

Lab Guide

Using Task Mining for Discovery, Monitoring, and Analysis of User Interactions on Desktops

Part 1 of 2

V 1.14.1

Lab Version 1.0

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1.2 Task Mining Programming Model An Introduction

The IBM Task Mining architecture includes four components—TM Web, TM Agent, TM Backend, and Persistency Layer—that record, collect, store, and process data. The architecture ensures data security offered by the Persistency Layer that enables 256-bit Key Encryption. In addition, it transforms and loads the data from IBM Task Mining into IBM Process Mining.

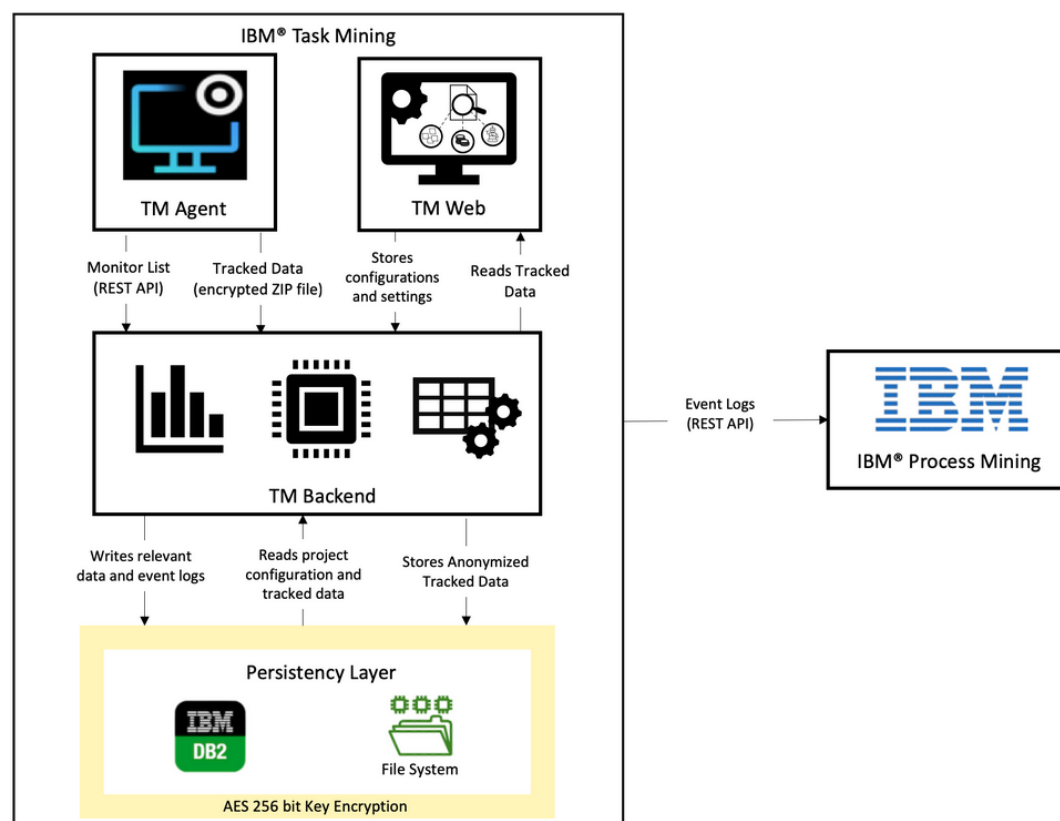


Figure 2. Components and Data Flow in IBM Task Mining

Component	Abbreviation	Description
Task Mining Web	TM Web	The web-based user interface (WUI) to configure settings in IBM Task Mining, add or create a process for Task Mining, manage users, interact with the acquired data, and view insights on the user interaction on the system
Task Mining Agent	TM Agent	The user interface to track, record, and save the on-screen activities on any selected application in the system
Task Mining Backend	TM Backend	The backend component collects data from the TM Agent and processes the data to transform it into useful information for IBM Process Mining.
Persistency Layer		Stores and protects the data with 256-bit Key Encryption.

The Persistence Layer in TM Backend receives data from the Task Mining Agent (TM Agent) and stores them in the filesystem. It works as a central hub for all the clients and provides the required services using Rest API.

The TM Backend processes the data logged by the TM Agent in Persistency Layer according to the configuration meta-data. It helps to correlate user actions to business transactions and extract the relevant data required for process mining and analysis. TM Backend then processes the generated data to create the event logs uploaded to IBM Process Mining using REST API over HTTPS.

1.3 Lab Introduction

1.3.1 Business Scenario

Opening the GitHub Issue is a critical desktop activity. It is a swivel-chair activity in an automated process. The business owners of the automated Process want to improve lead time and costs associated with the Open GitHub Issue activity.

In this lab, we will use Task Mining to conduct a time study and cost analysis of the desktop polycations and activities involved in the Opening GitHub Issues activity.

There are three desktop applications involved in creating GitHub Issues:

1. GitHub web applications
2. Notepad
3. Desktop Calculator

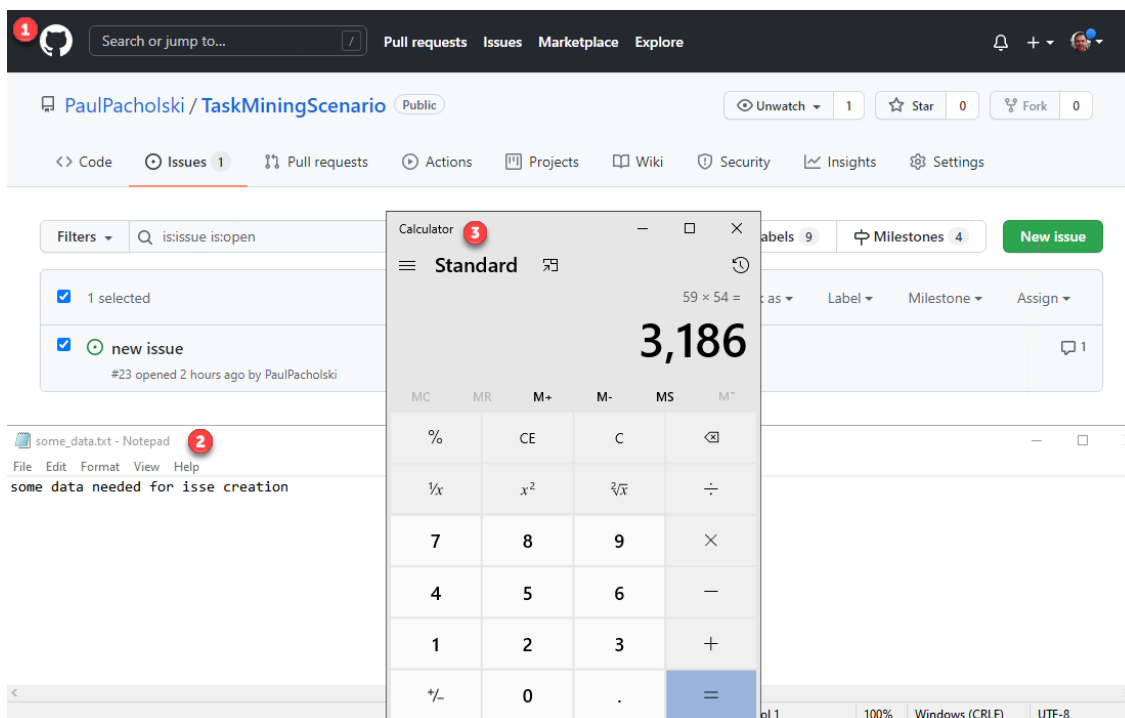


Figure 3. Desk Applications

1.3.2 Lab Objectives

This lab will focus on how the Task Mining feature is used, not how the TM model was developed. In the [second lab](#) of this lab series, you will learn how the Task Mining project was built and configured!

In this lab, we will use a pre-built Task Mining project already configured to receive and process events from our GitHub Issues desktop environment.

Here are the critical lab steps:

1. First, you will record opening a GitHub issue in the Windows desktop and examine the recorded desktop events in the Process Mining model.
2. Next, you will examine the Process Model that includes previously recorded Cases and the new Case you just recorded.
3. Finally, you will examine a custom Dashboard showing a summary of the desktop activities involved in creating GitHub Issues.

2 Lab Instructions

2.1 Lab Setup

2.1.1 GitHub

To complete this lab, you must get a GitHub user id for <https://www.github.com>.

2.1.2 Setup IBM Process and Task Mining Environment

- _1. Download the [IBM Process Mining and Task Mining Environment](#) document.
- _2. Follow the instructions in **2.4.2 Accessing Task Mining Client VM Using RDP**.

2.2 Record Opening of a GitHub Issue

We have created a Task Mining model to monitor desktop events generated when opening GitHub Issues. The Task Mining Agent installed on the Windows 10 desktop will record events generated by these three desktop applications: Web browser (github.com), Notepad, and Calculator. All these applications are used to open GitHub Issues.

The IBM Task Mining Agent will send the events to the Task Mining model. You will examine this Model later in this lab, and if you like, you can try [lab 2](#) to learn how to build it.

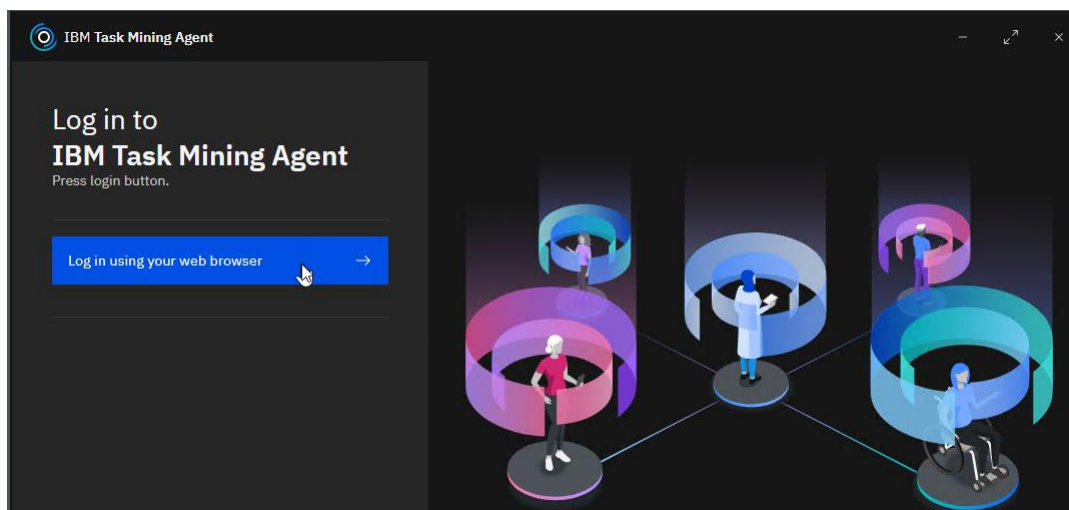
The Task Mining model will aggregate and process the events received from the IBM Task Mining Agent and send them to the Process Mining model as CSV files.

2.2.1 Start IBM Task Mining Agent

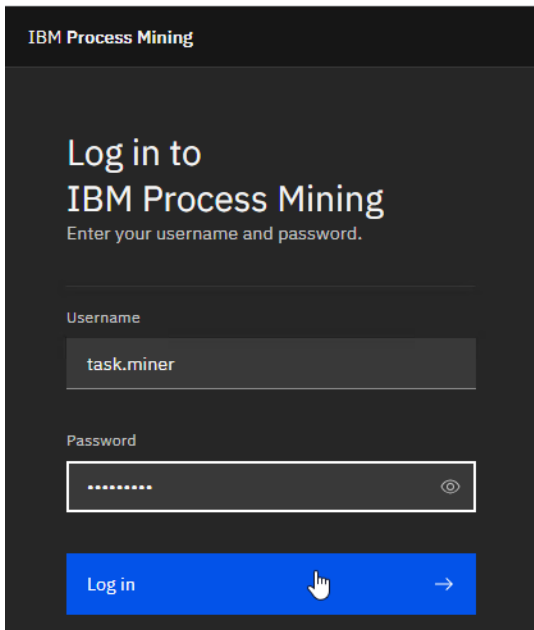
- _1. Switch to **IBM Task Mining Client VM** RDP desktop.
- _2. On the desktop, double-click **IBM Task Mining Agent**.



- _3. Click **Log in using your web browser**.



