Yoda Agile Project Management with GitHub

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Introduction

Yoda was developed during 2017/2018 at **Hewlett Packard Enterprise** to support **Agile Project planning** and execution for development of a new innovative product.

GitHub was already in place for source code versioning and issue tracking (for both bugs and new features).

The ambition was to **enhance GitHub** to become an **all-in-one solution** for Agile Project **Planning** and **Execution**.

Yoda augments GitHub by adding estimates and sprint planning to issues. Further, Yoda brings various tools for issue-reporting and management.

Yoda was Open-Sourced using an MIT license in January 2018.

Content

- Agile Project Management
- Stories, Features, Epics, ... in GitHub (issues)
- Sprints in GitHub (milestones)
- Story point estimation in Github Issues
- GitHub issue labelling convention
- Yoda Reporting Tools
 - Issue Time Statistics, CFD, Issue Exporter
- Yoda Agile Project Management Tools
 - Burndown Chart, Velocity Chart, Kanban Board
- Other Yoda tools
 - Milestone Manager, Label Manager, Admin, Task Copy
- Yoda Architecture

Agile Project Management

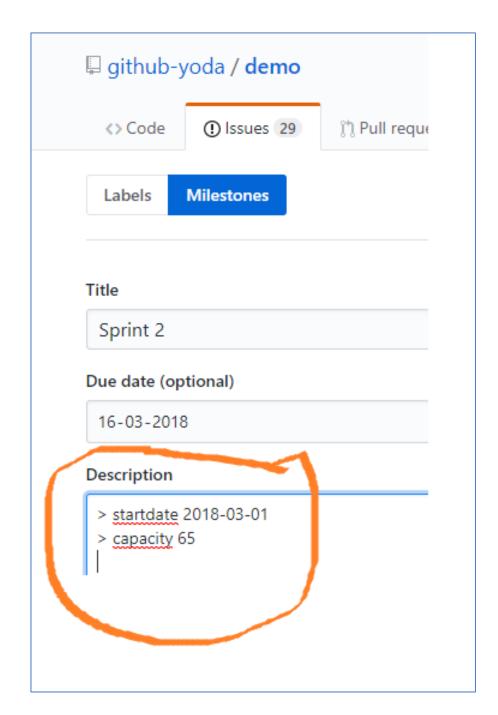
- Agile project management is becoming an industry de-facto standard
- Project- and product-development happens as a series of sprints.
- Software is **released** either at the end of each sprint, or every *n'th* sprints as a **product increment.**
- Sprints address (user) stories, which are estimates using story points.
- Often **SCRUM** methodology drives development.
- Different frameworks, e.g. **SAFe** (Scaled Agile Framework) add descriptions at higher level than (user) stories to capture required functionality (**Epics**, **Capabilities**, **Features**).

(User) Stories, etc. in GitHub

- GitHub issues can be used to represent (User) Stories and as well Epics, Capabilities, and Features
- GitHub Issues bring many relevant features for this, e.g.
 - Web UI, Markdown, graphics, discussions, assignments, labels, lists, file attachments, references, milestones, etc....
- GitHub issue references can be used to link descriptions (e.g. stories x and y required to implement Epic z gives references x < -> z and y < -> z).

Sprints in Github

- A **sprint** defines a time period (typically 2-4 weeks) in which a number of (user) **stories** (as broken down into tasks) are delivered.
- Yoda uses Github milestones for sprints
 - Milestones already have an end/due date.
 - Yoda expects to have as well a sprint start date
 - Optionally, a team sprint capacity figure (in story points)
- Milestones with matching titles across repositories are considered to be part of the same sprint.
 - This allows multi-repository sprint planning and tracking

