Flow Variables and Form Validation Table of Contents

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1 Objective

In this exercise you will cover two concepts to further expand the functionality of your existing flow.

- Using flow variables to define things that may be referenced in multiple places in a flow or be easier to manage if centralized in one place for changes.
- Improve the interaction with the user by providing better form validation in the forms where
 you accept input from the user.

Tip

All the number instruction steps in each section must be followed to successfully complete this exercise. Any bullet points or images are for example only unless called out in a numbered step.

2 Do the following task items

The two major topics of this flow will be covered in two sections using variables and improving form validation inputs.

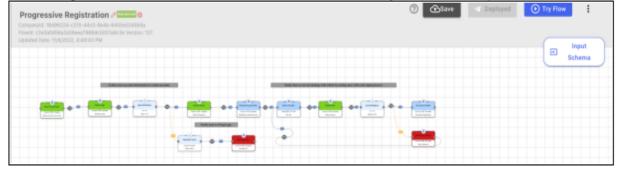
2.1 Using flow instance variables

In building out the flow you may want to build out a user object that holds the data as you collect it. This way when you go to actually create the object in some directory such as PingOne. You can fetch the information from one place rather than multiple nodes.

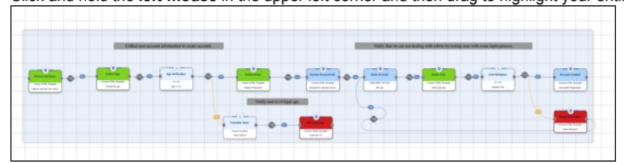
Another potential use case is for data that is used in different nodes and may change. It can be either reused in multiple nodes or just simply used once but you don't want to remember where.

These are good candidates for a variables that can be defined in one place and used anywhere in the flow. Typically you want these variables to be available anywhere in the flow, so it is best to define it as the first node in the flow.

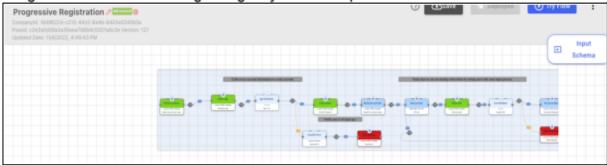
- Open your Progressive Registration flow.
 - You can optionally clone your flow to back it up before you start. Don't forget to rename the clone as a backup.
- 2 You are going to add your new node at the start of your flow. Use the next to the Reset at the bottom right of the canvas to reduce the flow to all fit in your browser, plus some extra space



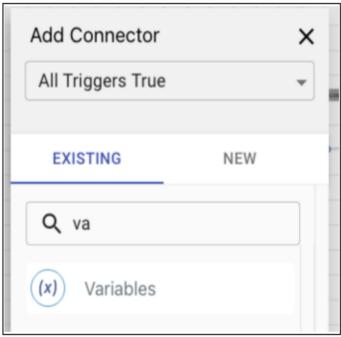
3 Click and hold the left-mouse in the upper left corner and then drag to highlight your entire flow



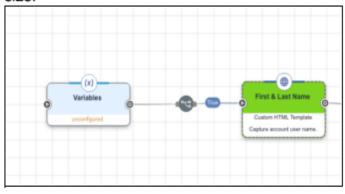
4 Drag the entire flow to the right to give you some space



- 5 Click anywhere on the canvas to un-highlight the selected flow. And don't hit the reset button.
- 6 From the left of the first node on the left (First & Last Name) click and drag a path line.
 - This may take a couple of attempts to get a path line and could even end up moving the node it self depending on your mouse pointer precision skills.
 - Alternatively you can use the + icon in the bottom left to add the node on the canvas and then connect to the rest of the flow at the start.
- 7 Search for Variables connector and select it.