_4. On the *Log in window*, enter the credentials of **task.miner / IBMDem0s!** and click **Log in**



IBM Process Mining

Log in to IBM Process Mining

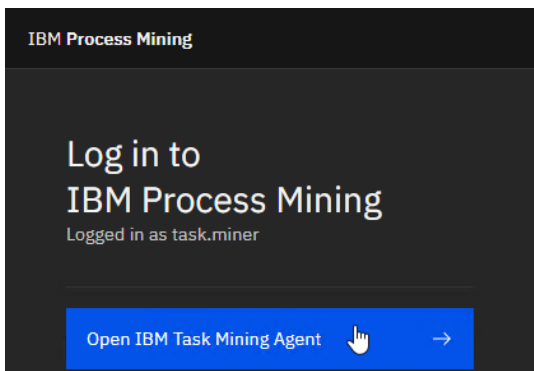
Enter your username and password.

Username

Password

Log in

_5. Click **Open IBM Task Mining Agent**.



IBM Process Mining

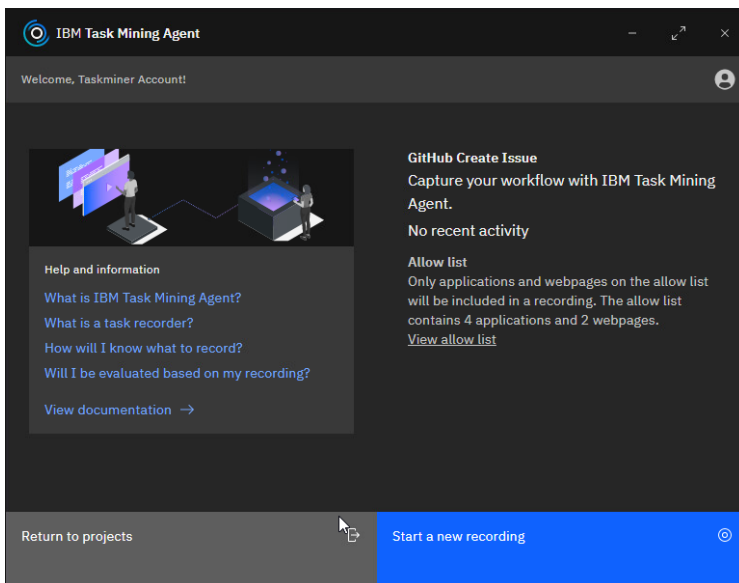
Log in to IBM Process Mining

Logged in as task.miner

Open IBM Task Mining Agent

_6. **Close** web browser

You should now see the Task Mining Agent window.



IBM Task Mining Agent

Welcome, Taskminer Account!

Help and information

- What is IBM Task Mining Agent?
- What is a task recorder?
- How will I know what to record?
- Will I be evaluated based on my recording?
- [View documentation](#) →

GitHub Create Issue

Capture your workflow with IBM Task Mining Agent.

No recent activity

Allow list

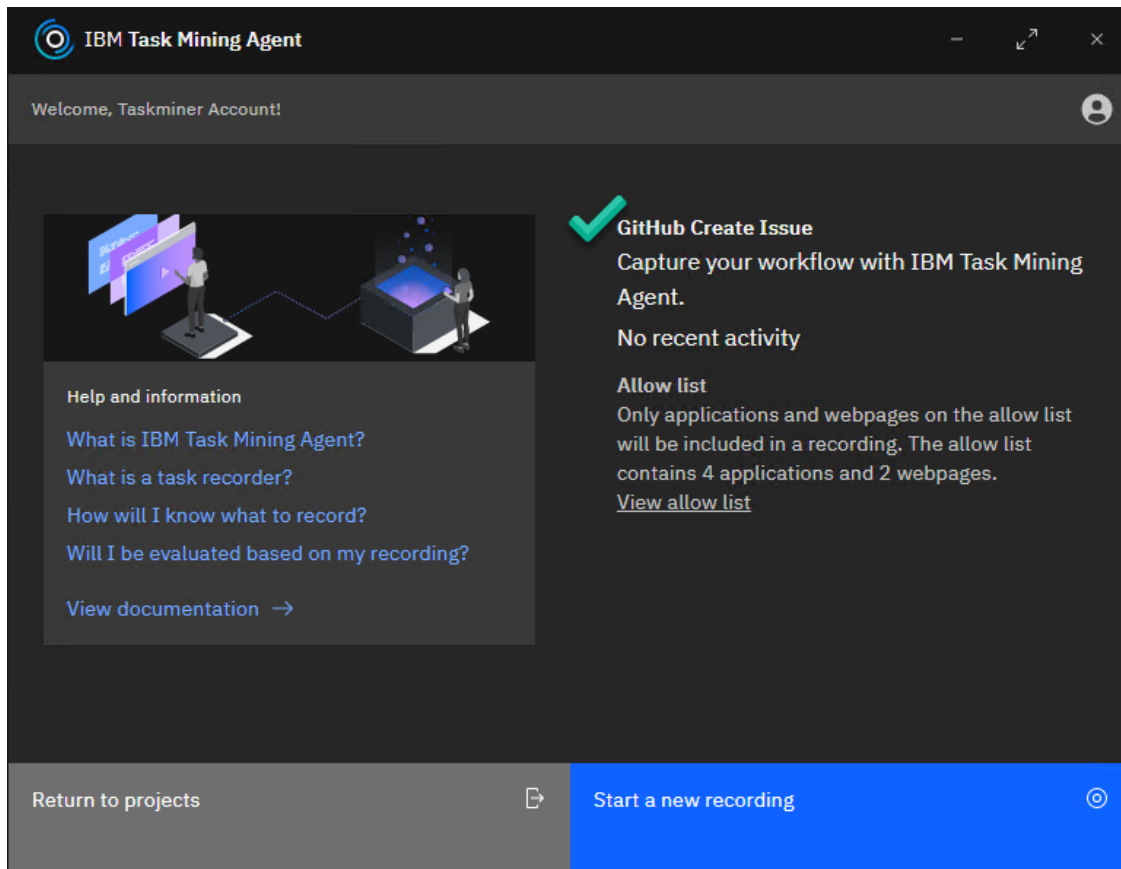
Only applications and webpages on the allow list will be included in a recording. The allow list contains 4 applications and 2 webpages.

[View allow list](#)

[Return to projects](#) [Start a new recording](#)

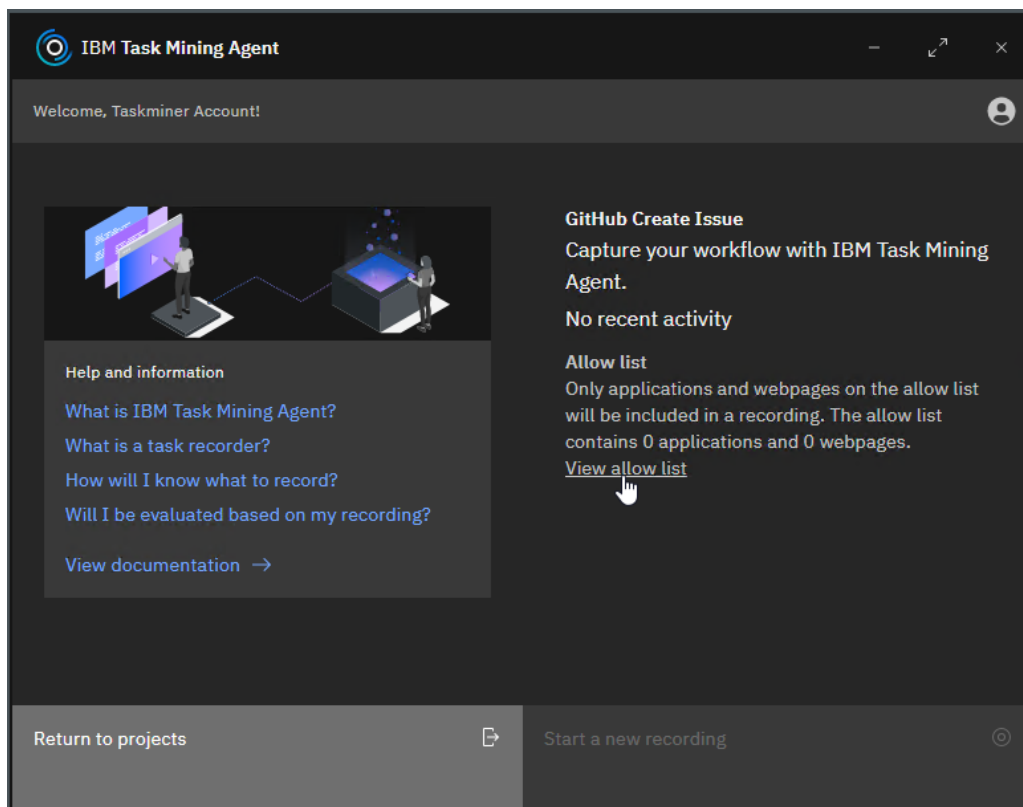
2.2.2 Examine IBM Task Mining Agent

_1. In the **IBM Task Mining Client VM**, switch to the **IBM Task Mining Agent** window.

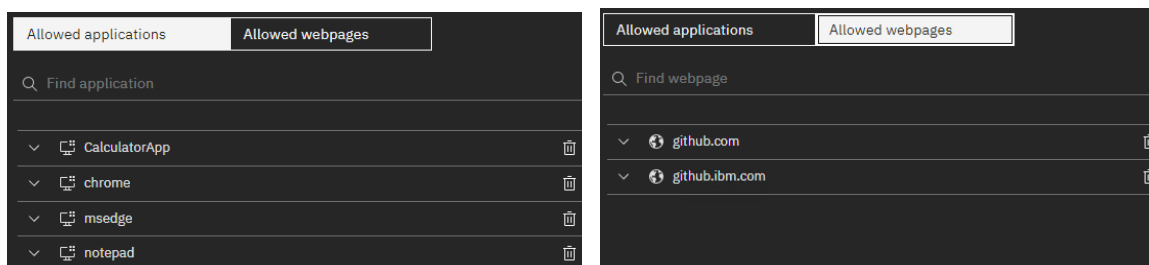


Note that the *GitHub Issue Insert* Task Mining project has already been selected. The events recorded by the IBM Task Mining Agent will be sent to this Task Mining project.

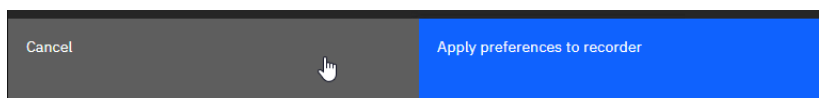
_2. Click **View allow list**



Note that the URLs and applications required to record GitHub Issues opening desktop tasks have already been selected for you.

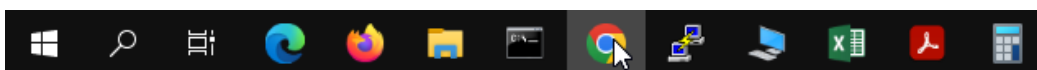


_3. Click **Cancel** to close the *Monitoring List* window.

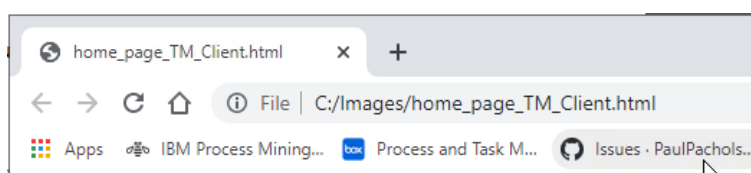


2.2.3 Start GitHub Web application

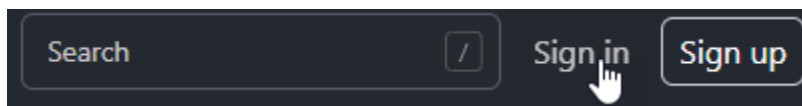
_1. Start **Google Chrome** web browser



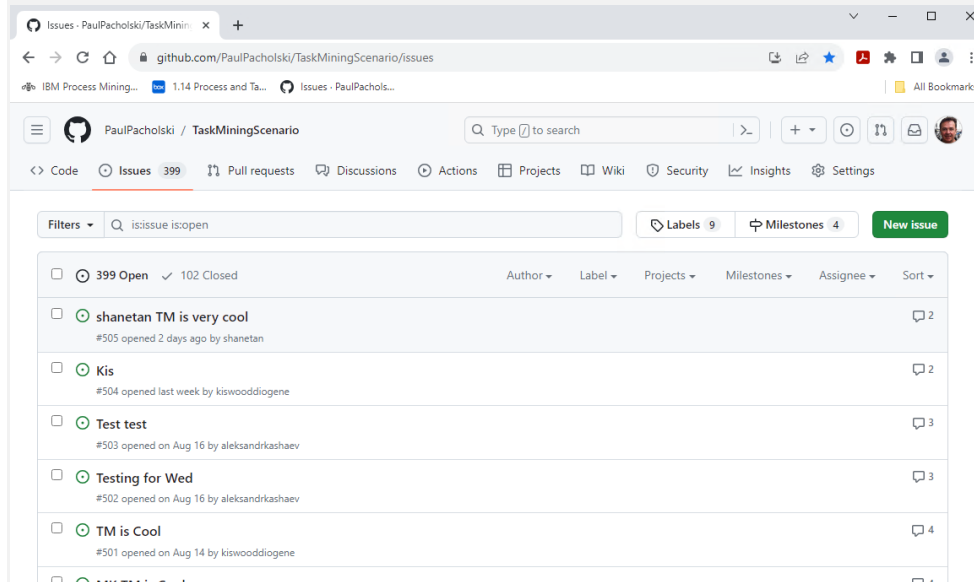
_2. Click **Issues. PaulPachols...** bookmark



_3. Click **Sign In** and sign in with your GitHub user id and password.