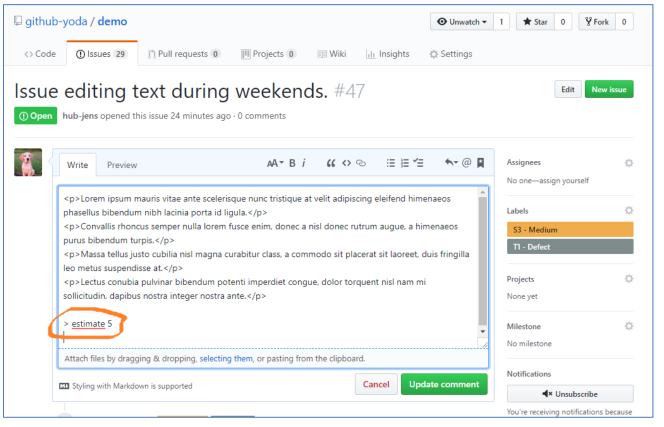


Story point estimation in Github Issues

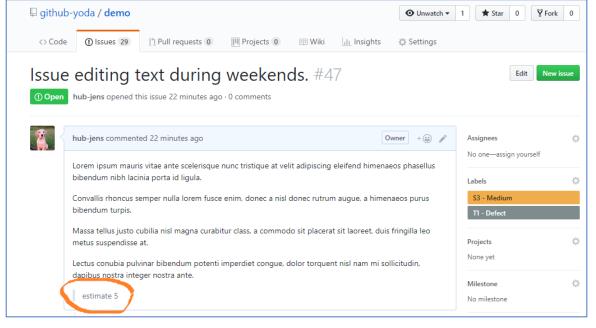
- Github issues for (User) Stories do not have a dedicated field to store estimates (story points).
 - Similarly, no **features** exists for **summing up estimates** (into milestones, projects, etc.)
 - This seems an obvious omission from GitHub
- Instead Yoda introduces **two options** for handling **estimates** into issues:
 - 1. As special text "> estimate (story points)", in the body (first comment) of the issue
 - 2. Using pre-defined fixed story point labels.
- If using labels, suggest to create labels with **Fibonacci-like** values (1,2,3,5,8,13,20,40) as typically done for Story Points.
- Yoda considers as well the remaining effort for an issue. If not provided, the remaining effort is assumed to be equal to the estimate while the issue is open, and zero when it is closed.
 - If using option 1 above (estimate into issue body), it is possible to specify as well one or more explicit remaining values using a "> remaining YYYY-MM-DD (story point value)" syntax.

Estimate example (body text)

Markdown "> estimate (story point)" format)

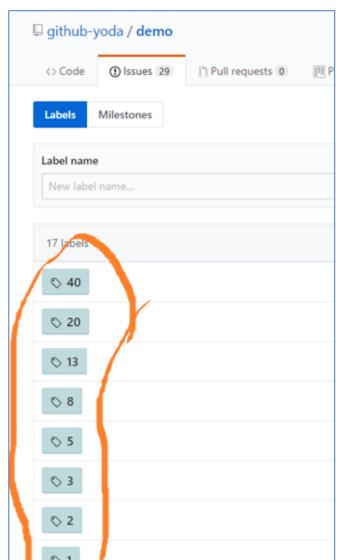


Resulting preview/HTML

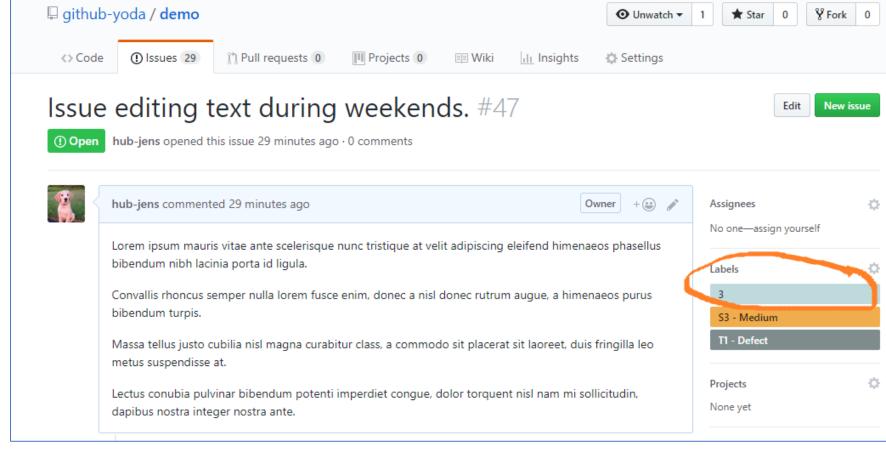


Estimate example (using labels)

