

# Crystal Ball Software and Risk Analysis Tips

## (#22) When to use the Decision Table tool vs. OptQuest

In most simulation models, there are variables that you have control over, e.g. how much to charge for a product, how much to invest in a particular project, or how many wells to drill. In Crystal Ball, these controlled variables are called decision variables. In situations with uncertainty, knowing how to change these variables to achieve desirable forecast results can mean the difference between making a profitable or an unprofitable decision.

We offer two tools that can help you to analyze your decision variables. The first, OptQuest, is a wizard-based program that uses the decision variables to find optimal solutions to simulation models. OptQuest is a powerful add-in for Crystal Ball and is only available with the Crystal Ball 2000 Professional Edition.

The second tool is the Decision Table tool, now available with both the standard and professional editions of Crystal Ball 2000. The Decision Table tool runs multiple simulations in Crystal Ball to test different values for one or two decision variables. The tool tests values across the ranges of the decision variables and stores the results in a table that you can analyze using Crystal Ball forecast, trend, or overlay charts.

If you want to analyze the decision variables in your model, the following criteria can help you determine which tool is best for your needs:

### **Number of variables:**

Decision Table can only analyze one or two decision variables.  
OptQuest can analyze an unlimited number.

### **Variable range:**

Decision Table is for variables with small ranges.  
OptQuest can analyze variables with small to large ranges.

### **Optimization:**

Decision Table does not optimize.  
OptQuest optimizes decision variables.

### **Result display:**

Decision Table displays all results in a table format.  
OptQuest only displays the best solutions.

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

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