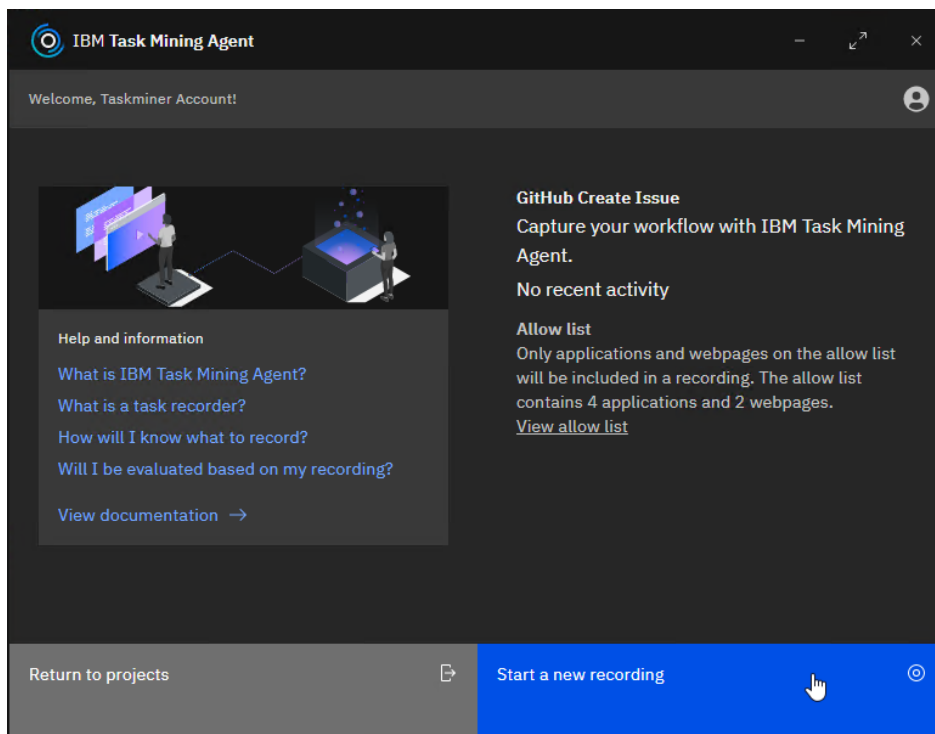


Note that you may see a lot of open issues in this GitHub project!



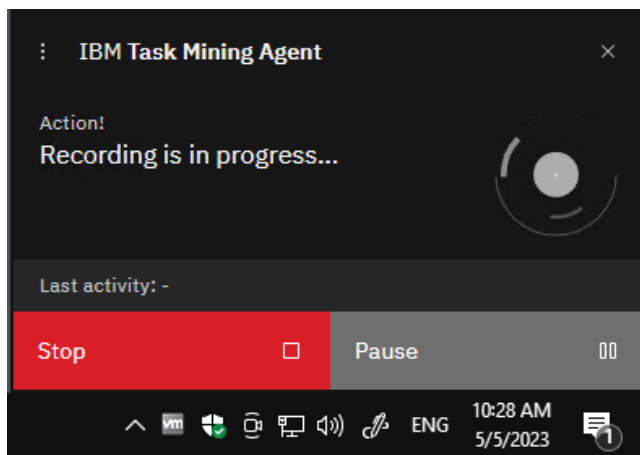
2.2.4 Record Desktop Events

_1. Switch to the *IBM Task Mining Agent* window and click **Start a new recording**.



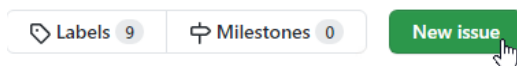
The IBM Task Mining Agent is now ready to send all recorded desktop events to the **GitHub Create Issue** TM project we have created for you.

_2. Wait until you see the **Recording in progress...**



_3. Switch to **Chrome** Web browser.

_4. Click the **New issue** button.

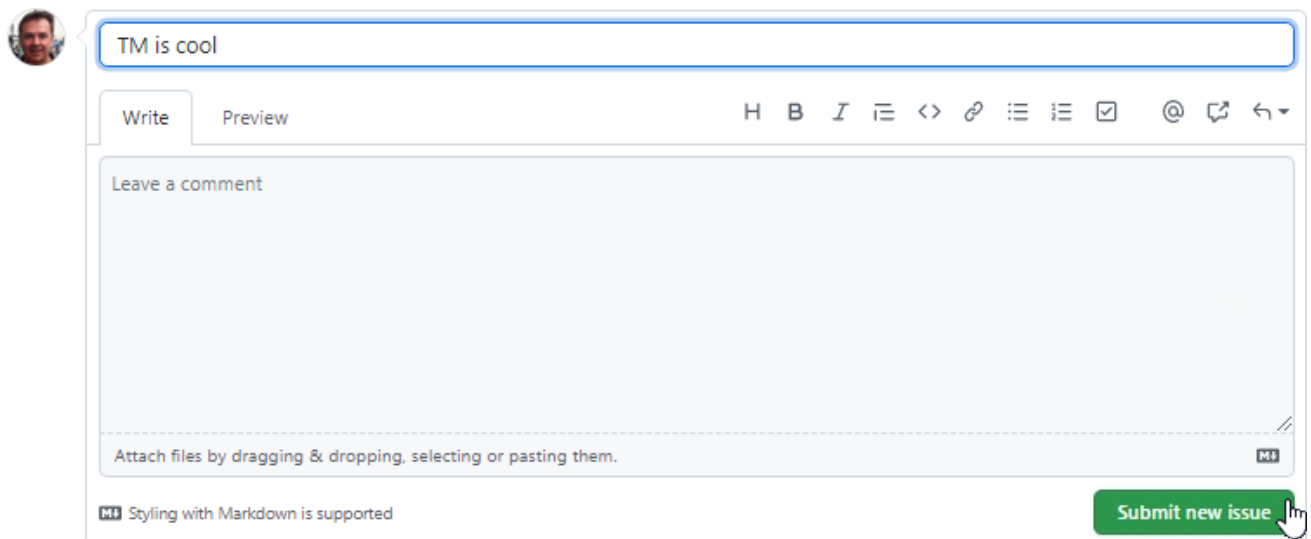


_5. For *Title* enter, **TM is cool**

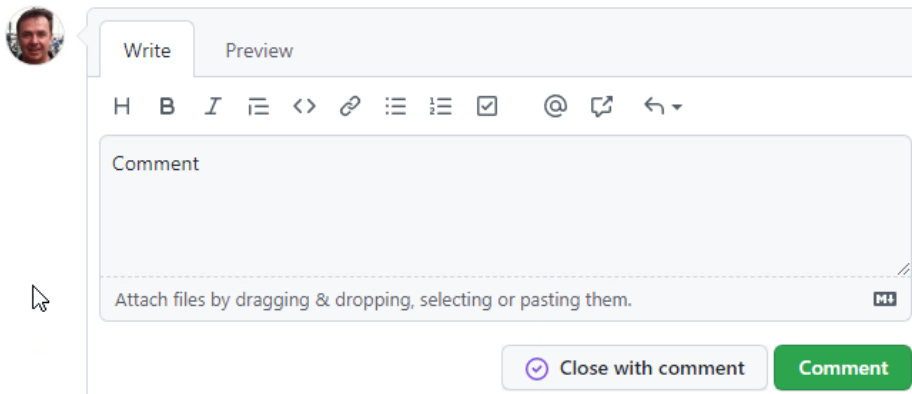
Note: since you are using a shared environment when creating a new issue, please use your user name as a prefix in the issue title. For example, **<user-id> TM is cool**

_6. **Wait** 5 seconds

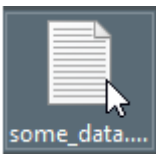
_7. Click **Submit new issue** button



_8. Type **Comment** in the comment area



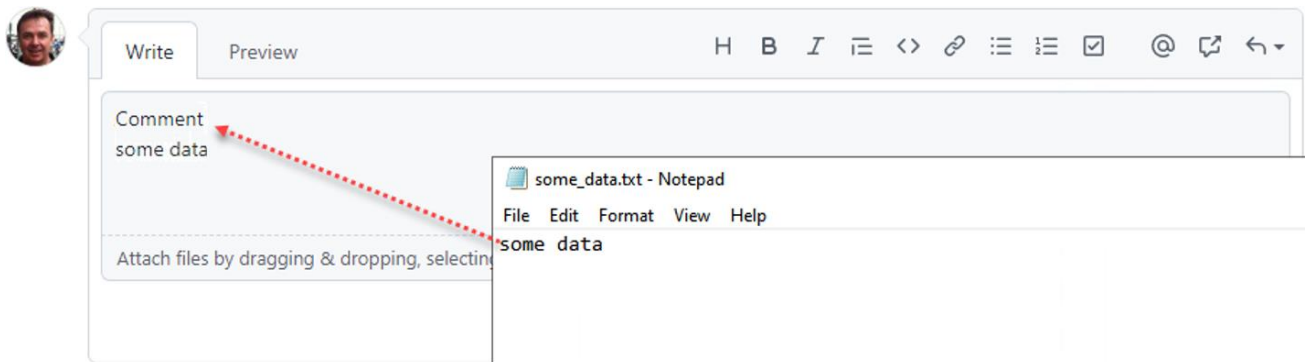
_9. Double-click **some_data...** document icon on the desktop



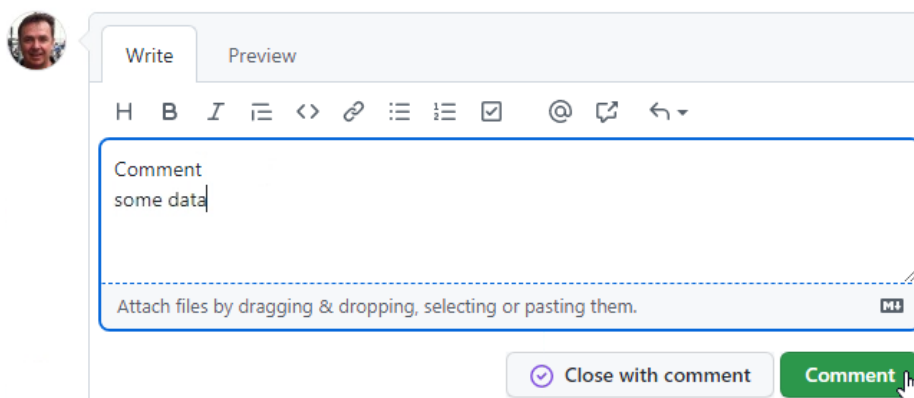
_4. **Copy** "some data" from Notepad to the clipboard.


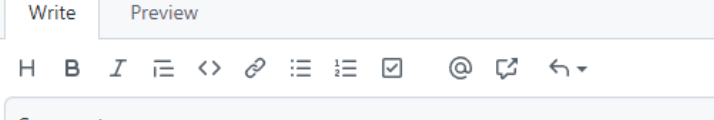
_5. **Wait** 20 seconds.

_6. Switch to the **GitHub Issues web page** and then **paste from the clipboard** to the *Comment section* on GitHub.



_7. Click the **Comment** button.

