



PNMsoft Knowledge Base
Sequence User Guides
Sequence Debugger

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Gold Application Development

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Introduction

This document provides an overview of Sequence Workflow Debugger. The Sequence Workflow Debugger is an extension of the App Studio. The debugger is a developers' tool, which enables Sequence developers to implement controlled workflow instances.

The debugger allows the developer to step through the execution of a workflow activity-by-activity, displaying the status (data and metadata) at every stage. The debugger is activated from the App Studio toolbar and enables users to start a new instance workflow, or to connect to an existing workflow instance.

Note: The Debugger obeys the Permissions module. Therefore, you have to have the appropriate permissions in order to view an activity and/or submit data through the debugger.

Accessing the Workflow Debugger

The workflow debugger provides you (as a developer) with a way to see activity behavior as it runs, thus eliminating much of the guess-work when things don't quite work as intended.

The debugger provides you with the two basic options:

- You can open a new instance.
- You can open an existing instance.

You will find the ability to open an existing instance and examine it extremely useful in cases of workflow execution errors as it allows you to view where the error occurred and why. This feature also allows you to stop your work at any point during execution and return to the debugger at a later date to continue debugging the workflow.

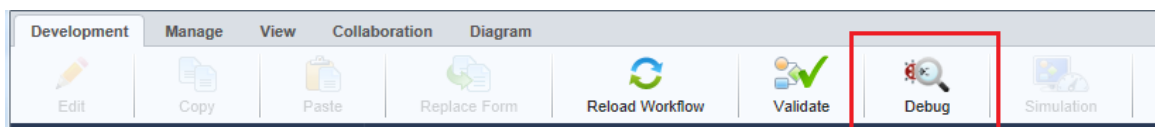
The debugger makes all workflow activities visible, e.g. both human-activities and server side activities, which do not appear in the regular runtime activity tree.

The workflow debugger runs on the regular runtime engine. Therefore, any instance generated by the debugger acts like a real instance, i.e. messages will be sent (unless you temporarily disable this feature), tasks assigned etc.

***Note:** Notify the relevant users when you run a debugger instance that include them, to prevent misunderstandings.*

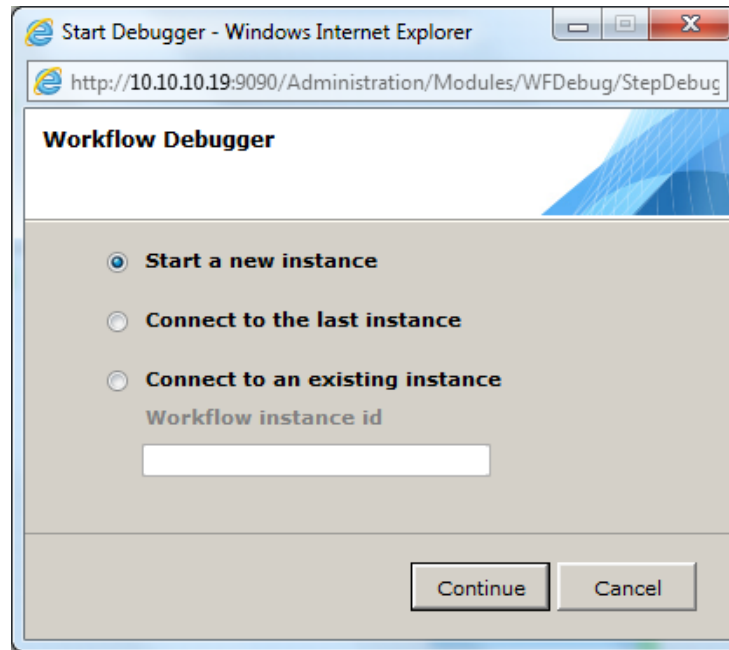
To access the Workflow Debugger:

1. Open the workflow you wish to debug in the Sequence App Studio.



Sequence App Studio Development Tab

2. Click **Debugger**. The *Workflow Debugger Dialogue* box appears.

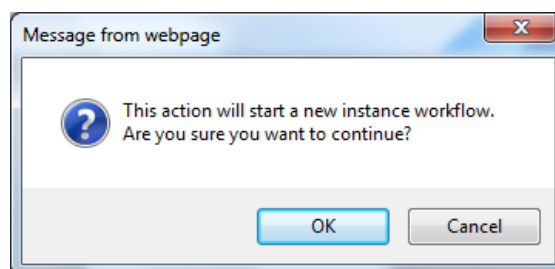


Workflow Debugger Dialogue Screen

3. In the *Workflow Debugger* dialogue box select the desired option:
 - **Start a new instance** - begins debugging a new workflow instance.
 - **Connect to the last instance** - debug the last workflow instance.
 - **Connect to an existing instance** - debug an existing workflow instance.

Note: If you choose to connect to an existing instance, you have to provide an appropriate workflow instance id.

4. Click **Continue** to open the debugger with the selected workflow instance. A warning dialogue box opens.

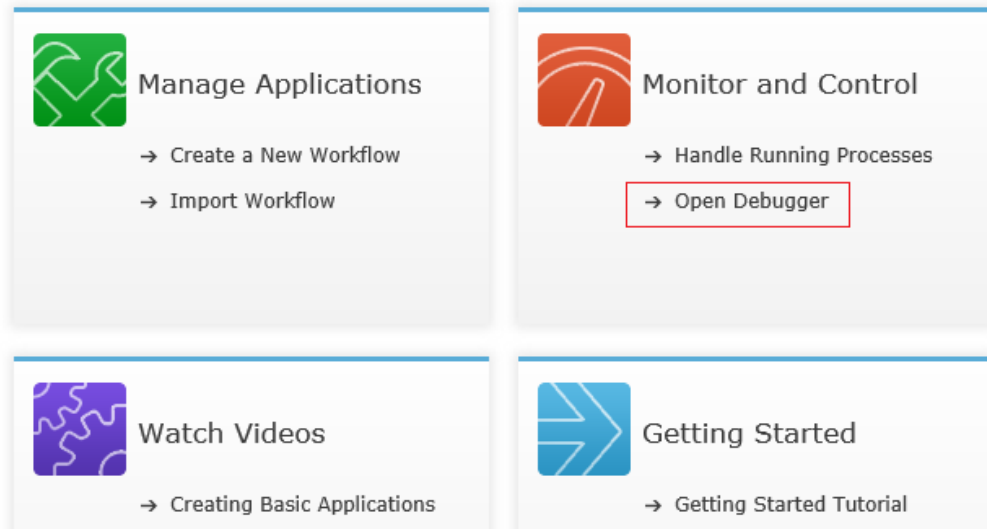


Warning Dialogue Box

5. Click **OK** to open the debugger.

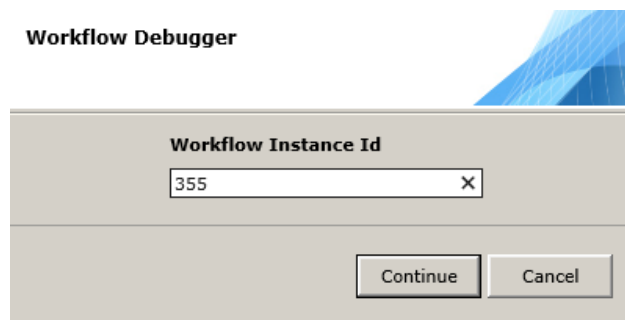
To open an existing workflow instance directly from the Administration homepage:

1. From the Administration homepage, in the Monitor and Control section, click **Open Debugger**.



Open Debugger

The following window appears:



Workflow Instance Id

2. Enter the workflow instance ID and click **Continue**.

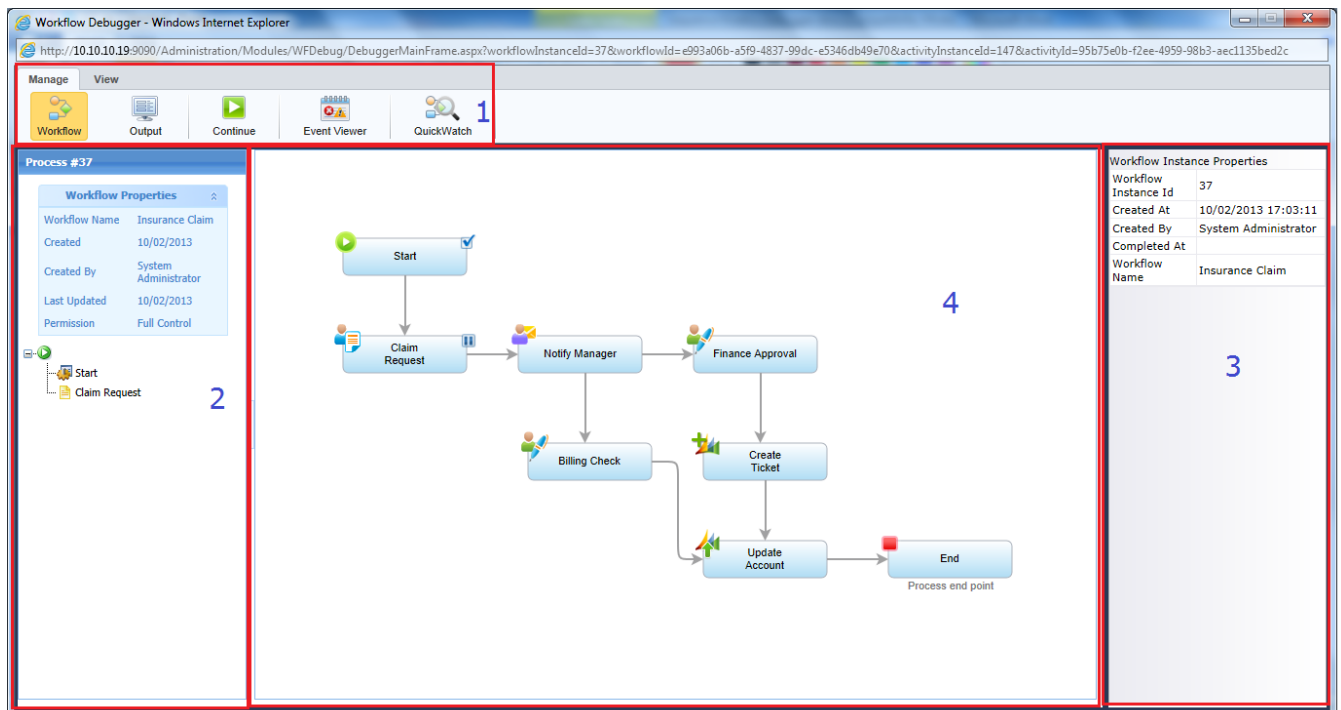
The Debugger opens, displaying the workflow instance you specified.

Workflow Debugger Desktop

The workflow debugger desktop consists of several components which enable the workflow developer to run a process in a step-by-step manner, and trace both the user data and the workflow meta-data concurrently.

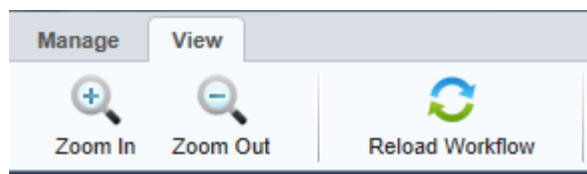
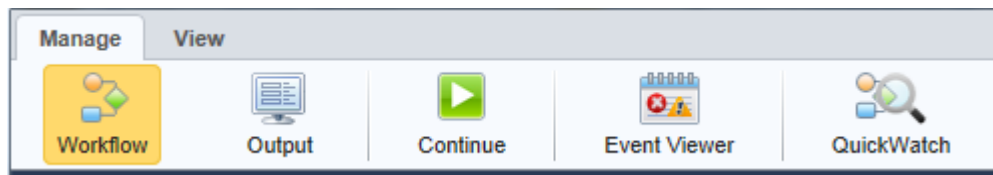
The Debugger Desktop Consists of the following components, numbered accordingly in the screen below

1. [Workflow Debugger Toolbar](#)
2. [Process Pane](#)
3. [Properties Pane](#)
4. [Workflow display area tab](#)



Workflow Debugger Desktop

Workflow Debugger Toolbar


















Workflow Debugger Toolbar

The Sequence *Workflow Debugger* top ribbon includes the following options:

- **Workflow** – View the workflow in the debugger window (default).
- **Output** – View the workflow output (e.g. user forms, messages).
- **Continue** - Continue workflow operation after a breakpoint halt.
- **Event Viewer** – Review Sequence event log.
- **QuickWatch** – Monitor and evaluate specific workflow elements during execution/debugging.
- **Zoom In** - Enlarge the diagram display.
- **Zoom Out** - Reduce the diagram display.
- **Reload Workflow** – Reload the workflow and refresh the display.

***Note:** The Event Viewer shows the Sequence server log, which includes every event logged, and not just your local events.*

Event Viewer				Refresh 
Type	Date	Time	Description	
 Information	10/4/2009	1:15:30 PM	SEQUENCE Background Runtime Service. Redirecting workflows. Finished redirecting workflow instance: 20.	
 Information	10/4/2009	1:15:29 PM	SEQUENCE Background Runtime Service. Redirecting workflows. Finished redirecting workflow instance: 7.	
 Information	10/4/2009	1:15:29 PM	SEQUENCE Background Runtime Service. Redirecting workflows. Starting to redirect workflow instance: 8.	
 Information	10/4/2009	1:15:29 PM	SEQUENCE Background Runtime Service. Redirecting workflows. Finished redirecting workflow instance: 8.	
 Information	10/4/2009	1:15:29 PM	SEQUENCE Background Runtime Service. Redirecting workflows. Starting to redirect workflow instance: 7.	
 Information	10/4/2009	1:15:29 PM	SEQUENCE Background Runtime Service. Redirecting workflows. Finished redirecting workflow instance: 4.	
 Information	10/4/2009	1:15:29 PM	SEQUENCE Background Runtime Service. Redirecting workflows. Starting to redirect workflow instance: 5.	
 Information	10/4/2009	1:15:29 PM	SEQUENCE Background Runtime Service. Redirecting workflows. Finished redirecting workflow instance: 5.	
 Information	10/4/2009	1:15:29 PM	SEQUENCE Background Runtime Service. Redirecting workflows. Starting to redirect workflow instance: 12.	
 Information	10/4/2009	1:15:29 PM	SEQUENCE Background Runtime Service. Redirecting workflows. Starting to redirect workflow instance: 13.	
 Information	10/4/2009	1:15:29 PM	SEQUENCE Background Runtime Service. Redirecting workflows. Finished redirecting workflow instance: 11.	
 Information	10/4/2009	1:15:29 PM	SEQUENCE Background Runtime Service. Redirecting workflows. Starting to redirect workflow instance: 10.	
 Information	10/4/2009	1:15:29 PM	SEQUENCE Background Runtime Service. Redirecting workflows. Finished redirecting workflow instance: 10.	
 Information	10/4/2009	1:15:29 PM	SEQUENCE Background Runtime Service. Redirecting workflows. Starting to redirect workflow instance: 11.	

Sequence Event Log

Process Pane


The process pane provides the following process related information:

- Activity Properties box
- Workflow Properties box
- Activities Tree

Process #37

Workflow Properties

Workflow Name	Insurance Claim
Created	10/02/2013
Created By	System Administrator
Last Updated	10/02/2013
Permission	Full Control



```

graph TD
    Start((Start)) --> ClaimRequest[Claim Request]
    
```

Process Pane

Activity Properties box

The *Activity Properties* box is located above the workflow's *Tree View*. It provides specific activity data:

- **Created:** When the activity instance was created.
- **Permission:** Your current permissions with regard to this activity.



Activity Properties Box

Workflow Properties box

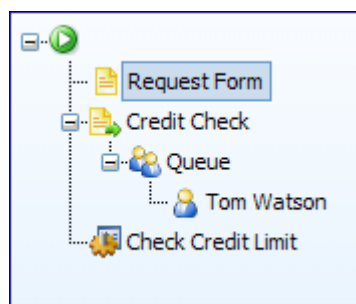
The *Workflow Properties* box is located above the workflow's *Tree View*. It provides overall workflow data such as Workflow name and Workflow instance.



