Structured Excel tables, CSV-files, relational database listings etc.	The best validation tool and PC-Axis table quality in output

## Use of PC-Axis Family software

<b>Tool</b>	<b>Use</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>PC-Axis 2006</b>	Used as table browser and retrieving data from large working cubes for some information services	Installed to 1003 workstations in the agency (some 200 of the 1200 computers are used to handle statistics)
<b>PX-Edit</b>	Creating files from several data sources, file validation Metadata editor to fulfill the in house metadata standards	Installed to 1003 workstations in the agency (some 200 of the 1200 computers are not used to handle statistics...)
<b>PX-Tool</b>	The main tool for managing databases	PX-edit used also by the administrators of the databases
<b>PX-Web 2006</b>	Used on external and internal px-web-servers External service contains 5 500 tables total, of which 500 are in charge free StatFin database	Multilingual px-files supported and traditional single language files as well. Testing multilingual files. Not yet multilingual px-files in production.
<b>PX-iMap</b>	Used on external and internal px-web-servers	Works on any standard browser. Needs no plugins or java-applets. Picture format border lines are royalty free. Map facility is linked only to variables fit for map presentation. (=selected variables collected to separate px-files, so called map tables)

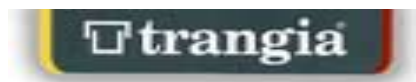
## PC-Axis family is a strategic tool for Statistics Finland

- All the database dissemination shall be concentrated in PX-Web
- An important transmission tool on the way to XML-based dissemination and metadata systems, because px-files can be converted to XML by PC-Axis, PX-Edit and PX-Web
- ... waiting for production version of tools for CoSSI-based PC-Axis XML-file

# A short history of all the best innovations of the Swedish industry ever



Trangia storm stoves



1925

RECORD **ABU** RECORD  
*Ambassadeur 5000*



Ambassadeur fishing reels



1952



PC-Axis / PX-Web



1991 / 2000