Microsoft

Robotic Process Automation in a Day

Lab 3 – Use Input and Output Parameters

30 mins

April 2023

Applies to Power Automate Desktop v. 2.31.105.23101 (more)

Lab Overview

You will complete the following tasks in this lab:

- Create a new Power Automate Desktop flow with predefined inputs
- Record actions performed in the desktop-based Contoso Invoicing application using these inputs, and capturing application data for output
- Perform a test run of the new desktop flow with a new set of inputs

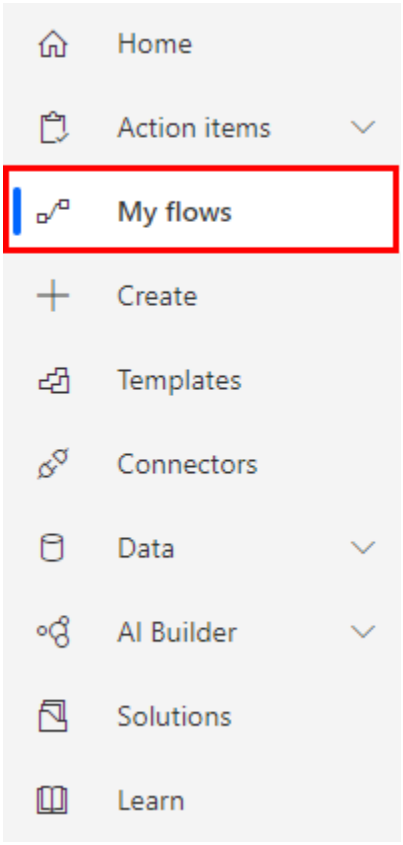
Prerequisites

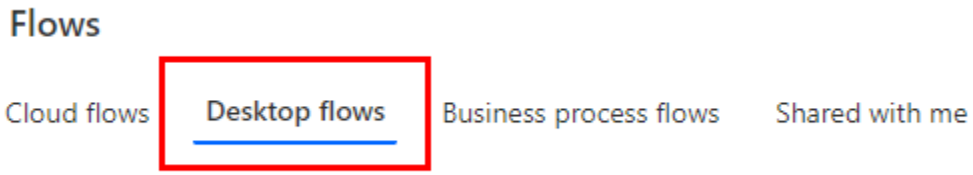
This lab builds on the initial setup lab (Lab 1) – ensure all tasks are complete.

Important Additional Prerequisite: As you will be recording actions performed in your UI in this lab, **you will have the best experience if you view the lab instructions on a separate device or in a printout**. You can still complete the lab while pursuing the instructions during UI action recording, but you will have to perform extra work to cut the recorded actions of viewing the instructions from the UI flow.

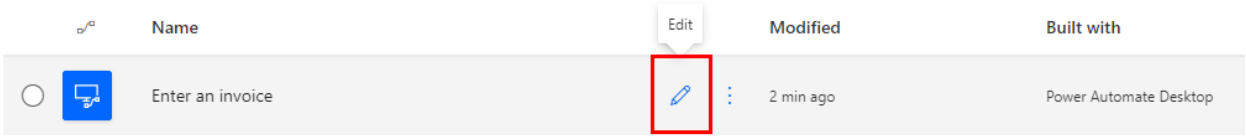
Use input and output parameters

1. Open the test profile in a browser and navigate to https://powerautomate.microsoft.com
2. Open Contoso Invoicing app.
3. Select **My flows** > **Desktop flows.**

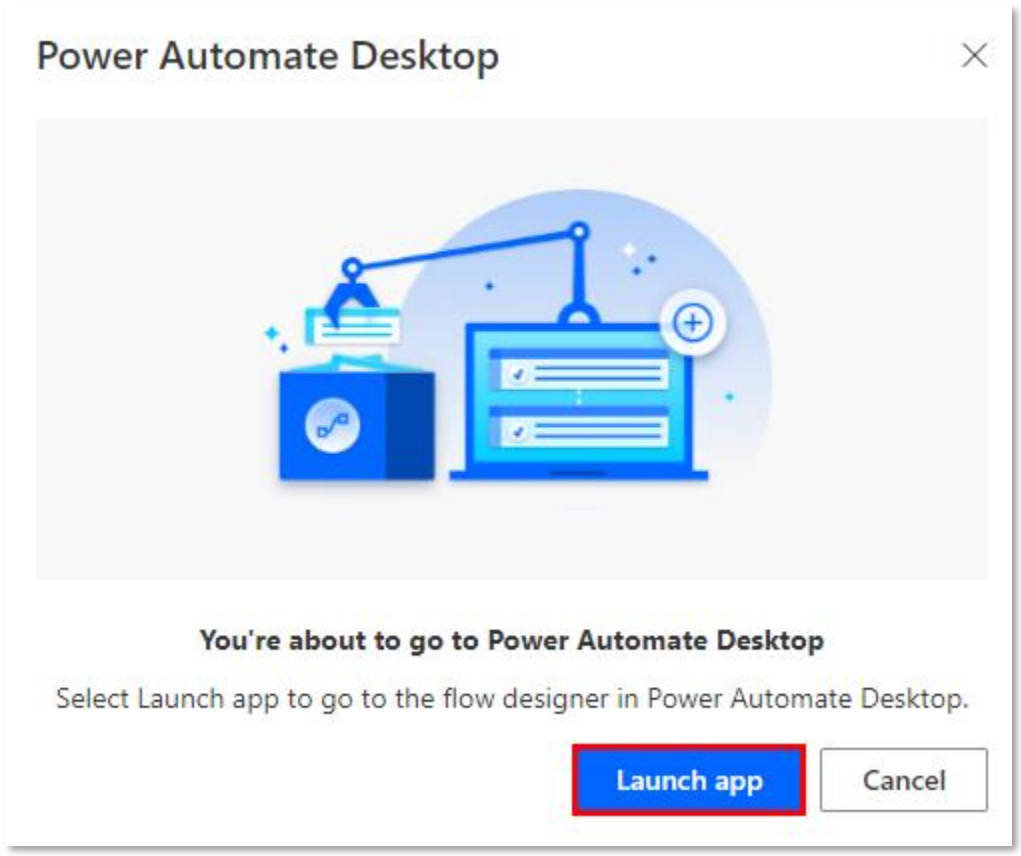




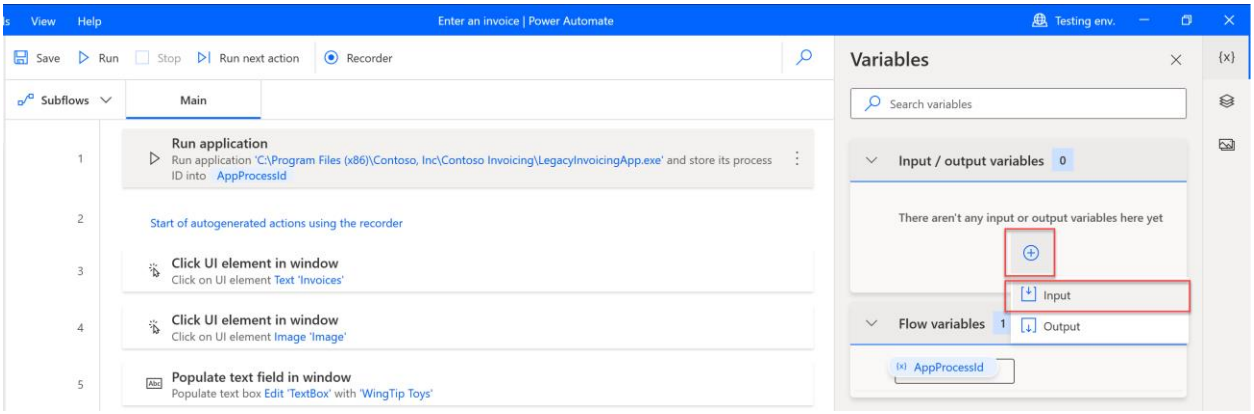
4. Edit **Enter an invoice** flow by clicking 