Fibonacci Labels

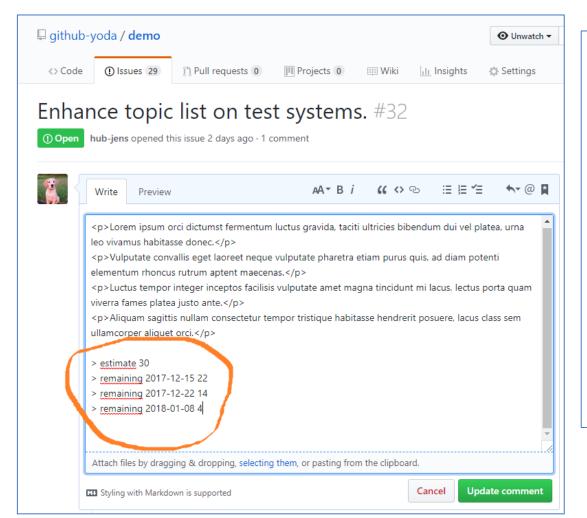


Issue with label estimate

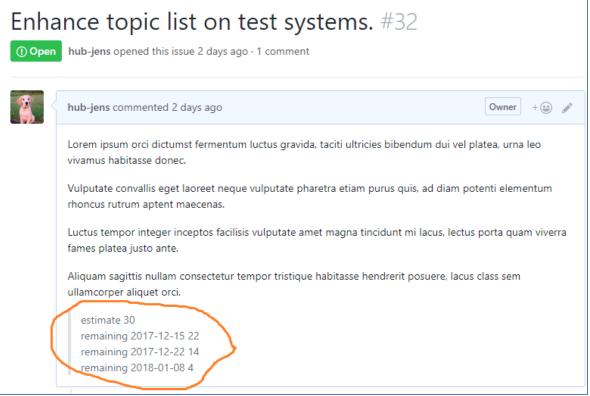


Remaining example

Markdown "> remaining YYYY-MM-DD (story point)" format)



Resulting preview/HTML



GitHub issue labelling convention

- To get maximum benefit from Yoda, it is important to be consistent on the use of labels. This is best done by having a labelling convention.
- Suggestion for a labelling convention is to assign to issues:
 - A **type label** (e.g. Defect, Enhancement, Tasks).
 - A severity label (e.g. Urgent, High, Medium, Low).
 - **Note:** These labels are mutually exclusive by convention not enforced by Github.
 - Optionally, use a prefix (e.g. T or S) for different label enumerations.

Example



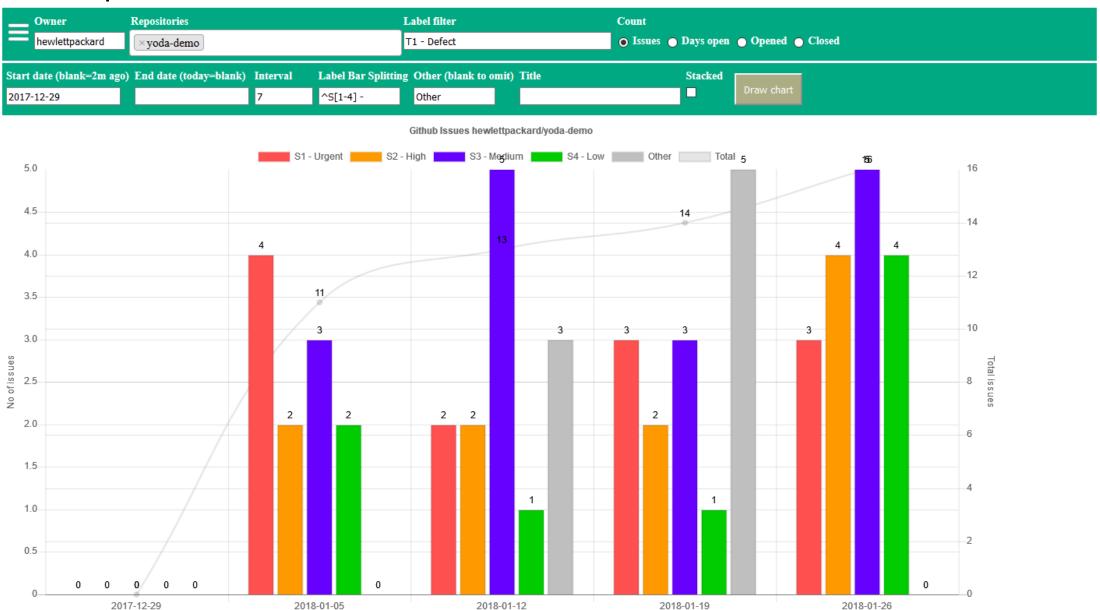
Yoda Reporting Tools

Issue Time Statistics, CFD, Issue Exporter

Issue Time Statistics

- This report shows open GitHub issues over time in a bar-chart
- Scope can be issues in the entire organization, or one- or multiple repositories
- Issues can be **split** into different **bars** based on **labels** (e.g. Severity)
- Issue label filters can be applied
- Start- and end-dates, reporting interval, etc. can be adjusted
- Optionally, number of opened or closed reports during an interval can be reported instead of # of open issues.