Workflow Properties Box

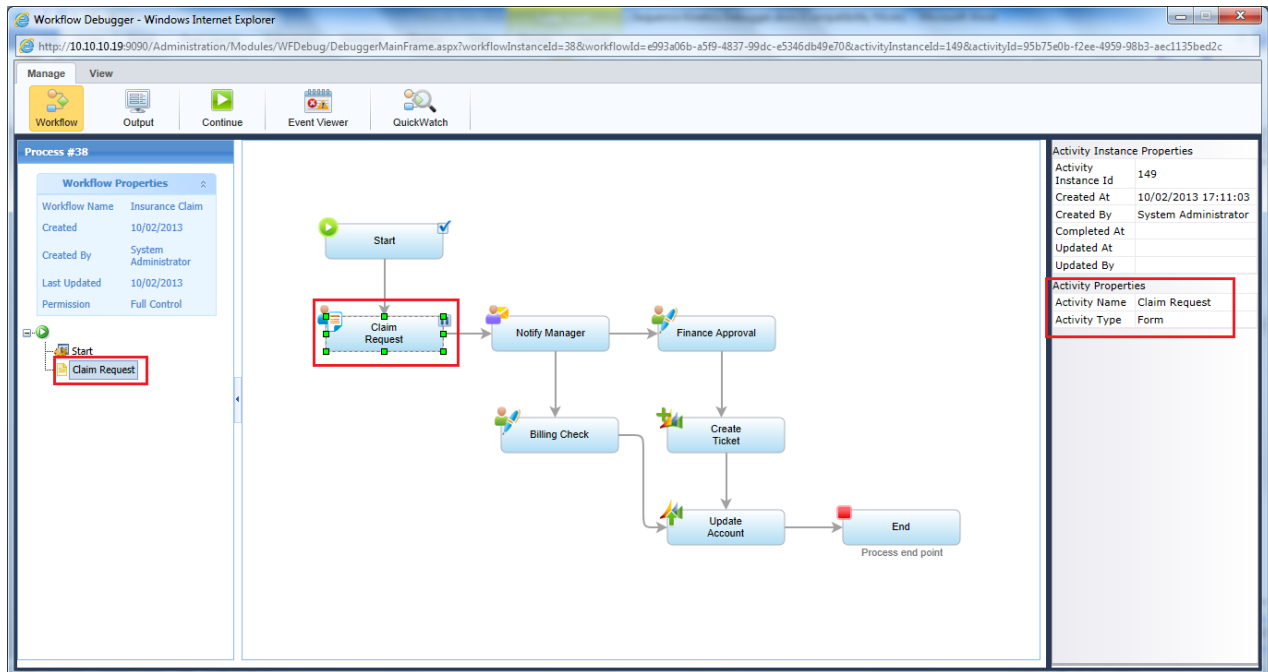
Activities Tree View

The *Tree View* provides a presentation of the activities which already took place in the process which is similar to the tree view presented in the runtime environment. The difference is that in the debugger environment, you can view server side activities (stored procedures, web service activities, etc.) as well as human activities.



Workflow Debugger Tree View

Selecting an activity in the tree view will present its properties in the activity properties pane, and mark it in the workflow display tab in case it is visible.



Workflow Debugger Desktop

Properties Pane

The *Properties* pane displays the properties of either a workflow or a selected object (activity or connection).

The screenshot shows the Workflow Debugger Properties Pane. It is divided into two sections: 'Activity Instance Properties' and 'Activity Properties'. The 'Activity Instance Properties' section includes fields for Activity, Instance Id, Created At, Created By, Completed At, Updated At, Updated By, Subject, Body, Hyperlink, View, and Recipients. The 'Activity Properties' section includes fields for Activity Name (Billing Check) and Activity Type (Task).


Workflow Debugger Properties Pane

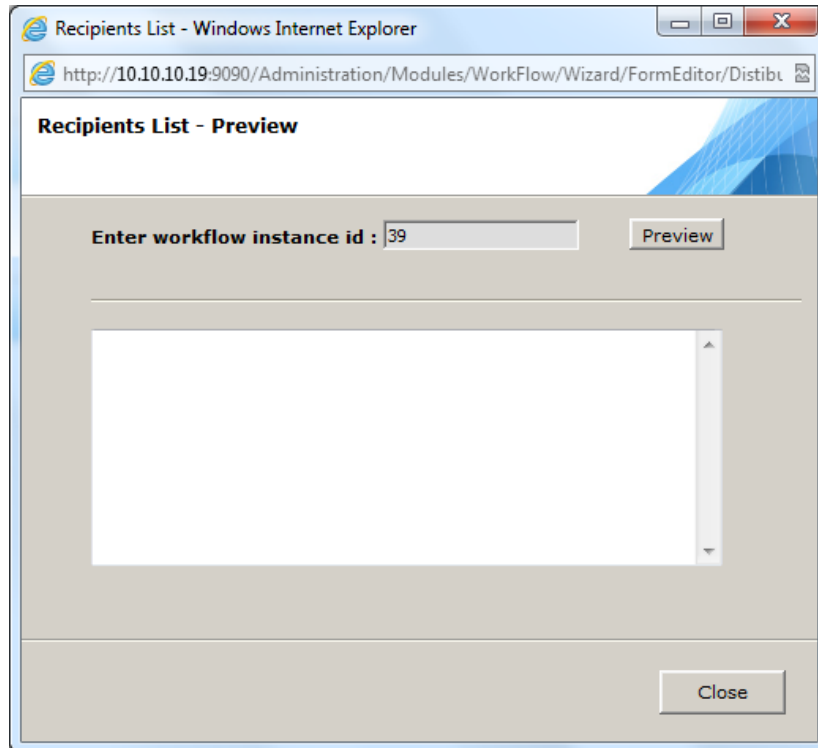
In addition, the *Properties* pane provides quick access to previewing activities and connections data, including messages and recipients' preview, business rules evaluation, and web service XML data. It also provides, in a similar manner, the ability to test an activity (where relevant).

This feature provides you with insight into the workflow's execution processes, aiding you in discovering the source of the execution problems.

Note: Preview is available only for properties that have a  button.

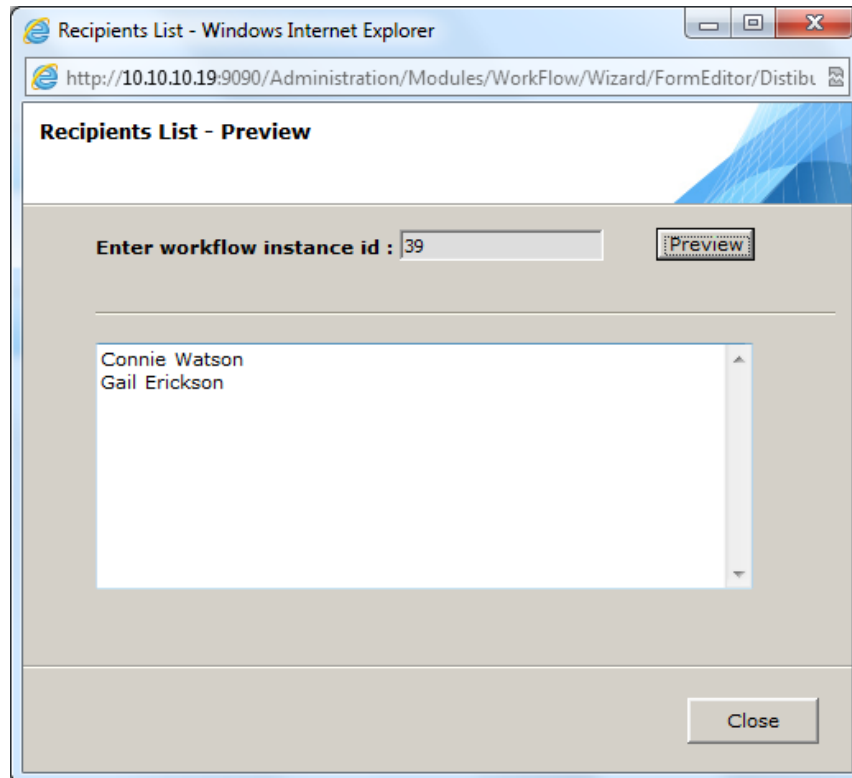
To preview an activity's properties (or test):

