



Windows App actions

Window App Automation is a powerful feature in Zoho RPA that allows you to automate interactions with Windows-based applications. This functionality streamlines and accelerates repetitive processes by enabling the RPA software to mimic human actions within these applications. Whether you're dealing with financial software, customer databases, healthcare systems, or any other Windows application, this feature opens up a world of possibilities. In this short guide, we'll explore the core features of Window App Automation and delve into real-world use cases that demonstrate its practical applications for each of the actions.

Supported Frameworks : Win32, WinForms, WPF, UWP

Available Actions

1. Open application

This action allows you to automate the process of launching Windows applications.

Example: Automatically open an Invoice Generator application for sales representatives to input customer data.

Open application: Invoice Generator
Opens a Windows application.

UI element *
Indicate UI element on screen

Variable name *
openApplication_1

Application name
Invoice Generator

Arguments
Arguments

Delay settings ▾

INSERT VARIABLE
Click fields to map to your action

Search variable here

System Variables
Variables holding predefined contextual information

- date Current date (e.g. 2020-12-22)
- date time Current datetime (e.g. 2021-05-30T23:30:30+05:30)

CANCEL DONE

Configuration

Application Name: The name of the application to open.

Application path: The path to the application's executable file.

Arguments: Provide any arguments or parameters that need to be passed to the application. For example, to open a specific text file in Notepad, you would enter the path to the text file in the arguments field.

Example: To open a text file named "myfile.txt" in Notepad, you would have the following configuration

Application Name: Notepad.exe

Application path: C:\Windows\notepad.exe

Arguments: myfile.txt

2. Click

Allows the RPA bot to click on buttons, links, menus, or any other clickable elements within an application's user interface.

Example: Click the Submit button in an order management application to complete a purchase order.

Click

Performs a mouse click on a UI element.

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✕

UI element *

Mouse button

Left
▼

Click type

Single click
▼

[Delay settings](#) ▼

INSERT VARIABLE

Click fields to map to your action

System Variables ^

Variables holding predefined contextual information

- date Current date (e.g. 2020-12-22)
- date time Current datetime (e.g. 2021-05-30T23:30:30+05:30)

Open application: Invoice Generator ▼

Open application

Set text: Client Name ▼

Set text

Set text: Bill To: ▼

Set text

CANCEL

DONE

Configuration

UI element: The UI element to click on.

Mouse button: Specify the mouse button to use, either left or right.

Click Type: Specify the number of times to click, whether it is a single click, double click or right-click.

3. Hover

Hovers the mouse over an element of a an application to view tooltips or reveal hidden or dropdown menus.

Example: Hovering over navigational menu items in an application usually displays tooltips that explain what the menu options do.

Configuration

UI element: The UI element to hover on.

4. Set text

Allows to set a string value to the text attribute of a specified UI element.

Example: Set a text value to a Name field in an invoicing application.

Set text: Client Name

Writes a string to the text attribute of a specified UI element.

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✕

UI element *

Client Name

Indicate UI element on screen

Variable name *

Set text

When the input field already has text

Replace text
▼

[Delay settings](#) ▼

INSERT VARIABLE

Click fields to map to your action

⌵

⊞

System Variables

Variables holding predefined contextual information

date
Current date (e.g. 2020-12-22)

date time
Current datetime (e.g. 2021-05-30T23:30:30+05:30)

⌵

⊞

Open application: Invoice Generator

Open application

CANCEL

DONE

Configuration

UI element: The UI element that you want to set text for.

Set text: The text to be entered into the input field.

When the input field already has text: If there is existing text in the input field, determine how to handle it. If we need to replace or add to the existing text.

