

# Passing information to a later step in a rule

You can save information from one step in a rule for use later in the rule. The best way to pass information to a later rule is by assigning it to a variable. See [Variables](#) for information about working with variables. If that does not work for your automation workflow, an alternative is to edit the code for the steps, that is write the information to an external file as outlined below.

For example, you may want to e-mail the details from the earlier step. One way to do this is to write the data to a file.

In the earlier step in the rule:

```
' In step 1, create an empty file that we will check for later.
Dim fs2 As System.IO.FileStream = System.IO.File.Create("TestPassed")
fs2.Close()
```

In the later step in the rule:

```
' In step 2, check to see if the test passed in step 1.
If System.IO.File.Exists("TestPassed") Then

< ... Do something ... >

End If
```

You can also write information to the file and read it in the later step.