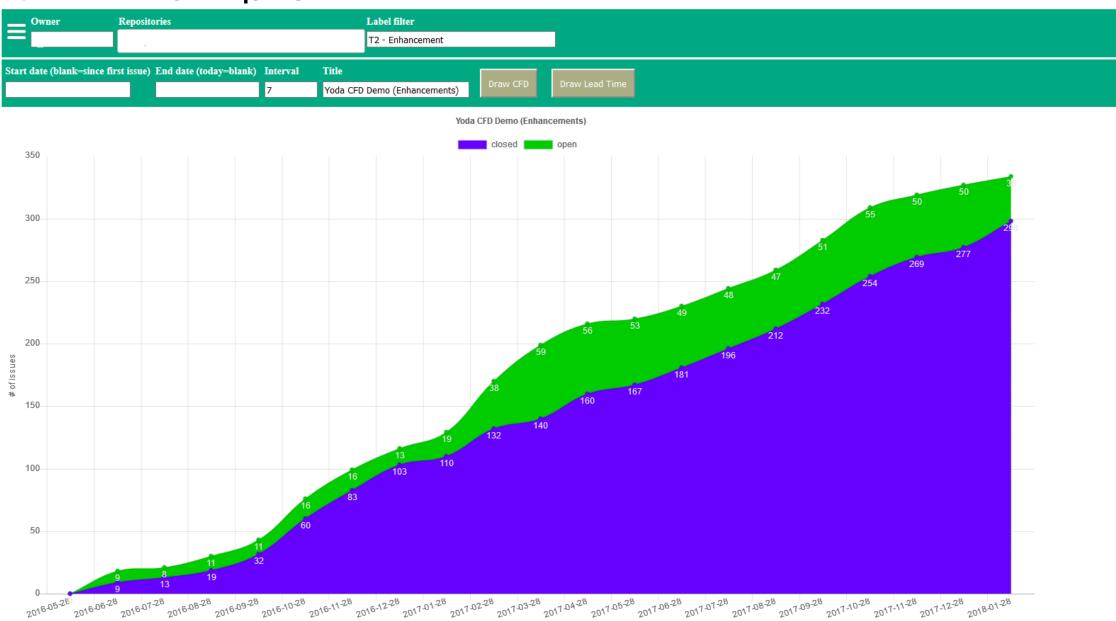
Example: Issue Time Statistics



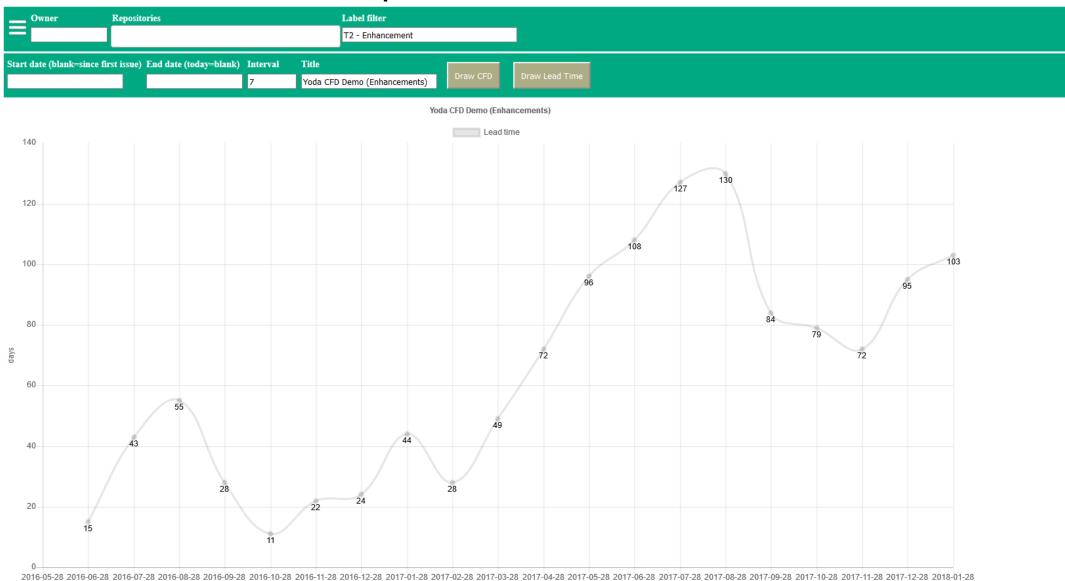
CFD (Cumulative Flow Diagram)

- A CFD shows cumulative number of issues over time split by state (open/closed)
 - Normally CFD charts may consider more than just two states (e.g. Open, In design, in development, in test, done/closed).
 - As GitHub only has two issue states (open and closed). **Yoda CFD only** uses these **two states**.
- Scope can be issues in the entire organization, or one- or multiple repositories
- Yoda can also draw the related lead-time graph.
 - This shows the average number of days an issue remained in the open state.