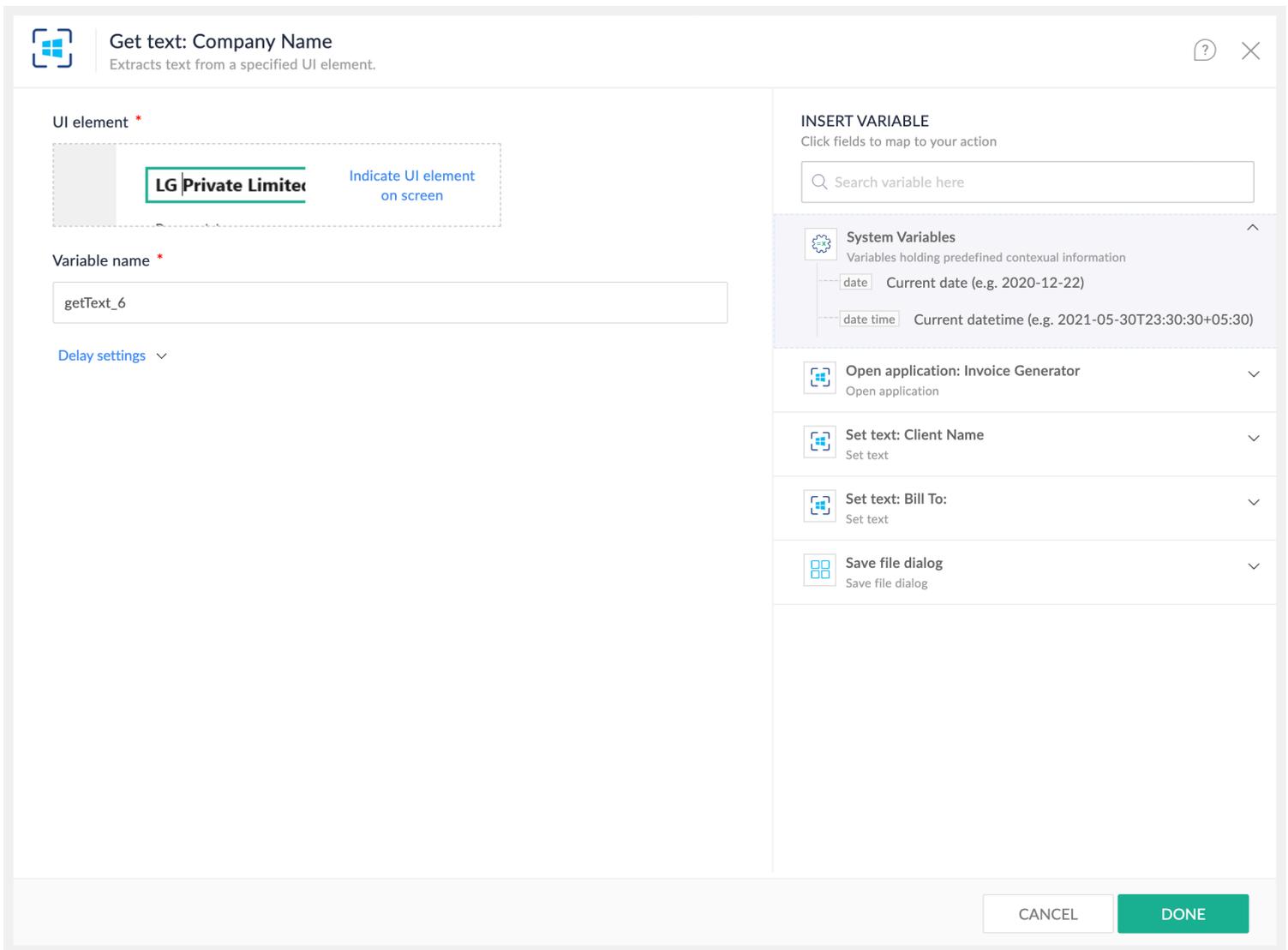
Replace text - Replace the existing text with the new text.

Append text - Add the given text to the existing text.

5. Get text

Extracts text from various parts of an application's interface, such as labels, text boxes, or tables.

Example: Retrieve order details from an order confirmation window, including order numbers, customer names, and shipping addresses.



Configuration

UI element: The UI element that you want to extract text from.

6. Set checkbox

Selects or clears checkboxes or toggle switches within a Windows application's user interface.

Example: Order management apps often have a checkbox that lets customers indicate if the shipping address is the same as the billing address.

Configuration

UI element: The UI Element for which you want to set a checkbox value.

Checkbox value: The value that should be assigned for the checkbox field, that is check, uncheck or toggle

7. Get checkbox state

Retrieves the state of the checkbox or toggle switch, whether on or off.

