

**Resource – Common Comparisons**

Here you will find a series of REDCap features that are commonly comparable in function but are sometimes misunderstood by users.

**Autostart vs Autocontinue**

These two features are effectively the same, serving the same function of allowing a participant taking a survey to be automatically advanced to the next survey in the instrument battery.

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|  | Autostart | Autocontinue |
| Location | Set under the Survey Queue menu (from Online Designer page) | Set in Survey Settings, per survey-enabled instrument |
| Restrictions | Follows the settings of the Survey Queue, so only advances the participant if the Survey Queue is satisfied | If enabled, will ALWAYS advance the user once the previous survey is completed |
| Setting Visibility | Must check the Survey Queue | Easily seen in the Online Designer instrument table |

**Longitudinal Events vs. Repeated Instruments**

Both of these features can of course be used together, and have plenty of attributes that stand on their own, but there are some similarities that are worth noting when each feature is best leveraged.

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|  | Longitudinal Events | Repeated Instruments |
| Major Determining Factor | Use when data recollection time points are known, scheduled, planned, or expected | Use when data recollection time points are NOT known, scheduled, planned, or expected |
| Adding once in Production | Events can be added by users, but Administrators must designate instruments to the newly added Event, effectively incorporating it into your workflow | Normal users add repeating instances (for Events or instruments) ad-hoc as needed, without Administrator intervention |
| Major Consideration | Cannot edit/delete Events that are built after moving into Production | Can delete repeated instances if desired (user's data responsibility), but cannot renumber/reorder once created |

**Radio/Dropdown Logic vs. Checkbox Logic**

While both of these field types are multiple-choice designs, radio button or dropdowns are single-answer while Checkboxes are multiple-answer. Therefore, the way in which REDCap addresses them in logic is different.

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|  | Radio/Dropdown | Checkbox |
| Indicating "when choice 2 is chosen" | [radio\_field] = '2' | [checkbox\_field(2)] = '1' |
| Indicating when field is blank | [radio\_field] = '' | [checkbox\_field] = '' |
| Indicating when field has choices 2 and 5 chosen | [radio\_field] = '2' AND [radio\_field] = '5' | [checkbox\_field(2)] = '1' AND [checkbox\_field(5)] = '1' |