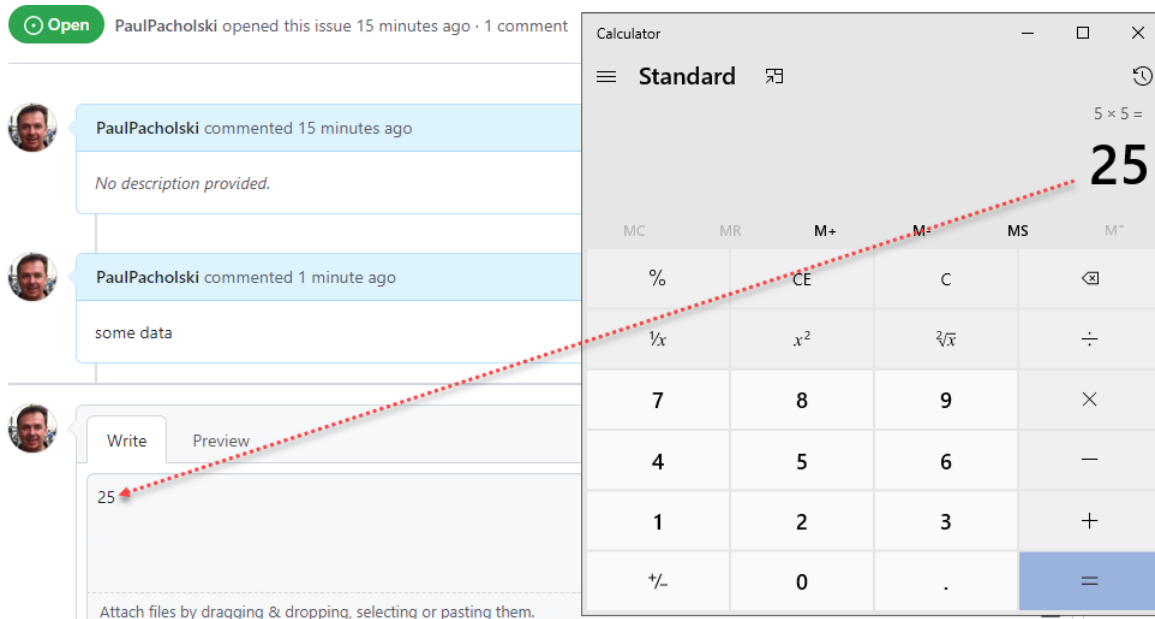




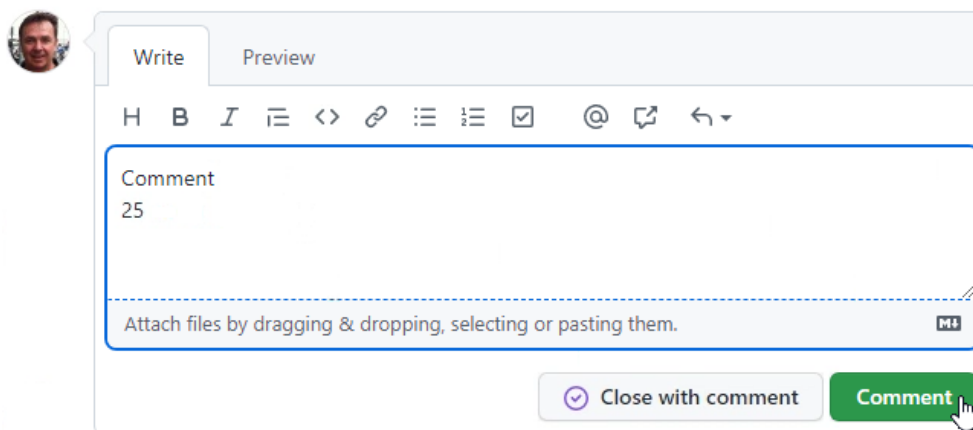
The image shows the Windows Calculator application in Standard mode. The title bar at the top reads "Calculator". Below the title bar, there are three icons: a hamburger menu, the word "Standard", and a small icon of a calculator. To the right of these are two tabs: "History" (which is selected and underlined) and "Memory". The main display area shows the calculation $5 \times 5 =$ and the result "25". Below the display, there are four memory function buttons: "MC", "MR", "M+", and "M-". Below these are four buttons: "%", "CE", "C", and a button with a left arrow and a square symbol. The main keypad consists of a 4x4 grid of buttons. The first row contains "%", "CE", "C", and the left arrow button. The second row contains $\frac{1}{x}$, x^2 , $\sqrt[3]{x}$, and a division button. The third row contains "7", "8", "9", and a multiplication button. The fourth row contains "4", "5", "6", and a subtraction button. The fifth row contains "1", "2", "3", and an addition button. The sixth row contains "+/-", "0", ".", and an equals button. The equals button is highlighted in blue. On the right side of the calculator, there is a "History" pane showing a list of calculations: $5 \times 5 =$, $5 \times 5 =$, $5 \times 5 =$, $\text{sqr}(\text{sqr}(0)) \times 5 =$, $\text{sqr}(2610)$, $522 \times 5 =$, and 2610 . At the bottom right of the history pane is a trash can icon.

_12. Wait 20 seconds

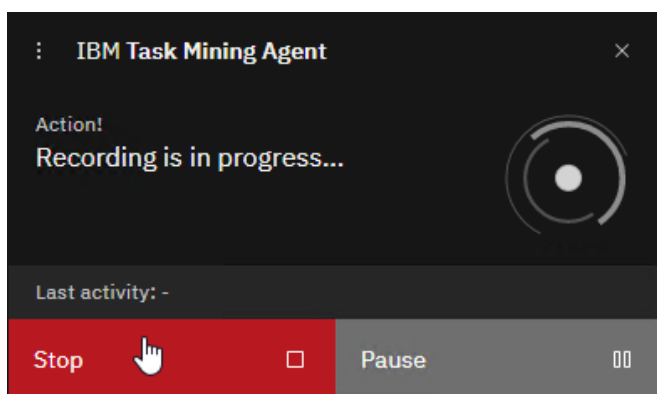
_13. Switch to the **GitHub Issues web page** and then **paste from the clipboard** to the *Comment section* on GitHub.



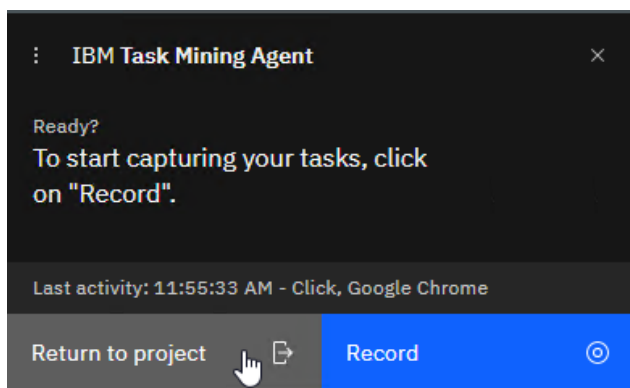
_14. Click **Comment** button



_15. In *IBM Task Mining Agent* window, click **Stop**.

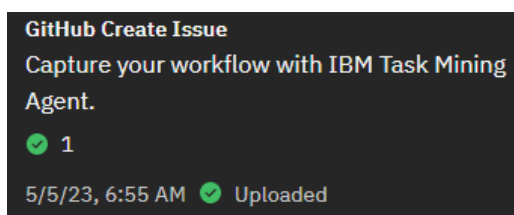


_16. In *IBM Task Mining Agent* window, click **Return to project**.



_17. Click **Return to Project**

You should now see a successful upload message.



2.3 Examine the Task Mining Model

In the last steps, you recorded desktop activities in opening a new GitHub issue. The events the IBM Task Mining Agent recorded were sent to the TM model, which converted them to CSV files and then forwarded them to a PM model.

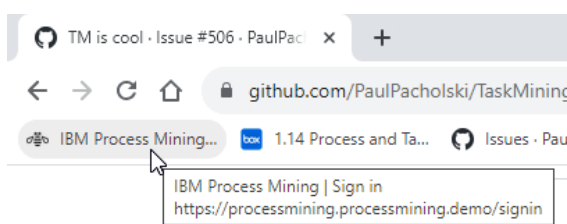
This part of the lab will examine the PM project that displays the recorded desktop events in a process mining format.

Since we have already recorded several Cases of opening GitHub Issues, when you open the Process Mining project, you will also see your Case and what has already been recorded.

2.3.1 Open Process Mining Project

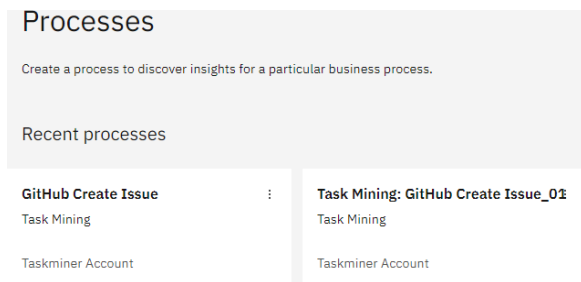
_1. **Maximize** Chrome web browser and **maximize** it.

_2. Click **IBM Process Mining...** bookmark



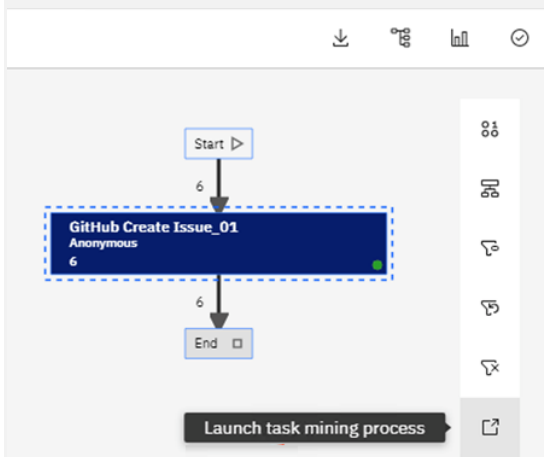
_3. Enter the credentials of **task.miner** and **IBMDem0s!** and click **Log in**.

You should now see two new processes.

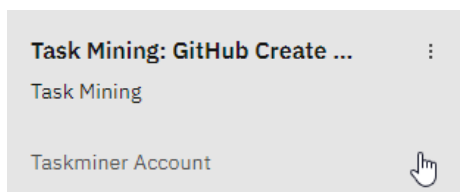


What are these two processes, and how are they related?

The **GitHub Create Issue** is the parent Process Mining process. The **Task Mining: GitHub Create Issue_01** is the "child" Task Mining process. Typically a parent Task Mining process includes many activities. In our Case, the parent Task Mining process has only one activity, but not all have an associated Task Mining process. If you open **GitHub Create Issue**, you can navigate to the associated Task Mining process by selecting **Launch task mining process** as shown below:



_4. Click **Task Mining: GitHub Create Issue_01** process.



You should now see the cases count as 8. We recorded 7 cases for you, so the count was 7 before your recording.

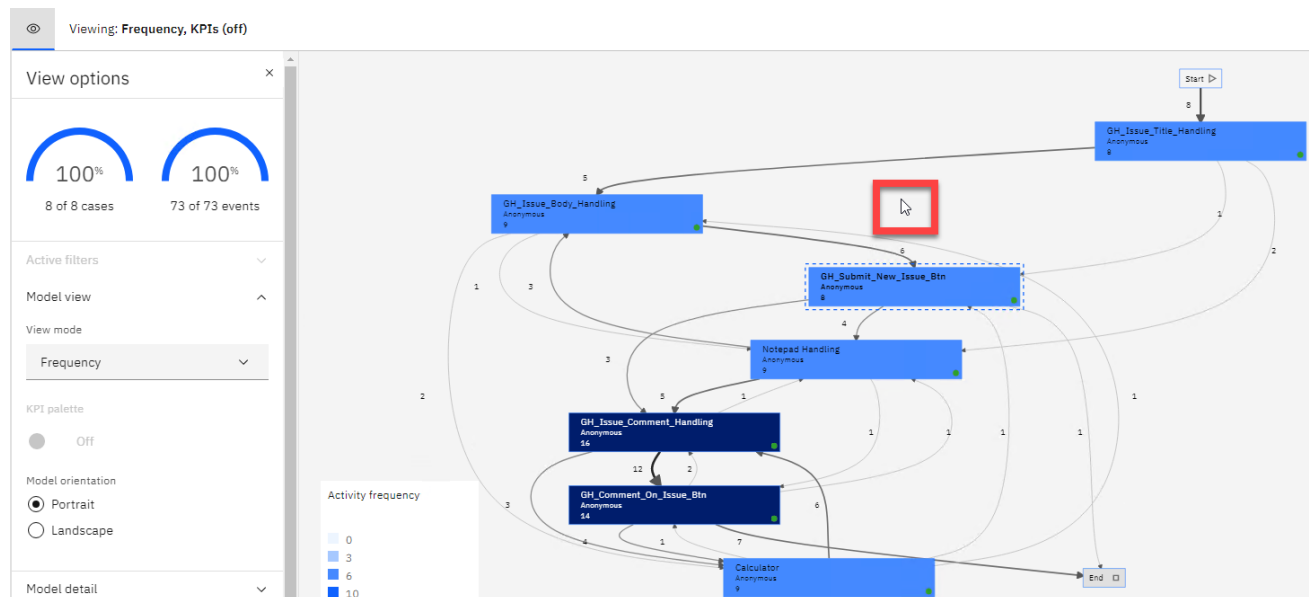


2.3.2 Analyze Rework

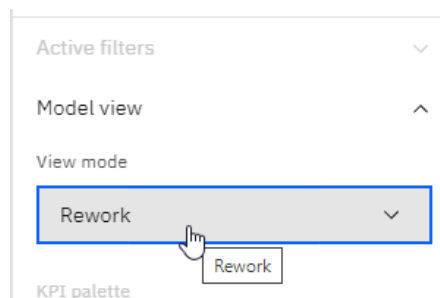
Activities repeated more than once in the same process instance are defined as Rework. Activities with Rework typically can become candidates for automation by RPA.