8 You can click **Reset** button in the bottom left to reset the flow to a more reasonable readable size.

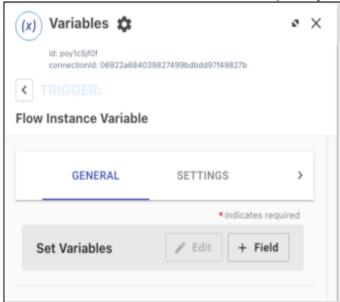


- 9 Good time to save your flow.
- 10 Click the Variables node you just added at the start of your flow.
 - In a lot of flows a variables node is a handy starting point, so not a bad idea to start with one.
 - You can always delete it you don't use it in your flow when you are done.
- 11 Continue with the next section.

2.1.1 Configure the image URL variables

In this section you will define three images that are referenced in the HTML templates you added to the HTTP nodes in the previous exercise.

- 1 Click Variables node you added in the previous section.
- 2 Click Flow Instance Variable as the capability.



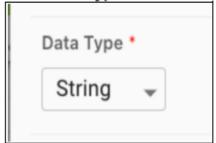
- 3 Click + Field button to the right of Set Variables, this will create a new line with Variable Name and next to it a field with Select or Type in it.
 - Variables are stored globally in DaVinci and you can reference these in different flows and set them for the flow.
 - At this time you have none in your deployment and will be creating new ones for this flow.
- 4 In the Variable Name field copy and paste the following:
 - imgUnderAge



- 5 Press Return to create the new variable.
 - o A new dialog will popup to the left.



5.1 In the Data Type field select String from the dropdown list.



6 Click Create button to save and close the dialog.

Note

If you run into an error when creating the variable about additional properties. Then please can continue to the next sub-section and create the variables directly.



If no error then continue in this section of the exercise. Just use the next two sub-sections as references for future consideration in development of flows.

7 In the Variable Value field copy and paste the following text, remember no spaces (or line feeds) before or after when you paste it.

https://cdn.glitch.global/deee0fd1-6cbf-4fd4-b0ab-9e576ed71f35/underage.png?v=1658408579517

The following view shows the entry using the expanded view of the dialog as an example.



- 8 You need to define two more variables using the above steps with the following information:
 - 8.1 New Field where:
 - 8.1.1 Variable Name is: imgRobotDetected
 - 8.1.2 In the Data Type field select String from the dropdown list.
 - 8.1.3 Variable Value field copy and paste the following text, remember no spaces (or line feeds) before or after when you paste it.

https://cdn.glitch.global/deee0fd1-6cbf-4fd4-b0ab-9e576ed71f35/robot-detected.png?v=1658408579586

- 8.2 New Field where:
 - 8.2.1 Variable Name is: imgAccountCreated
 - 8.2.2 In the Data Type field select String from the dropdown list.
 - 8.2.3 Variable Value field copy and paste the following text, remember no spaces (or line feeds) before or after when you paste it.

https://cdn.glitch.global/deee0fd1-6cbf-4fd4-b0ab-9e576ed71f35/account-created.png?v=1658408579516

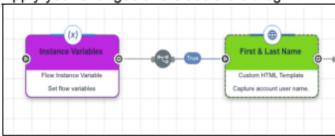
9 Resulting in the following, again using the expanded dialog view:



- 10 Click Apply button to save your changes.
- 11 In the **Settings** tab enter the following:
 - 11.1 Node Title is
 - Instance Variables
 - 11.2 Node Description is
 - Set flow variables
 - 11.3 Node Background Color select color of lighter purple or magenta



- You can select another color if you prefer the main idea is to use coloring coding to help identify the type of work your nodes are doing.
- This color coding should be something that is agreed on by everyone in your organization that is doing DaVinci flows.
- 12 Apply your changes and close the dialog.



13 Click Save button to save your flow changes, if needed.

- 14 Skip the next two sub-sections and continue with the section titled Change HTTP message nodes to use variables at same level as this one.
 - The next two sections describe the steps for declaring variables using the Variables left menu section in the console instead of in a flow.
 - This is an alternative approach to defining variables, which you have already completed in this section.

2.1.1.1 Define flow variables directly

Alternatively to defining variables within a flow you can define them directly in the Variables section of the DaVinci admin console. This can be handy especially if you have a lot of variables to define that will be used in multiple flows.