5. Click Launch app.

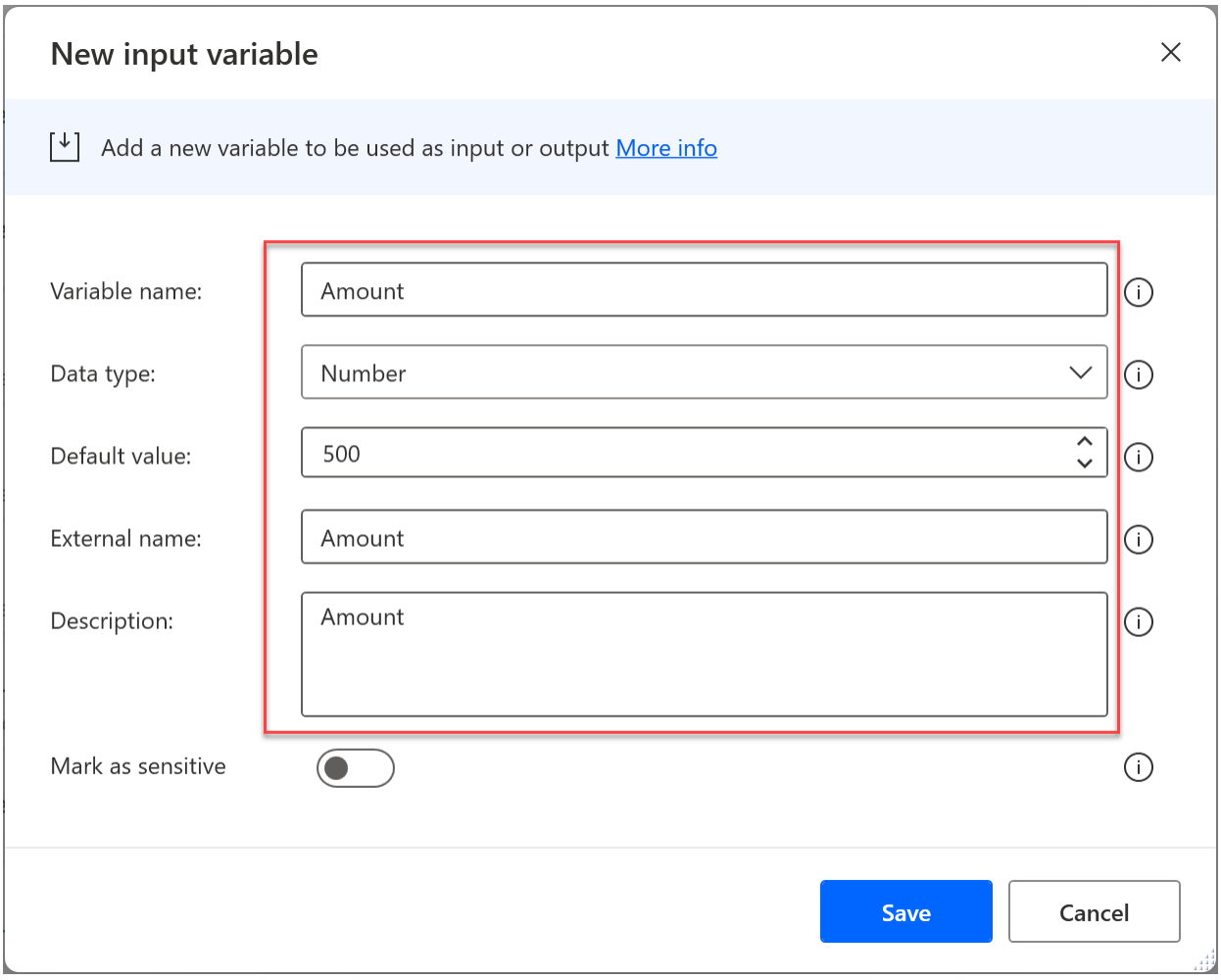


6. Power Automate Desktop provides the ability to receive input values from Cloud flows and return values using output values. We will now create a series of input values by clicking **Input/output variables**, then click  - **Input** to add your first **input**.

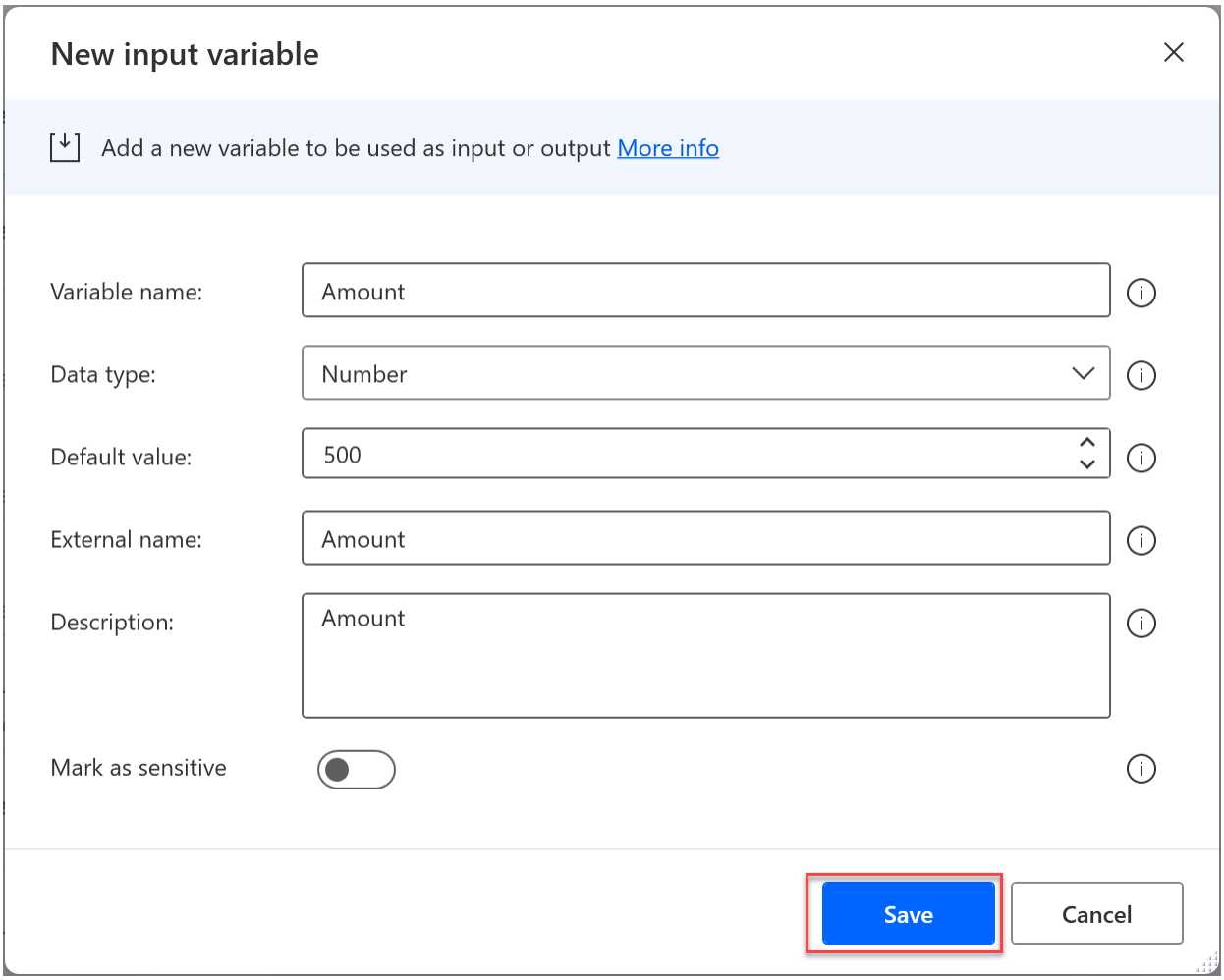


7. Use these values to setup the first input:

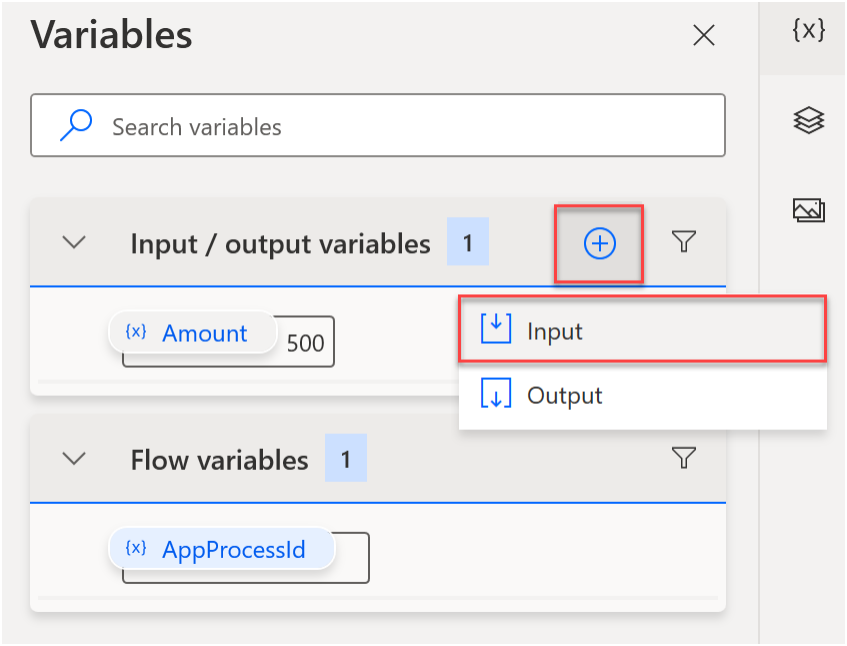
- **Variable Type: Input**
- **Variable Name: Amount**
- **Data type: Number**
- **Default value: 500**
- **External Name: Amount**
- **Description: Amount**



8. Click **Save**.

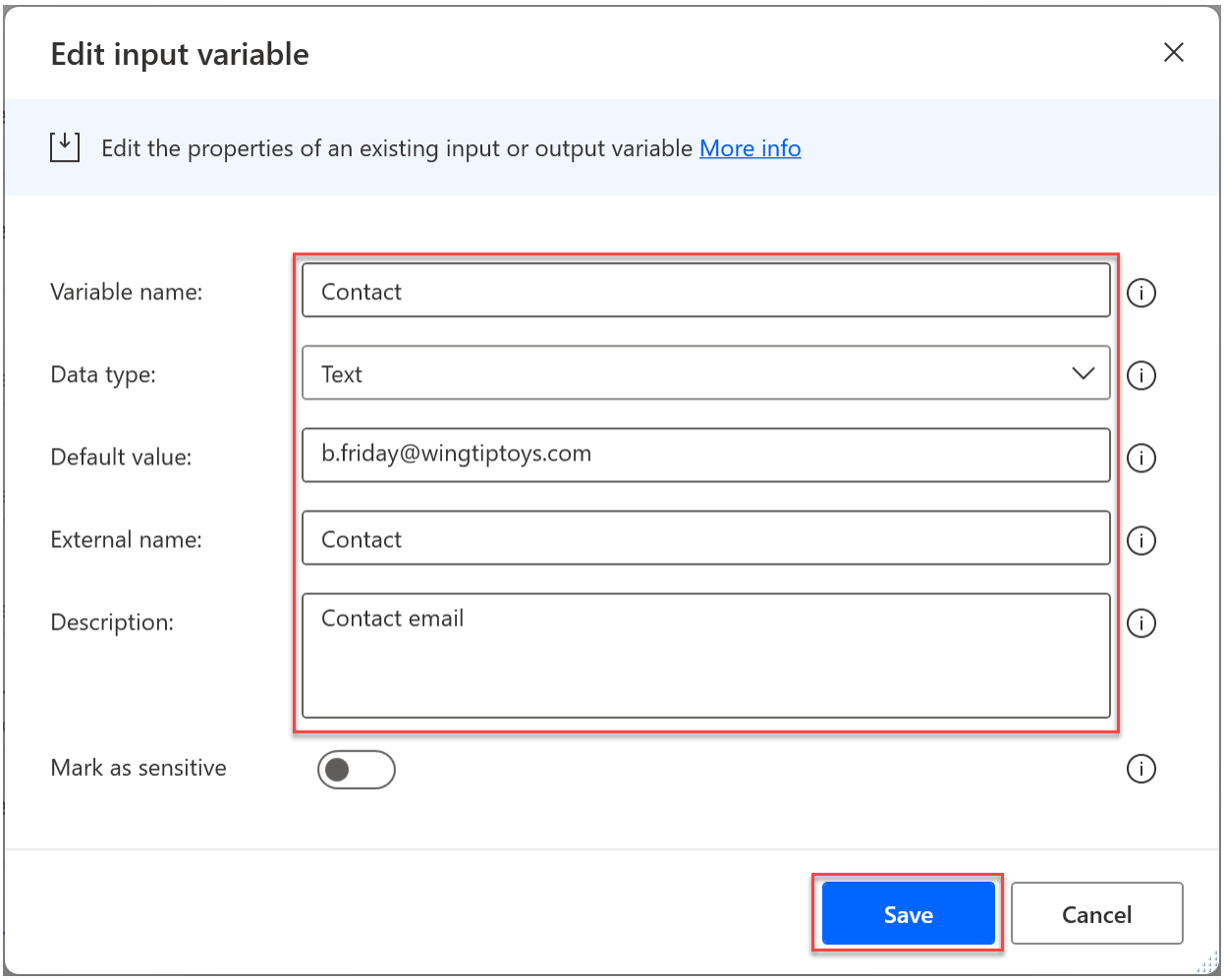

New input variable
Add a new variable to be used as input or output More info
Variable name:
Amount
Data type:
Number
Default value:
500
External name:
Amount
Description:
Amount
Mark as sensitive
Save
Cancel

