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# JavaScript For Qualtrics November/December 2021

This script can be used to:

1) Record the time between page load and participant selecting their last response using a radio button

2) Record the time between participant selecting their last response (using a radio button) and advancing to the next page

## Basic Information

**Language:** JavaScript

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| **Variable Name** | **Explanation** | **Outcome Unit** |
| answerTime\_ | This is the time between when the page loaded and when the participant selected their last response (radio button) | Milliseconds |
| clickTime\_ | This is a timestamp for when (the date and exact time) the participant selected their last response. | Epoch Time → this is a dated timestamp; you can use [this website](https://www.epochconverter.com/) to convert the value to a date and time. It is not a required measure but may be of use. |
| submitTime\_ | This is the time between when the participant selected their last response and when they advanced to the next question | Milliseconds |
| QID | QID is different to question names or numbers. [QIDs are system generated and cannot be changed,](https://www.qualtrics.com/support/survey-platform/survey-module/editing-questions/formatting-questions/#QuestionNumbers) | n/a |

## How to set up the script in a new survey:

* **Important:** Copy the “JS TimeStamp customization document” Block to the survey. This block will not be visible to the participants but will be useful to whomever is managing the survey.
  + If this is not available, please copy and paste the following into a new question: “There is Javascript used in this survey. Please refer to this GitHub for more information. [https://github.com/rs-kellogg/ULF\_Qualtrics\_JavaScript\_TimeCalculation”](https://github.com/rs-kellogg/ULF_Qualtrics_JavaScript_TimeCalculation) and set it to have the following display logic: Question > question title > question title > is displayed (so that it is not visible to participants). *Example below.*
* Instructions for adding the script are available at <https://github.com/rs-kellogg/ULF_Qualtrics_JavaScript_TimeCalculation> (Written By [Eshi](https://www.kellogg.northwestern.edu/research-support/about-us.aspx)). These are included in the ‘JS TimeStamp customizaton document’ block

*Other Survey setup considerations:*

* Questions should be on separate pages
* Currently, this only works for radio button-style multiple choice questions that are not multiselect

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| **How to add the script to a question:** select question > Scroll to Question behavior > JavaScript > Paste script > save |  |
| **How to add the script to the header:** Look and Feel > General > Header > edit > click source (see picture) > paste script > save |  |
| **Where to find question IDs:** account settings > Qualtrics IDs > find & open the survey you are using  Note: Ensure that you have a record of which question corresponds to which QID, especially if you label your questions differently in your survey. |  |
| **Set Embedded Data Variables:** survey flow> add new element > embedded data  You must manually type each variable you will be creating’s name with their QID; these are: answerTime\_(QID) , clickTime,\_(QID) and submitTime\_(QID)  e.g., if you have 2 questions with QID 1 and 2, create *answerTime\_QID1,* *answerTime\_QID2,* etc... *see example on the right.*  *N.B.:* The variables have an underscore between the QID and name (answerTime\_ ; clickTime\_; submitTime) and are case sensitive. |  |

Mobile Set Up (optional)

These instructions can be used to improve the experience of completing the survey on mobile. However, this works best for yes/no choice questions and questions without long text. They cover: A) How to record the device participants completed the survey on B) How to format the survey to be easily completed on a mobile device by increasing the radio button size and expanding the survey size. Click time may be affected by the device used C) To not compromise survey flow, we don’t recommend adding requirements (require response or request response) for missed or skipped questions. Instead, we recommend showing the participant the question again.

A) **Record the device used:** In your first block containing questions > add new question > meta info And/Or [follow these instructions](https://community.qualtrics.com/XMcommunity/discussion/547/identifying-mobile-vs-desktop-survey-completion) - the former is better.

B) **Format the questions:**

1. For each question that you want formatted select the question > Alignment > Set to “Horizontal”.
2. Increase choice text font size to 20 (This can be done to **all questions** using Look and feel > Use old look and feel editor > font > choice text > set font size to (desired font). Increasing the font size will increase the size of the radio button.
3. Add script from the bottom of the ReadMe file to the header (“This is the code to be put in Look and Feel Header section at the bottom to increase size of radio buttons on mobile phones and tablets.”). Paste it after after “</script>”. This will set the size of the screen and location of the radio button.

4) To make the radio buttons even larger, you can add Add jQuery("#"+ this.questionId +" label.q-radio").css({"width":"2.1em","height":"2.1em"}); to the on load section of the individual questions JS.

C) To show participants a question again if they miss or skip it:

1. Copy original question
2. Display logic: if yes and no are not selected for the original question, then this question will be shown. See below for an example.Graphical user interface, text, application

   Description automatically generated
3. Note: this question also needs to include all individual question code to track click times and must be set up as described in the ‘How to set up the script in a new survey’ section above (for individual questions: you must add the custom script to the question’s JS + create the embedded data variables related to them). Also n.b. that you will have to be mindful of which questions are the same and, when it comes time to clean the data, that these will need to be combined.

## Q&A

**If participants select one answer and then select another, which is recorded in answerTime?**

Only the time (in ms) between the page loading and the participant selecting their **final** answer is reflected by the answerTime variable.

**Can you exclude certain pages from having the 3 variables recorded?**

Yes, you can do this by not adding the JavaScript code to the specific question.

**Why doesn’t the QID in the variable match the question name/number that I set?**

[Question names and numbers are different to question IDs. QIDs are system generated and cannot be changed.](https://www.qualtrics.com/support/survey-platform/survey-module/editing-questions/formatting-questions/#QuestionNumbers)

For Mobile option

**How many words can I fit into the question box before the the question text overlaps with the question box?**

At around a 20pt font size, you can fit up to 40 words in the textbox before the question overlaps with the radio buttons for most common phones. For phones that aren't an iphone 5 or SE, you can have more words. If more words are necessary, you can reduce the font size accordingly.

**How can I preview how the survey will look on different phone models?**

If you have the Microsoft Edge browser > click the 3 dots on the top right > Tools > Developer Tools

## Troubleshooting

**If embedded variables are not being populated when participants respond**

1. Ensure that the script has been placed in the correct locations (header and questions of interest)
2. Check that you entered the embedded variable names correctly. They are case sensitive and must match what is in the script (I.e., submitTime\_, clickTime\_, answerTime\_)
3. Check that the question ID you used in the embedded variable is written as Q**ID**2 and not just Q2, for example.
4. Ensure you used the question QID from the account section and not the name given to the question (e.g., Q2 in the survey could be QID12 if it was created later).
5. Ensure you have included the JavaScript script for each question of interest individually and saved the changes
6. Contact research support

***Notes:***

* With the additional script, we recommend using a font size below 30.
* If you have a long question and want to reduce scrolling, try reducing the question’s font size.