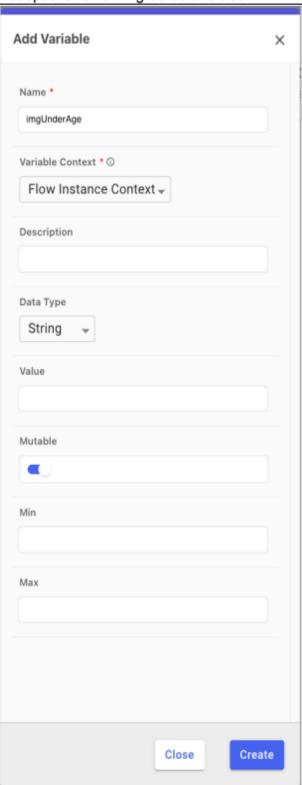
If you have already defined your variables in the above section **you can skip** the steps in this and the next section. The objective of outlining this here is to provide an alternative approach, especially if you know up front what variables you will need or want to standardize across multiple flows.

- 1 Make sure your flows current state is saved and click the Variables menu item in the left menu.
- 2 If you have not defined any variables this section will be empty.



- 3 Click the **Add Variable** button in the top right corner, a dialog box will open.
- 4 Configure the variable as follows:
 - 4.1 In the **Name** field copy and paste the following:
 - imgUnderAge
 - 4.2 In the Variable Context dropdown select Flow Instance Context value.
 - 4.3 In the **Data Type** field select **String** from the dropdown list.

4.4 Accept the remaining default values.



- The value information will be provided in the actual flow that will use this variable.
- 4.5 Click Create button to create the variable and close the dialog.
- 5 Click the Add Variable button in the top right corner, a dialog box will open.
- 6 Configure the variable as follows:
 - 6.1 In the **Name** field copy and paste the following:
 - imgRobotDetected
 - 6.2 In the Variable Context dropdown select Flow Instance Context value.
 - 6.3 In the Data Type field select String from the dropdown list.
 - 6.4 Accept the remaining default values.
 - 6.5 Click Create button to create the variable and close the dialog.

- 7 Click the Add Variable button in the top right corner, a dialog box will open.
- 8 Configure the variable as follows:
 - 8.1 In the **Name** field copy and paste the following:
 - imgAccountCreated
 - 8.2 In the Variable Context dropdown select Flow Instance Context value.
 - 8.3 In the Data Type field select String from the dropdown list.
 - 8.4 Accept the remaining default values.
 - 8.5 Click **Create** button to create the variable and close the dialog.
- 9 Click the **Add Variable** button in the top right corner, a dialog box will open.
- 10 Configure the variable as follows:
 - 10.1 In the Name field copy and paste the following:
 - userFirstName
 - 10.2 In the Variable Context dropdown select Flow Instance Context value.
 - 10.3 Accept the remaining default values.
 - 10.4 Click Create button to create the variable and close the dialog.
- 11 You will have four variables defined.



12 Continue with the next section.

2.1.1.1.1 Using predefined flow variables in a flow

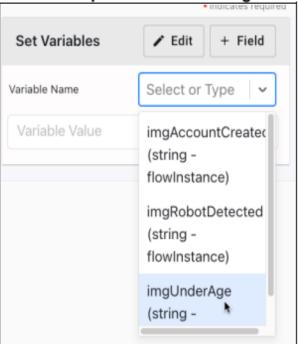
If you have predefined your flow variables then you will reference them when defining a Variables node in the flow rather than creating them.

1 In the left menu click Flows to return to editing your flow.



- 2 Click on the Progressive Registration flow to edit it.
- 3 Click on the Variables node at the start of your flow to edit it.
- 4 Click + Field button to the right of Set Variables, this will create a new line with Variable Name configure it as follows:

4.1 From the dropdown field select imgUnderAge from the list to configure for this flow:



4.2 In the Variable Value field copy and paste the following text, remember no spaces (or line feeds) before or after when you paste it.

https://cdn.glitch.global/deee0fdl-6cbf-4fd4-b0ab-9e576ed71f35/underage.png?v=1658408579517

The following view shows the entry using the expanded view of the dialog as an example.