9. Click  > **Input** to add 2 more inputs.

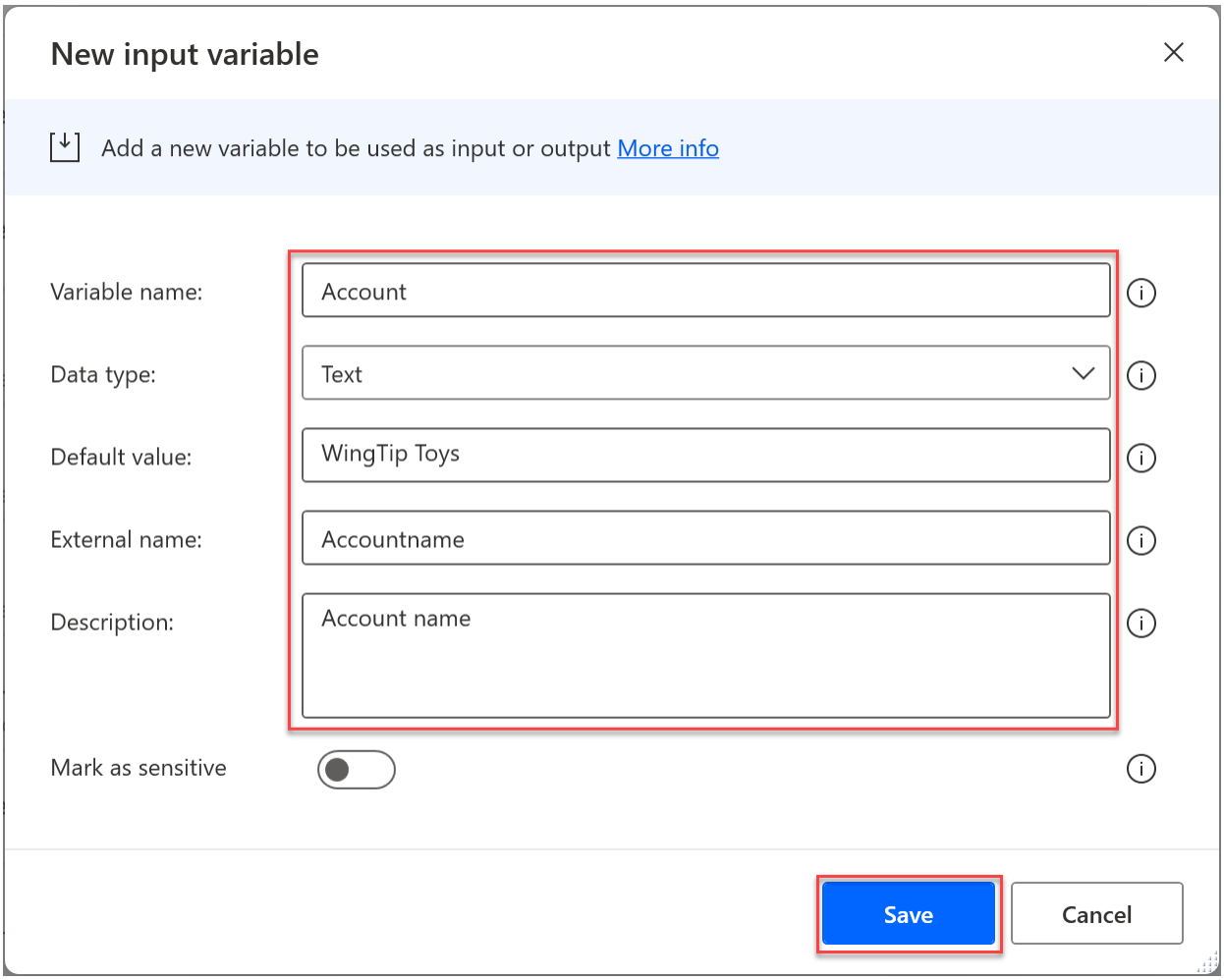


10. Use these values to setup two new added inputs.

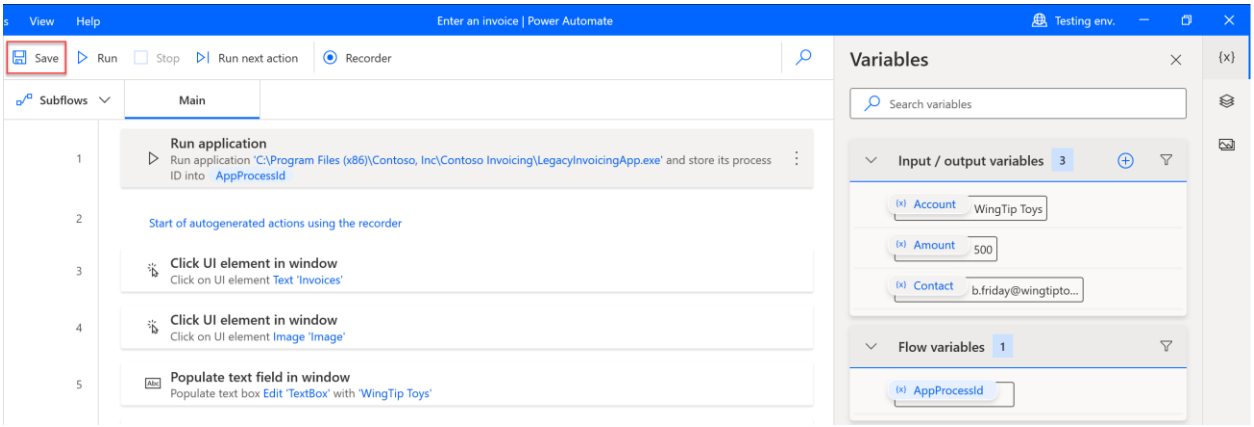
- **Variable Type:** Input
- **Variable Name**: Contact
- **Data type:** Text
- **Default value:** b.friday@wingtiptoys.com
- **External Name:** Contact
- **Description:** Contact email



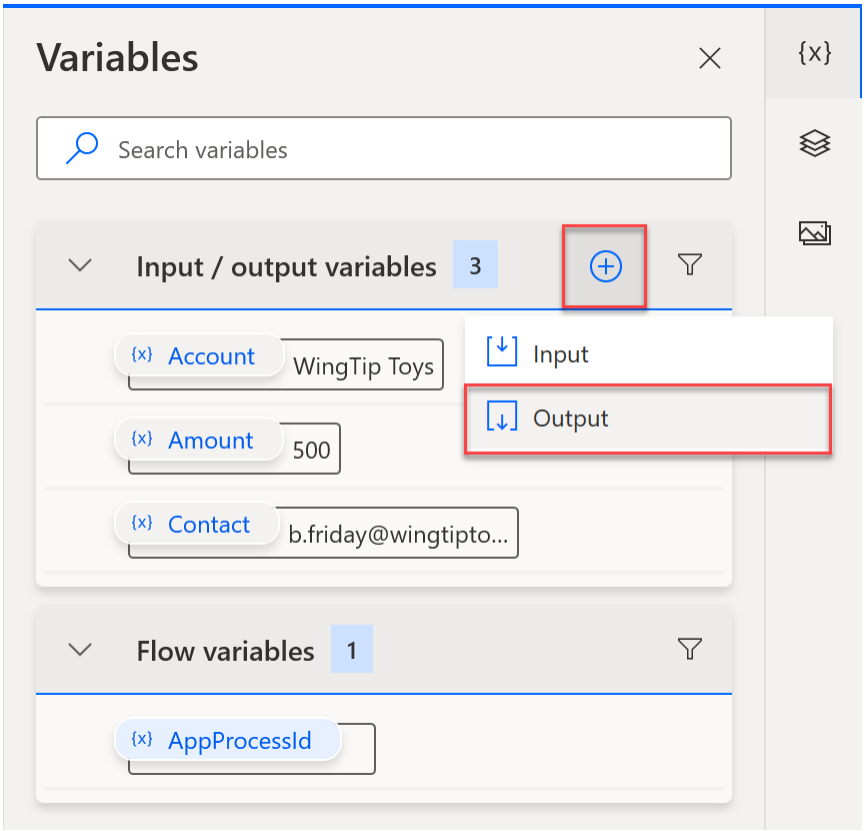
- **Variable Type:** Input
- **Variable Name**: Account
- **Data type:** Text
- **Default value:** WingTip Toys
- **External Name:** Accountname
- **Description:** Account name