In our task mining scenario, any repeated activity (for example, adding comments more than once and repeatedly using desktop apps as a source of text) when opening a GitHub Issue is considered Rework and undesirable.

_1. Click and **hold the left mouse button** and then **drag** the Model to position it in the center of the display.



_2. For the *Model view*, select **Rework**



_3. A closer look at that data indicates that there are two significant sources of rework:

- Notepad and Calculator was used more than once to complete a single Case
- Comments were added multiple times per Case.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In 1 Case, the GitHub Issue body was updated 3 times. 2. In 2 Cases, the Comment field was updated an average 2.5 times. 3. In 5 Cases, the Add Comment button was clicked an average of 2.8 times. This means the comment field is updated several times when his button is clicked. 4. In 6 Cases, the Notepad was used an average 2.2 times. 5. In 1 Case, the Calculator was used 5 times.
--	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

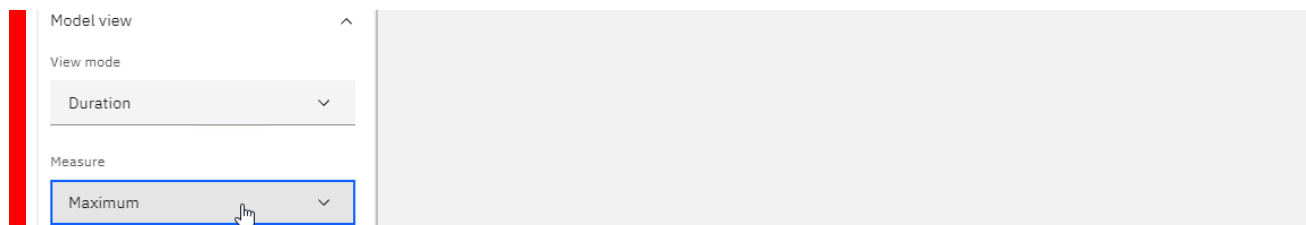
2.3.3 Analyze KPI

Let's examine how the GitHub Create Issue process conforms to the Process KPI. Specifically, we will explore the Activities and transition with maximum durations.

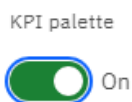
_1. For the *Model view perspective*, select **Duration**



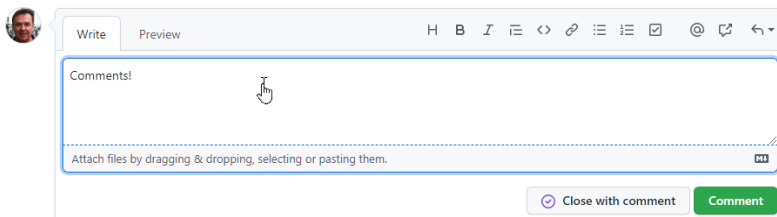
_2. For *Measure*, select **Maximum**



_3. For *KPI palette*, select **On**

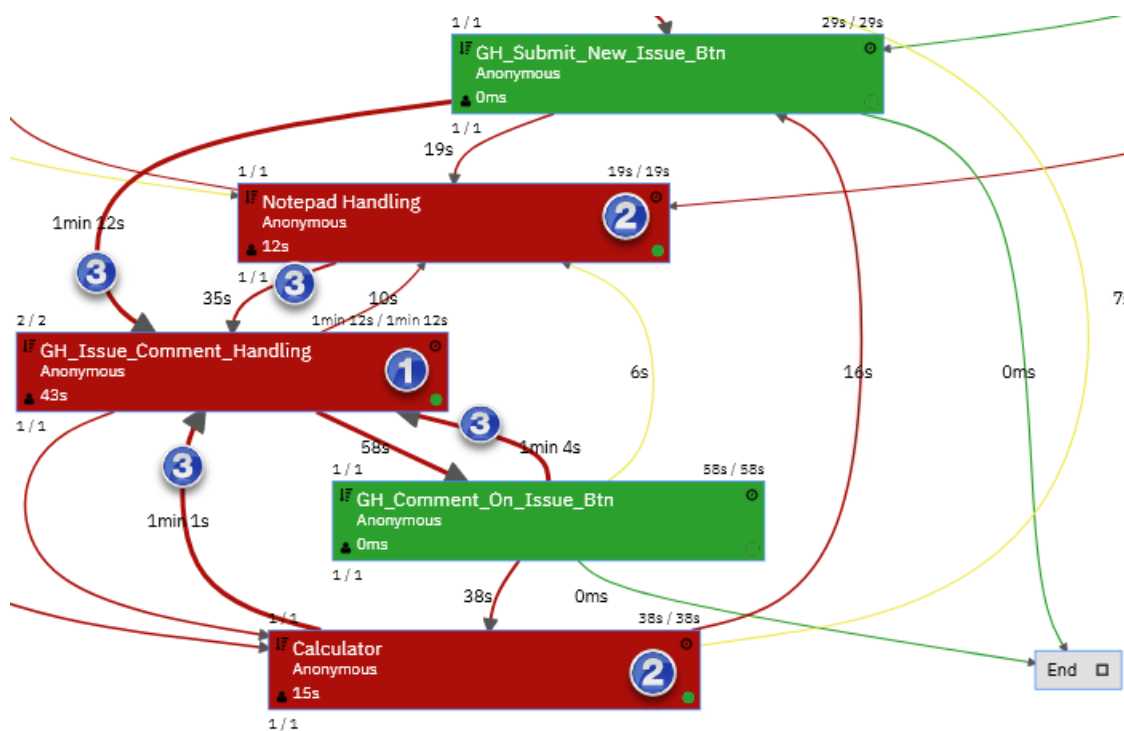


The red-colored transition and red-colored activities indicate that the duration KPI were exceeded. It appears that much time was spent working with Comments:

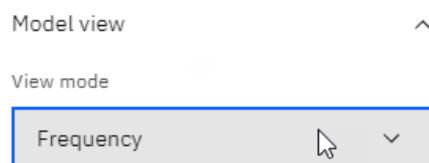


Specifically, in the following aspect of entering Comments after an issue was submitted:

1. Editing Comments
2. Time spent using the Calculator or Notepad when working on Comments
3. Just "thinking" before actually starting to edit a Comment



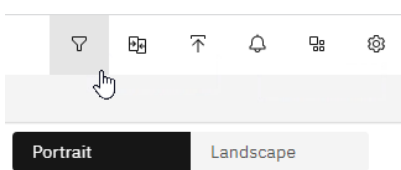
_4. Set the *View mode* to **Frequency**.



2.3.4 Find the "TM is cool" Case

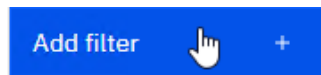
We will now use a Filter to find the Case representing your recording.


_1. Click **Filter** icon



_2. Click **Add filter +**

Manage filters



✔ Process analysis updated 

_3. For the *including events with attribute*, select **GH_Issue_Title**; for equal to choose **TM is cool** and then click **Add filter**

2. Define filter details [Reset filter](#)

Filter to include matched cases ▾ and to match anywhere ▾

including events with attribute

GH_Issue_Title ✔

×

▾

equals to

TM is cool ✔


×

▾

Additional options

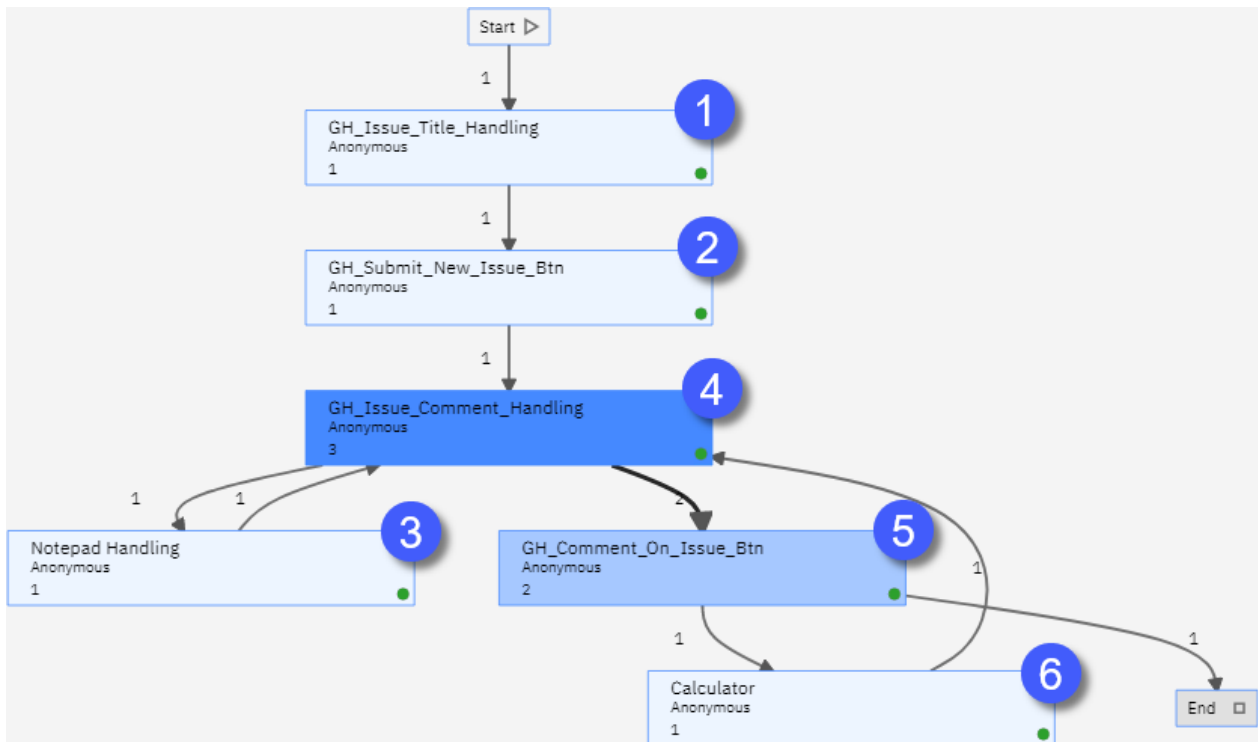
☐ Consider only cases with the selected attribute value happening in a specific timespan