CFD Example



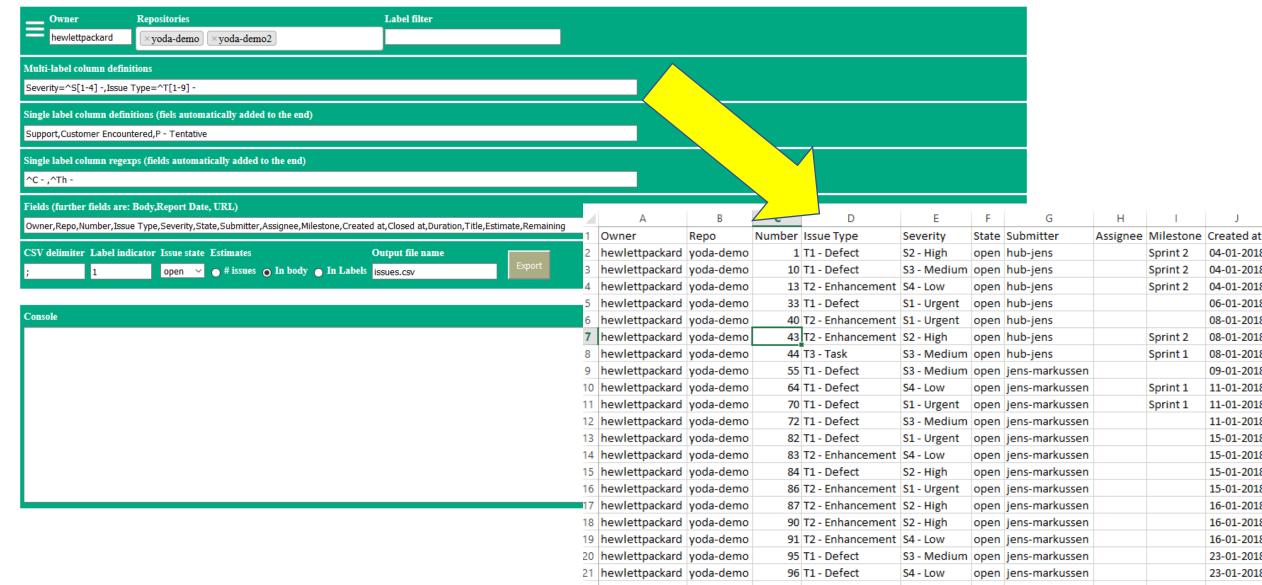
Lead Time Example



Issue Exporter

- Yoda Issue Exporter can **export issues** (all or filtered) to a **CSV file**, which can e.g. be **imported** into **Excel**.
- Exporter can export from a single repo, multiple repositories or across all repos for an entire GitHub Organization.
- Set of exported **fields** are **highly configurable**.
- The use of a good **labelling convention** helps (e.g. as the tool supports merging Severity labels into a **single column**).

