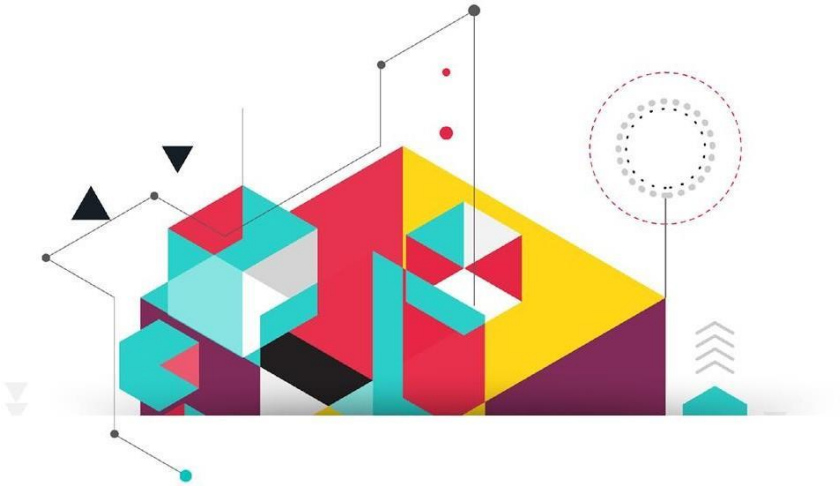
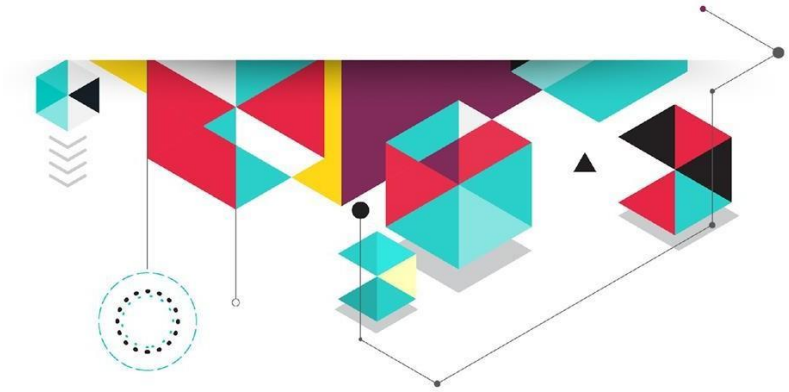
LESSON 3 – DATA MANIPULATION - RECAP

Overview



You have learnt how to modify the data you are working with using techniques like string manipulation or DataTable operations.



Takeaways

- Activities have properties with **predefined types** that you can check with a mouse hover. You don't necessarily have to know them, you can use **Ctrl + K** to automatically create a variable of the required type.
- Most of the variables can be split in these categories: **scalar, collections and tables.**
- You can use **Generic Value** type to store any kind of data, and in many cases you are able to manipulate them using String methods. Other times, you may need to **cast** them to a more specific data type, using methods like **ToString** and **ToInt**.
- **.Arrays** and **lists** are very similar, the main difference being that lists have a variable size, while an array has a fixed size.
- When looking to store **key/value pairs** or just have a single variable for multiple values you should use **Dictionaries**
- By typing "dot" after a String variable, Intellisense shows you a list of available methods of the **String data type**
- Use String's **Split** method you can get the pieces of a string separated by a given set of characters
- Strings can be concatenated by using the **"+"** sign, but for more complex cases you should use the String **Format** method.

Best practices

- All data types have a default **ToString** method
- Visual Basic provides **Now**, a DateTime with the current timestamp
- When using **Read CSV** make sure you check the property I**ncludeColumnNames** if you want the first row to be treated as column names.
- You can filter table rows by using the **Select** method.