Yoda Agile Project Management with GitHub

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Introduction

Yoda was developed during 2017 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 (bugs and 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.

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Agile Project Management

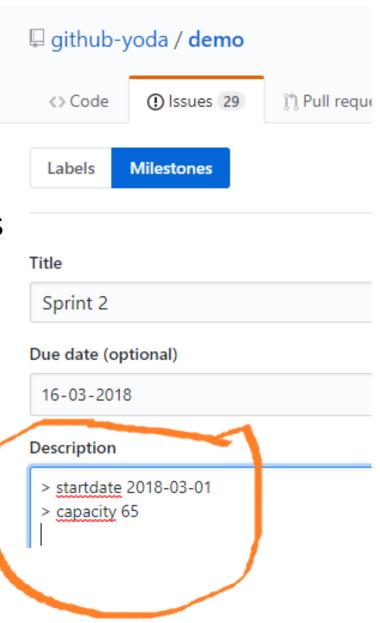
- Agile project management is becoming an industry de-factor standard
- Projects- and product- development happens as a series of sprints.
- Software is **released** either at the end of each sprint, or every *n'th* sprint as a **product increment.**
- Sprints address (user) stories, which are estimates 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

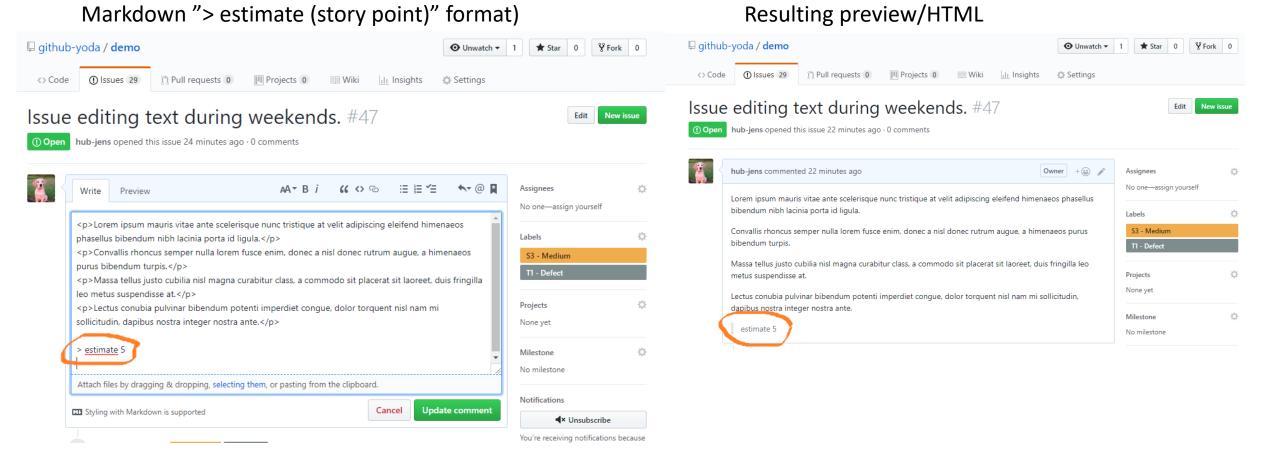
- A **sprint** defines a time period (typically 2-4 weeks) in which a number of user stories (as broken down into tasks) are delivered.
- Yoda uses Github milestones for sprints
 - Milestones already have an end/due date. Yoda expects to have as well a sprint start date and optionally, a story point capacity figure.