Issue Exporter Example



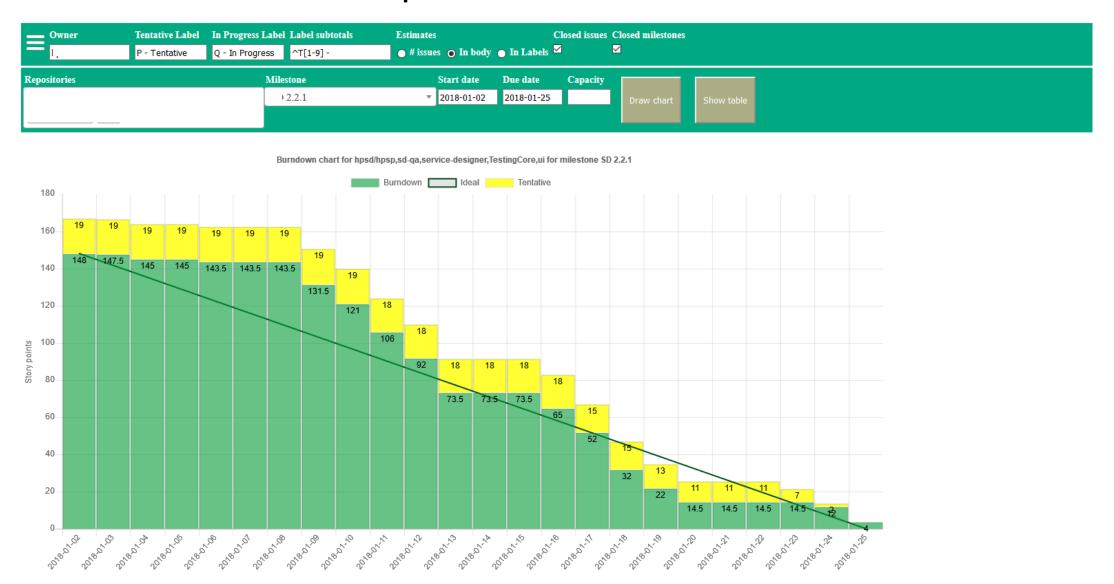
Yoda Agile Project Management Tools

Burndown Chart, Velocity Chart, Kanban Board

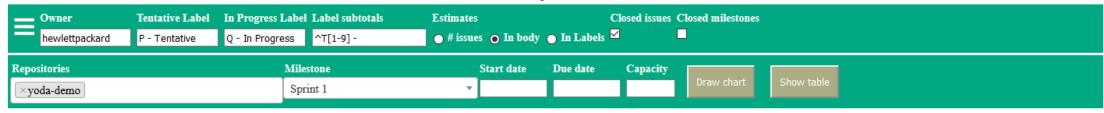
Burndown Chart

- A Burndown Chart is a bar chart showing the remaining effort over time for a given sprint
- An ideal burndown line is drawn for comparison
- Yoda uses remaining estimates (see earlier) for this purpose.
- Scope can be issues one- or multiple repositories. This allows cross-repository planning and tracking
- It is possible to attribute some issues as **tentative** (aka **stretch goal**). These will be drawn in Yellow on top of committed issues
- Yoda Burndown tools further includes a table view containing the relevant sprint issues and their planning data.

Burndown Example



Burndown Table Example



Issue Id (10)	Assignee	Tentative?	Туре	Issue Title	Estimate	Remaining	# Tasks	# Tasks done	Tentative	State
yoda-demo/42			T3 - Task	Unknown error updating topic list in Chrome browser.	6	0	0	0	0	closed
yoda-demo/44			T3 - Task	Problem editing text in Chrome browser.	3	3	0	0	0	open
yoda-demo/45			T3 - Task	[Sprint 1] Refill coke machine for developers	0	0	2	0	0	closed
yoda-demo/48			T3 - Task	[Sprint 1] Clear log files ahead of new sprint.	1	0	3	2	0	closed
yoda-demo/58			T1 - Defect	Issue drawing with mouse during weekends.	4	0	0	0	0	closed
yoda-demo/59			T2 - Enhancement	Discontinue system view on test systems.	4	0	0	0	0	closed
yoda-demo/64			T1 - Defect	Enhance boot process in editor.	7	7	0	0	0	open
yoda-demo/69			T1 - Defect	Issue updating topic list in Chrome browser.	5	0	0	0	0	closed
yoda-demo/70			T1 - Defect	Issue updating topic list during weekends.	5	5	0	0	0	open
yoda-demo/75			T2 - Enhancement	Allow boot process in editor.	6	0	0	0	0	closed
Grand Total					41	15	5	2	0	10
Subtotal	open				15	15	0	0	0	3
Subtotal	closed				26	0	5	2	0	7
Subtotal	In progress				0	0	0	0	0	0
Label subtotals										
Subtotal			T1 - Defect		21	12	0	0	0	4
CL4-4-1					12	12	0	0	0	1

Velocity Chart

- A velocity chart compares the team velocity across different sprints
- Over time, a velocity chart will help teams to set the correct capacity for upcoming sprints
- Scope can be issues one- or multiple repositories. This allows cross-repository planning and tracking
- Yoda does this by reporting per sprint
 - number of story points completed
 - story points per day
 - story points vs. predefined sprint capacity