Example: In many CRM applications, there is typically a checkbox that indicates whether a contact has chosen to receive email communications. With the Get Checkbox State action, you can easily retrieve the status of this Email Opt-In option for each contact in the system.

Configuration

UI element: The UI element that you want to get the checkbox state for.

8. Select item

Selects an item from a combo box, list box, or dropdown menu.

Example : When creating a purchase order in a procurement application, you can automate the process of selecting a specific supplier from a list box or dropdown menu using the Select Item action.

Configuration

UI element: The UI element that you want to select

List item value: The specific value of the list item you want to select.

9. Select radio button

Selects a radio button in a Windows application.

Example : To automate selecting the employee's job status (full-time or part-time) in an employee database app, you can use the Select Radio Button action.

Configuration

UI element: The specific radio button you want to select.

10. Get radio button state

Retrieves the state of a specific radio button.

Example : In the same example as given above, we can check if the full-time radio button is selected. If so, we can automate additional steps like adding insurance perks and benefits for the employee.

Configuration

UI element: Retrieves the state of a specific radio button

11. Get selected radio button from group

Retrieves the selected radio button from a radio button group.

Example : In a booking system, we can use the Select Radio Button action to identify the selected seat type from the group of radio buttons for the Select Seat Preference option (window, aisle, exit, or middle).

Configuration

UI element: Retrieve the currently selected radio button from the radio button group.

12. Send hot keys

Sends keyboard shortcuts to a UI element.

Example: When try to save changes to an Excel or any document, you can use CTRL + S shortcut to automate this step.

Send hot keys: ctrl + S
Sends keyboard shortcuts to a UI element.

UI element *

Indicate UI element on screen

Key modifiers

Ctrl Alt Shift Win

Key

S

Generated hot key

ctrl + S

Delay settings

INSERT VARIABLE
Click fields to map to your action

Search variable here

System Variables
Variables holding predefined contextual information

- date Current date (e.g. 2020-12-22)
- date time Current datetime (e.g. 2021-05-30T23:30:30+05:30)

Open application: Invoice Generator
Open application

Set text: Client Name
Set text

Set text: Bill To:
Set text

Save file dialog
Save file dialog

Get text: Company Name
Get text

Set checkbox: Share Usage
Set checkbox

Open application: Tasks - Mozilla Thunderbird
Open application

CANCEL DONE

Configuration

UI element: The specific UI element or window to which the hotkey will be sent.

Key modifiers: Choose the key modifiers for your hotkey. Available modifiers include Ctrl, Alt, Shift, and Win.

Key: Select the key to be used along with the key modifiers to form the hotkey..

Generated hot key: The resulting hotkey combination will be displayed in this field for reference.

13. Type into

Sends keystrokes or simulates typing keyboard input into a UI element.

Example: Some login fields require you to type into them, and you cannot set a text to the input field. This action can be used in these scenarios.

Configuration

UI element: Specify the UI element, such as an input field or text area, where you want to enter the text.

Input text: Enter the text you want to type into the field

Insert keys: Use this option to include special keys like Enter, Tab, and Esc within the input text.

When the input field has text: Lets you choose how to handle existing text in the input field.

Replace text: Replace the existing text with the new text.

Append text: Add the new text to the end of the existing text.

Click before typing: Use this option to ensure the UI element is active before attempting to type.

Delay between keystrokes (in ms): Set the desired time delay (in milliseconds) between each keystroke to simulate a more natural typing pace.

14. Check if element exists

Verifies if a specific piece of text or a UI element exists.

Example: In a CRM application, when you want to update customer contact information, it's required that you first locate the Update Contact Details button in the window before initiating the update.

Configuration

UI element: Specify the UI element you want to check.