11. Click **Save**.

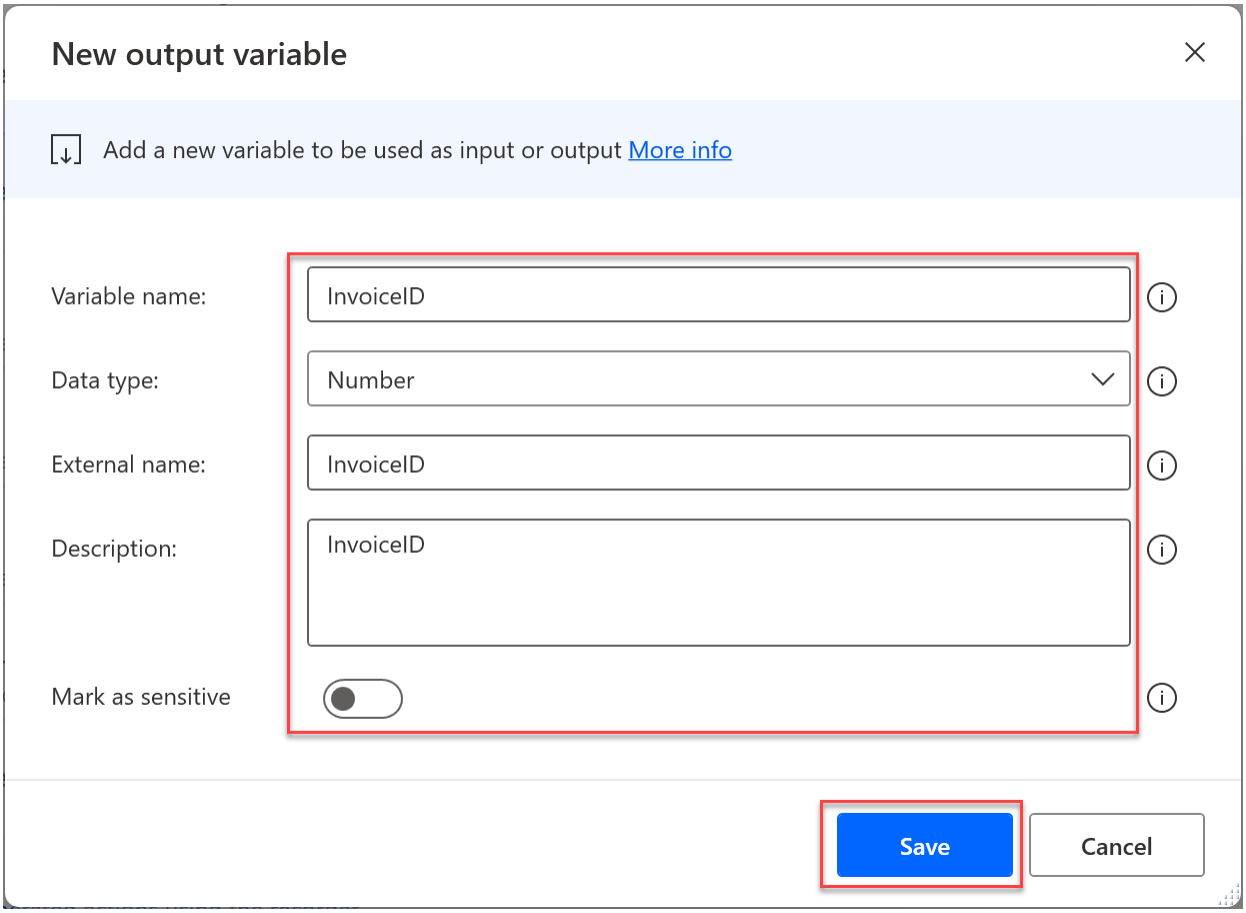


12. On the right-side **Input/output variables**, click  > **Output** to add your first **output**.



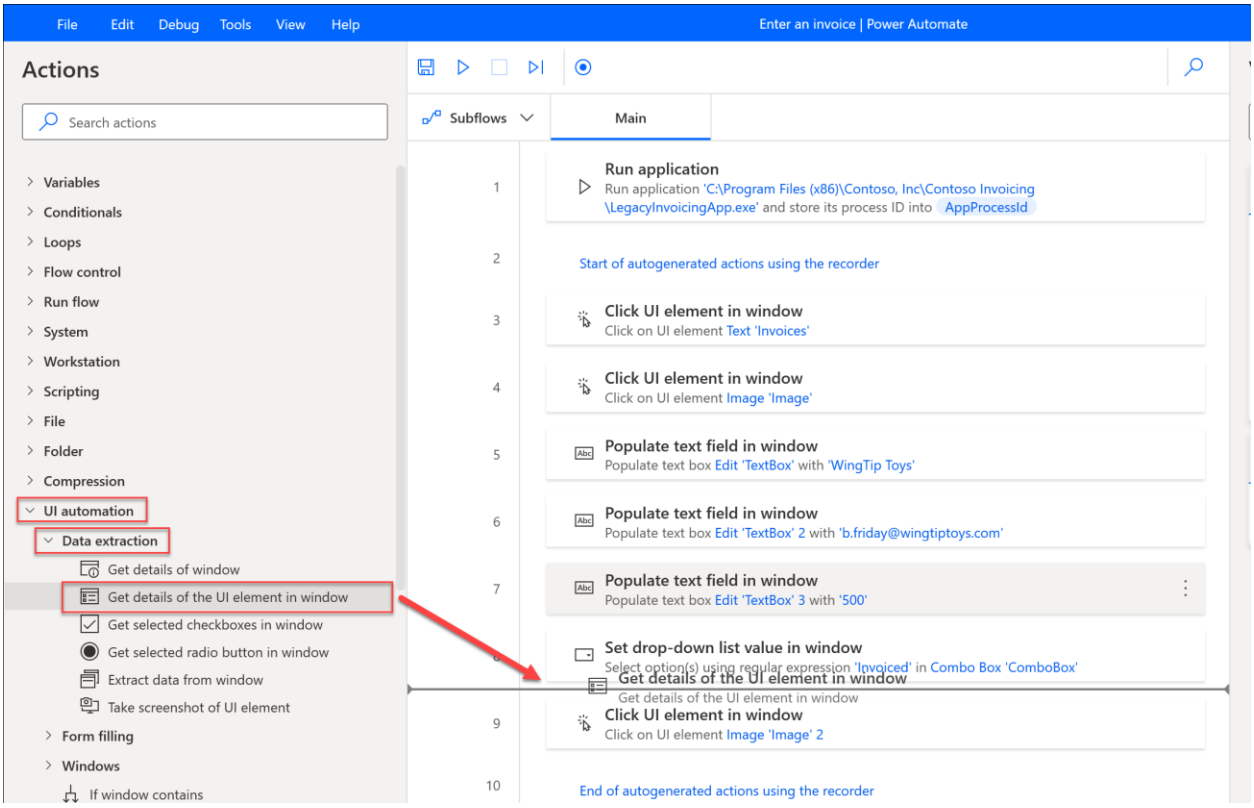
13. Use these values to setup the first output:

- **Variable Name:** InvoiceID
- **Data type:** Number
- **External Name:** InvoiceID
- **Description:** InvoiceID

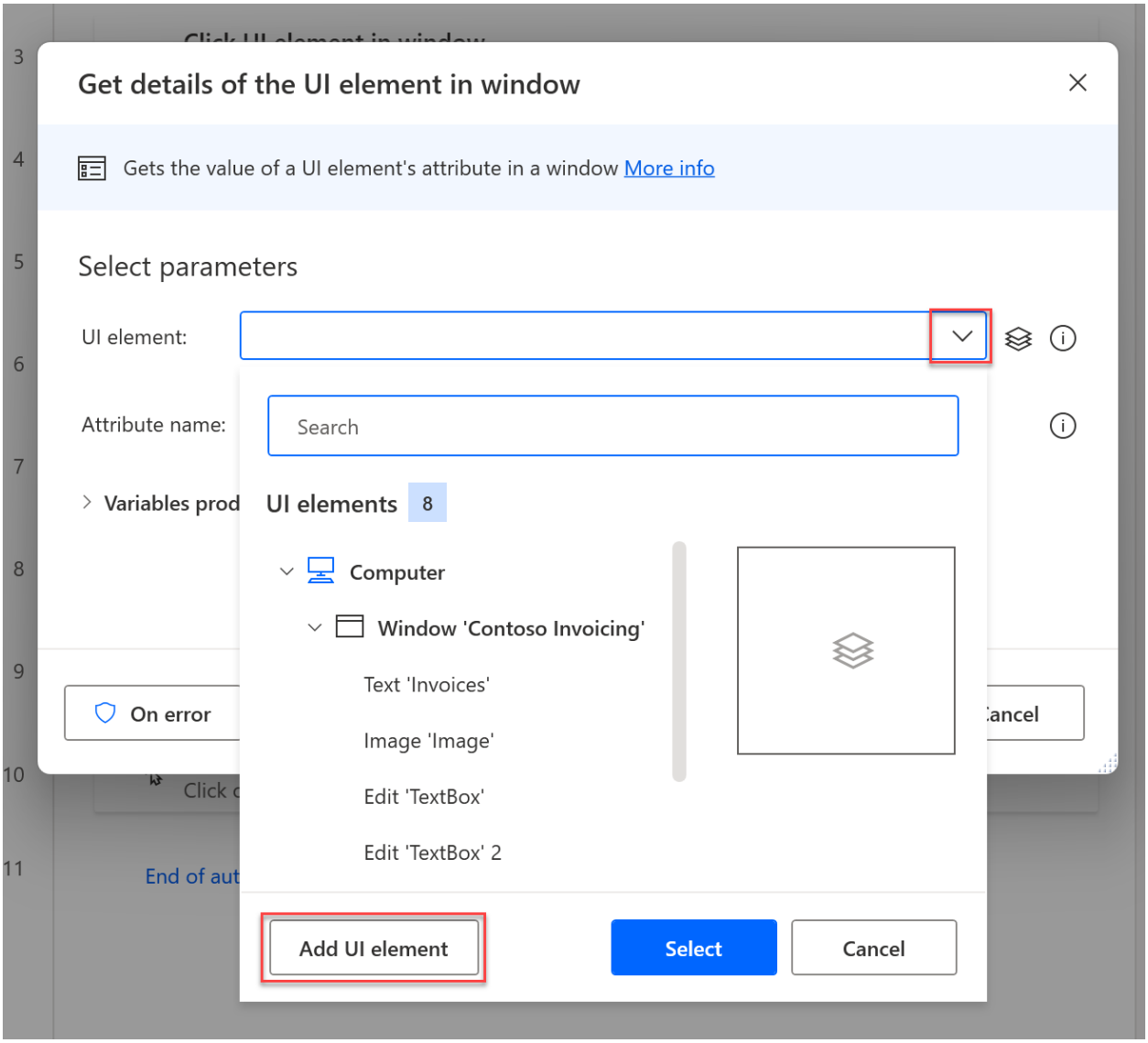


14. After providing the required values in each field, click **Save** to proceed.

15. Within our process, we now need to add an action to set this output. Please ensure the Contoso application is still running. Drag the **Get details of a UI element's attribute in a window** from **UI automation** > **Data extraction** folder under **Step 8** in your actions.

