

# Crystal Ball Software and Risk Analysis Tips

## Decision variables: They're Not Just For OptQuest!

Decision variable cells contain the values that are within your control to change, such as how much to charge for a product or how many wells to drill. While most commonly used with OptQuest, decision variables can also be used with two Crystal Ball tools, Tornado Chart and Decision Table, which are available in all Crystal Ball Editions.

The Tornado Chart tool is useful for measuring the sensitivity of variables that you have defined in Crystal Ball. You can also use this tool to quickly pre-screen the variables in your model to determine which ones are good candidates to define as assumptions or decision variables. You can do this by testing the precedent variables of any formula cell.



The Decision Table tool runs multiple simulations to test different values for one or two decision variables. In situations with uncertainty, it is not always obvious what effect changing a decision variable can have on the forecast results, so this tool tests values across the range of the decision variables and puts the results in a table that you can analyze using Crystal Ball forecast, trend, or overlay charts. The Decision Table tool is useful for investigating how changes in the values of a few decision variables affect the forecast results. For models that contain more than a handful of decision variables, or where you are trying to optimize the forecast results, you should use OptQuest.

For more information or to contact us, browse to <http://helpdesk.crystalball.com>

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