1. Click  next to the property of interest in the Properties' pane. The *<Property> Preview* page opens.



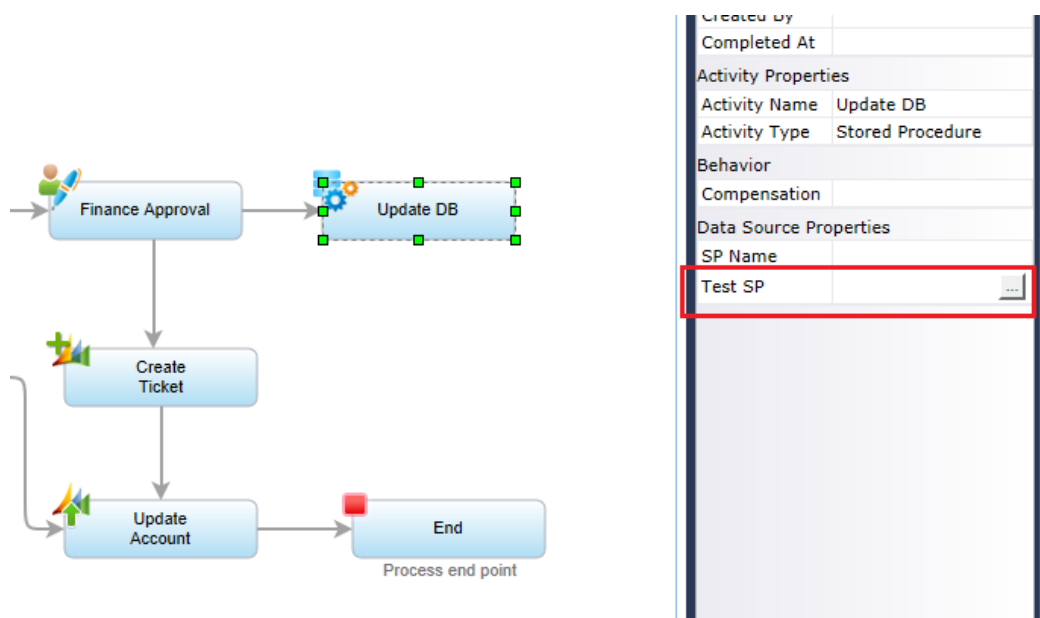
<Property> - Preview Screen

2. Click **Preview**. The relevant content appears in the screen's box.



Property Preview

Note: If the property name is "Test <xxx>" – then the Preview will actually run a relevant test.



Test Preview

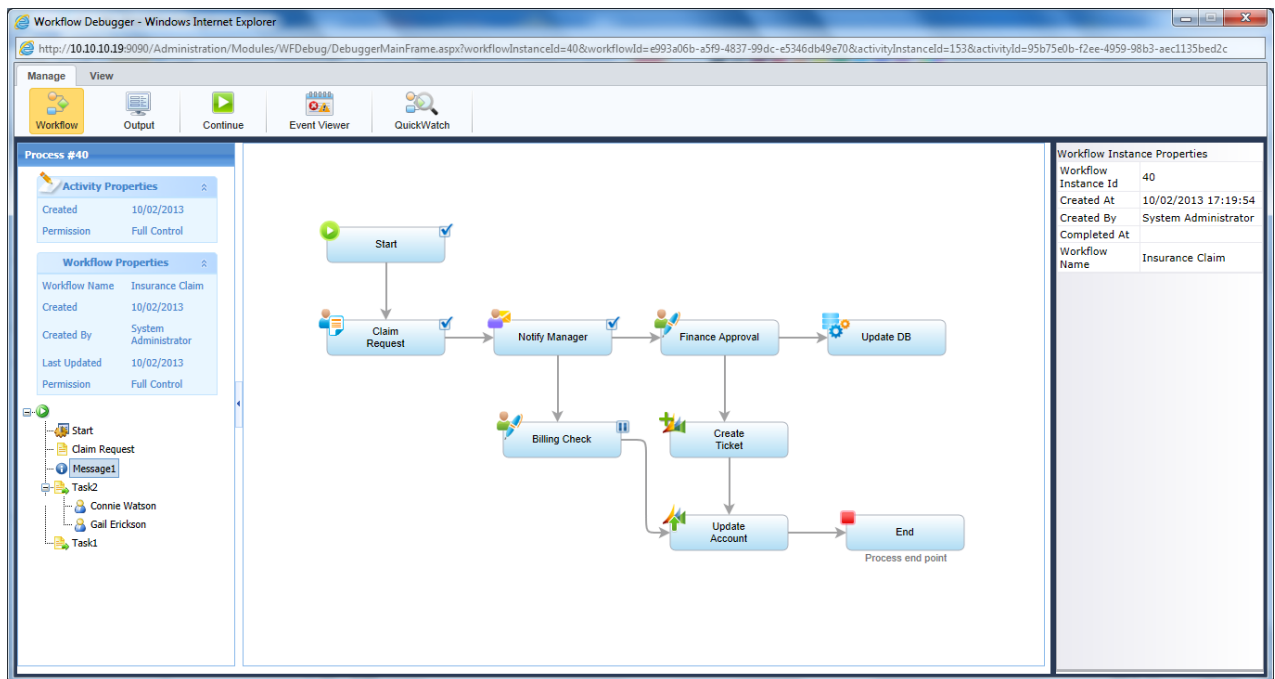
3. Click **Close** to return to the Debugger desktop.

Note: In some activities you will find the button Test instead of Preview. The procedure is similar – only this time you will be testing the execution.

Workflow View

The **Workflow** view opens the display area and provides a graphical view of the workflow instance progress, as well as the ability to select an activity in order to review its properties through the activity *Properties* pane.

Note: An activity which has been instanced includes Checkmark symbol. An activity which is currently executing includes a Pause symbol (and appears flashing, from v8.0 and above).



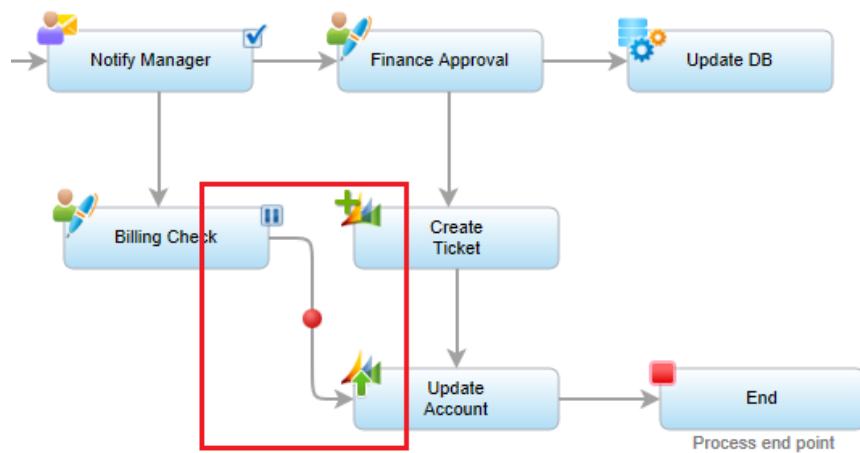
The Workflow Debugger Display Area Tab

Introducing Breakpoints

Breakpoints provide control and flexibility when debugging a workflow. The debugger enables developers to add breakpoints in the workflow, in the *Workflow* display area. Breakpoints are added at the connection between a pair of activities. During debugging, the debugger halts workflow execution at the breakpoints in your workflow.

A *Breakpoint* is displayed as a colored circle placed over the arrow connecting an activity either to a connection or to a following activity:

- Yellow breakpoints denote an active breakpoint – the process was stopped at a connection between an active instance and an activity that has not yet been executed.
- Red breakpoints denote an idle breakpoint – the thread has not yet reached the linked activities, or already passed it