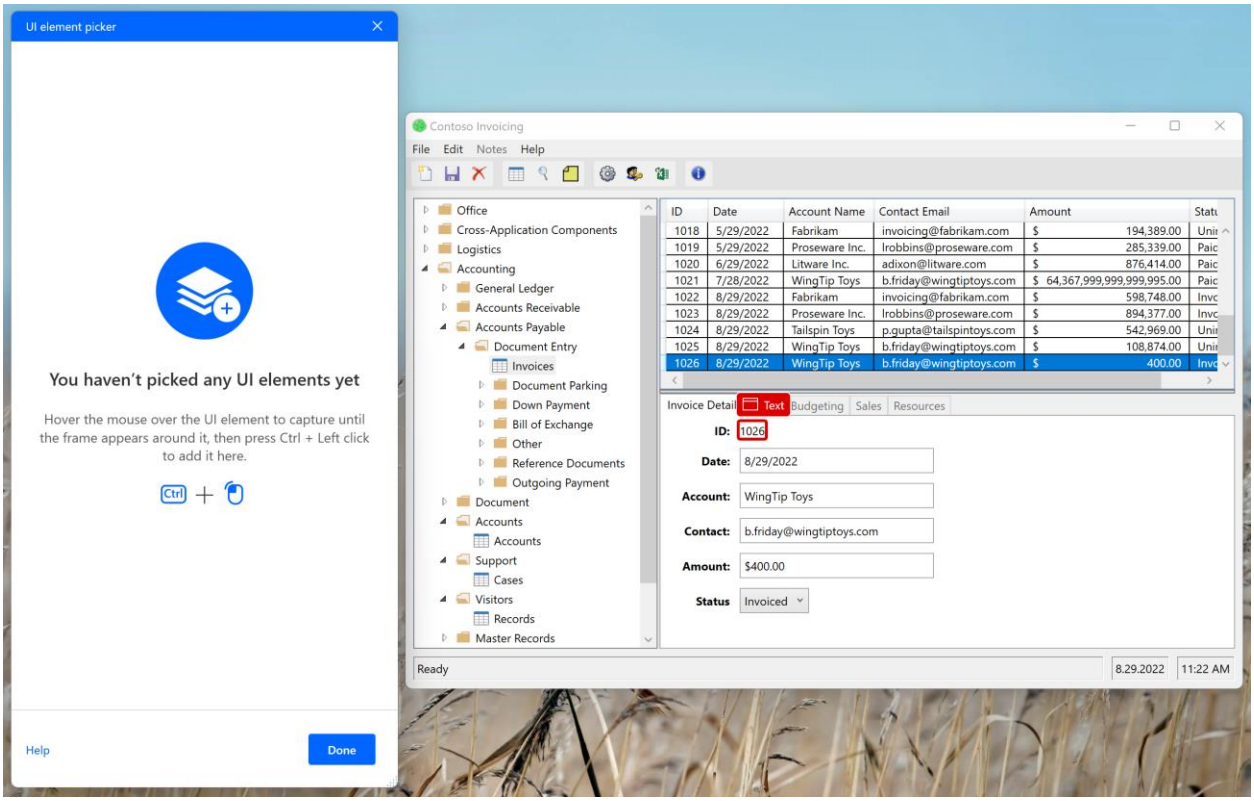


16. Click on the **UI element** dropdown and then click **Add UI element**.



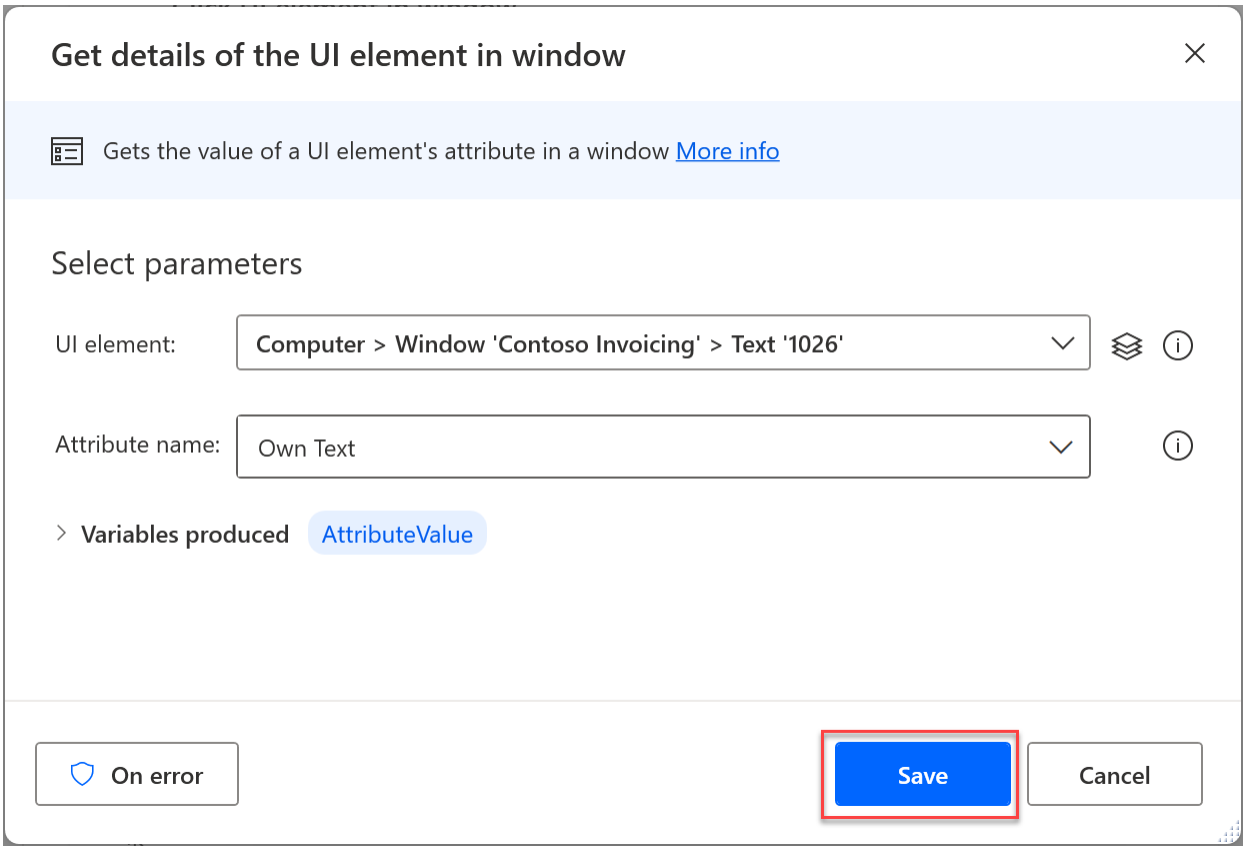
Note: A red rectangle appears on the desktop while hovering the mouse over the elements.

17. Go to **Contoso Invoicing app**, move the mouse over the value that belongs to ID number. Hold the **CTRL key** on your keyboard and then **Left-Click** to select the element (You may have a different ID than the number displayed here).



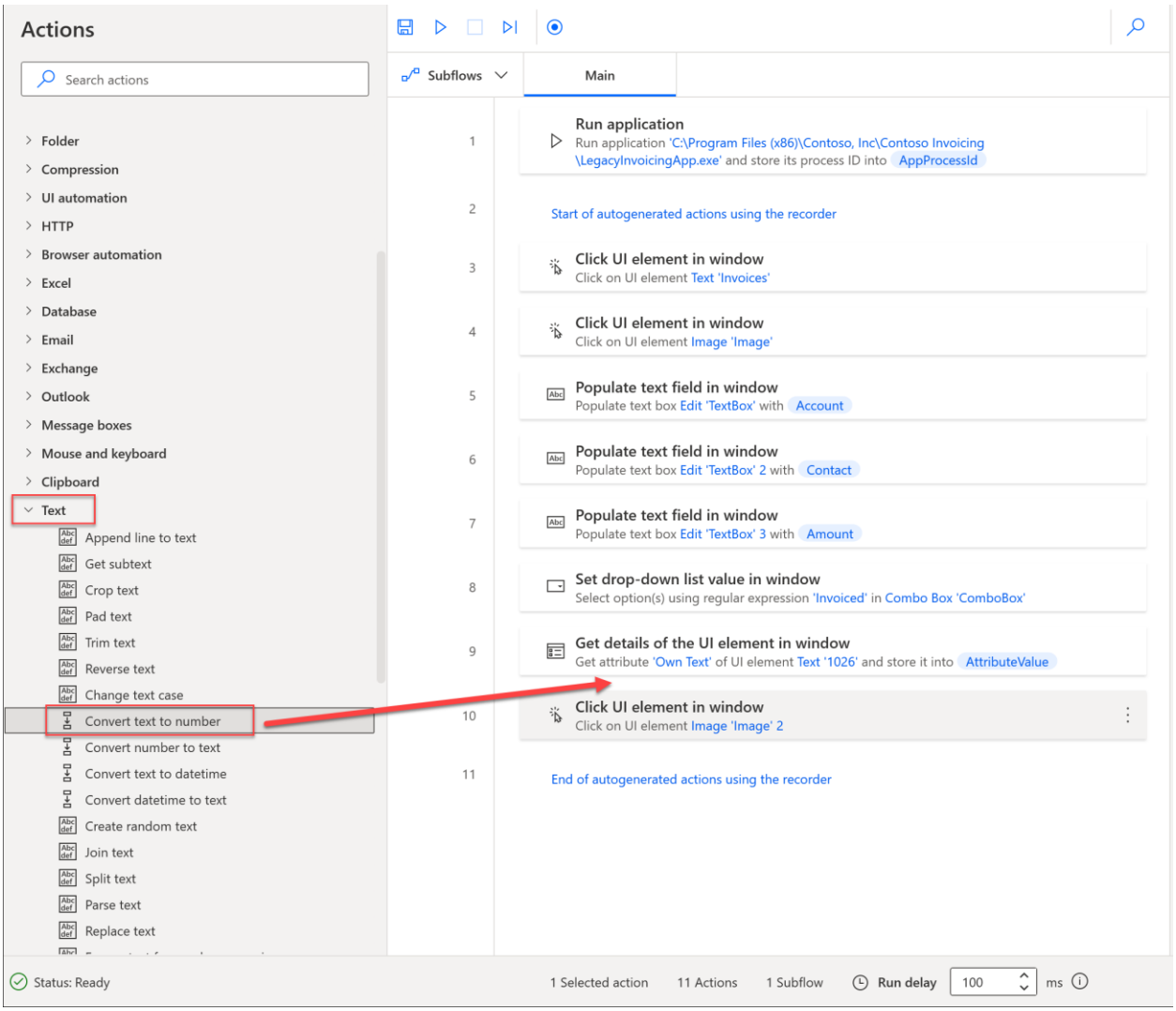
18. Once you selected the element, you will see the value is being recorded and the UI element picker disappears.