- 5 Click + Field button to the right of Set Variables, this will create a new line with Variable Name configure it as follows:
 - 5.1 From the **dropdown** field select **imgRobotDetected** from the list to configure for this flow:
 - 5.2 In the Variable Value field copy and paste the following text, remember no spaces (or line feeds) before or after when you paste it.

https://cdn.glitch.global/deee0fd1-6cbf-4fd4-b0ab-9e576ed71f35/robot-detected.png?v=1658408579586

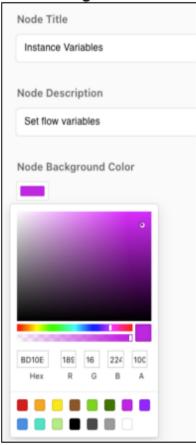
- 6 Click + Field button to the right of Set Variables, this will create a new line with Variable Name configure it as follows:
 - 6.1 From the dropdown field select imgAccountCreated from the list to configure for this flow:
 - 6.2 In the Variable Value field copy and paste the following text, remember no spaces (or line feeds) before or after when you paste it.

https://cdn.glitch.global/deee0fd1-6cbf-4fd4-b0ab-9e576ed71f35/account-created.png?v=1658408579516

7 You will have three variables defined:

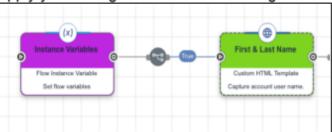


- 8 Click Apply button to save your changes.
- 9 In the **Settings** tab enter the following:
 - 9.1 Node Title is
 - Instance Variables
 - 9.2 Node Description is
 - Set flow variables
 - 9.3 Node Background Color select color of lighter purple or magenta



- You can select another color if you prefer the main idea is to use coloring coding to help identify the type of work your nodes are doing.
- This color coding should be something that is agreed on by everyone in your organization that is doing DaVinci flows.

10 Apply your changes and close the dialog.



11 Continue with the next section.

2.1.2 Change HTTP message nodes to use variables

Now it is time to adjust the HTTP nodes that need to reference the image URLs to properly display the intended content to the user.

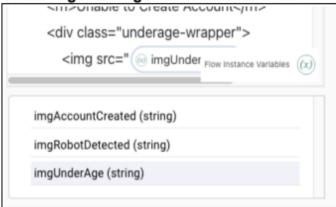
- 1 In your flow click Not Legal Age node.
- 2 In the HTML Template field scroll until you see the text [IMAGE_URL] this is the variable reference that needs to be replaced.
- 3 Highlight the [IMAGE_URL] text in the field.



4 Click {} icon and scroll down to where you see **Flow Instance Variables**, you want to select this rather than the Variables node as you have done in the past.



- 5 Select Flow Instance Variables node.
- 6 Select imgUnderAge variable from the list.

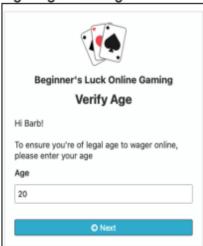


- 7 Apply your changes and close the dialog.
- 8 Good idea to save your flow at this point and anytime you make changes to the nodes, if needed.
- 9 Click Account Created node.
- 10 In the HTML Template field scroll until you see the text [IMAGE_SUCCESS] this is the variable reference that needs to be replaced.
- 11 Highlight the [IMAGE_SUCCESS] text in the field.
- 12 Select Flow Instance Variables node.
- 13 Select imgAccountCreated variable from the list.
- 14 Apply your changes and close the dialog.
- 15 Click Robot Test Failed node.
- 16 In the HTML Template field scroll until you see the text [IMG_ROBOT_DECTED] this is the variable reference that needs to be replaced.
- 17 Highlight the [IMG_ROBOT_DECTED] text in the field.
- 18 Select Flow Instance Variables node.
- 19 Select imgRobotDetected variable from the list.
- 20 Apply your changes and close the dialog.
- 21 Continue with the next section.

2.1.2.1 Test that images display

Now it is time to test the application to verify that the variables were used and the proper images were displayed on the page to the user.

- 1 Save and deploy your changes then Try Flow button.
- 2 Enter a user name and at the collect age page enter a value less than **21** to generate the not legal age message.