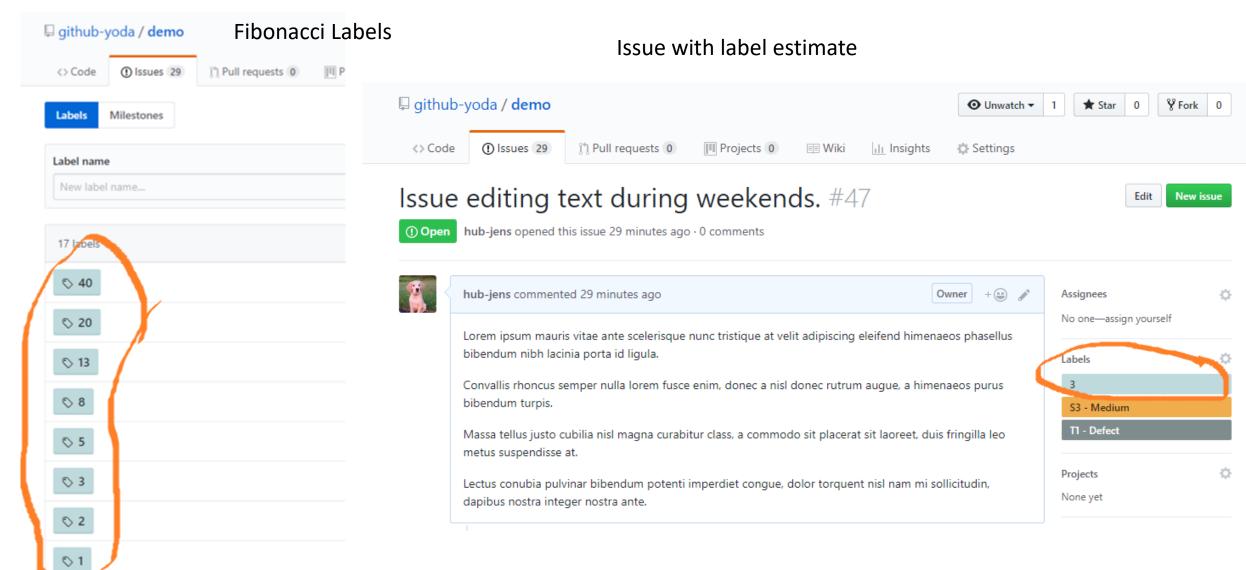
Story point estimation in Github Issues

- 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.)
- Instead Yoda introduces two options for handling estimates into issues:
 - 1. As special text inside the body (first comment) of the issue
 - 2. Using one of several 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. Default is to to set the remaining effort equal to the estimate while the issues is open, and to zero when the issues 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)



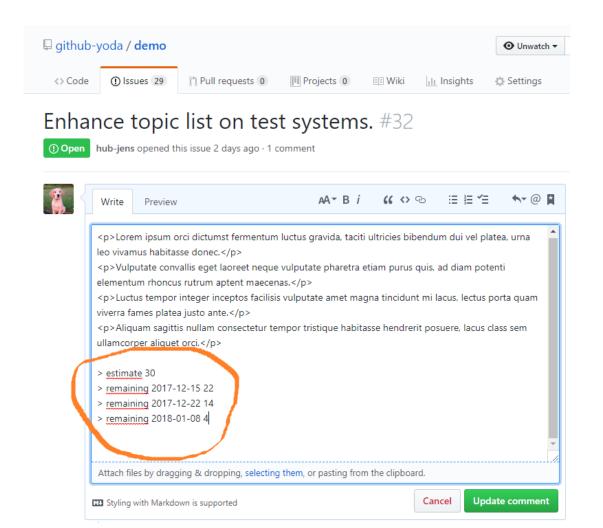
Estimate example (using labels)



Remaining example

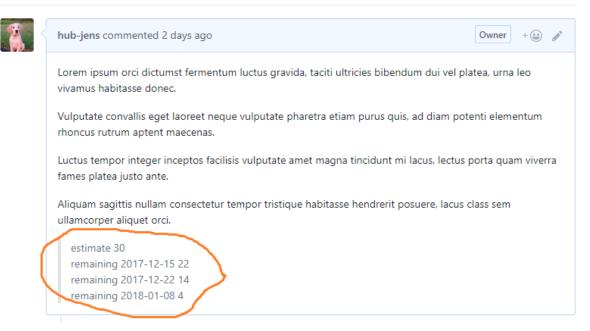
Markdown "> remaining YYYY-MM-DD (story point)" format)

Resulting preview/HTML



Enhance topic list on test systems. #32

① Open hub-jens opened this issue 2 days ago · 1 comment

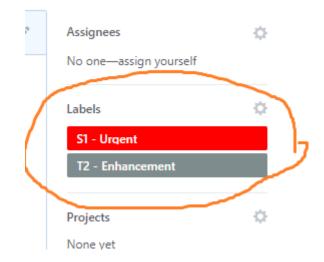


GitHub issue labelling convention

- To get maximum benefit from Yoda, it is important to be **consistent** on **use of labels**. This is best done by having a **labelling** conversion.
- 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, Medum, Low).
 - Note: These labels should are multually exclusive; not enforced by GitHub.

