Action Tags

Action tags are special features that begin with the '@' sign that can be placed inside a field's Field Annotation. Each action tag has a corresponding action that is performed for the field when displayed on data entry forms and survey pages.

A full list of the action tags that can be used in REDCap:

Action Tag	Function
@CALCDATE	Performs a date calculation by adding or subtracting a specified amount of time from a specified date or datetime field and then provides the result as a date or datetime value - e.g., @CALCDATE([visit_date], 7, 'd'). The first parameter inside the @CALCDATE() function should be a text field with date, datetime, or datetime_seconds validation, in which you may specify (if needed) the event and repeating instance - e.g., @CALCDATE([baseline_event][visit_date], 7, 'd'). The second parameter represents the offset number amount that should be added or subtracted. It can be a decimal number or integer. Tip: To subtract (i.e., go backwards in time), use a negative number. The third parameter represents the units of the offset amount, which will be represented by the following options: 'y' (years, 1 year = 365.2425 days), 'M' (months, 1 month = 30.44 days), 'd' (days), 'h' (hours), 'm' (minutes), 's' (seconds). The unit option must be wrapped in quotes or apostrophes. NOTE: Both the source field and the result field must be a text field with date, datetime, or datetime_seconds validation. It is important to realize that a field with @CALCDATE will not be editable on the survey page or data entry form, and the field will function almost exactly like a normal calculated field, in which its value may get updated via a data import, when running Data Quality rule H, or in real-time during normal data entry on a form or survey.
@CALCTEXT	Evaluates logic that is provided inside a @CALCTEXT() function and outputs the result as text, typically performed with an if(x,y,z) function - e.g., @CALCTEXT(if([gender]='1', 'male', 'female')). NOTE: It is important to realize that a field with @CALCTEXT will not be editable on the survey page or data entry form, and the field will function almost exactly like a normal calculated field, in which its value may get updated via a data import, when running Data Quality rule H, or in real-time during normal data entry on a form or survey. If desired, it is possible to return the value as a number - e.g., @CALCTEXT(if([age] >= 18, 'adult', 5*[other_field])). Also, while it is possible to use static text (in quotes), field variables, or Smart Variables as the return values of the IF function - e.g., @CALCTEXT(if([age] >= 18, [dob], [event-label])) - it is NOT possible to pipe field variables or Smart Variables inside quotes for the return values.
@CHARLIMIT	Limits the number of characters in a field

@DEFAULT	Sets a field's initial value. This allows a field to have a specified default value when viewing the field on a survey or data entry form that has not yet had any data saved for it. For text fields, you may even perform Piping inside the default value to pipe data from another field in the project.
@HIDDEN	Hides the field on both the survey page and the data entry form.
@HIDDEN-FORM	Hides the field only on the data entry form
@HIDDEN-PDF	Hides the field on the PDF export
@HIDDEN-SURVEY	Hides the field only on the survey page
@HIDEBUTTON	Hides the 'Now' or 'Today' button that is typically displayed to the right of date, time, and date/time fields.
@HIDECHOICE	Allows the user to "retire" an answer choice and hide it without losing data
@INLINE	Allows a PDF file or image file (JPG, JPEG, GIF, PNG, TIF, BMP) that is uploaded to a File Upload field to be displayed in an inline manner on the survey page or data entry form so that the PDF/image can be viewed by the user or survey participant without having to download it. The PDF/image will be displayed inline on the page immediately above the download link for the field and will be displayed with 100% width by default (i.e., 100% width of the area in which it is contained). Images will be displayed with their native width:height ratio, although PDFs will be displayed with a 300 pixel height by default. If you wish to manually set the width and/or height of the image/PDF, you may put the width/height values inside parentheses after the action tag in the following manner: @INLINE(width) or @INLINE(width,height). The width/height can be a percentage value (e.g., 50%) or a number representing size in pixels (e.g., 400). Thus @INLINE(50%) will display an image at 50% size for the area in which it is contained on the page, and @INLINE(400,100) would display the image always at 400px tall and 100px wide. To make an inline PDF appear taller on the page, you might use @INLINE(100%,600) since 300px is the default height for inline PDFs. Note: The @INLINE action tag also works if the File Upload field is embedded inside another field on the page.
@LATITUDE	Allows text field to capture latitude of user
@LONGITUDE	Allows text field to capture longitude of user
@MAXCHECKED	Allows designer to limit the number of answer choices a participant can check
@MAXCHOICE	Limits the number of people who can select each answer choice