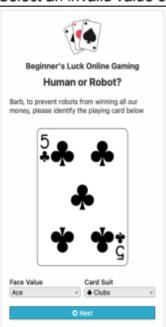


3 Click **Next** button and your dialog should have an image like the following screenshot:



- 4 You cannot continue so close this browser tab and return to your flow.
- 5 Click Try Flow button.
- 6 Enter name, an age over 21, email, and password until you get to the robot test.

7 Select an invalid value or suit so that the test will fail.



8 Click Next button and your dialog should have an image like the following screenshot:



9 Click Retry button to run the test again and see the final page image.

10 Select a valid value and suit so that the test will pass.



11 Click Next button and your dialog should have an image like the following screenshot:



- 12 You have completed the test and may close the browser tab.
- 13 Continue with the next section.

2.1.3 Add variable for user first name

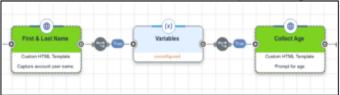
In this section you will define a variable node to hold information about the user that could be used in later nodes, rather than referencing the original node. This is done by placing the value into a variable node using a Variables node but then you can reference it anywhere because it becomes a global variable to the flow and is placed in a special bucket.

You will not be dealing with all the user data and all the potential uses of the data in this exercise. The goal is more to demonstrate the concept. You will use the first name data and only change one node. Normally this is something you would define upfront as a base requirement and manage it all along in your flow.

1 You are going to add a new variable node in between First & Last Name and Collect Age nodes, therefore make some space in your flow.



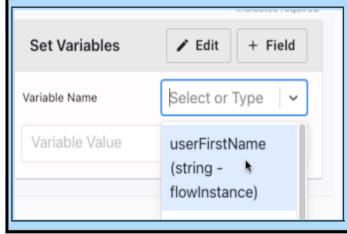
- 2 Delete the Action Decision node connecting these two nodes.
- 3 Add a new Variables connector in the space you made.
- 4 Connect the Variables node to its preceding and following nodes.



- 5 Click Variables node.
- 6 Click Flow Instance Variable capability.
- 7 Click + Field button to the right of Set Variables

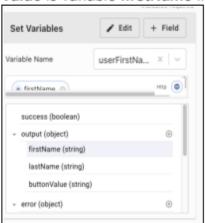
Note

If you have already defined the variable in the Variables tab of the admin console in an earlier section in this flow then just select it from the list, rather than creating it.



- 8 Variable Name is:
 - userFirstName
- 9 In the **Data Type** field select **String** from the dropdown list.
- 10 Accept the remaining default values.
- 11 Click Create button to create the variable and close the dialog.

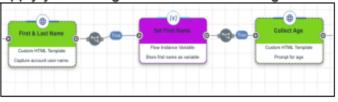
12 Value is variable firstName from the First & Last Name node.



- 13 In the Settings tab enter the following:
 - 13.1 Node Title is
 - Set First Name
 - 13.2 Node Description is
 - Store first name as variable
 - 13.3 Node Background Color select color of lighter purple or magenta



14 Apply your changes and close the dialog.



15 Continue with the next section.

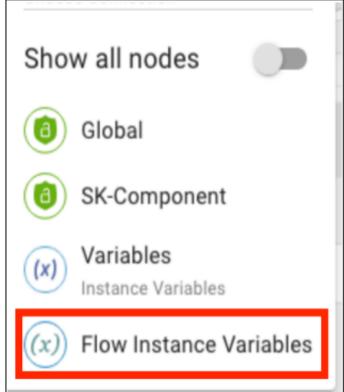
2.1.4 Use the variable in Collect Age

In this section you will change one node to use the variable instead of the direct reference back to the originating node. You can do this for all the nodes that reference firstName but only one example is needed.

- Click Collect Age node.
- 2 In the HTML Template field scroll until you see the text firstName variable reference that needs to be replaced. The following screenshot will help you identify what you are looking for:



- 3 Click the x to the right of firstName to remove it.
- 4 Leave your mouse cursor before the ! in the template this is where you want to place the new variable.
- 5 Select Flow Instance Variables entry, not the Variables node.