Example

• Optionally, use a prefix (e.g. T or S) for different kinds of labels.



Yoda Reporting Tools

Issue Time Statistics, CFD, Issue Exporter

Issue Time Statistics

- This report show open GitHub issues over time in a bar-chart
- 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.

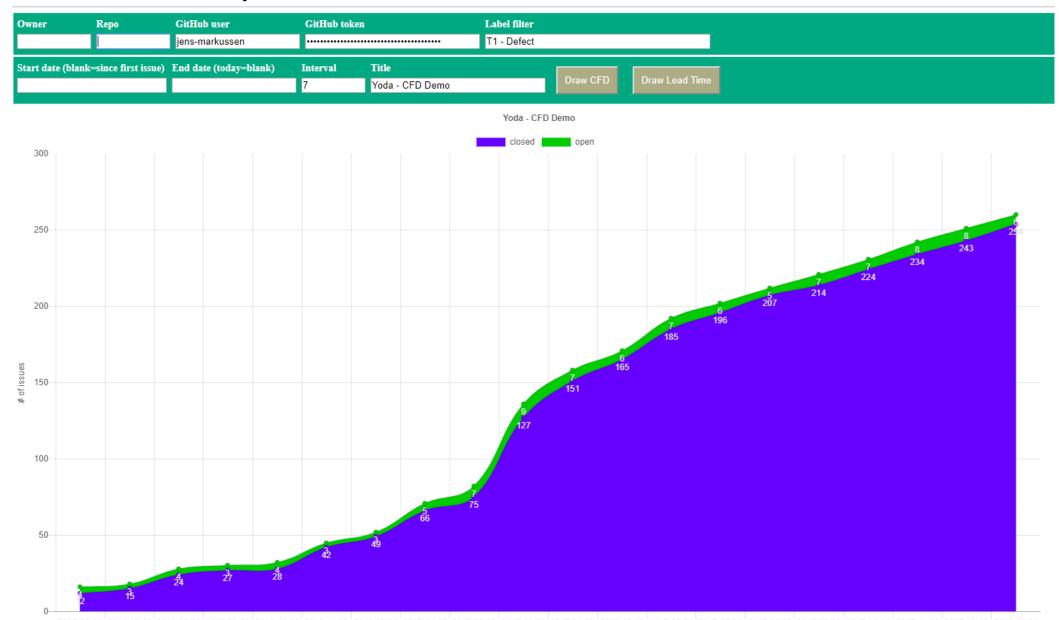
Example: Issue Time Statistics



CFD (Commulative Flow Diagram)

- A CFD shows aggregated 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 issues states (open and closd). **Yoda CFD only** uses these **two states**.
- 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