19. Click **Save**.



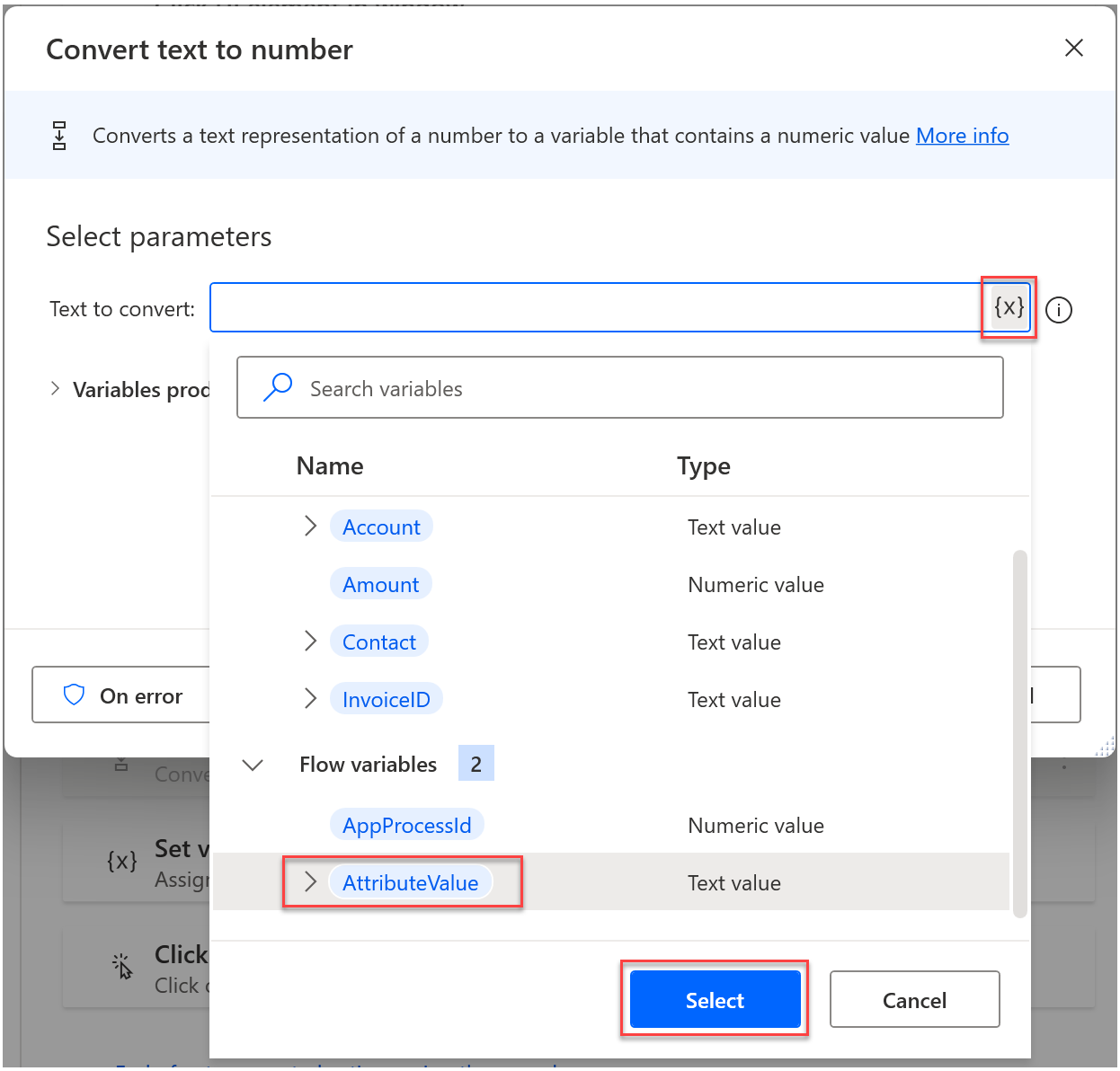
Note: This action will automatically create a variable called **AttributeValue** as an output that we can refer to in subsequent actions within Power Automate Desktop.

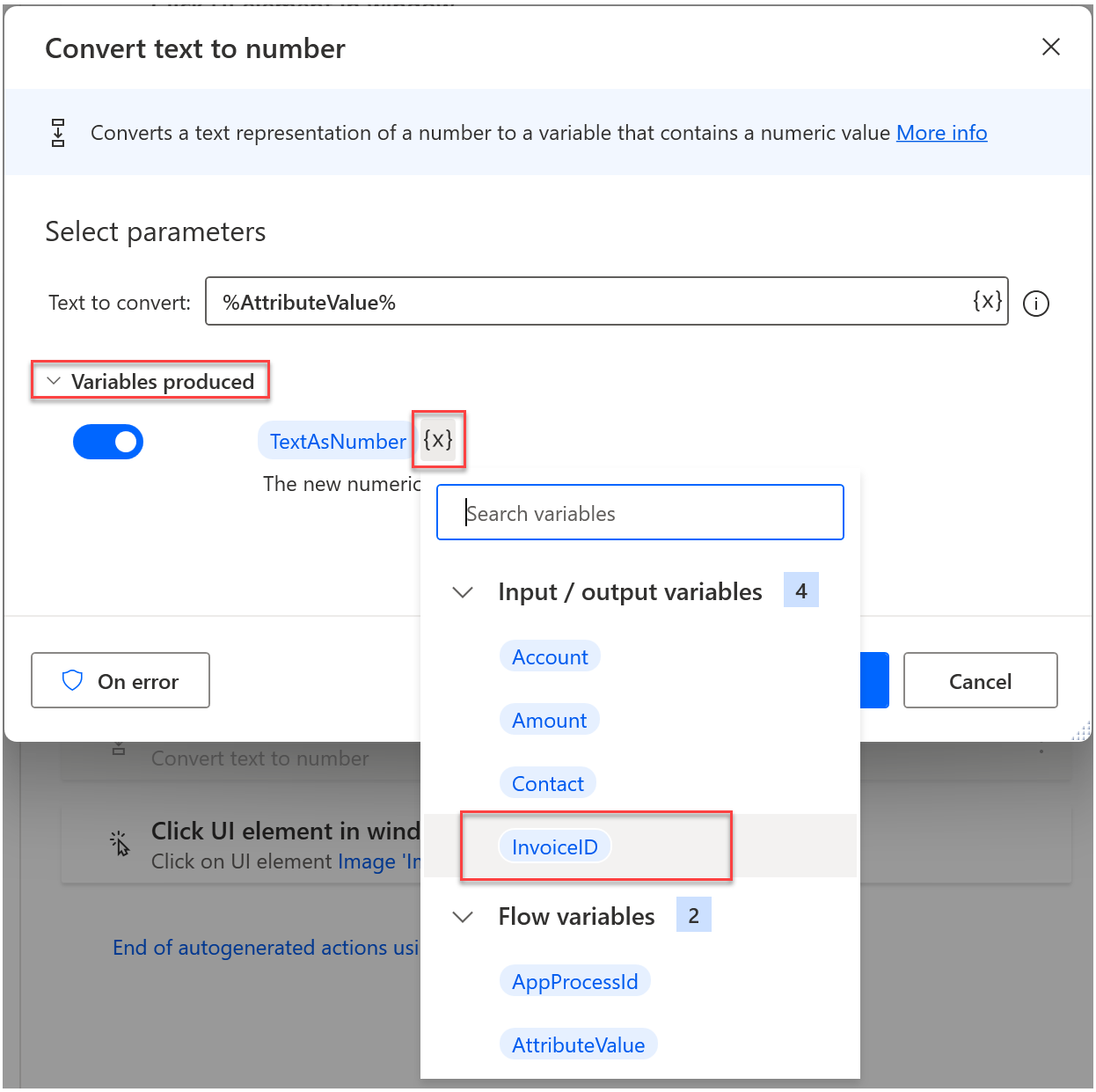
20. Add **Convert text to number** action from **Text** folder.