- instance variable references are global objects to the flow and should be referenced from the Flow Instance Variables entry instead of the node that it is set in.
- 6 Select userFirstName variable from the list.



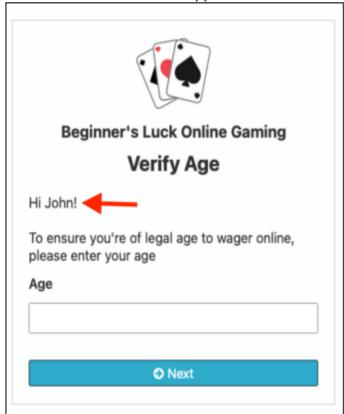
7 Apply your changes and close the dialog.

8 Continue with the next section.

2.1.4.1 Test your change that Collect Age page will show first name

Now it is time to test your change in using the variable, will the first name still appear on the Collect Age page.

- 1 Save and deploy your changes then Try Flow button.
- 2 Enter a first and last name and continue to the Collect Age page.
- 3 The first name should still appear after the text Hi



4 Continue with the next section.

2.2 Form validation

So far, the only validation check you included in the registration flow was verifying that the user was over 21 years old. Typically you will have required fields or entry limitations, and the flow will need to prevent the user from proceeding if incorrect information is entered.

In implementing validation there ae two things to consider; how the entry will be checked and how the message will be handled. In this exercise you will take two approaches to this in following sections. Again the validation is going to be basic and not complete for all use cases, the goal is to show you the options.

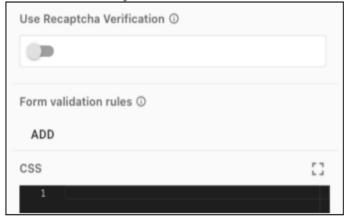
- 1 Make sure you have save your flow to this point.
- 2 Optionally you may want to clone the flow as a backup.
- 3 Continue with the next section.

2.2.1 Validate entry with property rules

In this section you will require that the user enter a first name when that information is collected from the user. In this case you will use a rule to the property to validate the entry. The message will be displayed to the user on the same form using some built in DaVinci controls in HTML.

This approach is for simpler validation requirements on data input.

- 1 Click First & Last Name node.
- 2 Scroll down until you see Form validation rules section in the dialog.

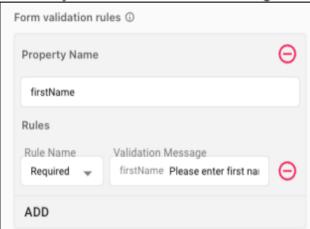


- 3 Click ADD button under Form validation rules to add a rule.
- 4 In Property Name enter firstName
- 5 Click ADD button under Rules to add a rule.



- 6 In the Rule Name dropdown select Required
 - Note the other options for basic validation of input of a field.
- 7 In the Validation Message field after firstName enter the following text:
 - Please enter first name

8 Your entry should look like the following screenshot at this point:



- 9 Click Apply button to save your changes to the node configuration to this point.
- 10 In order to display the message to the user you must change the HTML template using the following steps.
 - 10.1 In the HTML Template toggle Switch View to change to the editor to make the code changes required.
 - 10.2 Expand the view of this field to take the entire canvas view in your browser.
 - 10.3 You will adding an HTML block to the existing template. This block needs to be after the div tag for the buttonbar div.

10.4 Copy and paste the following HTML line in the blank line after end of the buttonbar div element, as shown above.

```
<div data-skcomponent="skerrormessage" class="error-message"
   data-skerrorid="firstName"></div>
```

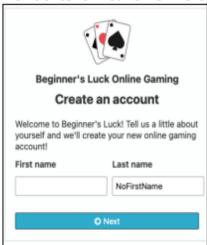
- You can use the format option of the right-mouse context menu in the editor to make it look nice.
- This is a DaVinci component of type skerrormessage. To use it, we must ensure the data-skerroridid matches the id from our form field.