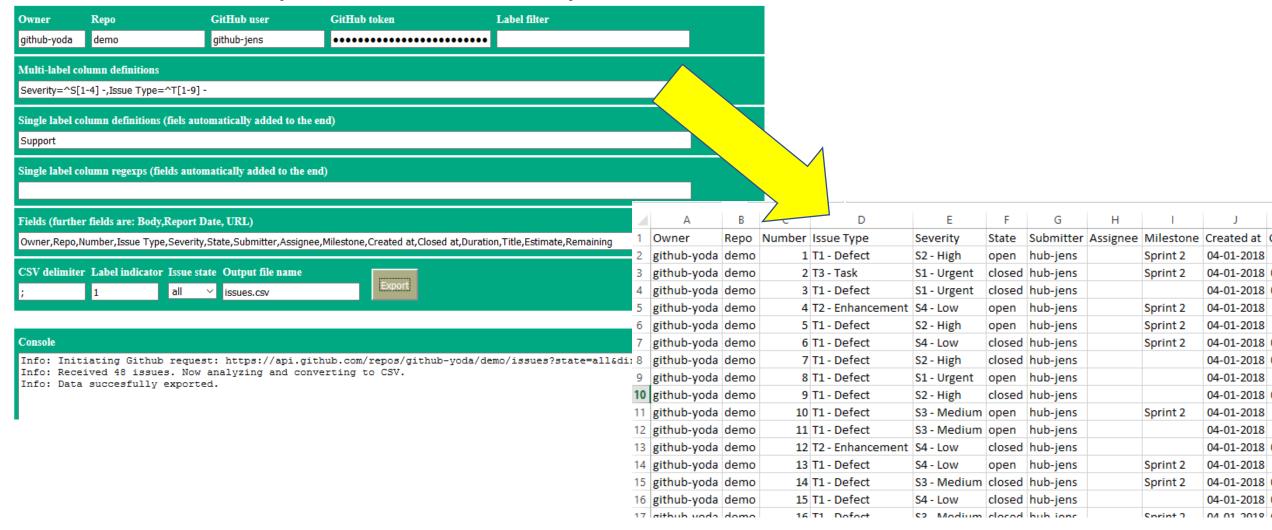
Lead Time Example



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**, or across repos for an **entire** GitHub **Organization**.
- Set of exported fields are highly configurable.
- The use of a good **labelling convention** helps (e.g. **merging** Severity labels into a **single column**).

Issue Exporter Example



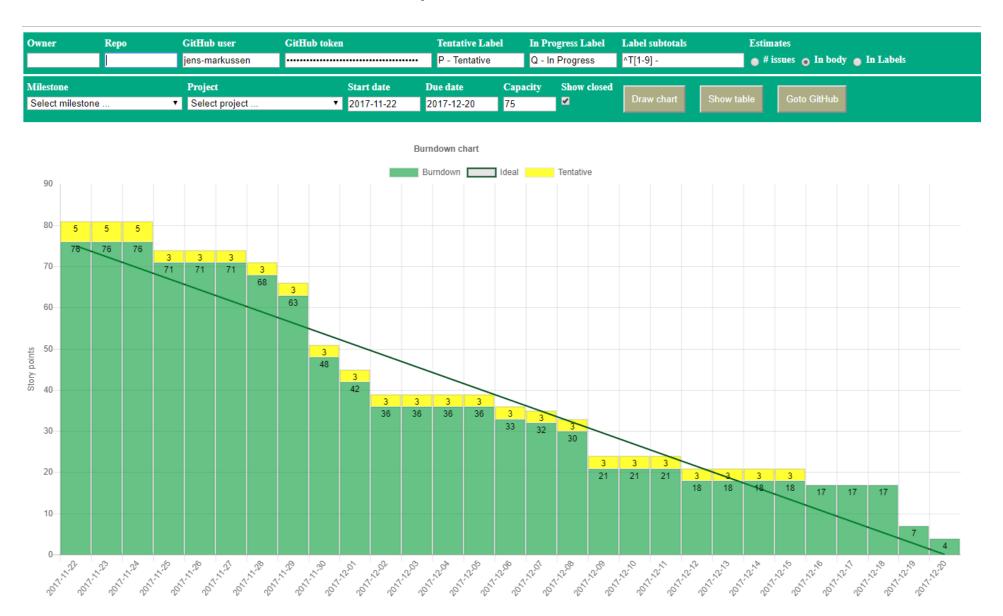
Yoda Agile Project Management Tools

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 ealier) for this purpose.
- 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

Owner R	Repo GitHub user	GitHub token	Tentative Label	In Progress Labe	el Label subtota	als E	stimates	
github-yoda d	demo github-jens	••••••	P - Tentative	Q - In Progress	^T[1-9] -		# issues O In body	y • In Labels
Milestone	Project	Start da	ate Due date	Capacity	Show closed			
Sprint 2	✓ Select project	t × 2018-0	3-01 2018-03-	-16 65	☑	Draw chart	Show table	Goto GitHub

Issue Id (11)	Assignee	Tentative?	Туре	Issue Title	Estimate	Remaining	# Tasks	# Tasks done	Tentative	State
demo/1			T1 - Defect	Null pointer exception while trying to open web page	2	2	0	0	0	open
demo/2		Yes	T3 - Task	Enhance Yoda Kanban board with horizontal scroll bars	0	0	0	0	0	closed
demo/4		Yes	T2 - Enhancement	Prevent multiple editors in editor.	0	0	0	0	8	open
demo/5			T1 - Defect	Error drawing with mouse on Mondays.	5	5	0	0	0	open
demo/6			T1 - Defect	Problem updating topic list in editor.	6	0	0	0	0	closed
demo/10			T1 - Defect	Problem updating topic list during startup.	4	4	0	0	0	open
demo/13		Yes	T1 - Defect	Problem editing text on Mondays.	0	0	0	0	1	open
demo/14			T1 - Defect	Problem rebooting PC on Mondays.	3	0	0	0	0	closed
demo/16			T1 - Defect	Problem while creating new objects in Chrome browser.	3	0	0	0	0	closed
<u>demo/18</u>			T1 - Defect	Unknown error while creating new objects in Chrome browser.	3	0	0	0	0	closed
demo/20			T1 - Defect	Problem drawing with mouse in Chrome browser.	3	3	0	0	0	open
Grand Total					29	14	0	0	9	11
Subtotal	open				14	14	0	0	9	6
Subtotal	closed				15	0	0	0	0	5
Subtotal	In progress				0	0	0	0	0	0

