# Exercise 2: Hunting for Errors

**Time:** 25 minutes
**Goal:** Learn how to identify and understand common data issues using the PRISM Validator.

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## What You'll Learn

By the end of this exercise, you will: - Use the PRISM Validator to check for errors - Understand different types of validation messages (Error, Warning, Info) - Identify common pitfalls in raw data (formatting, types, ranges) - Discover how PRISM helps you catch issues before they ruin your analysis

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## Starting Materials

Look in the `bad_examples/` folder inside this exercise. It contains 13 files, each with at least one deliberate error or "messy" feature.

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## Your Task: The Bug Hunt

Instead of following a script, your goal is to explore these files and see what PRISM tells you about them.

### Step 1: Loading the "Messy" Files

1. Open **PRISM Studio** (http://localhost:5001)
2. Go to the **Converter** → **Survey Data Converter**
3. Select any file from the 'bad_examples/' folder and click **"Upload"**.

### Step 2: Investigate

For each file you load, ask yourself: - **Does it load at all?** (Some files have fundamental formatting issues). - **Does the Preview look right?** (Check the columns and rows). - **What happens when you try to map columns?** (Are some columns missing or weirdly named?). - **Are there any warnings or errors on the screen?** (Look for red or orange boxes).

### Step 3: Specific Challenges

Can you find the files that have these specific problems? - A file that isn't actually tab-separated (TSV). - A file where a participant appears twice. - A file where someone entered a number that is "impossible" for that scale. - A file that is completely empty.

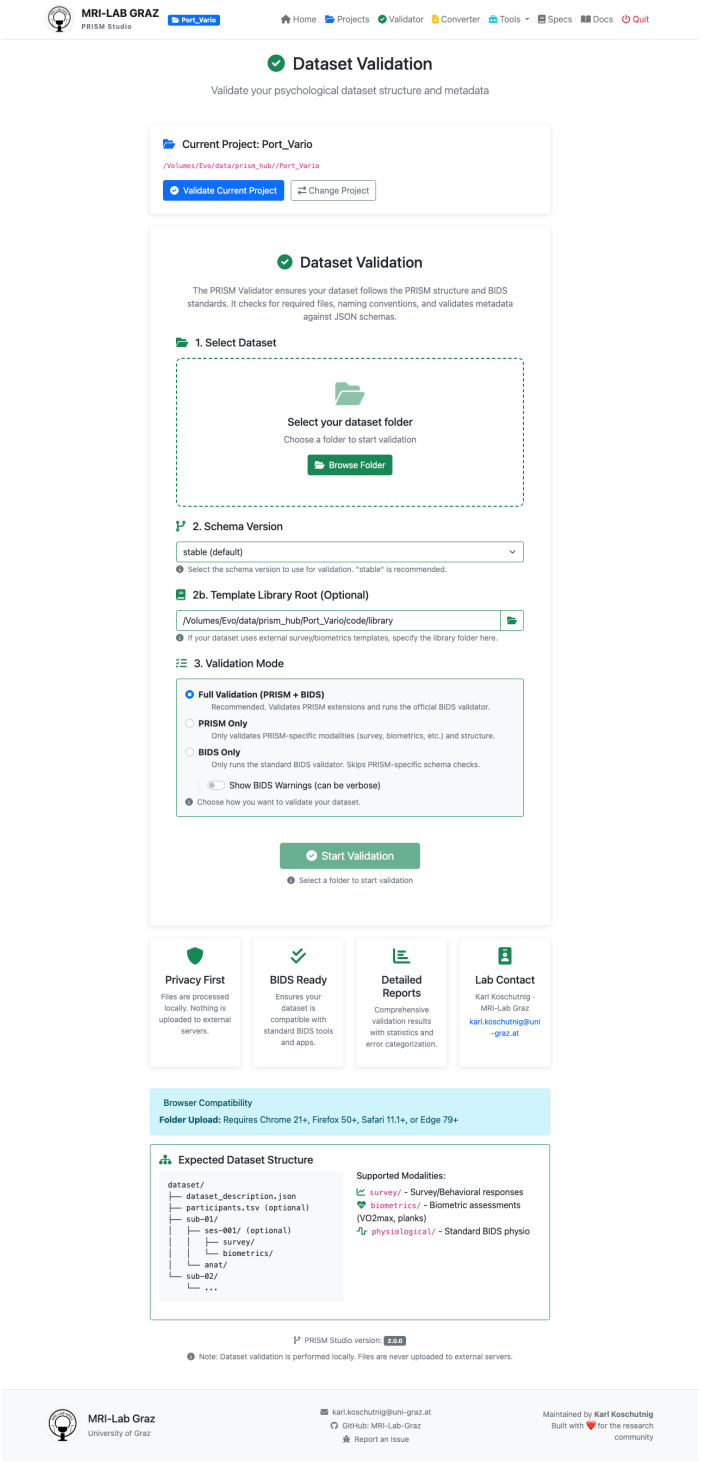


Figure 1: Exercise 2 UI (Light Mode)

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## Exercise 2 Challenge

Pick one of the "broken" files. Try to identify exactly what is wrong, and if you're feeling adventurous, open the file in a text editor (like Notepad or VS Code), fix the problem, and try uploading it again to see if it passes!

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**Next Steps:** Once you've mastered the art of finding bugs, let's look at how to process clean data.

**Ready for Exercise 3?** → Go to '../exercise_3_using_recipes/'