

BPA
Platform

Technical Overview

Decision Tool

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Introduction

The **Decision** tool is used to control the flow of a task process, based on the result of one or more expressions. The decision works by testing a sequence of Boolean (`true/false`) conditions in turn until an expression returns `true`. When a `true` condition is returned then that particular branch of the process is followed.

Conceptually, the **Decision** tool allows the selection of different branches in the task plan. These selections are based upon process information, such as date-related information. For example, a different delivery method could be selected for an alert, depending on whether the current day is a weekday, a weekend, or a public holiday. Therefore, a target recipient could receive an email alert on any weekday, or a text message during weekends or, on a public holiday, a holding email could be sent to the contact whose activity triggered the alert.

NOTE: **Decision** dictates the step execution order, *not* recordset or document flow. Because of this, it cannot be used to process a step on a "per recordset row" basis.

Features

- ▶ Control the process flow using logical expressions
- ▶ Unlimited branches
- ▶ `IF...THEN...ELSEIF` mode
- ▶ `IF...THEN...ELSE` mode
- ▶ Native VBScript Expressions
- ▶ Visual branch labelling

Working with Other Tools

The **Decision** tool is independent of any other steps used in a task. It does not directly consume objects outputted by other task steps, nor does it expose objects that can be directly consumed by other task steps.

Global Configuration

The **Decision** tool does not require any global configuration before being used in a task.

Using the Decision Tool

When the **Decision** tool is added to a task, it opens directly in the design area.

The screenshot shows the 'Step' configuration pane for a 'Decision' tool. At the top, there are icons for 'Save' (floppy disk), 'Close' (red X), and 'Global configuration' (globe with gear). Below these is a 'Name:' field containing 'Any More Messages?'. The 'Decision Branches:' section contains a table with two columns: 'Label' and 'Next step'. The first row is highlighted with a grey background and contains 'Yes' and 'Call Message Processing'. The second row contains 'No' and 'No Messages'. Below the table is a 'Decision (Logical Expression)' field containing the text 'Steps("Retrieve Text Message").MessageCount>0'. At the bottom right are three buttons: 'Add', 'Edit', and 'Remove'.

Label	Next step
Yes	Call Message Processing
No	No Messages

Use the **Decision** step pane to do the following:


- ▶ **Name** — The step name
- ▶ **Decision Branches** — A list of the configured decision branches
 - ☐ **Label** — The name of the branch; this is displayed on the connector line between the **Decision** step and its successor; up to 128 characters
 - ☐ **Next Step** — The next task step that is called should this branch's conditions be met
- ▶ Use **Add** and **Edit** to open the [Branch Editor](#)
- ▶ To delete a branch, highlight it and click **Remove**
- ▶ **Decision (Logical Expression)** — This is the expression used to force the task to take the highlighted branch


About Branch Editor


Use the branch editor to add new or edit existing branches to the **Decision** step.


Using the General Tab

Use the **General** tab to name (**Name**) this branch and select the next step for this branch (**To**).

 Step

 Save

 Close

 Global configuration


General

Script

Name

Description

To

 Call Message Processing Task

Using the Script Tab

Enter the VB expression used to force the task to take this branch.

The screenshot shows a 'Step' configuration window with a 'Script' tab selected. The window has a title bar with a gear icon and the word 'Step'. Below the title bar are three buttons: 'Save' (floppy disk icon), 'Close' (red X icon), and 'Global configuration' (globe icon). The 'Script' tab is active, showing a 'General' sub-tab. Under 'General', there is a checkbox labeled 'Else' which is currently unchecked. Below the checkbox is a text area labeled 'Expression (logical)' containing the VB expression: `Steps("Retrieve Text Message").MessageCount>0`. The text area has a vertical scrollbar on the right side.

If this branch is used as the "catch-all" for when the other branch's conditions are *not* met, enable **Else**.

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