21. We will now set an **InvoiceID** variable that will be used to capture the Invoice ID that we previously captured in step 21. This allows us to use the Invoice ID in downstream processes or from our API flow that will be created in a future lab. Use below information to fill out **Set variable**:
    - **Text to convert: %AttributeValue%**
    - **Variables produced: %InvoiceID%**

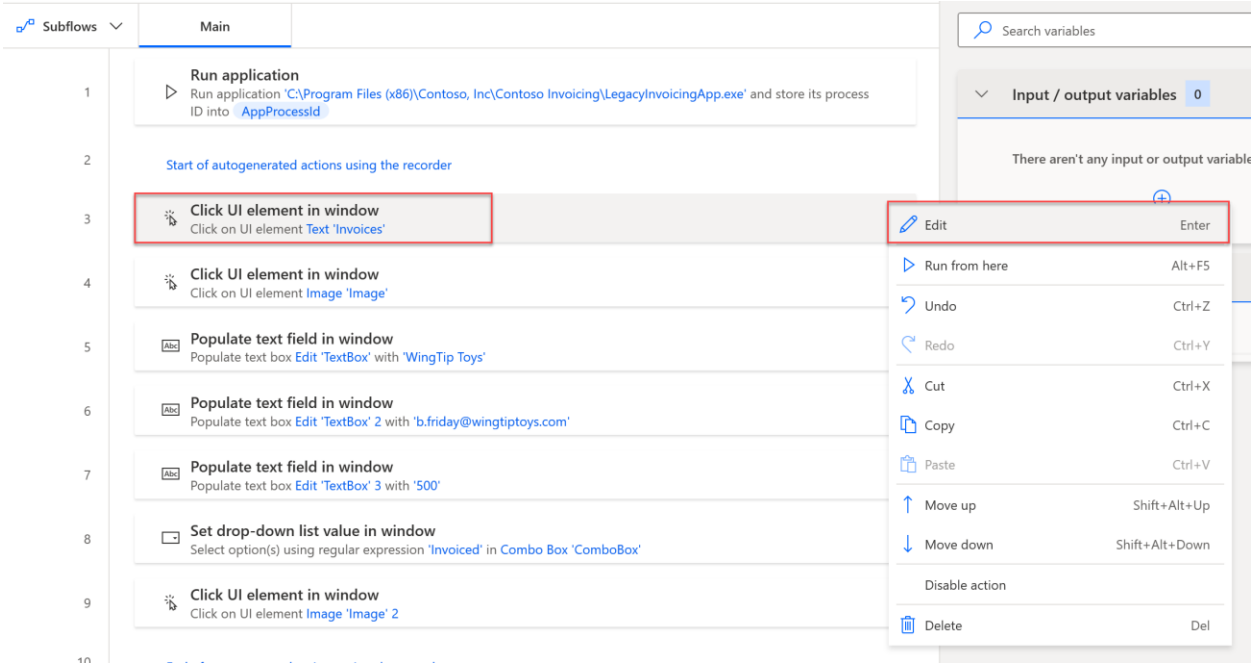
Note: You can also use the {x} button to assign our **AttributeValue** from a dropdown list.



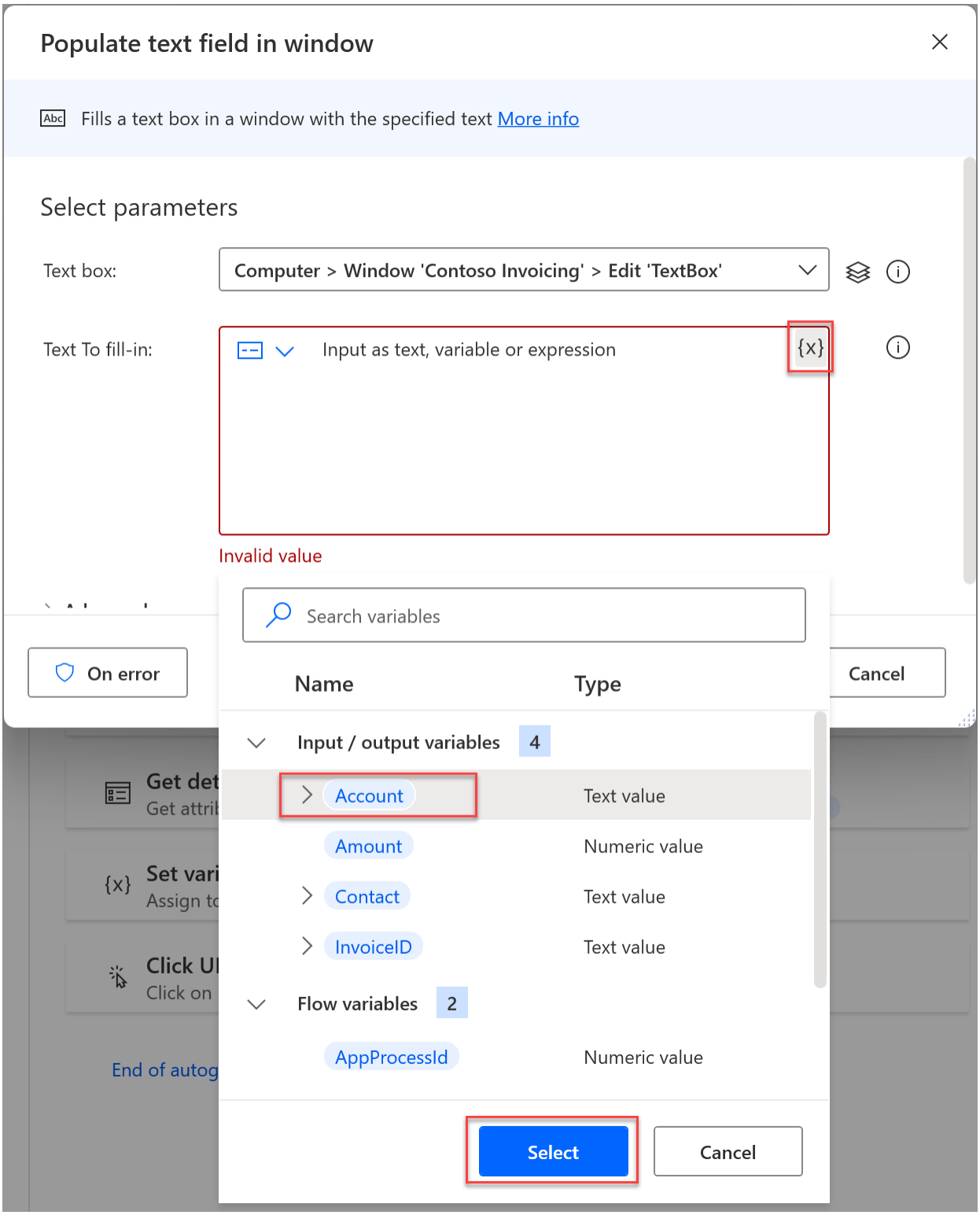


22. Click **Save**.

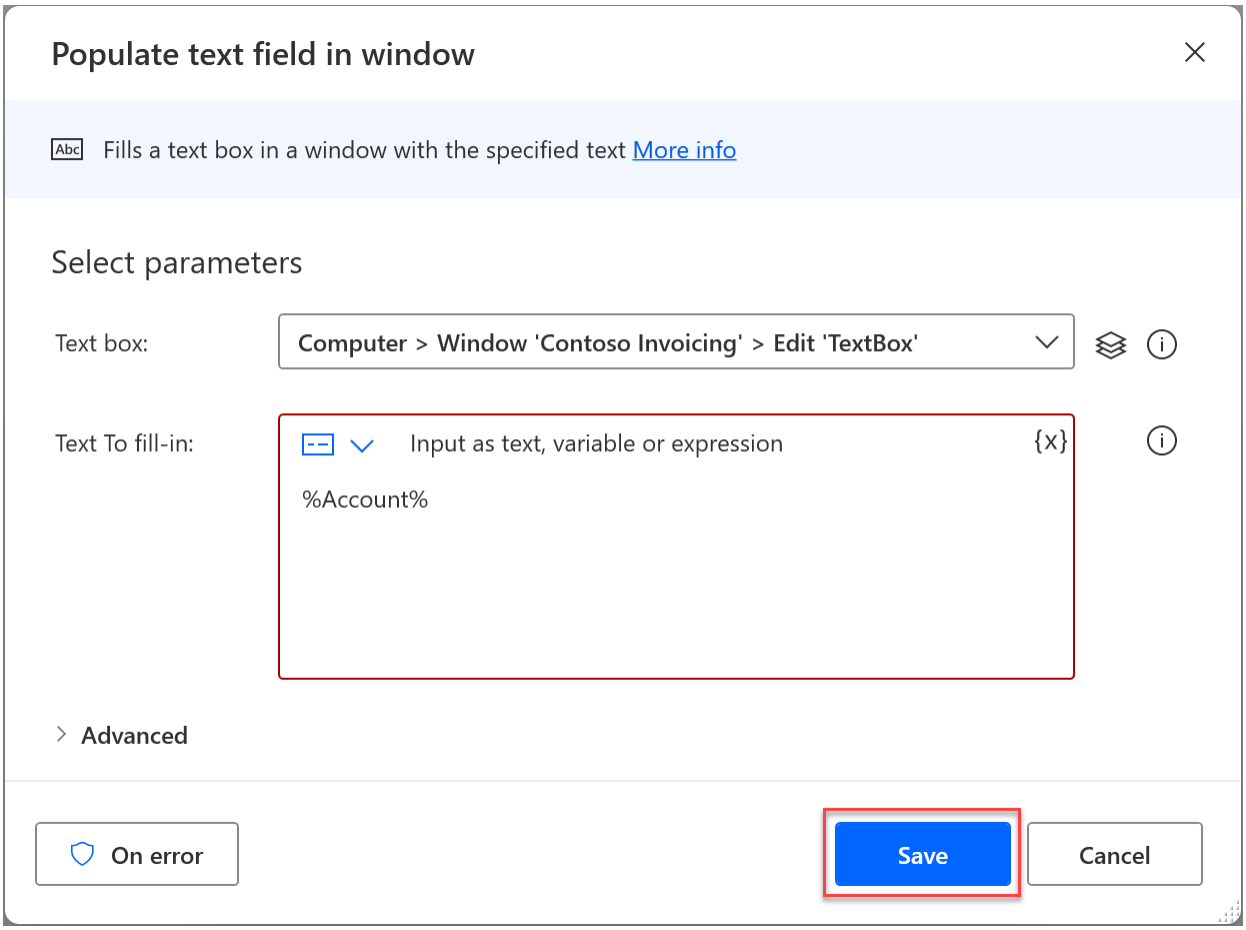
23. Go back to **Step 5 (Edit 'TextBox' with 'WingTip Toys)** of your UI flow, click **...** icon. Select **Edit**.



