

# Components

You can further extend StresStimulus run-time by creating an external component. An external component traps StresStimulus run-time events to extend its functionality. Components can be created by writing .NET code. Once created, they are displayed in the **Component** section of the workflow tree (a).

To create a component inside StresStimulus, navigate to the Components tab (a). From there, you can create your own variable. Select one of three languages you wish to use: C#, VB.NET, or JScript.NET (b).

Give your component a name (c) and chose when you want to invoke it (d).

There are two modes of component invocation:

- **On every session:** the component is invoked for every session in every test case inside the test
- **On sessions with a hook:** the component is invoked only for sessions whose **component hook** property is the name of the component.

You can edit or delete your component later on by going back to the Components tab, selecting the variable you wish to modify, and then clicking either **Edit** (e) or **Delete** (f). Click OK to bring up the **code editor** window. If you don't see your component, click **Open File** (g) to select the code file to edit.

There are two types of components that differ by the method they are created:

- **Internal components** are created in StresStimulus. Their benefit is simplicity as they do not require any additional development tools.
- **External components** are created by developing external .NET DLLs using Microsoft Visual Studio. This allows to develop more sophisticated functionality and behavior using external libraries and powerful development and debugging Visual Studio environment.

