# What you need to know 3

In this activity, you will create and use temporary variables. For more information about variables, see the Variables chapter in the *Prinergy Connect Workflow 6.1 Rules-Based Automation User Guide*.

#### What is a variable?

Variables allow for the storage and later retrieval of data within rule sets.

#### Types of variables

There are three types of variables available:

- Global variables—shared by and accessible from all rule sets
- Rule set variables—shared by and accessible from all instances of a single rule set
- Temporary variables—exist within a rule set instance and therefore are accessible only from that instance

### What are the variable data types?

Туре	Description	
Boolean	A true or false value	
Date and Time	A date and time representing an instant in time	
Double	A 64-bit floating point number	
File	A file or directory, along with an indication of exactly what type of file system object this represents	
GUID	A globally unique identifier	
Integer	A 32-bit integer	
String	A character string	
Time Span	An interval of time	
Web File	A file or directory, along with an indication of exactly what type of file system object this represents.	
Boolean list	A list of booleans	
Date and Time list	A list of date and time objects	
Double list	A list of Doubles	
File List	A list of Files	

Files (Web)	A list of Web Files
GUID list	A list of GUIDs
Integer list	A list of Integers
String list	A list of strings
Time Span list	A list of time spans

## What are the possible uses of each variable type?

Variable type	Possible uses
Global	<ul><li>Isolating external references</li><li>Persisting processing or execution state</li></ul>
Rule Set	<ul> <li>Isolating external references</li> <li>Persisting processing or execution state</li> </ul>
Temporary	<ul> <li>Simplifying complex event property references</li> <li>Persisting processing or execution state</li> </ul>