@NOMISSING	Disable 'missing data codes' for a field - If custom codes for specifying missing data have been set up in this project (in the Additional Customizations popup on the Project Setup page), this action tag will disable the missing data code functionality for a given field, thus hiding the 'M' icon next to the field.
@NONEOFTHEABOVE	A none of the above feature for checkbox fields that prevent the data enterer from selecting multiple options
@NOW	Automatically provides the user's current time as value of a text field when page is loaded
@NOW-SERVER	Loads the REDCap server's date+time into a blank text field when the page loads
@NOW-UTC	Loads the UTC date+time into a blank text field when the page loads
@PASSWORDMASK	Masks the value of a text field so that the rue value is not visible on the webpage after it has been entered
@PLACEHOLDER	Is used to specify a short hint that describes the expected value of a Text field or Notes field
@RANDOMORDER	Randomizes the order of answers in multiple choice questions
@READONLY	Makes the field read-only on both the survey page and the data entry form
@READONLY-FORM	Makes the field read-only on the data entry form
@READONLY-SURVEY	Makes the field read-only on the survey
@SETVALUE	Sets a field's value to static text or dynamic/piped text whenever a data entry form or survey page is loaded, in which it will always overwrite an existing value of the field. The format must follow the pattern @SETVALUE="????", in which the desired value should be inside single or double quotes. For text fields, you may pipe and concatenate values from other fields in the project - e.g., @SETVALUE='Name: [first_name] [last_name], DOB: [dob]'. For checkbox fields, simply separate multiple checkbox values with commas - e.g., @SETVALUE='1,3,[other_field:value]'. NOTE: The piped value does *not* get applied during any data imports (via API or Data Import Tool) but only operates when viewing survey pages and data entry forms. NOTE: A field with @SETVALUE will have its value updated ONLY when the page loads, which means that its value will not be updated in real-time if you modify other fields on the same page that are piped into the @SETVALUE tag. NOTE: If being used on a date or datetime field, the date value inside the quotes must be in Y-M-D format - e.g., @SETVALUE='2007-12-25' - regardless of the field's set date format. NOTE: The only difference between @SETVALUE and @DEFAULT is that @DEFAULT is only applied when an instrument has no data yet, whereas @SETVALUE will always be applied on an instrument, meaning that @SETVALUE will ALWAYS

overwrite the value if a field value already exists. TIP: To pipe the value of one multiple choice field into another multiple choice field, make sure you append ':value' to the variable being piped - e.g., @SETVALUE='[my_dropdown:value]'. (In earlier versions of REDCap, the @SETVALUE action tag went by the name @PREFILL, which still works equivalently to @SETVALUE for backward compatibility purposes.)

@TODAY	Automatically provides the user's current date as value of a text field when page is loaded
@TODAY-SERVER	Loads the REDCap server's date into a blank text field when the page loads
@TODAY-UTC	Loads the UTC date into a blank text field when the page loads
@USERNAME	Sets a field's value to the username of the current REDCap user. If this is used on a survey, the value will be '[survey respondent]'. Once the value is captured, it will not be changed when visiting the page at a later time.
@WORDLIMIT	Limits the number of words in a field

There are three additional action tags for the REDCap App. They are:

Action Tag	Function
@BARCODE-APP	Allows the REDCap mobile App to capture the value of a barcode or QR code
@HIDDEN-APP	Hides the field only on the form ONLY on the REDCap mobile app
@READONLY-APP	Makes the field read-only on the form ONLY on the REDCap Mobile App
@APPUSERNAME-APP	Sets a field's value to the app username of the current mobile app user
@SYNC-APP	For File Upload and Signature fields. This will cause any image files uploaded to a record to be sent to the app so that they are viewable in the app when editing the record.