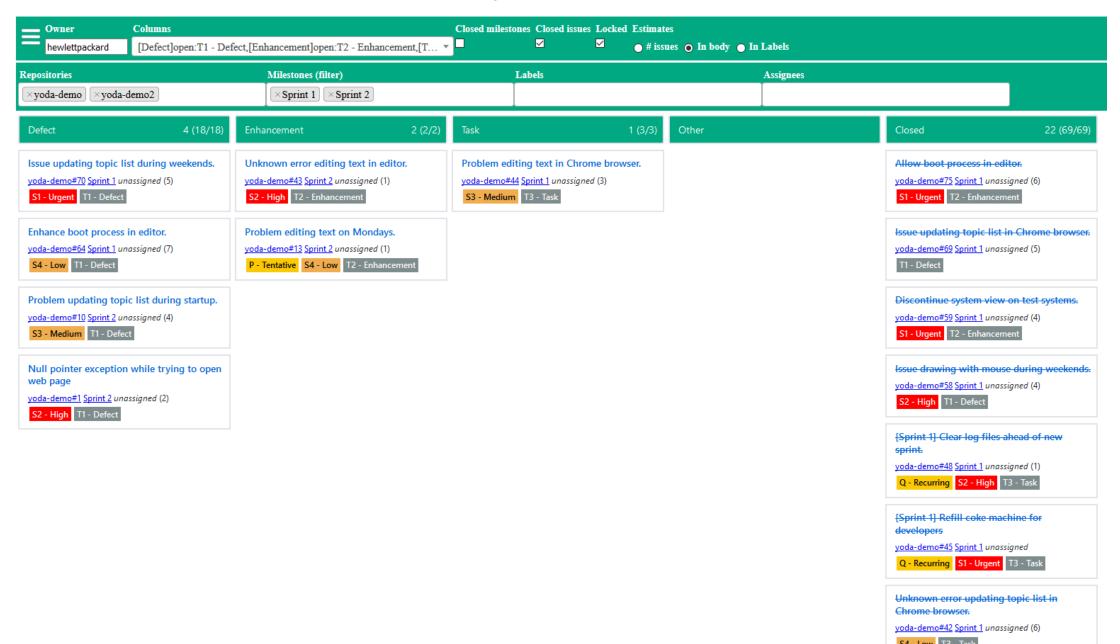
Velocity Chart Example



Kanban Board

- A Kanban Board shows sprint activities across various states, thus allowing an intuitive view of progress
- GitHub natively supports Kanban Boards as part of projects, where issues can be placed in configurable columns
- Yoda does not use this mechanism, but instead supports Kanban Board views of issues based on issue labels (e.g. Severities, defined Sub-states, issue types)
- Issues may be further filtered based on milestones, labels, and assignee
- Yoda Kanban boards can include **issues** from **multiple repos** inside the same organization.
- Drag and drop between columns change labels and can close (or reopen) issues
- Note: While Yoda Kanban boards provides label and state (open/closed) consistency, GitHub projects do not. Here issue to column is manually maintained.

Kanban Board Example



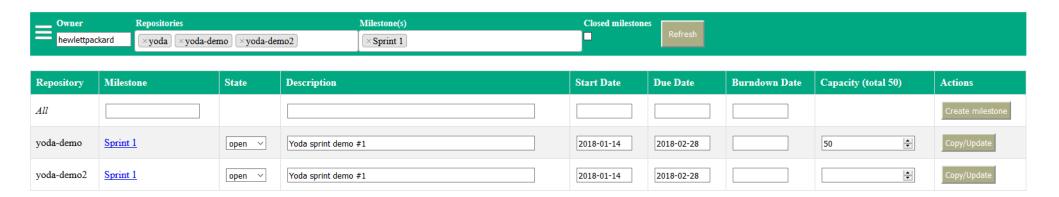
Other Yoda tools

Milestone Manager, Label Manager, Admin, Task Copy

Milestone Manager

- In support of managing sprints as a set of milestones across different repos, Yoda includes a milestone manager
- The milestone manager can create milestones automatically across several repositories
- Also, the tool can **synchronize sprint milestones** across repositories (updating e.g. due date in sync)

Milestone Manager Example



Label Manager

- In support of managing labelling conventions across different repos,
 Yoda includes a label manager
- The label manager can copy labels (all or some) from one repo to another.
- Label manager does not allow deletion of labels that are in use
- **Hint**: When creating a new repo, press "Delete all labels" to get rid of the standard GitHub labels. Next press "Copy all Labels" to get label definitions from your favorite repo.

