Checkbox 5.0 Conditions & Branching Guide

Branching and conditional logic allow you to specify that an action, such as displaying a survey page or item, only occurs if certain conditions are met, such as if a respondent selects a certain answer to a survey item. Both conditions and branching take the respondent along a specific path tailored to them based on their responses so that they are only viewing pages or items relevant to them.

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Page Conditions vs. Item Conditions

Conditions can be applied at the survey page or item level. **Page Conditions** allow you to specify whether or not a page is shown if certain conditions are met. **Item Conditions** allow you to specify that a single survey item is shown if certain conditions are met.

Both page and item conditions have two parts: an **expression** and an **action**. The expression is the logical statement that is evaluated by Checkbox to determine if the condition is true, and the action is what Checkbox will do if the condition evaluates to true. For conditions applied to a survey item, the action is to display the item to the respondent.
For example, if a condition has an expression that reads "This item will be displayed if the answer to 'How old are you?' is greater than 18" and that expression evaluates to true when the respondent takes the survey because they input their age as 30, the item to which that condition is attached will be displayed.

Page Conditions vs. Branching

Page branches are simply page conditions where the action is "go to page X" rather than "show page/item." Branch conditions are evaluated after a page is submitted; therefore expressions created for page branch conditions may include items on the current page, while normal page and item conditions may only include items located on previous pages in the survey.

Page and item conditions CANNOT be added to the same page of a survey that they intend to evaluate. Branches can.

Conceptually, you can accomplish the same behavior with page conditions as you can with branches. If, for example, your survey had four pages of items intended for members of a specific department, you would not want to show those pages to respondents not in that department. You could place a condition on each of the four pages so that each page would only be displayed if the respondent was a member of the desired department. It would be more efficient to use branching, however, where you would create a branch on the page before the four department-specific pages that then moved the respondent directly past the four pages to the subsequent page.

Page Condition and Branching Review:

Page Conditions: Can only be configured to review items that have already been collected. You cannot create a condition on the same page that the condition is configured to evaluate. Conditions are evaluated upon the initial load of each page.

Branching: Can be configured on the same page as the collected response used within the branch. Branches are evaluated upon the submission of the current page.
Conditions and Branching Sources

Conditions and branching can be based on multiple **source types**:

**Questions/Survey Items:**
Conditions can be based on the answers to questions on previous pages. Branching can be based on the answers to questions on the current page.

**Pre-Registered User Attributes** (i.e. First Name, Last Name, Email Address):
A pre-registered user is a respondent with a user profile stored within Checkbox from which source data can be extracted.

**Response Properties** (i.e. Language, IP Address, Current Date)

Conditions and Expressions Theory

Conditions are logical statements that can be placed on survey items and pages. Expressions are logical statements that consist of a source operand, and operator, and a target operand and exist within Conditions. If the result of comparing the source operand with the target operand using the operator is true, the expression is true. A source operand might be a respondent's answer to a survey item, the target operand might be one of the possible item options, and the operator is a logical comparison.

For example, a typical expression would be:

"If [the answer to item] '1.1 How old are you?' Is Greater Than 18."

In this example, the survey item 'How old are you?' is the source operand, the value 18 is the right operand, and "Greater Than" is the operator. A condition would be this entire statement as a whole.
How to add an Item Condition in Basic View

To add conditions to a survey item, click on the 'Conditions' tab in the survey editor. In this example we will be creating a condition using the 'Basic View'.

Use the Basic View when adding one or more simple conditions. Use the Advanced view for Compound conditions.

Create your condition expression using the steps below:

1. Select **Source Type**.
2. Select **Source** (source operand). If you select "Question" as your Source Type, the Source drop-down will populate with all questions preceding this survey item. If "User Attribute" is selected as your Source Type, the Source drop-down will populate with user attribute labels. If "Response Property" is selected as your Source Type, the Source drop-down will populate with a list of response properties.
3. Select **Comparison** (operator)
4. Select/enter **Value**. Depending on the comparison you selected, the Value field may appear as a drop-down, text field, or may not appear at all.
5. Select 'Add' to add your condition.

You may create additional conditions or select 'Save' to save your changes. If the condition expression you create here is true, the survey item will display to the respondent. If it is not true, it will be hidden from the respondent.
How to Add a Page Condition in Basic View

To add conditions to a survey page, click on the 'Conditions' tab, located above the 'Branching' tab beneath your survey page number.

Create your condition expressing using the steps outlined under "How to add an Item Condition in Basic View."

ANY vs. ALL

When adding two or more conditions in the Basic View to a survey item or page you must specify whether you want Checkbox to show the item/page to the respondent when ANY of the condition expressions are true, or when ALL of the expressions are true.

If ALL is selected, the survey page or item will only display to the respondent when all of the conditions you created for this individual item/page are true.

If ANY is selected, the survey page or item will display to the respondent when any one of the of the conditions you created for this individual item/page is true.

In the example above, the respondent will only see this survey item when he enters his First Name,
Last Name, and Email Address on page 7 of the survey. The above image is a view of the condition statements in the conditions editor. These conditions are summarized below the question on the survey item preview.

The Advanced View is used for creating compound conditions. When you have multiple condition expressions in the Basic View you select an ANY option to display the item/page when [A OR B] are true, and the ALL option to display the item/page when [A AND B].
Compound conditions arise when you want and item/page to be displayed when \([A \text{ AND } B] \text{ AND/OR } [B \text{ AND } C]\) are true.

In the example above, there are two scenarios where this item can be displayed:

**Scenario 1** - When a respondent gives a rating score of 1 in item 5.2 AND enters their Email Address in item 7.4
**Scenario 2** - When a respondent gives a rating score of 2 in item 5.2 AND enters their Email Address in item 7.4

If either of these conditions are met, the item will be displayed to the respondent.

### How to Create a Branching Rule

To add a branching rule to a survey page, click on the 'Branching' tab, located below the 'Conditions' tab beneath your survey page number.
To add a branching rule to a survey page, click on the 'Branching' tab, located below the 'Conditions' tab beneath your survey page number.

Create your branch expression using the steps below:
1. Select the page you wish to branch a respondent to. The "Go to page" drop-down contains all pages after the current page, including the Completion page. Branching to the Completion page will end the survey for the respondent.
2. Select Source Type.
3. Select Source (source operand). If you select "Question" as your Source Type, the Source drop-down will populate with all questions preceding this survey item. If "User Attribute" is selected as your Source Type, the Source drop-down will populate with user attribute labels. If "Response Property" is selected as your Source Type, the Source drop-down will populate with a list of response properties.
4. Select Comparison (operator)
5. Select/enter Value. Depending on the comparison you selected, the Value filed may appear as a drop-down, text field, or may not appear at all.
6. Select 'Add' to add you branching rule.