



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.

Step

Save Close Global configuration

Name:
Any More Messages?

Decision Branches:

Label	Next step
Yes	Call Message Processing
No	No Messages

Decision (Logical Expression)
Steps("Retrieve Text Message").MessageCount>0

Add Edit Remove

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

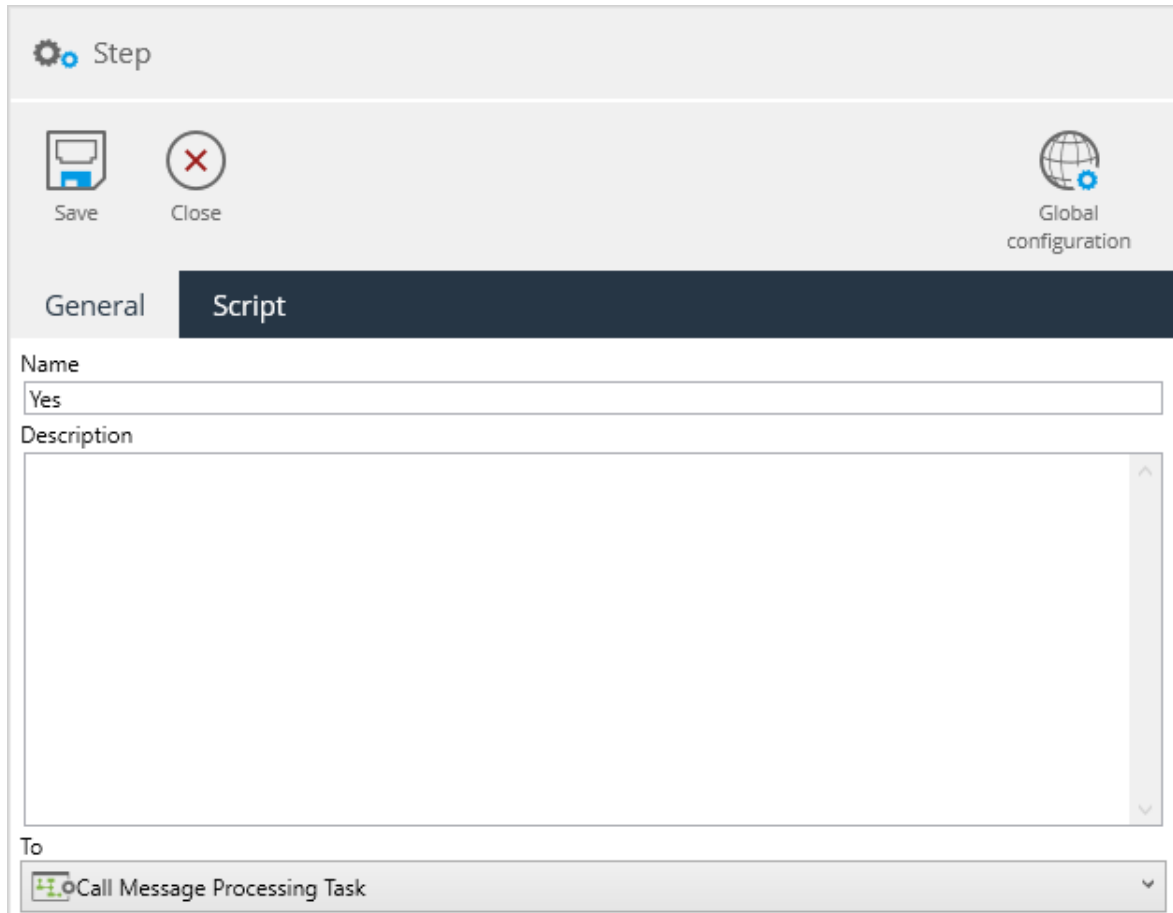
- ▶ **Name** — The step name
- ▶ **Decision Branches** — A list of the configured decision branches
 - Label** — The name of the branch; this is displayed on the connector line between the **Decision** step and its successor; up to 128 characters
 - Next Step** — The next task step that is called should 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**).



The screenshot shows the 'Step' configuration window. At the top, there are icons for 'Save', 'Close', and 'Global configuration'. Below these are two tabs: 'General' and 'Script'. The 'General' tab is active. It contains a 'Name' field with the value 'Yes', a 'Description' text area, and a 'To' dropdown menu with 'Call Message Processing Task' selected.

Step

Save Close Global configuration

General Script

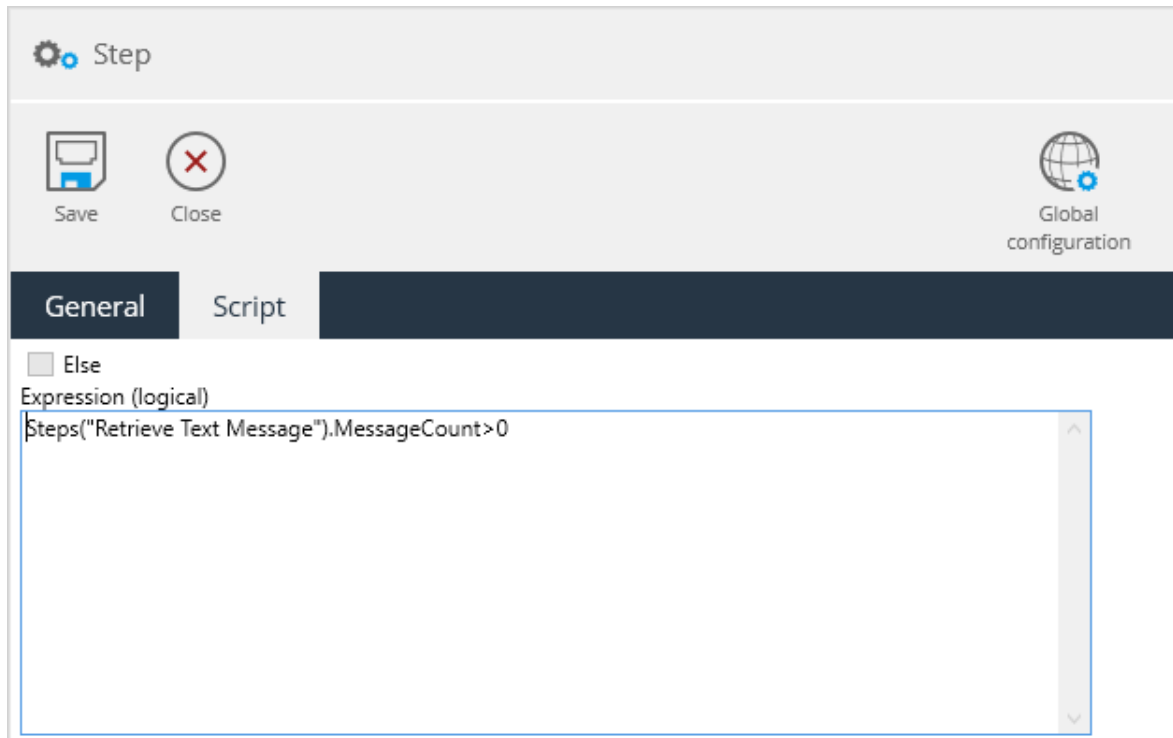
Name
Yes

Description

To
Call Message Processing Task

Using the Script Tab

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



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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