

Understanding the Context of Snap Logic

Time: 00:07:27

The heart of any product configurator is logic. Business logic -- like engineering constraints or parameter interdependencies -- must be applied as your customer configures their product.

Objectives

- Built-in Logic - Option filters and field properties
- Customizable Logic - Actions, Events, and Rules
- The Rule Cycle - A fixed structure for your customized logic Topic 1

Field Properties and Option Filters

Time: 00:48:15

The built-in logic of a configurator can be found in field properties and option filters. Field properties constrain your customer's input. Numbers can be limited to acceptable numeric ranges. Text or numbers can be limited to specific items in a list. Option filters make those list options dynamic, so they can change based on your customer's inputs or other calculations.

Actions, Events, and Rules

Time: 01:23:00

As your customer configures their product, they interact with the configurator. All the customizable business logic of a configurator is contained in Actions, Events, and Rules. Actions are logic that the customer explicitly asked for, by clicking a button. Actions are usually helpers that make data entry easier for the customer. They are optional and there is no guarantee when or if a customer will click these buttons. Events are logic applied automatically when the customer interacts with some part of the user interface. Like actions, events rely on your customer's activity within the UI. While it's likely most customers will click on parts of the UI and trigger some events, there's no guarantee every customer will. Rules are different. Rules are logic that is always applied after any field in the UI is changed. Your customer cannot escape the rules: you can be confident they are always run. Most of your configurator's logic would be stored as a rule. Usually, business logic should always be in place, regardless of where a customer clicks or how they navigate through the configurator's questions. You can think of actions, events, and rules as hooks in the configurator's structure. As places where you can hang your own custom logic. The hooks are always there in the configurator. It doesn't matter if you use them or not. Some hooks may never be used in a configurator. Other hooks may support as much logic as you need. So, if you're not sure where your business logic should be applied, don't worry. Just build it. Start with hanging your logic on a rule, and then cut and paste that logic into an event or action if you want to give your customer more control over when the logic is applied.

The Rule Cycle

Time: 04:21:00

Customizable business logic of a configurator is contained in Actions, Events, and Rules. Let's learn more about how and when these are run. What happens when a customer launches and uses a configurator to create their configured product? Like any other web page, it loads onto your customer's device, they interact with it by editing fields, and hopefully they save or submit their work before the page is closed. The hooks for your custom logic are available throughout this process. To run logic once when the configurator first appears on-screen and the customer starts their work, create a Loaded rule. Or, to run logic when the customer clicks submit and stops their work, create a Submit rule. To run logic when a field's value changes, you can create a Value rule. Value rules aren't the only logic run when a field changes. In fact, a specific list of tasks are performed. They always run after a field changes, and always in this exact order. This group of tasks, repeated every time a field changes, is called the rule cycle. The rules in the rule cycle can first help to clean your customer's input by stripping away extra spaces or ensuring capitalization. Then the choices in all fields driven by option filters are updated. Your business logic is then applied. Value Rules are usually where most of this logic is stored. Given the fresh results of your logic, the configurator then displays helpful information to your customer. First, any errors or warnings are calculated. Portions of the configurator can be hidden or shown. The price of the current configuration is recalculated and displayed. And finally, if the configurator has a 3D scene, that scene is updated. This rule cycle repeats with every edit made to a field. In this way, the configurator can immediately show the customer any important information related to the change that they just made. As the designer of a configurator, you'll be creating small pieces of logic that you will store as these kinds of rules. When they all run together, you have a working configurator.

Recap

Time: 06:48:06

You reviewed field properties and option filters as two important ways to create no-code logic. You learned about 3 places to create your custom logic -- Actions, Events, and Rules -- and saw the differences between them. Finally, you learned about the specific order that rules are applied, called the Rule Cycle.

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