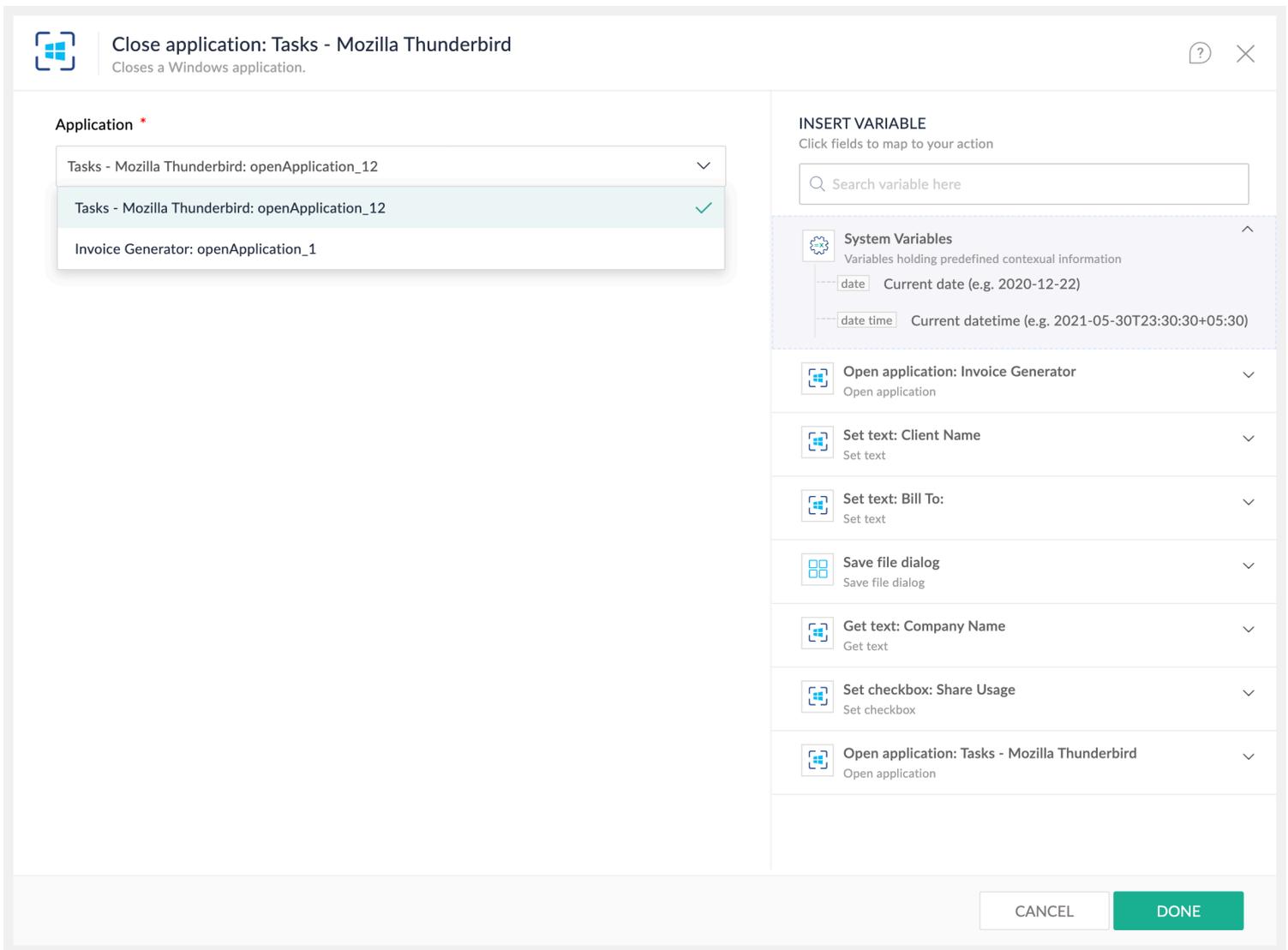
Check if application: Check if the application contains the element or a text.

Text: Enter the text you want to search for.

15. Close application

Automate the closure of applications to free up system resources.

Example: Ensure that a financial analysis application is closed properly at the end of a work session.



Configuration

Application: Select the application you want to close from the list of open applications.

Delay Settings

Delay settings allow you to configure a delay for an action. This option ensures that the actions do not fail due to loading or UI elements not present on the screen. Sometimes UI elements take time to load or display on the application so a delay may be required.

Delay before action (Time in ms): The amount of time to wait before performing the action.

Delay after action (Time in ms): The amount of time to wait after performing the action.

Wait for element (Time in ms): The amount of time to wait for an element to appear before performing the action. The distinction between wait before action and wait for element is that wait before action will wait for the specified amount of time before beginning the activity. The wait for element is the amount of time spent waiting during the action. For instance, displaying options in a dropdown field may take a few seconds.