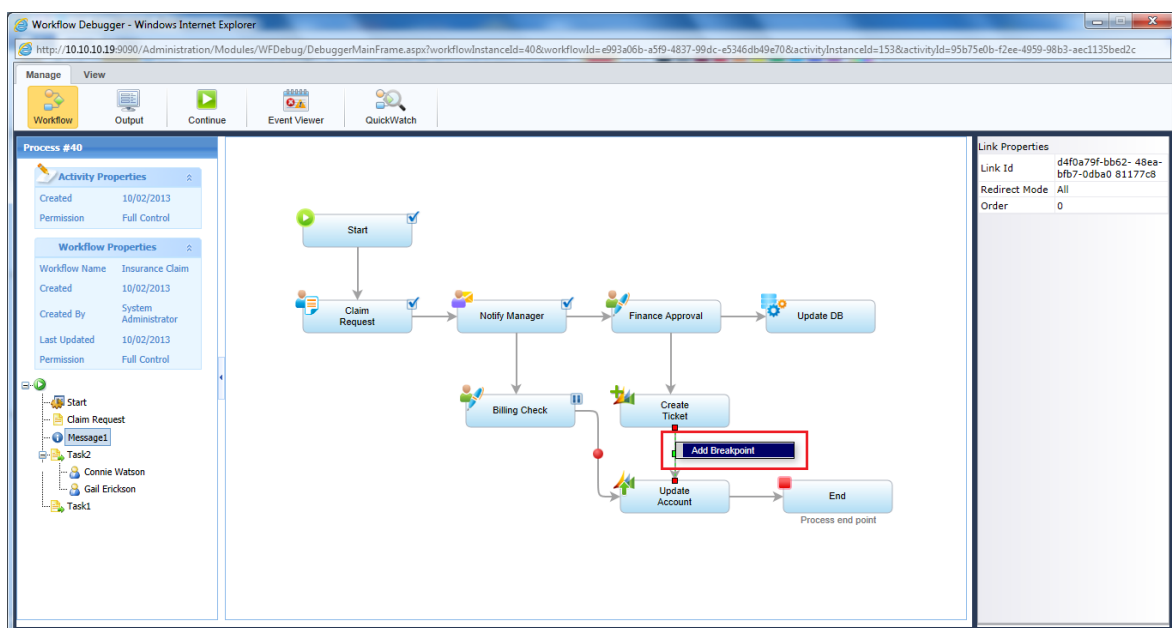


Breakpoints

Note: When adding a breakpoint during a specific workflow production, the breakpoint is not unique to the current debugging instance. It will carry over to all future debugging instances of the specific workflow until it is manually removed. The new breakpoints will not influence an instance that has already started the debugging runtime.

To add a breakpoint:

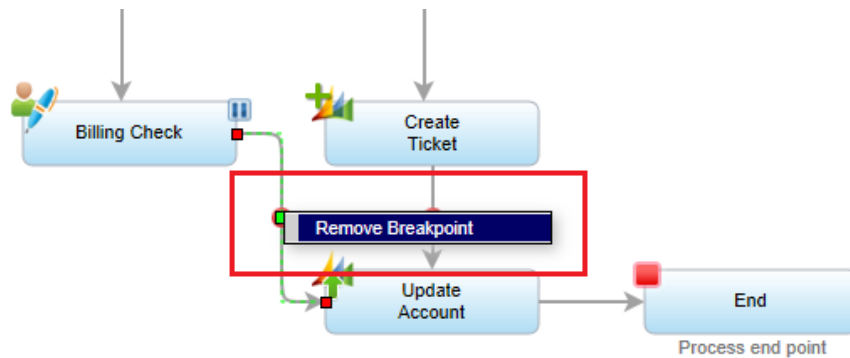
1. In Sequence Workflow Debugger, click **Workflow**.
2. Select the connection you wish to workflow to halt at.
3. Right-click the connection object and then click **Add Breakpoint**. A colored circle appears on the connection arrow.



Add Breakpoint

To remove a breakpoint

1. In the Sequence Workflow Debugger, switch to the workflow display area tab by clicking on it.
2. Select the breakpoint you wish to remove from the workflow.
3. Right-click the breakpoint object
4. Select **Remove Breakpoint** from the popup menu. The colored circle representing the break point will disappear from the connection arrow.



Remove Breakpoint

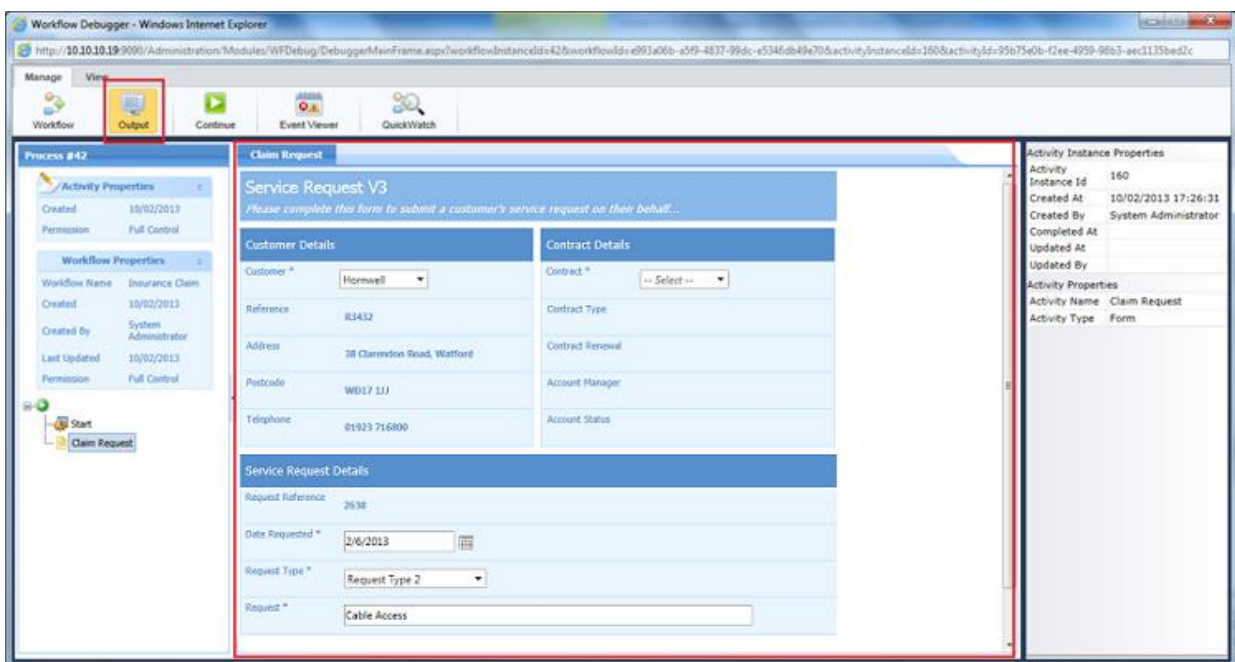
Workflow Debugger Output View

The **Output** view is relevant only with regard to human activities. The **Output** view provides a way to review a human activity output, whether it is a form or a notification message.

***Note:** The Debugger obeys the Permissions module. Therefore, you have to have the appropriate permissions in order to view an activity and/or submit data through the debugger.*

This view is also used to insert user data to workflow forms in order to simulate a live process. You may take the place of any other user who is expected, for example, to fill out a form – and fill out the form yourself, thus pushing the execution forward along the workflow's thread, and allowing you to observe the workflow's execution process.

***Note:** You must select an activity (either through the workflow view or through the activities tree view) prior to switching to the output view.*



The Workflow Debugger Activity Output View

To view/fill-out a form or view a notification

1. In Sequence Workflow Debugger, select an action.
2. Click **Output**. The selected activity's output can be viewed.
3. If the output is a notification: You can read the message and then click **Workflow** to return to the Workflow debugger desktop.

OR:

If the output is a form: You can fill out the form and then click **Workflow** to return to the Workflow debugger desktop.

QuickWatch

It's not always easy to achieve visibility on workflow data. QuickWatch is a kind of workflow “ultrasound” that enables you to zoom in and analyze workflow metadata, data, variables or expressions. This enables you to troubleshoot and monitor the workflow, helping you answer questions such as “Why did the workflow take a specific path?” “Why did we receive this answer from an integration activity?” and “What went wrong with this expression?” You can use QuickWatch to monitor the value of any item or expression which you can generate in Sequence’ Expression Wizard.

The evaluation result is displayed in a hierarchical view, enabling you to drill down into the result structure and examine the instance metadata and data, such as: UACT tables data, integration activities request/response, etc. In addition, there is a set of object visualizers that provide an alternative and user-friendly view of the elements in the result hierarchy.