Cancel

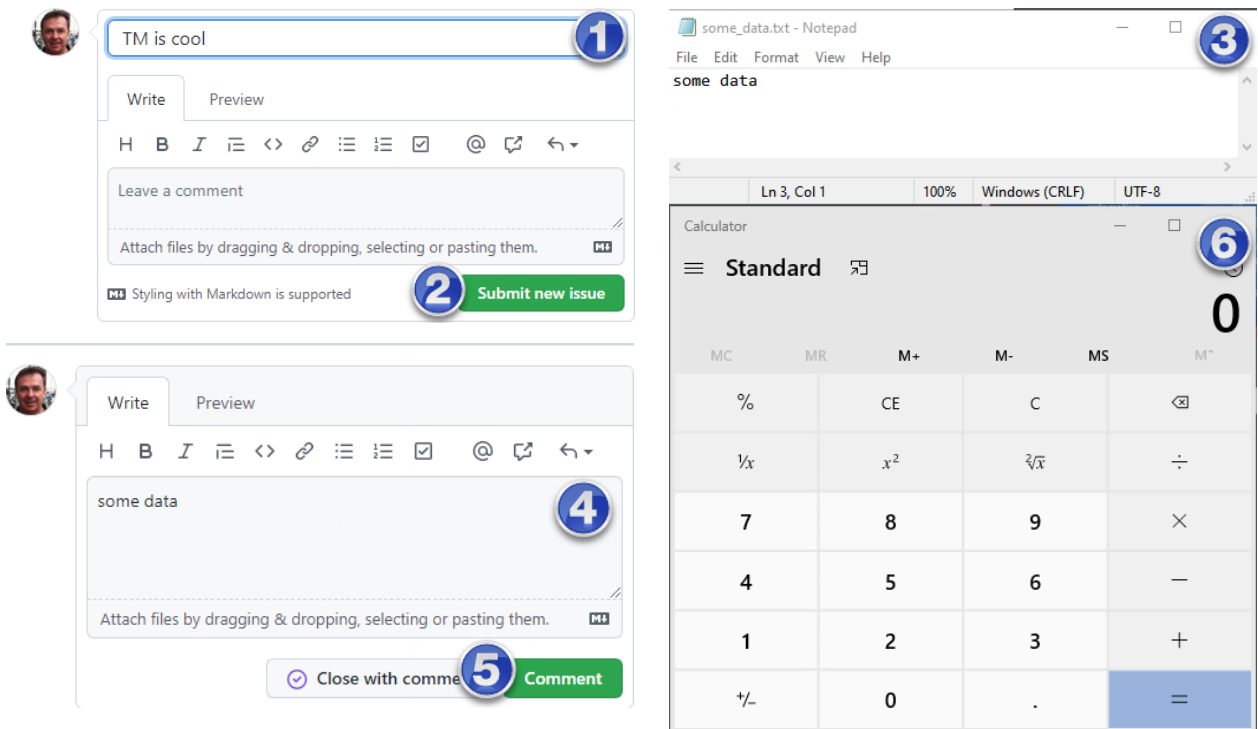
Add filter 

Let's examine what was recorded when you created the "TM is cool" issue and how the desktop actions you recorded were rendered as a Process in IBM Process Mining.

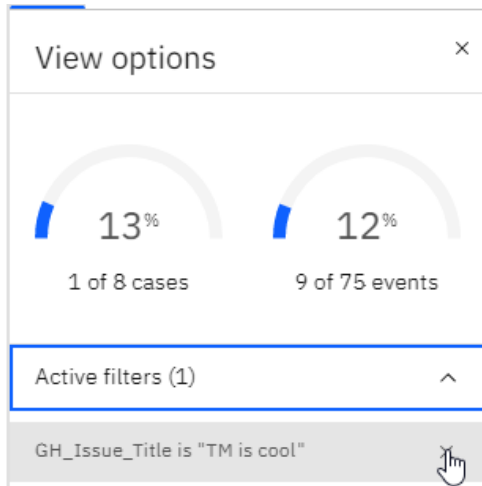
Activities Rendered in Process Mining



Desktop Actions

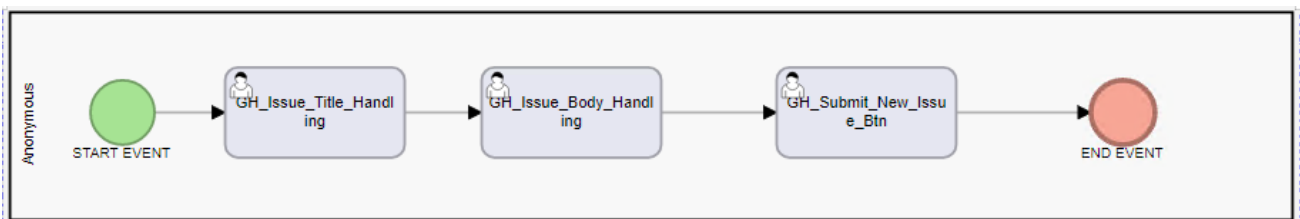


_1. Click **X** on *GH_IssueTitle is "TM is cool"*



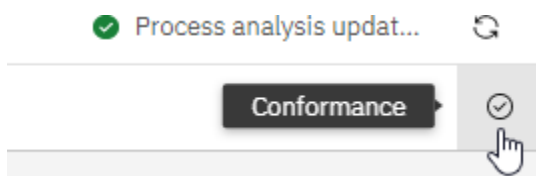
2.3.5 Conformance Analysis

Conformance Analysis is used to determine the deviations from a reference model. The reference model represents the ideal use case for opening new GitHub Issues and is defined using BPMN notation, as shown below:



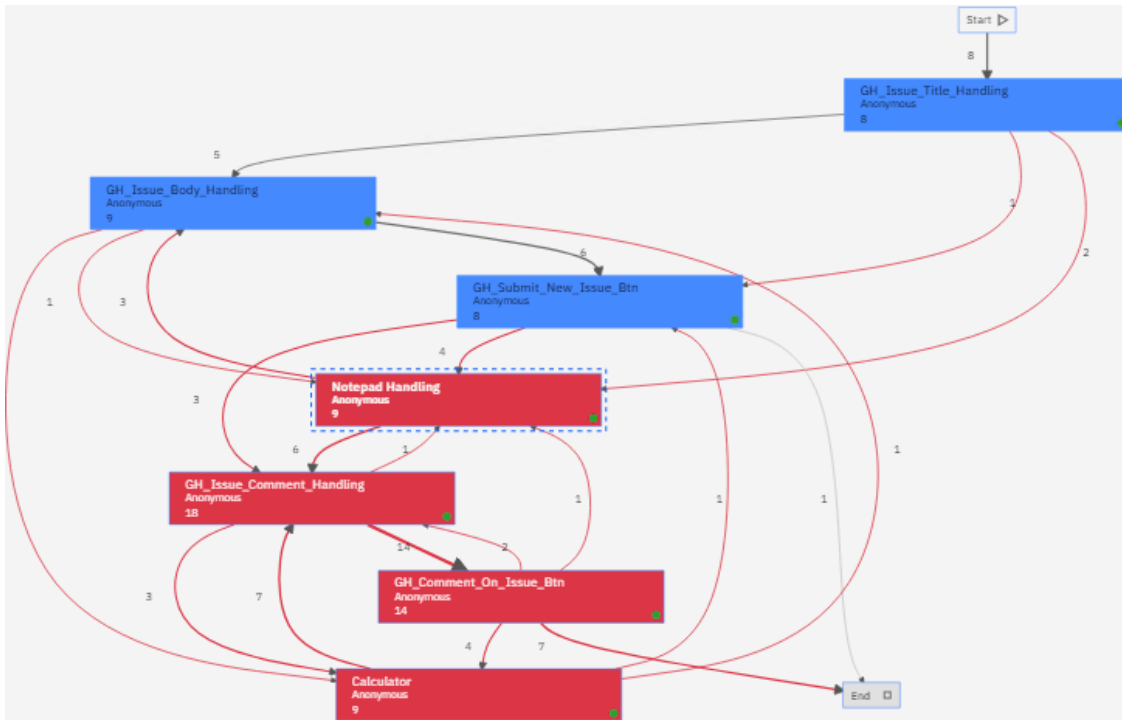
The Reference Model (ideal situation) tells us that the user opening a new GiyGun issue should define the issue title, fill in the issue detail, and click the New Issue button! That is all! Just three steps.

_1. Click the **Conformance** icon.



_2. Examine the Model Conformance diagram.

The View displays (in red) unexpected activities and unexpected transitions.



_3. Examine the Model Conformance summary.

Note that: (1) only 1 Case was conformant; (2) the average cost of non-conformant Case was EUR 15 versus EUR 2 for conformant; (3) the average duration of non-conformant Case was 2 mins 58 s versus 59 s for conformant.

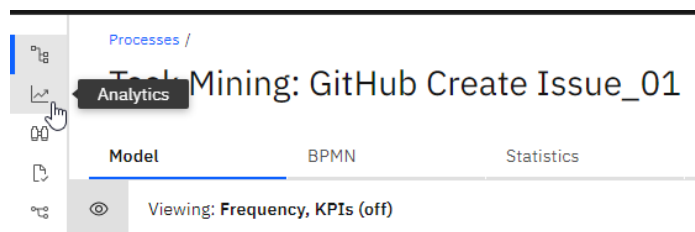
Model conformance				
Model view options		Similarity	Fitness	
<input type="radio"/> Data derived model		45%	100%	
<input type="radio"/> Reference model				
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Compare both models		Maximum fitness	Minimum fitness	
		100%	100%	
Conformant cases				
		Conformant	Non-conformant	
Number of cases	1	7		
Steps per case	3	10		
Case cost (EUR)	2.00	15.00		
Average case lead time	59 s	2 mins 58 s		

2.4 Examine Custom Process Mining Dashboard

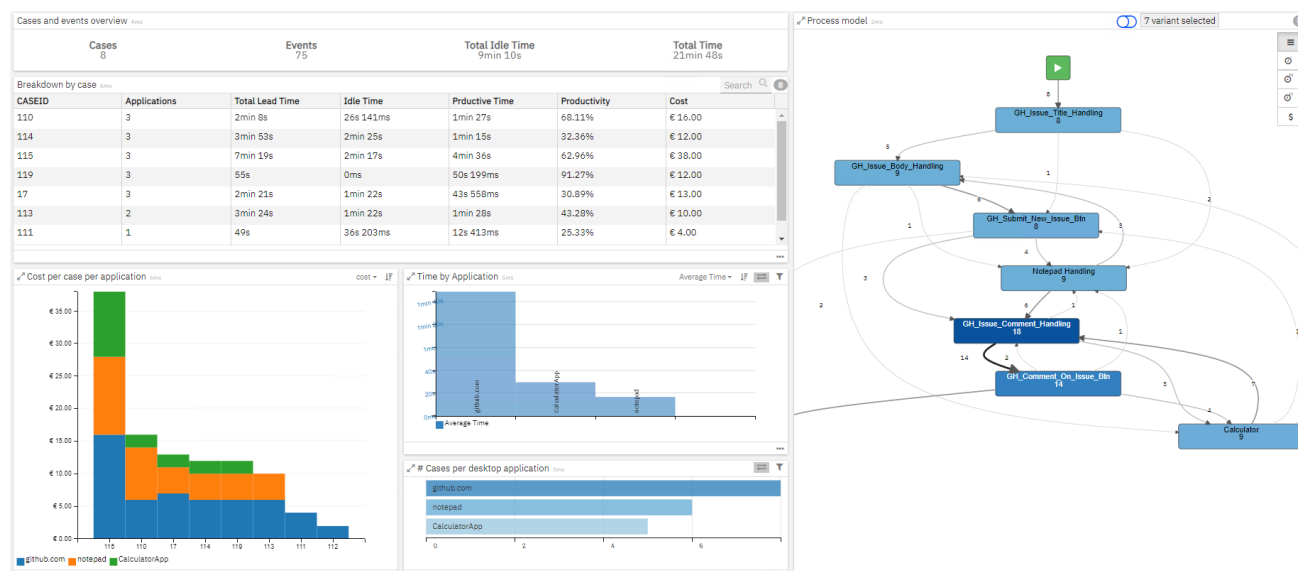
We will examine a custom Dashboard showing a summary of the desktop activities involved in creating GitHub Issues.

2.4.1 Open Dashboard

_1. Click the **Analytics**



You should now see the *GitHub Issues – Custom Dashboard*!



2.4.2 Use "GitHub Issues – Custom Dashboard" to Gain Insights

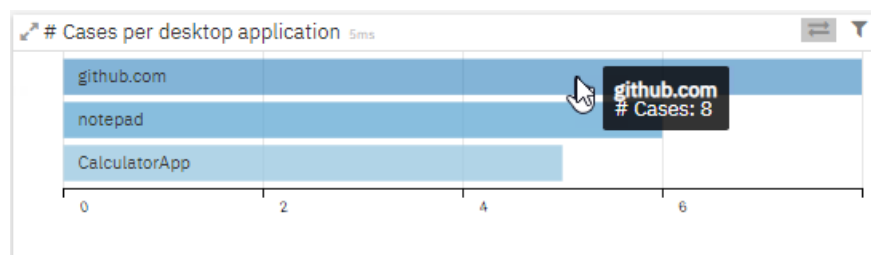
This custom dashboard includes several charts which can be used to analyze the desktop activities involved in opening new GitHub Issues.