- 11 Apply your changes and close the dialog.
- 12 Continue with the next section.

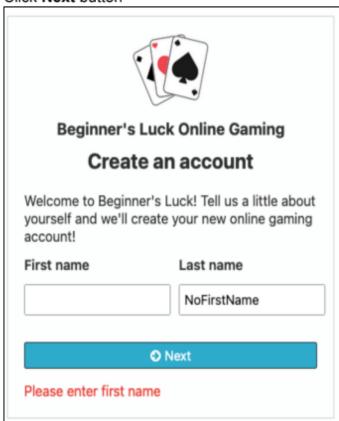
2.2.1.1 Test validation changes for first name

Now it is time to test the form validation changes you just placed in your flow.

- 1 Save and deploy your changes then Try Flow button.
- 2 Don't enter a first name in the field.

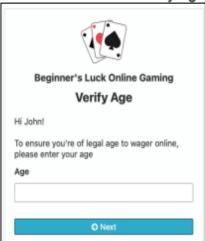


- 3 You can enter something in the last name field or not.
- 4 Click Next button



Just tabbing out of the field may render the message.

5 Enter a first name and try again.



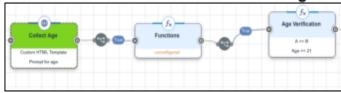
- 6 You can close the browser tab with your test page.
- 7 Continue with the next section.

2.2.2 Validate entry with functions and use error message component

In this section you will require that the user enter a valid age within a particular range when that information is collected from the user. In this case you will use a Functions connector to validate the entry. The function node will then route to an Error Connector to handle the message and display. The message will be displayed to the user on the same form using a different (then used in previous section) built in DaVinci control in HTML.

The Error Message connector and component approach is for more involved validation requirements for example checking across different entries or in this case a range.

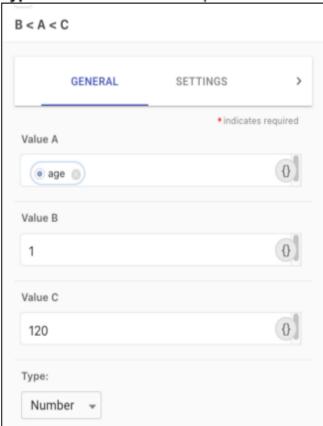
- 1 You will need to make some room in your flow between the Collect Age and Age Verification nodes in your flow.
- 2 Highlight from the Age Verification node all the way to the end of the flow to drag it over some for another node.
 - You can use the keyboard cursor buttons to move things over or you can reduce the size of the flow to see all the nodes.
 - Use whatever method is easier for you.
- 3 Delete the Action Decision node between Collect Age and Age Verification nodes.
- 4 Click and drag a line from **Collect Age** node and release the mouse button.
- 5 Click on Functions connector to add a new node.
- 6 Connect the new Functions node to the Age Verification node.



- 7 Click the new Functions node.
- 8 Select **B < A < C** capability from the list.
 - We want age to be in the range of 1 to 120, this will make a positive integer within a valid

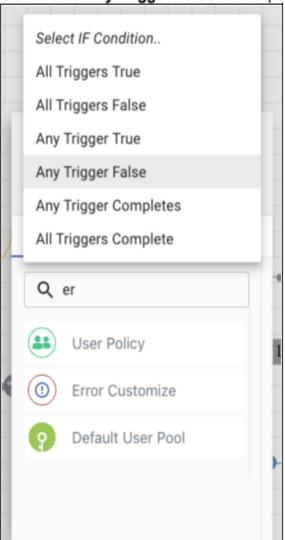
age range.

- 9 Configure the capability as follows in the General tab.
 - 9.1 A is the variable age from the Collect Age node.
 - 9.2 B is 1
 - 9.3 C is 120
 - 9.4 Type is Number from the dropdown list

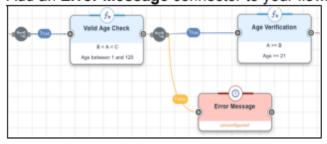


- 10 Select Settings tab and enter
 - 10.1 Node Title is
 - Valid Age Check
 - 10.2 Node Description is
 - Age between 1 and 120
- 11 Apply your changes and close the dialog.
- 12 And don't forget to save your changes to the flow.
- 13 From the Action Decision node after Valid Age Check node drag a line and release the mouse button.