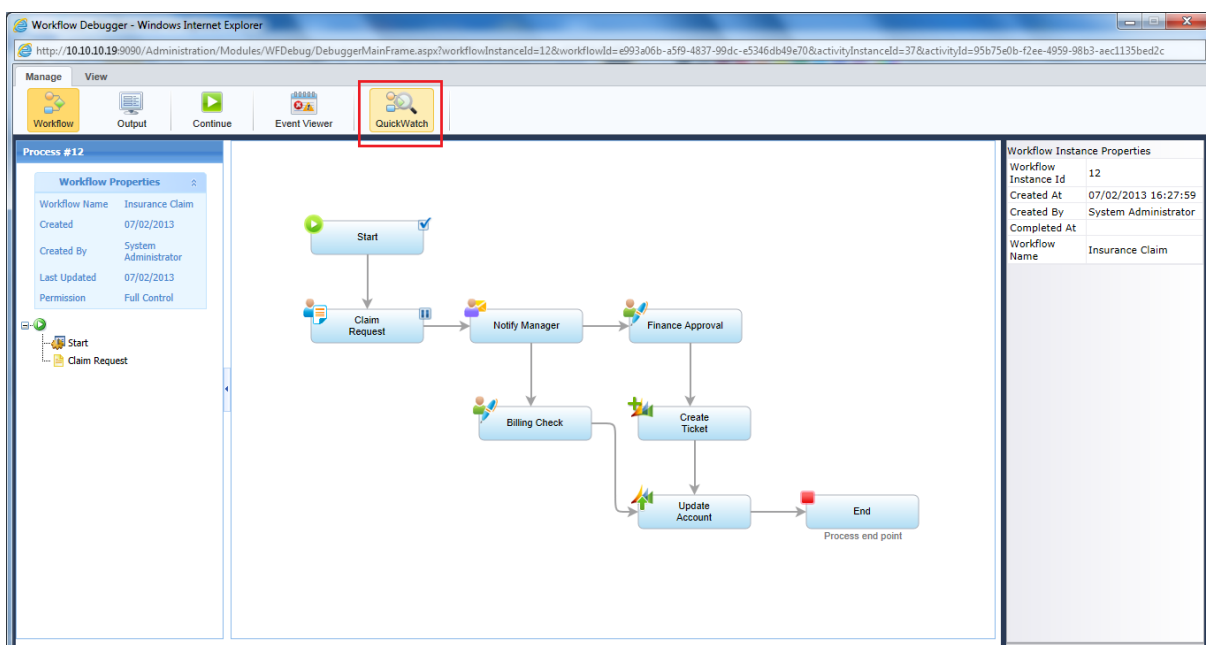
For example, you have defined a variable, such the status of an insurance claim, which is based on an expression comprised of process fields. As the process executes, the value of this variable changes. QuickWatch enables you to monitor this change over time.

QuickWatch may be used to debug processes that are in development or in production. You can use QuickWatch for troubleshooting, as you can view the value of items for processes instances that are in progress or have already completed. Since QuickWatch provides the object structure, it can also be used to help you create useful expressions.

Note: To use QuickWatch, you need at least Read Only permission for the workflow.

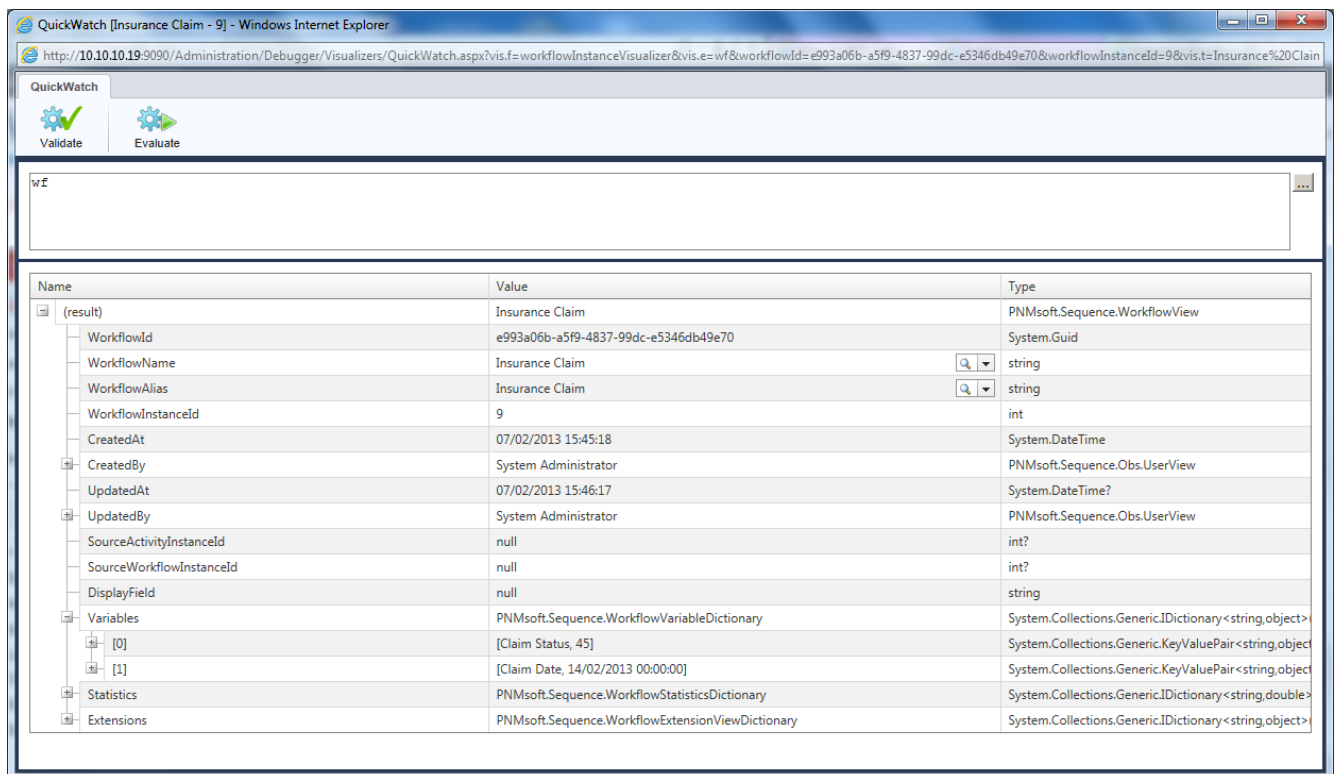
To monitor a workflow element using QuickWatch:

1. In the Debugger top ribbon, click **QuickWatch**.



QuickWatch in the Debugger

The *QuickWatch* window appears. Click the + beside ‘(result)’ to expand the workflow tree:



QuickWatch Window

By default, the *QuickWatch* window displays all of the metadata the workflow. This information is displayed in the following columns:


- **Name:** the name of the workflow element.
- **Value:** the current value of the element.
- **Type:** the type of element (e.g. int).

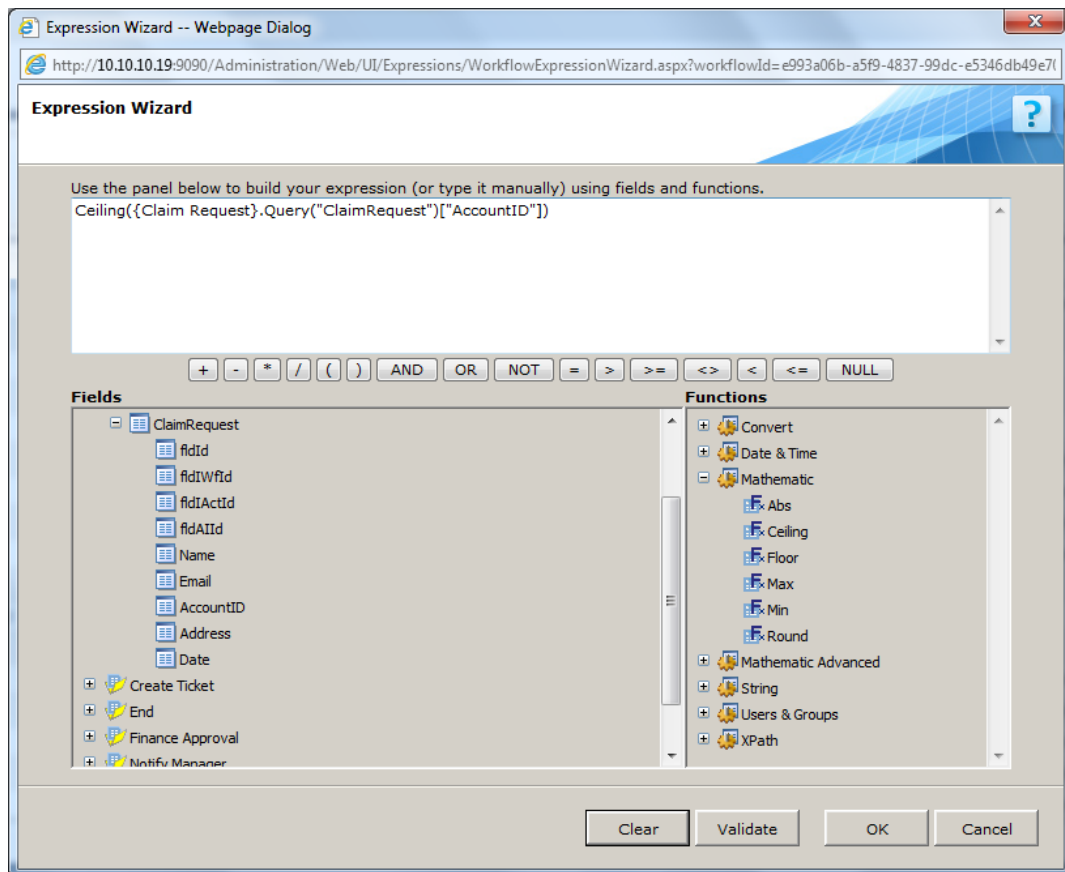
Now you can monitor the value of a specific element, e.g. one of the workflow variables:

Name	Value	Type
(result)	Insurance Claim	PNMsoft.Sequence.WorkflowView
WorkflowId	e993a06b-a5f9-4837-99dc-e5346db49e70	System.Guid
WorkflowName	Insurance Claim	string
WorkflowAlias	Insurance Claim	string
WorkflowInstanceId	28	int
CreatedAt	10/02/2013 16:14:27	System.DateTime
CreatedBy	System Administrator	PNMsoft.Sequence.Obs.UserView
UpdatedAt	10/02/2013 16:17:32	System.DateTime?
UpdatedBy	System Administrator	PNMsoft.Sequence.Obs.UserView
SourceActivityInstanceId	null	int?
SourceWorkflowInstanceId	null	int?
DisplayField	null	string
Variables	PNMsoft.Sequence.WorkflowVariableDictionary	System.Collections.Generic.IDictionary<string,object>
[0]	[Claim Status, 445]	System.Collections.Generic.KeyValuePair<string,object>
[1]	[Claim Date, 13/02/2013 00:00:00]	System.Collections.Generic.KeyValuePair<string,object>
Statistics	PNMsoft.Sequence.WorkflowStatisticsDictionary	System.Collections.Generic.IDictionary<string,double>
Extensions	PNMsoft.Sequence.WorkflowExtensionViewDictionary	System.Collections.Generic.IDictionary<string,object>

Monitoring a Variable Using QuickWatch

To monitor a value of an expression using QuickWatch:

1. Click  on the upper-right side of the *QuickWatch* window. The *Expression Wizard* appears:



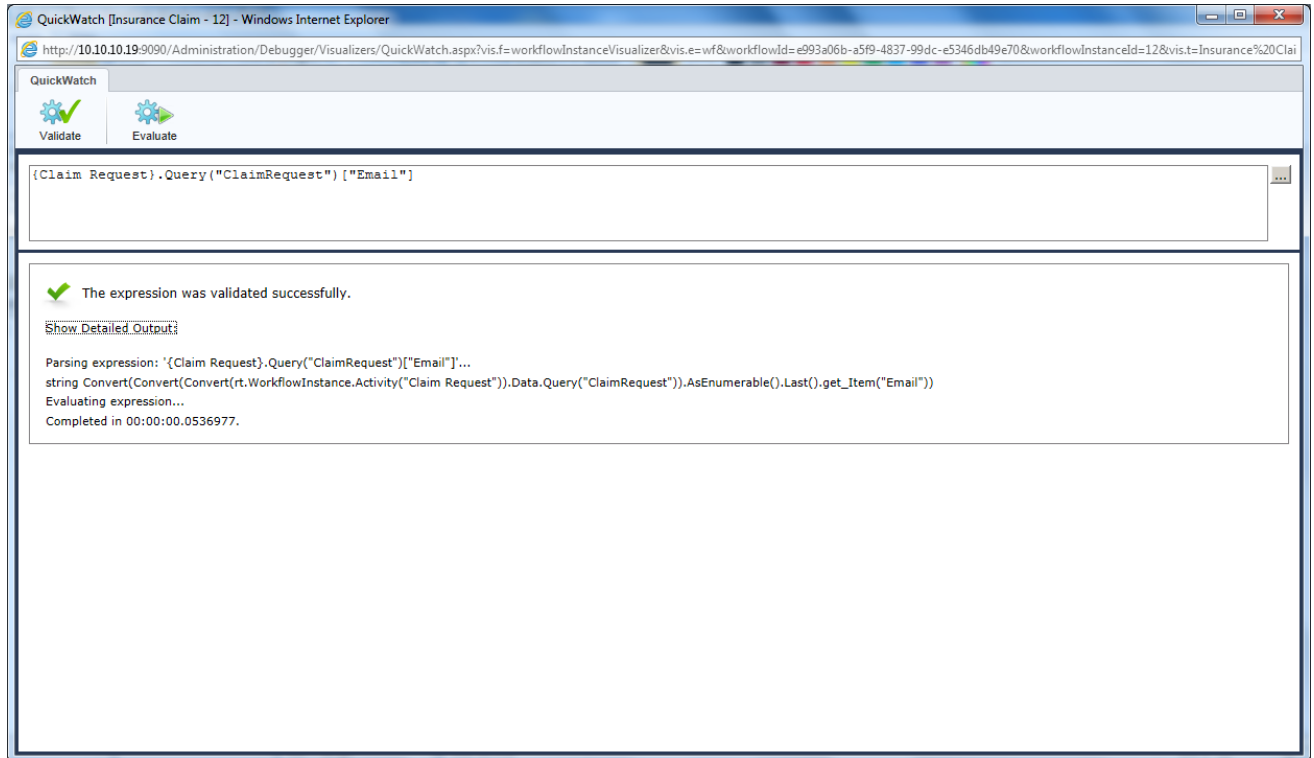
Expression Wizard

2. Create an expression whose value you wish to monitor using the Expression Wizard tools, and click **OK**.

3. In the *QuickWatch* window, click **Validate** to validate the expression.

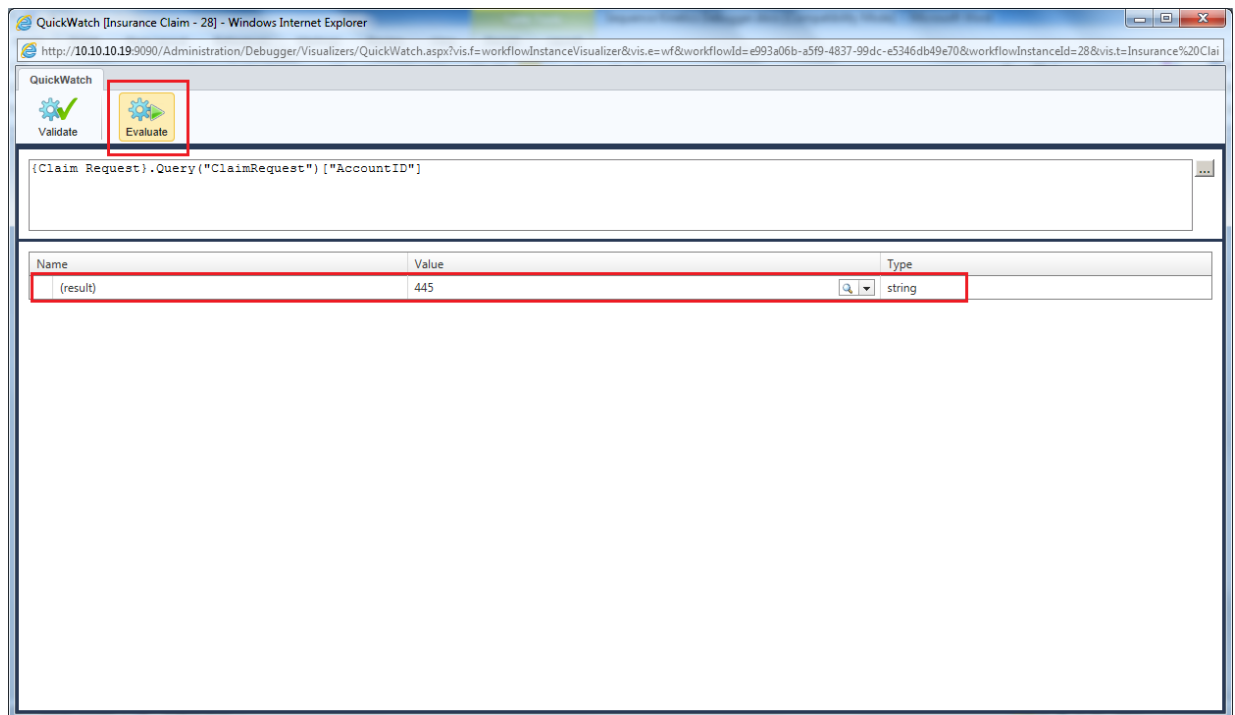
***Warning:** If you validate an *sqlt* expression, it will execute the *SQL* statement.*

