

Runtime parameters for content creation

Runtime parameters provides an elegant way to pass information from Workflow into the document creation process without having to modify the data records or data model. They are already available for Data Mapping and Job Creation so now we're adding it to Content Creation.

In the past you may have found yourself adding production related data to the special *ExtraData* field via meta-data or simply hard code them in the template. Runtime parameters simplifies as they can be dynamically set from Workflow which makes your solution easier to relocate. The information is fed directly to the content creation task and available for all records in the data set.

Examples are:

- The location to send form data in the case of COTG.
- The sender name and/or subject for an email batch.
- The name of an email section to dynamically switch the message.
- Locations to dynamic stationery background images in case of the Ad Hoc Mail solution.
- Provide information to draw non printable areas (clear zones) in case of the Ad Hoc Mail solution.

Adding a parameter

The new **Parameters** view added to the Designer provides the ability to view, add and change runtime parameters for templates (and data mapper configs). The view is found next to the **Data Model** view.

To add a runtime parameter:

1. Select the **Parameters** view.
2. Click the **Add parameter** icon (plus-symbol). The **Add parameter** dialog appears.
3. Enter a **name** for the parameter.
4. Click **OK** to save the parameter.

The default value is used when the parameter is not set from the Workflow process.

Name	Default	Value
abc stationeryPath		(undefined)

Using the parameter in the scripting

In the above example a parameter was added to provide the path to a dynamic media background image. The **parameters** are added to the **template** property of the **merge** object. The Control script to use that value could look something like this:

```
let media = merge.template.media;
if( merge.template.parameters.stationeryPath ) {
  let stationeryPath = merge.template.parameters.stationeryPath;
  media['Media 1'].stationery.front.enabled = true;
  media['Media 1'].stationery.front.url = stationeryPath;
}
```

The following script would set the action of an HTML form in a COTG template. The selector of the script refers to the `<form>` element (not shown here).

```
var cotgHost = merge.template.parameters.cotgHost;
results.attr('action', cotgHost);
```

Passing a parameter from Workflow

In Workflow, the various Content Creation related tasks have been modified in order to display the list of runtime parameters that are expected by the template you select. This is similar to the functionality introduced for Data Mapping and Job Creation in earlier versions.

Runtime Parameter	Value
BranchID	B1149
ServerIP	%{ipAddress}
CountryCode	xmlget('/request[1]/values[1]/country[1].Value,KeepCase,Trim)

By default, each value displays the default value that was specified in the template. But you can change those values to use any of the dynamic values available in Workflow, including data/metadata selections.