

**THE OBSERVER XT**

5 coding-scheme decisions you can't undo later

A setup checklist for The Observer XT: the five structural choices that decide whether your scheme works on the first video or works against you as your project progresses.

The five-question checklist

Before your first real coding session, you should be able to answer all five:

- For each behavior, am I reporting how long, how often, or both? (point vs. state vs. instantaneous)
- Is every mutually exclusive group exhaustive, with an initial state event?
- Are my keycodes distinct from the first keystroke, with consistent stop codes that avoid needless keystrokes?
- Have I decided, on purpose, what is a behavior and what is a modifier?
- Is the scheme frozen before I distribute it to coder machines?

Answer those five and the coding scheme will save you time and effort.

Every minute of design you invest before coding saves far more than a minute of re-coding after.

Keep going: talk to a Specialist

- Learn more [online or book some time](#) with a Specialist.
- Live Q&A series for The Observer XT: upcoming sessions and recordings on [Noldus Academy](#).
- Free white paper: [7 tips to set up a coding scheme](#), with examples and references.
- Background reading: [Behavioral coding: what and how](#).