Approximate Matching

# Introduction

This object contains a few actions that use approximate matching algorithms to compare text fields. This allows developers to identify how closely two text strings are and potentially decide if the two strings can be classed as the same.

Approximate matching text comparisons are useful in scenarios such as where you want to select a screen element based upon text values which cannot be guaranteed to correctly match.

The two algorithms used in this object are:

* Jaro-Winkler distance. This returns a number of between 1 for a perfect match: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaro%E2%80%93Winkler_distance>
* Levenshtein distance. This calculates the minimum number of single-character edits required to change one word into another. A score of zero is a perfect match.

The “Select Best Match from…” action in this object takes a collection of values and finds the item in the collection that most closely matches the text you want to find. This was originally created for a project that needed to find a specific item in a combo box where the values in the combo box could not be guaranteed as always matching the text exactly.

# Installation instructions

Import the object into Blue Prism.

# Usage instructions

Once imported into your Blue Prism environment the actions in the Approximate string matching object will be available for you to use in your own solutions.