(Optional) You can click **Detailed Output** to view a detailed result of the validation (including the parsed expression):




Validating an Expression in QuickWatch

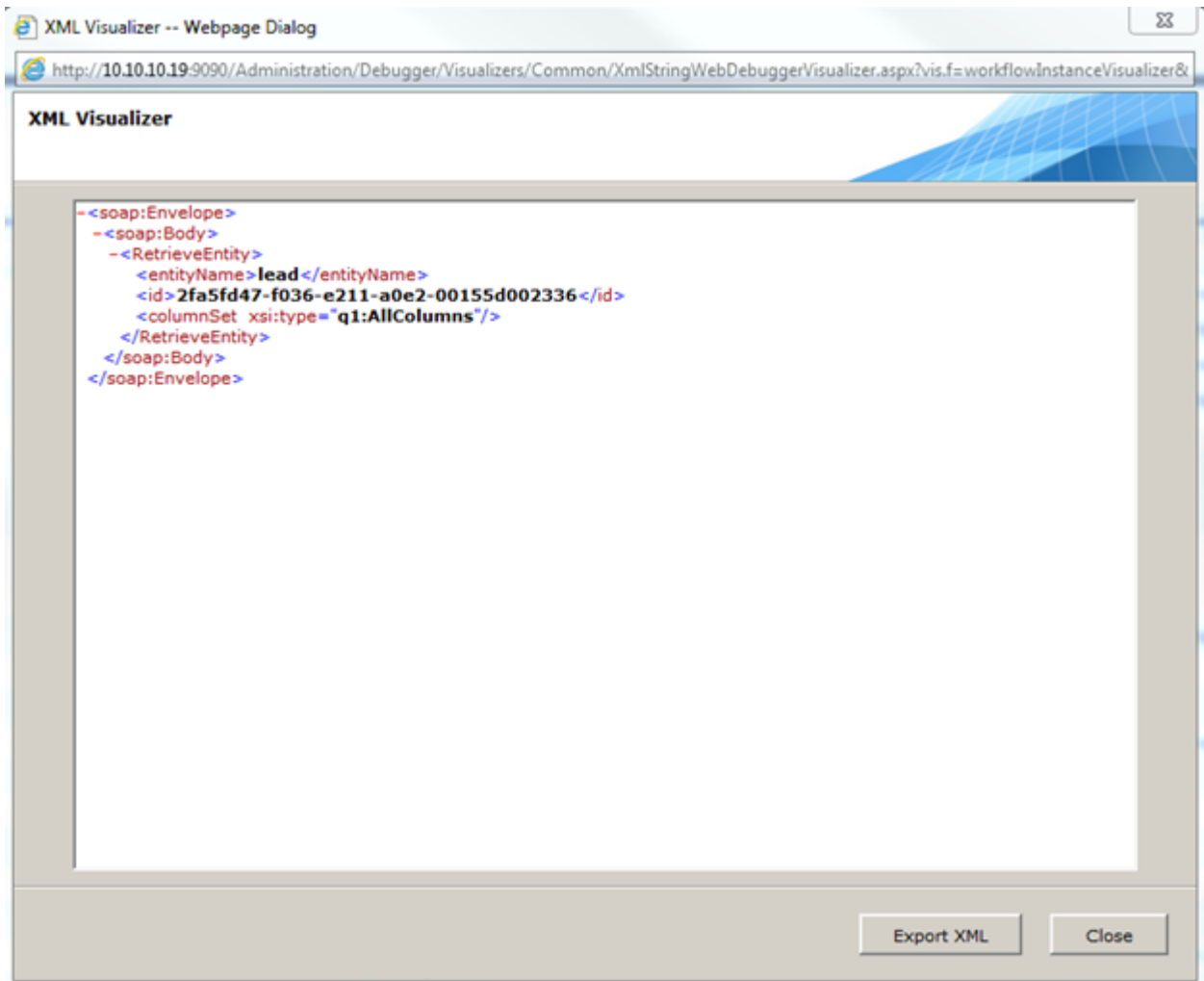
4. Click **Evaluate**. The area below shows the expression you created and its current value:



Evaluating an Expression using QuickWatch

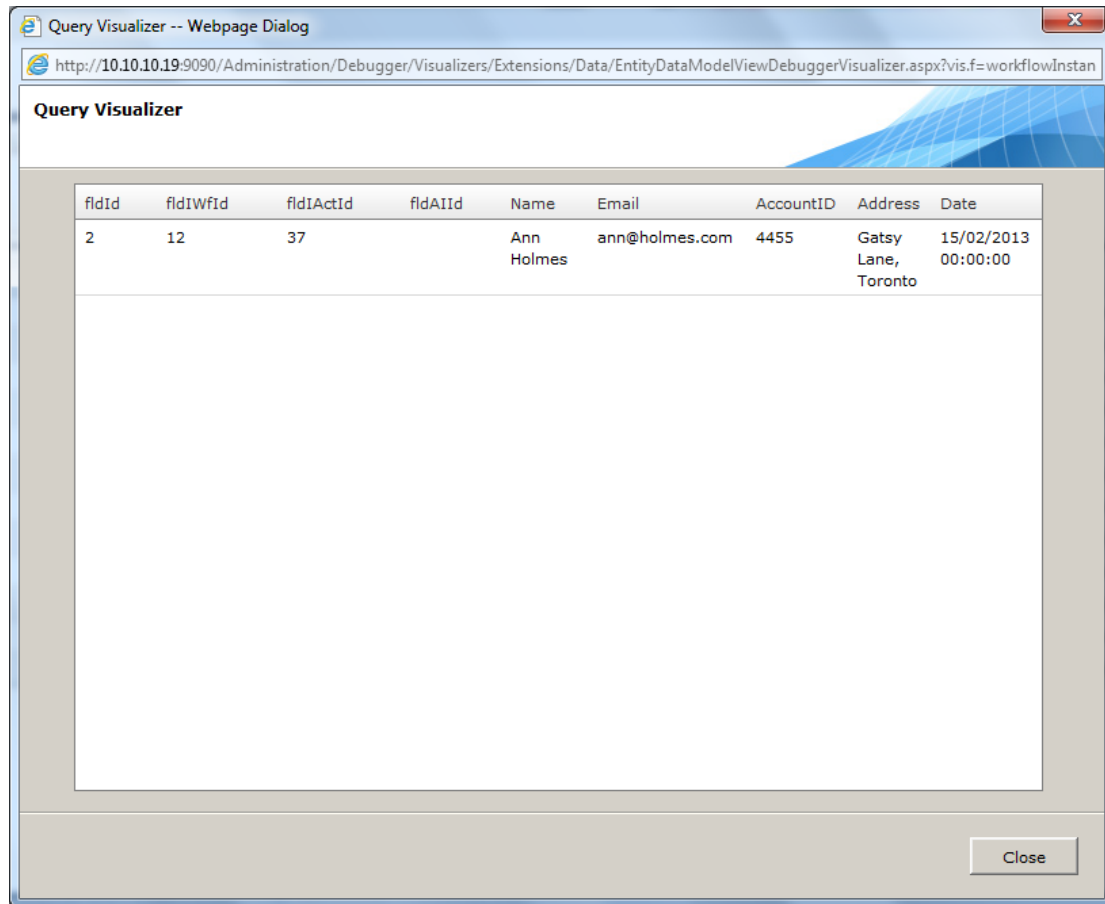
Values of specific types can be viewed in several ways accordingly to visualizers that are defined for those types. Developers can modify existing visualizers or add new types of visualizers.

5. (Optional) In the Value column, you can click the  icon to view a visualization of specific elements as text, xml, Data Model element or Query (for queries only). This opens a separate window with the visualization you selected:



XML Visualizer

Note: Click Export XML to export the XML from the Visualizer.



Query Visualizer

Note: You can configure additional visualizers by editing the Web.config file in the following directory: <Administration site root directory>/Debugger/Visualizers

To return to the workflow tree, reenter “wf” in the QuickWatch expression area and click **Evaluate**.

Note: You can evaluate SQL expressions using QuickWatch. Do to so, you must be a Global Administrator.