24. Delete the value in **Text to fill-in**. Double click **Account** (One of the inputs we created earlier) by clicking {x} > **Account.**

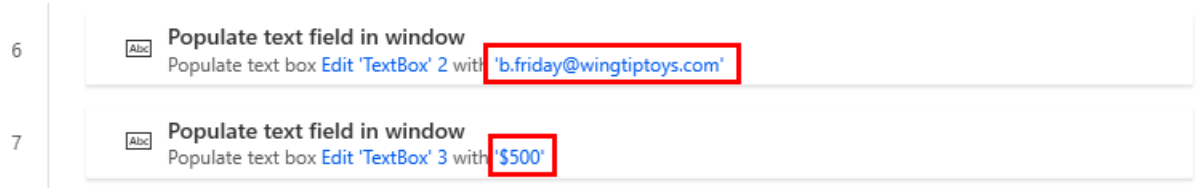


25. Click **Save**.

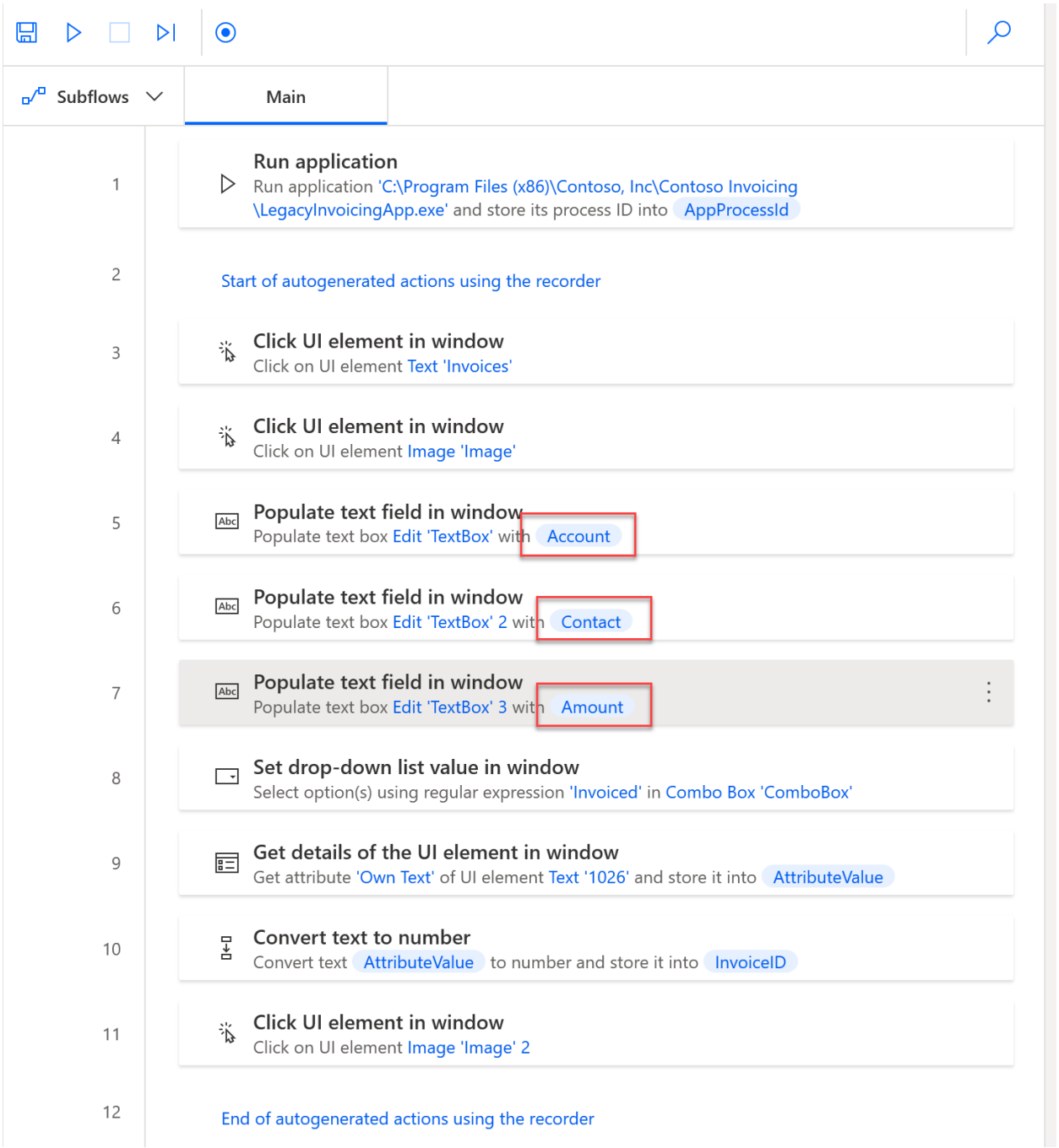


26. Follow the same steps above to change the value in **Text to fill-in** in **Step 6** and **Step 7**.

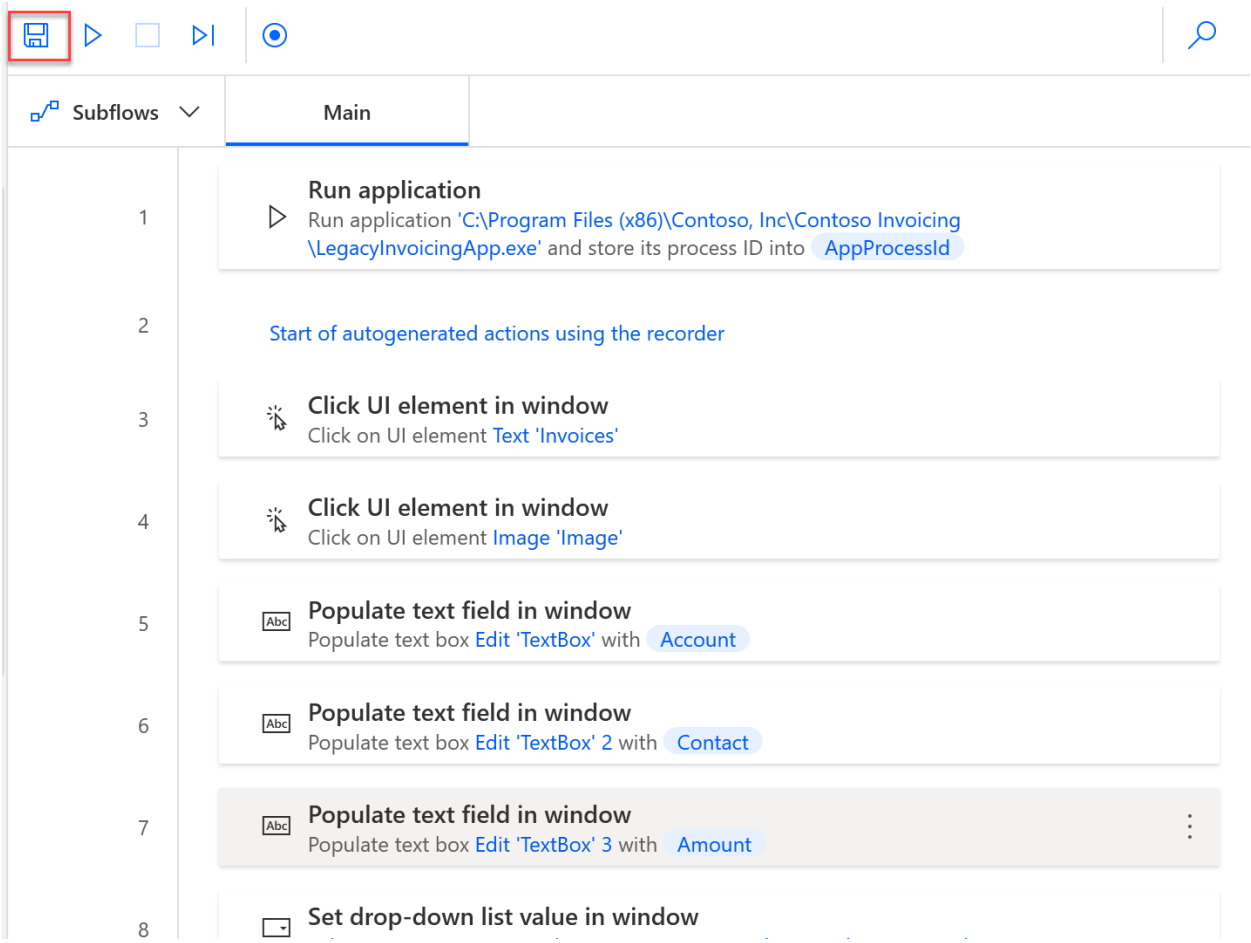
- **Use Input Contact for Step 6**
- **Use Input Amount for Step 7**



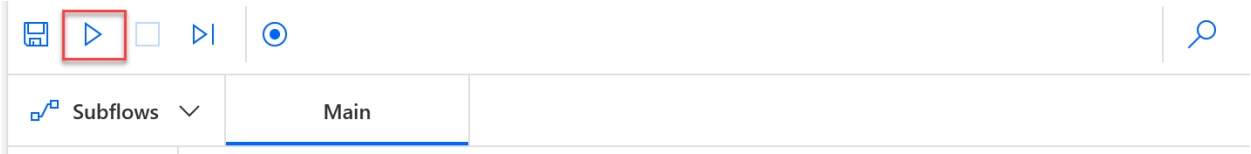
27. Once you're done, your actions should look like the screenshot below.



28. Click **Save**.



29. Now you can test your flow by clicking **Run**.



Check your knowledge

Lab 3

10 mins

1. If you need to pass parameters from a Cloud flow into a Desktop flow, where do you define these values _____?

   A. Run
   B. Run next action
   C. Input/output variables
   D. None of the above

   Answer: C. Input/output variables allow the maker to establish parameters that can be sent from a Cloud flow. In addition, output variables can be used to send data back to Cloud flows.

2. We need to hold the _____ key on keyboard and then _____ to select the element.

   A. Shift + Right-Click
   B. Shift + Left-Click
   C. CTRL + Left-Click
   D. CTRL + Right-Click

   Answer: C. CTRL + Left-Click

3. Which of the following action allows us to use Invoice ID in downstream desktop flow actions or is required to return the value to ca cloud flow?

   A. Create new list
   B. Convert text to number
   C. Add item to list
   D. Increase variable

   Answer: B. Set Convert text to number - This will capture the Invoice ID and convert it to number, as that data type is expected by the output variable. It will allow us to use the Invoice ID in downstream processes or send back to our cloud flow that will be created in a future labs.