The key metrics we want to:

- Explore the Use of the Calculator App
- Explore the Cost of Issue Creation
- Time Study of Applications Involved in Issue Creation

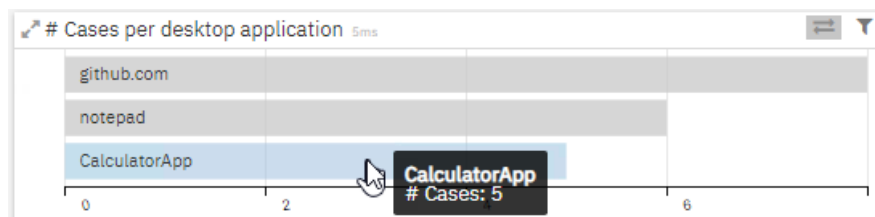
2.4.2.1 Explore the Use of the Calculator App

_1. Take a look at the Cases per desktop application Chart

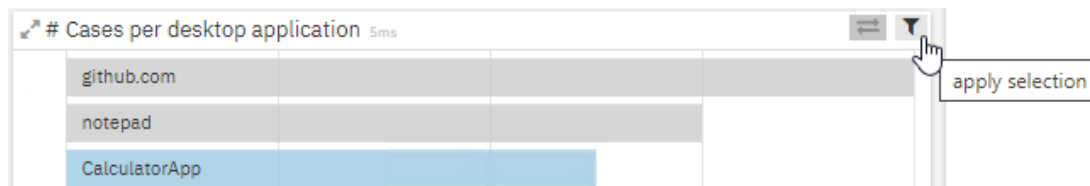


We can see that all 8 Cases used github.com (which is obvious), but not all used Calculator or Notepad.

_2. Click the **CalculatorApp** ba

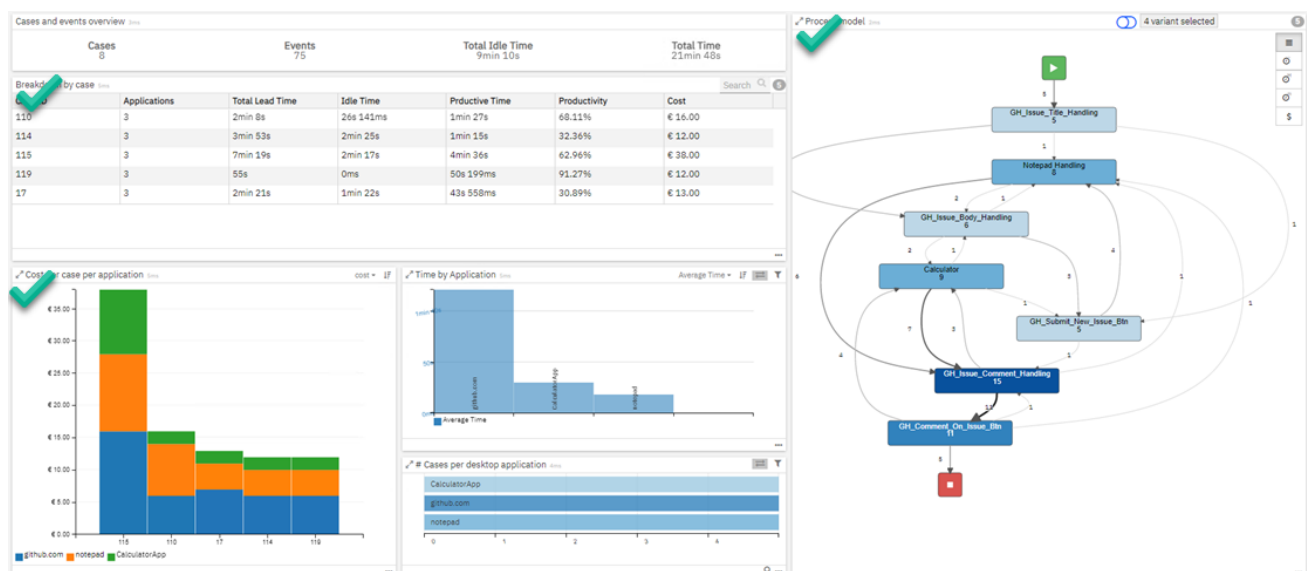


_3. Click **apply selection** **Filter** icon

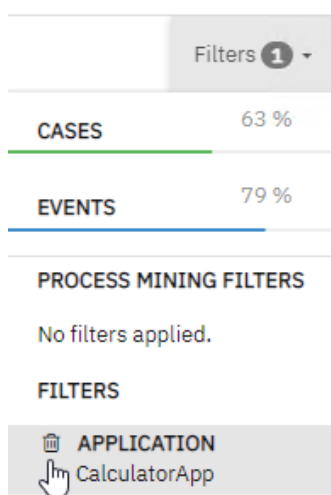


Note that now you see only Cases in which the Calculator App was used!

_4. Examine **Breakdown by Case** and **Cost per Case per application Charts** (they now include only 5 cases) and **Process model** Chart (it now displays only 4 variants)



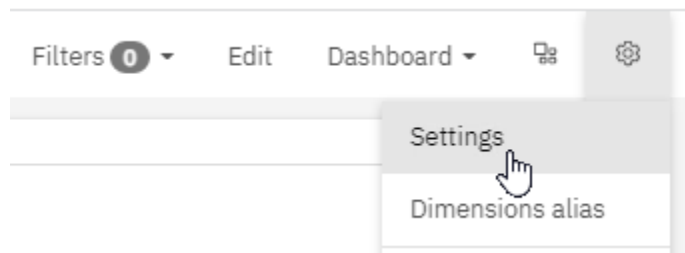
_5. In the **Filters**, and then click the **Garbage Can** to remove the **CalculatorApp** filter.




2.4.2.2 Explore the Cost of Issue Creation

The first step in performing the cost analysis is to configure *Activity costs*.

_1. Select **Settings**

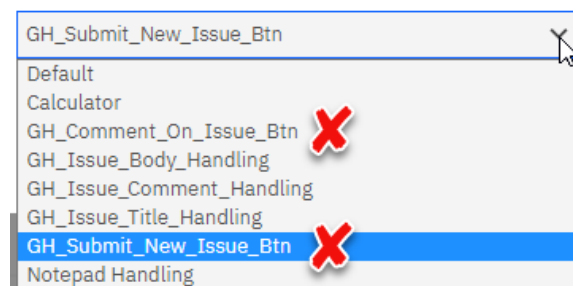


_2. Click Activity costs

KPI settings		Project settings		Activity costs		Work time		Resource costs		Role costs		End Activities		Simulation			
Profile				Value				Manual / Auto				End date					
GH_Issue_Comment_Handling				EUR 2.00				both									
GH_Issue_Body_Handling				EUR 1.00				both									
Calculator				EUR 2.00				both									
Notepad Handling				EUR 4.00				both									
GH_Issue_Title_Handling				EUR 1.00				both									
Default				EUR 0.00				both									
														<div>Cancel</div>		<div>Update</div>	

Note that we have already configured various activity costs for you.

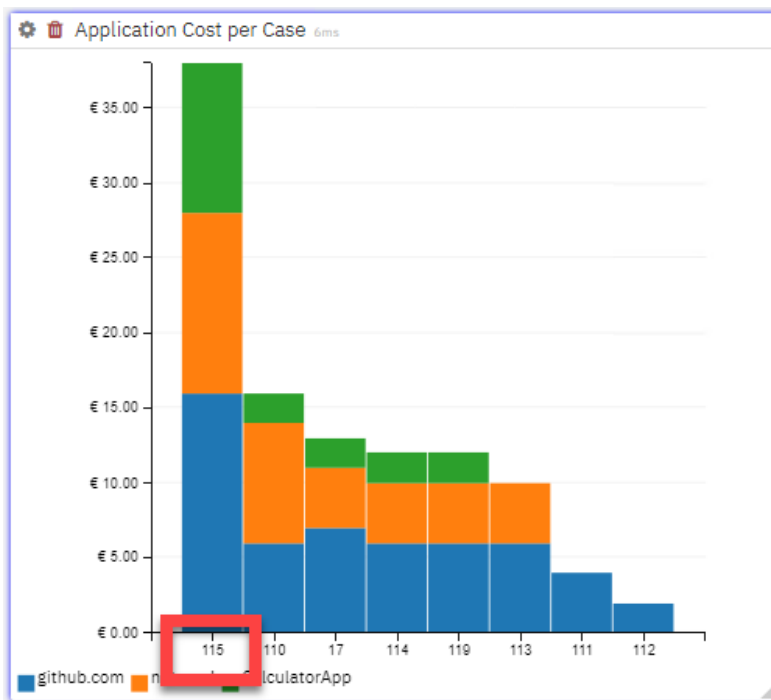
Also, note that we did not include activities representing button clicks. They do not have a real business meaning and were used only to capture desktop activities' start and stop events.



_3. Click the **Cancel** to close the *Settings Window*.



_4. Examine the *Application Cost per Case* Chart.



This Chart can be used to determine the costliest Case and most costly application. The Y-axis represents the costs, and the X-axis represents a Case. You can see how a Case cost is split between the three applications we used to open a new GitHub Issue.

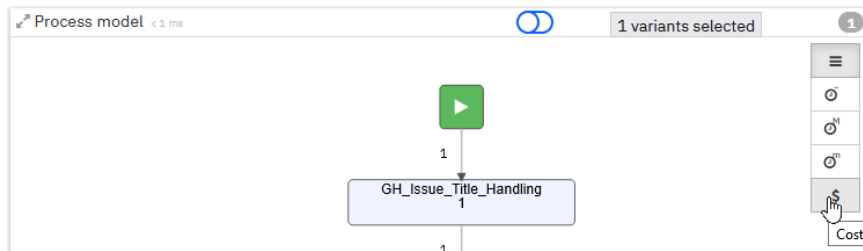
Note that the Case with CASEID 115 is the costliest!

_5. In the *Breakdown by case* chart, click the **row with CASEID 115**

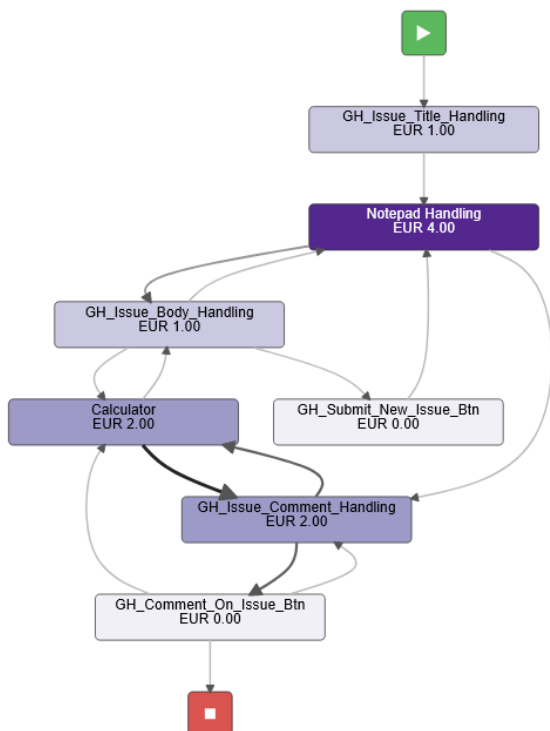
CASEID	Applications	Total Lead Time
110	3	2min 8s
114	3	3min 53s
115	3	7min 19s
119	3	55s

Note, this action automatically applies a filter that can change most of the charts in the dashboard to include only the Case you selected.