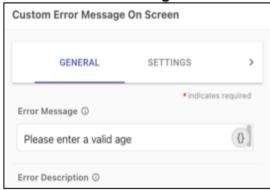
13.1 It should be Any Trigger False for the path.



13.2 Add an Error Message connector to your flow.



- 13.3 Click the Error Message node and configure as follows:
 - 13.3.1 Click Custom Error Message on Screen capability
 - 13.3.2 Error Message as
 - Please enter a valid age

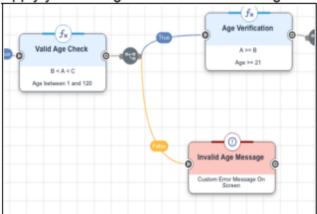


13.3.3 Click Settings tab

13.3.4 **Node Title** is

Invalid Age Message

13.4 Apply your changes and close the dialog.



14 Continue with the next section.

2.2.2.1 The template for collect age needs component to display the message

Now you need to add the DaVinci component to the age page so that the message is displayed if the user does not enter a valid age. The message will be displayed on the last page presented to the user, which in this case is the Collect Age node.

- Select Collect Age node to edit it.
- 2 In the HTML Template toggle Switch View to change to the editor to make the code changes required.
- 3 Expand the view of this field to take the entire canvas view in your browser.
- 4 You will adding an HTML block to the existing template. This block needs to be after the div tag for the buttonbar div.

- 5 Insert a blank line to copy the following text into it.
- 6 Copy and paste the following HTML line in the blank line after end of the buttonbar div element.

```
<div data-skcomponent="skerror" class="error-message" data-skvisibility="" ></div>
```

 This is a DaVinci component of type skerrormessage. In this case data-skerroridid is not needed, we just want to display the message on the page.

```
17 | </button>
18 | </div>
19 | <div data-skcomponent="skerror" class="error-message" data-skvisibility="" > //div / 20 | </div>
21 | </form>
22 | </section>
```

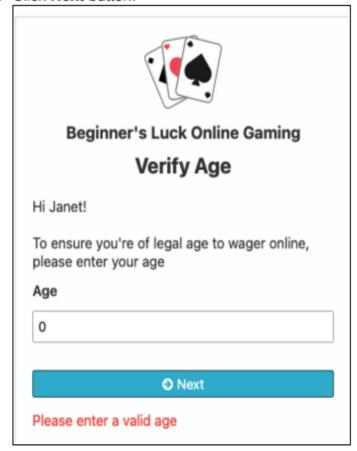
- 7 Apply your changes and close the dialog.
- 8 Continue with the next section.

2.2.2.2 Test the age validation check

Now it is time to check if the age validation works and presents the proper message at the correct form.

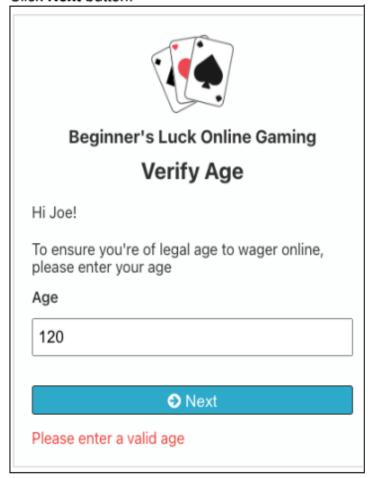
During testing if you get a timeout error, especially in the second use case just try again. Just a brief hiccup as you rapidly test your use cases.

- 1 Deploy your changes then Try Flow button.
- 2 Enter a first and last name and continue to the Collect Age page.
- 3 Enter **0** for the age.
- 4 Click Next button.



5 Enter 120 for the age.

6 Click Next button.



- 7 Enter 22 for the age.
 - You will be able to proceed to the next page.
- 8 You can close the test browser tab as your test is complete.
- 9 You have completed this exercise.