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
- Yoda does this by reporting per sprint
 - number of story points completed
 - story points per day
 - story points vs. sprint capacity

Velocity Chart Example

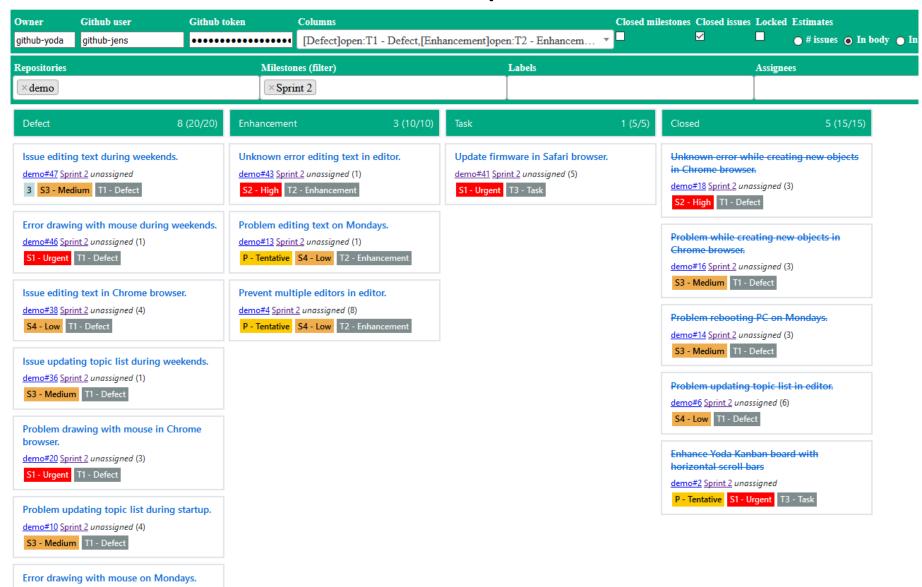


Kanban Board

- 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. Severies, defined Sub-states, issue types)
- Issue may be futher filtered based on milestones, labels, and assignee
- Yoda Kanban boards can include **issues** from **multiple repos** inside the same organisation.
- Drag and drop between columns change labels and can close (or reopen) issues

Kanban Board Example

demo#5 Sprint 2 unassigned (5)