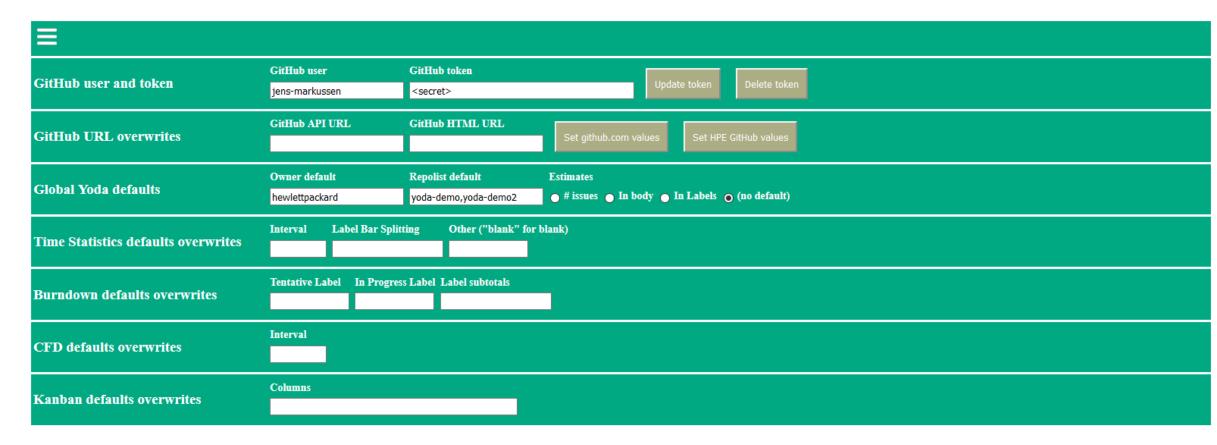
Label Manager Example



Admin

- The Yoda admin tool allows the user to store various defaults into the browser settings (localStorage)
- Most notably, the GitHub userId and personal access token should be set here.

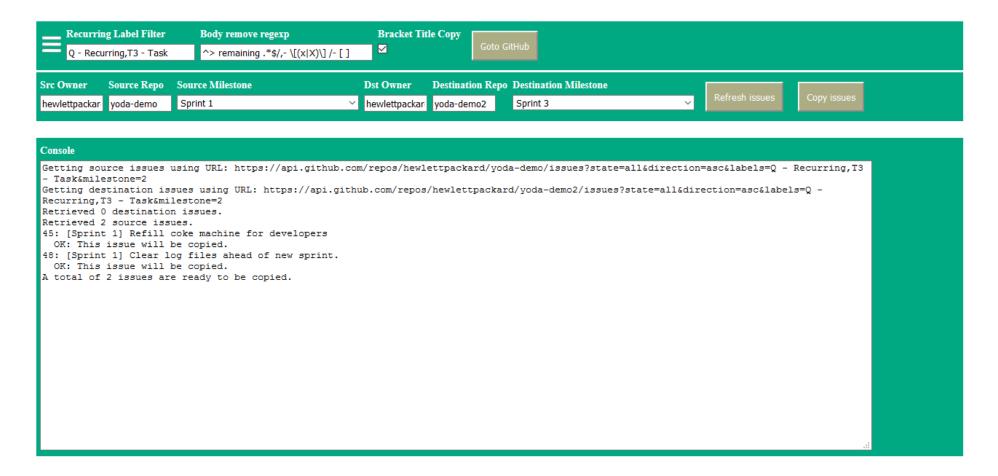
Yoda Admin Example



Task Copy

- When executing successive sprints, you may have recurring tasks that you need to execute for every sprint.
- These **tasks** should naturally be handled (including estimates) as GitHub **issues**.
- The task copy tool allows you to copy such tasks from one sprint (milestone) to the next.
- If such recurring issues include **tasks lists** (GitHub notation "– [x] text"), **check boxes** will be **cleared** in preparation for the next sprint (so "- [x]" will become "- []"

Task Copy Example



Yoda Architecture

Yoda Architecture

- Yoda has a very simple architecture based on a few key principles:
 - 1. All data will be kept in GitHub no auxiliary database will be used
 - Yoda executes exclusively in the browser. Yoda has no backend, apart from GitHub.
 - 3. Yoda communicates with GitHub using the standard API (version 3)
 - 4. Yoda tools are written using only **HTML** and **JavaScript**
 - 5. Yoda uses various **JavaScript libraries**, which are all pulled from the Internet at cdn.com.

Other key features:

 Yoda can run against any the default github.com instance or against any GitHub Enterprise instance.

Thank You