Here is a simple flowchart for a three-choice branching scenario in which the user/learner is free to start with *any* of the three choices. It was inspired by the section in Tom Kuhlman’s re-jig of Cathy Moore’s “Dump the Drone” presentation where the girl is asleep on the desk. [View it here.](#)

There are three diagrams, below. The first one shows the user’s pathway and choices if s/he clicks on “A” as a first choice, the second slide shows the path when “B” as a first choice, and the final slide when “C” is the first choice.

The entire sequence is made up of just 20 slides. Some need to be duplicated for **content only** (these are marked “Copy of [slide #]”).

**BE CAREFUL!** Make sure you double-check the hyperlinks on these copied slides so that they proceed to the slide shown in the diagram. For example, when you copy Slide #2 and rename it Slide #13, make sure it proceeds to slide #6 and not Slide #3.

I’ve included some other tips about hyperlinking, too. I hope they’re useful.
User chooses A as his/her first choice.
User chooses B as his/her first choice.
User chooses C as his/her first choice.
A Tip On Linking

I don’t know if there is a simpler way to do it, but when I created the slides, I put “placeholder” numbers in one of the corners in a really loud colour (so I wouldn’t miss them later when it came time for them to be removed)!

I then set up a Master Slide for each of the 5 coloured sections where I wanted to use this branching scenario (see notes at the end for an example of this flowchart in use): Salary, Empathy, etc.

VERY IMPORTANT! I didn’t hyperlink ANYTHING in this branching section until I was happy with the entire presentation. The addition of just one slide in any section prior would have completely messed up all the hyperlinking. (There must be a way to avoid this, but I’m a complete PowerPoint novice!)

When I was happy with everything, I hyperlinked it all together by simply following the numbers. Click on the image you want to link from, Insert ➔ Hyperlink ➔ within this document ➔ Click on slide you want to link to.
An image of the slide I wanted to link to came up and I could see my loudly-coloured number in the corner. I was able to use this to double-check against my flowchart diagram to make sure I was linking it correctly.

I needed to be careful here because the slide number from the flowchart may have been, for example, #16, but that slide in my presentation may have been #87. So don’t do this if you’re really tired or there’s a lot of noise and distraction around!

Once one section had been all linked and the content added (copying and pasting the content as indicated in the flowchart), I duplicated that entire set of slides, applied the new Master Template background (Home → Layout → [select])

I added new content for the slides, copying and pasting where required (by following the loud numbers in the corner), and then linked that section. This time, I could double-check that I’d linked to the correct slide number from the flowchart because a preview pane appeared (Insert → Hyperlink).
This time I didn’t need to worry so much about the Slide # in the actual presentation (e.g. Slide #104). All I needed to do was scroll through the slides in the hyperlinking preview pane until I found the same loud placeholder number on the new background colour.

For example, the first time through, I was using a blue background Master. I carefully paid attention to the placeholder numbers and the actual slide numbers within the presentation. The second time, I was using a green background Master. This time, I just scrolled through until I found the same placeholder number on a green background. I then clicked “OK” to link there.

Finally, I tested it thoroughly using the Slide Show and when I was sure it was OK, I went back and removed all my loudly-coloured placeholder numbers.

Sidenote Tip: I had a link in the Master Slides that returned the user to the Main Menu. For some reason, when I converted the presentation using Articulate, this link was stripped out of the Masters. Grrr~~ I needed to go back and add it manually to every slide. So, it would be better to do it on the first set, before duplicating.
Here is the checkmark, along with its PowerPoint animation!

Download it here.

The ticks/checkmarks could be animated or not. I had to play around with the numbers for the “enlarge” and “shrink” functions so that the final checkmark didn’t look distorted. I found that enlarging 130% and then reducing to 77% worked. Click the Play button to see the effect.

If you don’t want the checkmarks to “grow/shrink” the second time a user sees them, simply remove the animation from that particular checkmark on that particular slide. The sound effect can also be removed if you don’t like it.

For example, when the user hits Slide #3, the checkmark alongside “A” will animate. If you don’t want it to animate again on Slides #6 or 7, just remove the effect, and from the User’s point of view it will look more like s/he is returning to Slide #3 and the second tick is “magically” appearing in addition to the one they saw before!
Final note:

This document was created by Leslie Burns, March 2010, as part of his “Hire Me” Presentation – which can be found here:

http://www.educationbreakthrough.com/HireMePresentation

This was Leslie’s very first attempt at any kind of “e-learning” or instructional design project. You can read the notes about how it was built here:

http://www.educationbreakthrough.com/HireMePresentation/notes.php

If you watch the presentation, you will see the flowchart in action across five different criteria the users are invited to explore (salary, empathy, engagement, tech skills, and marketing know-how).

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