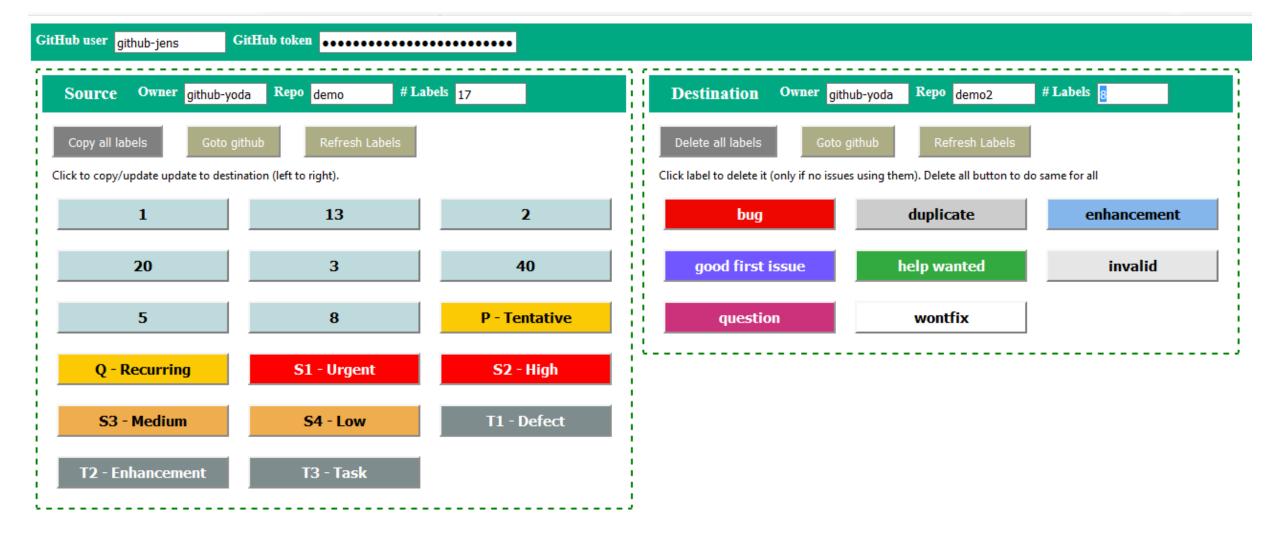
Other Yoda tools

Label Manager, Admin, Task Copy

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 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 labels from your favorite repo.

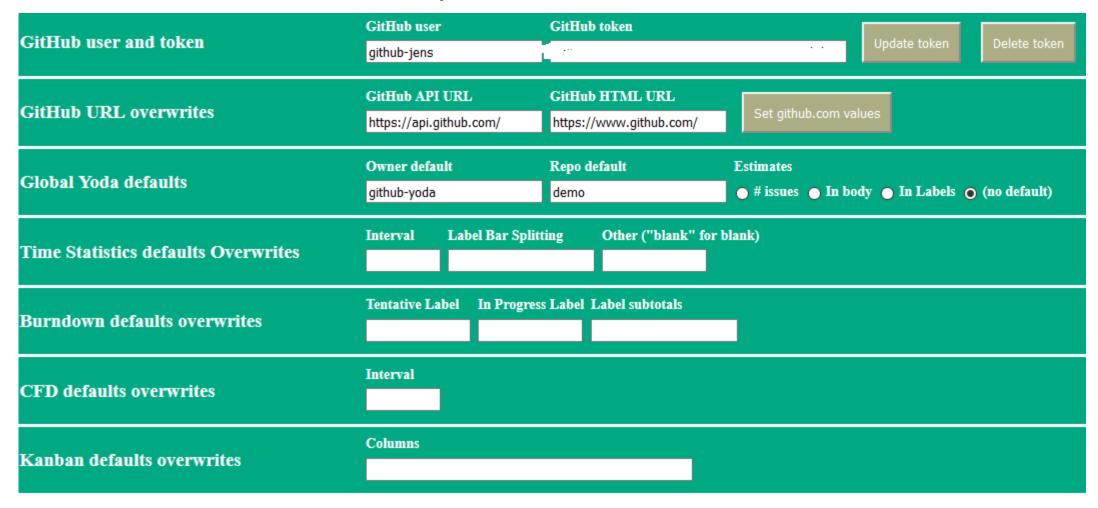
Label Manager Example



Admin

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

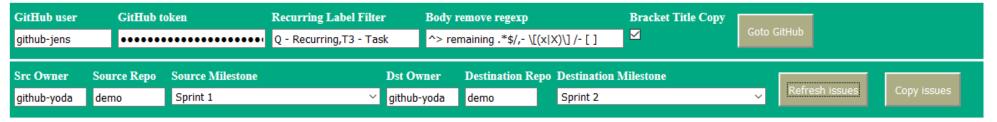
Yoda Admin Example



Task Copy

- When executing successive sprints, you may have recurring tasks that you need to executed for every sprint.
- These tasks are naturally 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



Console Getting source issues using URL: https://api.github.com/repos/github-yoda/demo/issues?state=all&direction=asc&labels=Q - Recurring,T3 -Task&milestone=2 Getting destination issues using URL: https://api.github.com/repos/github-yoda/demo/issues?state=all&direction=asc&labels=Q - Recurring,T3 -Task&milestone=1 Retrieved 0 destination issues. Retrieved 2 source issues. 45: [Sprint 1] Refill coke machine for developers OK: This issue will be copied. 48: [Sprint 1] Clear log files ahead of new sprint. OK: This issue will be copied. A total of 2 issues are ready to be copied.

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 auxilariy database will be used
 - Yoda executes exclusive 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**

Thank You