Dear REDCap user,

We wanted to let you know about some exciting new features we will add to REDCap soon. On Friday, July 15, 2016, we will upgrade REDCap from Version 6.12.2 to Version 6.16.1. The upgrade will require about 1 hour of downtime. We will start the upgrade at 8:30am on Friday, July 15, 2016, morning. We plan to have the system restored by 9:30am. Please let me know if you have any conflicts with this.

This new version of REDCap now has a more flexible and responsive user interface to conform to and fit screens on devices of all sizes, including how surveys and data entry forms look on mobile devices (i.e., phones), including automatic font increase and forced left-alignment of questions for better user experience when screen real estate is limited. Details for each are listed below. We hope you enjoy them. As always, thanks for using and supporting REDCap!

Visit REDCap at https://redcap.lsuhsc.edu

New look on login page
The login page look has changed slightly to update the Username and Password fields. Click here to view the new look.

New layout on Project Home tab
The Project Home tab for all projects has been redesigned so that less vertical scrolling is needed to view the details about the project. The Project Dashboard section has been moved from the bottom of the page to the right side of the page. An example picture of the new layout is below. Click here to view the new look.

New layout on Project Setup tab
The Project Setup tab for all projects has been redesigned so that less vertical scrolling is needed to view the details about the project. Sections such as Enable optional modules and customizations, Move your project to production status, Set up project bookmarks (optional) and Modify your data collection instruments (survey and forms) in Draft mode have been moved from the bottom of the page to the right side of the page. An example picture of the new layout is below. Click here to view the new look.

Enhanced radio buttons & checkboxes for surveys
Ordinary radio button fields and checkbox fields may now be transformed into more animated, modern-looking buttons on survey pages. These enhanced versions of radios and checkboxes are a good way to spice up your surveys with a fresher, user-friendly interface. You can see an example of this feature in the survey link below. The enhanced choices feature can be enabled for any given survey in a project under the Survey Design Options section on the Survey Settings page in the Online Designer of your project. It operates at the survey level, so *all* radios and checkboxes on a survey will be transformed if this is enabled. Live demo survey of new enhanced choices

New action tag: @DEFAULT
Sets a field's initial value. This action tag allows a field to have a specified default value when viewing the field on a survey or data entry form that has not yet had any data saved for it (i.e., when the form status icon is gray or when a survey has not been started). The format must follow the pattern @DEFAULT="VALUE", in which the desired default value should be inside single or double quotes. For checkbox fields, simply separate multiple checkbox values with commas - e.g., @DEFAULT='1,3,6'. NOTE: The default value does *not* get applied during any data imports (via API or Data Import Tool) but only operates when viewing survey pages and data entry forms.

New action tag: @USERNAME
Sets a field's value to the username of the current REDCap user. If this is used on a survey, the value will be "[survey respondent]". Once the value is captured, it will not be changed when visiting the page at a later time.

New action tag: @HIDEBUTTON

Hides the 'Now' or 'Today' button that is typically displayed to the right of date, time, and date/time fields. This will be very useful for some date/time fields that do not require a Now/Today button, such as Date of Birth, for example.

New action tag: @APPUSERNAME-APP
In the REDCap Mobile App, it sets a field's value to the app username of the current mobile app user - i.e., their username in the mobile app, which is not necessarily the same as their REDCap server username that can be captured using the @USERNAME action tag. NOTE: For use only in the REDCap Mobile App.

Question: Where do I enable Action Tags?
Good question! If you don't know, Action Tags are a great way to customize data entry for specific fields on surveys and forms. Actions Tags can be enabled for a given field in your project using the Online Designer page when editing fields on a data collection instrument. Click the Add Field button when creating a new field, or for an existing field, click the pencil icon next to the field to open the Edit Field popup. Inside the Edit Field popup window, you will see the Field Annotation text box on the bottom left of the popup. All your Action Tags that you wish to use for that field should go inside that text box. To view the full list of all available Action Tags, click the "Learn about Action Tags" link right above the Field Annotation box in the Edit Field popup.

Slider fields can be displayed as vertical by setting their Custom Alignment to right-vertical (RV) or left-vertical (LV).
Note: Any already-existing slider fields will automatically be converted to RH and LH alignment during the upgrade process if they previously had RV and LV alignment, respectively (this is because in previous versions there was no difference between the vertical and horizontal alignments for slider fields). Slider fields on surveys and data entry forms are now much easier to use on mobile/touch devices.

Server-side field validation
In addition to the existing client-side field validation that is performed on surveys and data entry forms, REDCap will now also perform server-side validation to validate all submitted values prior to saving them to ensure they are valid values. This means verifying the value via a text field's field validation type, or if a multiple choice field, verifying that the value is indeed a valid choice for the field. If they are considered invalid values, then the value will not be saved, and the page will be reloaded with an error message (similar to the Required Fields error message) informing the user that invalid values were entered and should thus be corrected, if desired. This new server-side validation improves the overall quality of data being entered on surveys and form.

Create custom public survey link
On the "Public Survey Link" page in a project that utilizes surveys, users now have the option to create their own custom public survey link that begins with "http://is.gd" (e.g., http://is.gd/diabeticsurvey), in which the custom URL will simply redirect to the public survey in their project. They may enter a desired URL, and it will check if the URL has already been taken. If not, it will store that custom URL in the project so that it is always able to be obtained on the Public Survey Link page.

Updated "Help & FAQ" page.
The new page has better navigation and is easier to read.

Go to My Projects page instead of Home page.
If a user has had access to REDCap for more than 7 days and they are logging in to REDCap's home page, then it will redirect them to the My Projects page after a successful login. This is to save them a click, assuming that they have no need to view the home page at this point. Note: Due to certain limitations, this feature is only available for installations using "LDAP", "Table-based", or "LDAP & Table-based" authentication methods.

Requests for moving project to production status or deleting a production project can only be sent once
Users can now only send the request one time for moving a project to production or requesting that a

production project be deleted. In previous versions, the request could be sent many times and could thus cause confusion for the administrator regarding which request should be processed. Additionally, any user that has submitted either of these types of requests may also manually cancel the request by clicking a "Cancel request" button next to the disabled button where the request was originally submitted.

Added a compatibility notice for the embedded audio option for attachments for Descriptive fields on surveys and data entry forms.
The compatibility notice informs the user that the embedded audio option for attachments is not 100% compatible for all audio file types across all web browsers. This is not a limitation in REDCap, but is simply a compatibility issue across web browsers. The most compatible audio file types to use are MP3 and WAV. Other audio types may work on some browsers but not in others. Unfortunately, there is not always an easy way to know what audio file will work for which browser, especially as operating systems and web browsers evolve over time.

Added Contact REDCap administrator button under Help & Information on left side of a project page.
The mailto link at the bottom left of a project has now been replaced with a "Contact REDCap administrator" button that, when clicked, opens the user's default email client and pre-fills the email body with their username, the title of the current project, and a link to the project.

We hope you enjoy these new features!

Sincerely,
The REDCap Team