_6. Switch to the **Process model** Chart and click the **\$ (Cost)** icon



You should now see the Cost View



Notice :

- The Noted Handling, Calculator, and GH_Isse_Commnet_Handling are the costliest activities (indicated by dark activity color)
- The activities are repeated multiple times
- The GitHub Issue Creation included 4 steps: Providing the GitHub Issue title, Typing the content of the GitHub Issue Body, and Addition of three comments

If you scrutinize the Process diagram, you can see what the user did to create this GitHub Issue:

Provided GitHub Issue Title

- GH_Issue_Title_Handling > Notepad Handling

Typed the content of the GitHub Issue Body

- GH_Issue_Body_Handling > Notepad Handling > GH_Issue_Body_Handling > Calculator
- GH_Issue_Body_Handling
- GH_Submit_New_Issue_Btn

Added Comment 1

- Notepad Handling > GH_Issue_Comment_Handling

- GH_Comment_On_Issue_Btn

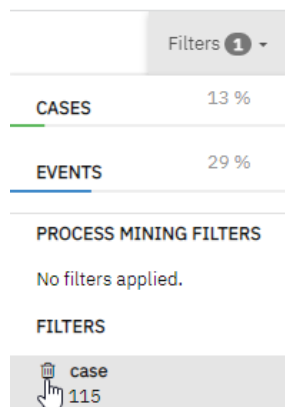
Added Comment 2

- GH_Issue_Comment_Handling > Calculator > GH_Issue_Comment_Handling > Calculator > GH_Issue_Comment_Handling
- GH_Comment_On_Issue_Btn

Added Comment 3

- Calculator > GH_Issue_Comment_Handling > Calculator > GH_Issue_Comment_Handling
- GH_Comment_On_Issue_Btn

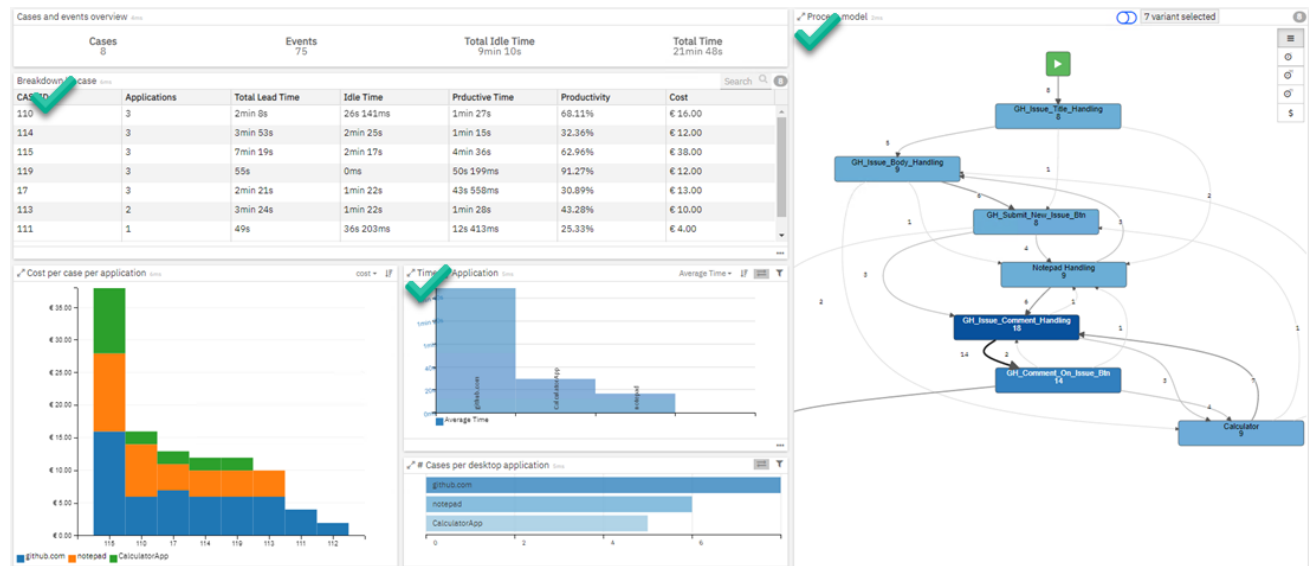
_7. In the *Filters*, and then click the **Garbage Can** to remove the **115** filter.



_8. Click the **Garbage Can** to delete the **APPLICATION** filter in the *Filters Chart*.

2.4.2.3 Time Study of Applications Involved in GitHub Issue Creation

We will use the following three charts: *Breakdown by case*, *Time by application*, and *Process model* to conduct a time study to identify bottlenecks and applications contributing to high Lead Time and Idle Time.



_1. Let's examine the contents of the **Breakdown by case** Chart that can be helpful in a time study.

Breakdown by case 4ms							Search
CASEID	Applications	Total Lead Time	Idle Time	Productive Time	Productivity	Cost	
110	3	2min 8s	26s 141ms	1min 27s	68.11%	€ 16.00	
114	3	3min 53s	2min 25s	1min 15s	32.36%	€ 12.00	
115	3	7min 19s	2min 17s	4min 36s	62.96%	€ 38.00	

CASEID – identifies the Case. Your recording created CASEID 8.

Applications – show how many applications were in a Case (Calculator, Notepad, github.com).

Total Lead Time – shows the time from the start of a Case until its conclusion. It tells us how long it took to open a GitHub Issue.

Idle Time – is when the user has not been active on the pages/windows associated with the Case during the execution of the Case itself. This metric tells us if a user was distracted or needed a lot of "think time" when opening a GitHub Issue.

Productive Time – is the opposite of Idle Time. This is when the user is typing or using the mouse.

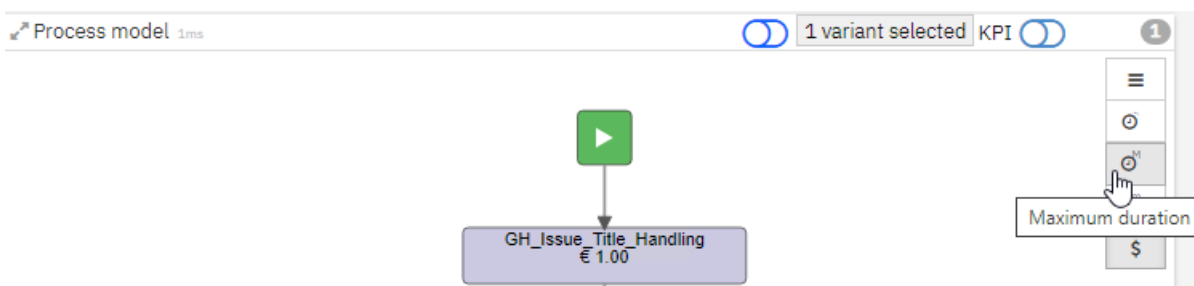
Productivity – Productive Time / Total Lead Time. A high percentage indicates a high idle or think time.

_2. Click on the row with **CASEID 17** (the Case you just recorded) to create a filter showing only the data for this Case.

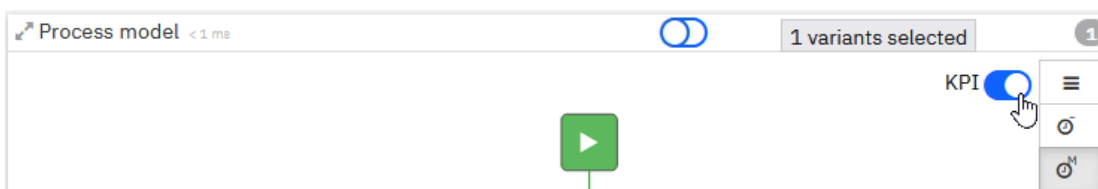
Breakdown by case 8 ms							Search
CASEID	Applications	Total Lead Time	Idle Time	Productive Time	Productivity	Cost	
1	3	55s	0ms	50s 199ms	91.27%	EUR 12.00	
2	3	2min 8s	26s 141ms	1min 27s	68.11%	EUR 16.00	
6	3	3min 53s	2min 25s	1min 15s	32.36%	EUR 12.00	
7	3	7min 19s	2min 17s	4min 36s	62.96%	EUR 38.00	
8	3	1min 47s	10s 92ms	1min 10s	65.52%	EUR 15.00	
5	2	3min 24s	1min 22s	1min 28s	43.28%	EUR 10.00	
3	1	49s	36s 203ms	12s 413ms	25.33%	EUR 4.00	

We will now examine the **Process model** Chart to understand the root cause of the Lead Time and Idle Time we observed in Case 17.

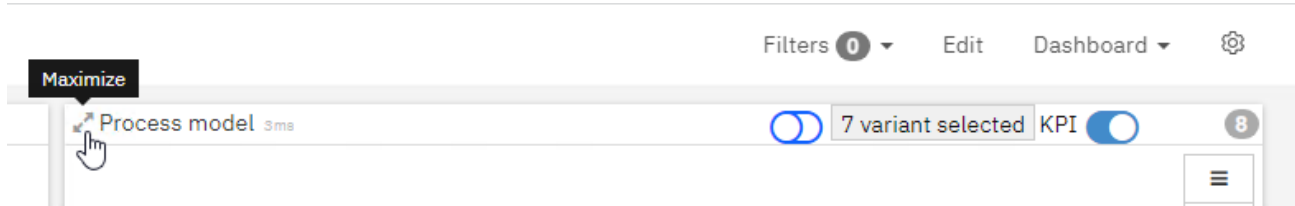
_3. In the *Process model* chart, click the **Maximum duration** icon.



_4. Switch on the **KPI** toggle

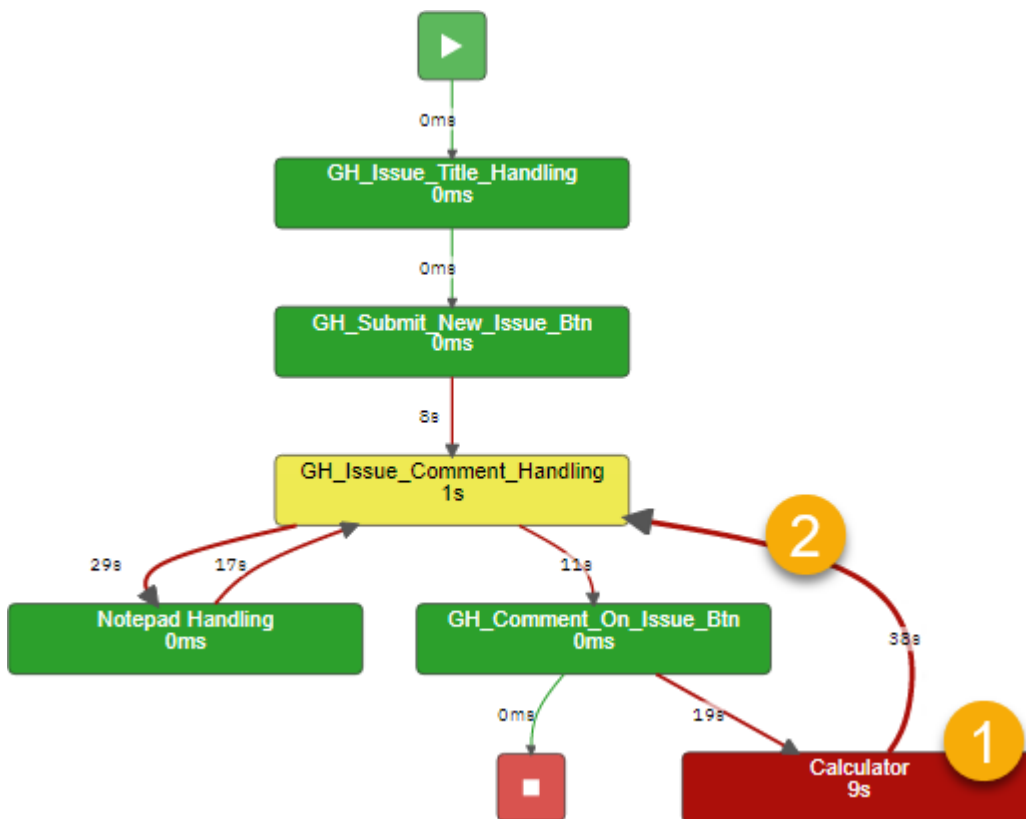


_5. Click **Maximize** and move the flow diagram to the center of the Process model widget.



_6. Let's examine the **Process model** chart showing the **Maximum Duration** values.

Note that your time values or the sequence of Activities may differ depending on how well you followed the lab instructions. 😊



1. The duration values inside activities tell us how much time was spent performing an activity. For example, the user spent 9 seconds working with the Calculator App.
2. The transition duration values tell us how much time it took between activities. For example, it took the user 38 seconds to switch from Calculator App back to the Comment area in the GitHub Issues web page.

3 Lab Summary

In this lab, you explored the newly re-designed in v1.14 Task Mining feature of IBM Process Mining by performing the following:

1. First, you recorded opening a GitHub issue in the Windows desktop and examined the recorded desktop events in the Process Mining model.
2. Next, you examined the Process Model that includes the Cases recorded previously and the new Case you recorded in the first part of the lab.
3. Next, you examined a custom Dashboard showing a summary of the desktop activities involved in creating GitHub Issues.

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