Tufts CTSI is committed to providing the best expert advice and user experience to investigators who use our services.

As a part of this commitment, we will now be providing you with the frequent REDCap Feature Spotlight.

In October 2019 Feature Spotlight brings you the External Modules, which are feature add-ons that extend the functionality, provide customizations and enhancements for REDCap's existing behavior, and do not change the core REDCap project functionality or workflow.
Accessing External Modules in REDCap
External Modules

REDCap now offers access to External Modules. These are not developed by the REDCap development team at Vanderbilt, but are instead contributed by members of the REDCap consortium. When enabled, external modules add options to your projects to enhance the look, feel and customizability, and some are quite powerful!

You can access external modules via the button on the left-hand column; clicking it allows you to view modules in use, and view available modules administrators can set up.
View Enabled Modules

Once on the External Modules page, you can see what modules you have enabled for the project.

The View Available Modules button shows modules that an administrator can add per request.
Enabled by Default vs. Discoverable

Global external modules:
When an external module is determined to provide utility for a large portion of REDCap users it will be enabled by REDCap administrators, meaning the improvements they bring will be activated for all projects.

Custom external modules
These modules are only applicable for a small number of users. Once implemented it becomes discoverable, and a REDCap administrator can add it to your project.
Available Modules

- **Global external modules** that are currently **enabled for all projects**
  - **Sticky Matrix Headers** - prevents matrix headers from being cut off by scrolling the window in surveys
  - **Field Notes Display** - Provides alternative display modes for field notes. This module adds an action tag @FIELD-NOTES-DISPLAY that accepts the following inputs: 'hover', 'tooltip' and 'popover'
  - **QR Code Shortcut** - Provides a shortcut to generate a survey QR code for a new data entry.

- **Additional external modules can be found by clicking the “View Available Modules” button.** These, however, will have to be enabled by an administrator based on project needs. Right now, the only module being made **discoverable** is **Instant Field Concatenation**. This module concatenates fields and places the result in another field instantly.
Global External Modules: Sticky Matrix Headers

This module prevents matrix headers from being cut off by scrolling the window in surveys

Matrix Field

Without Module

Option Labels Not Visible

With Module

Option Labels Always Visible
You can now use the action tag @FIELD-NOTES-DISPLAY to change the settings of fields notes.

By default, field notes are displayed under the field they are part of.
Global External Modules: Field Notes Display

- **@FIELD-NOTES-DISPLAY=“hover”** turns the field note into hover text.
  
- **@FIELD-NOTES-DISPLAY=“tooltip”** adds a “?” next to the field you can hover over.
  
- **@FIELD-NOTES-DISPLAY=“popover”** adds a similar mark you can click on.
Global External Modules: QR Code Shortcut

- A new button in the **upper right corner** of a form allows you to generate a **QR Code**, which, when scanned, will take users to that record.

![QR Code](image-url)
Discoverable Modules: Instant Field Concatenation

- This module allows you to **concatenate text fields into other text fields instantly**. It uses JavaScript and not PHP, and activates when the user leaves the field.

Upon request, we will activate the **Instant Field Concatenation** module

Once activated, you will see it on your list of **Currently Enabled Modules**
Press “Configure” to access the settings

Select the “Destination” field (where you want the result placed) and the “Source” fields (the ones being put together)

Pressing the “+” signs allows you to add in as many fields as you want
Discoverable Modules: Instant Field Concatenation

Once set up, every time one of the source fields is modified, the module will automatically update the destination field!

Please note this only works with text and note fields.
To request the addition of an External Module to your project, please contact REDCap administrator and identify the project to which you would like to apply it.

For questions, concerns, or external module requests, please contact us at: informatics@tuftsctsi.org