

The 10 Commandments of Continuous Tracking

Thou shalt not

1. Change the definition of a code, for a code, once defined, is immutable beneath the heavens above and upon the earth below, for all eternity.
2. Reuse an existing variable for a different question, or remove a variable from a job, lest your analysts be driven mad with chaos and confusion.
3. Neglect to collect the date against each case, for an undated case is an abomination, useless to man or beast.
4. Fail to correctly label a variable, for an incorrect label is a despicable lie which will blight your days and sow the seeds of anguish throughout the land.
5. Change the questionnaire without due consultation with the spec writers, for such cavalier disregard for the faithful servants of DP will result in doom and despair when presentation deadlines pass unfulfilled, and the righteous anger of the Client is poured down upon thy head.
6. Change the field supplier without due consultation with the spec writers, for there are among us many suppliers of low repute, who delight in delivering shoddy data for a high price, and whose ways are full of evil, and who care not for the sacred principles of data integrity and meaningful analysis.
7. Endure a job to persist in a messy state, for a messy job is a defilement which will besmirch all who come near with filth, filling even the stoutest heart with fear.
8. Neglect to run a full update at the completion of each weekly interviewing cycle, for such hubris will result in errors, and errors upon errors, and errors upon errors upon errors, proliferating undiscovered until the job becomes unto a plague of misinformation and deceit.
9. Use an atomising file format, hateful to multi-response, lest your job spawn variables numbering the grains of sand or the stars above.
10. Neglect to run diagnostic tables at each update, for such sloth will sicken the job unto death when it is found that the Client has been presented meaningless garbage for all the years preceding.