


Define features and epics

13/02/2019 • 10 minutos para ler • Colaboradores 

Neste artigo

[Prerequisites](#)

[What comprises a feature or epic?](#)

[Prerequisites](#)

[View a backlog or portfolio backlog](#)

[Add features and epics](#)

[Add details to a feature or epic](#)

[Add child items](#)

[Add portfolio backlog levels and boards](#)

[Try this next](#)

[Related articles](#)

Azure Boards | Azure DevOps Server 2019 | TFS 2018 | TFS 2017 | TFS 2015

While many teams can work with a flat list of items, sometimes it helps to group related items into a hierarchical structure. Perhaps you like to start with a big picture and break it down into smaller deliverables. Or, you've got an existing backlog and now need to organize it.

No matter your starting point, you can use portfolio backlogs to bring more order to your backlog. Use your backlogs to plan your project and to:

- Manage a portfolio of features that are supported by different development and management teams
- Group items into a release train
- Minimize size variability of your deliverables by breaking down a large feature into smaller backlog items

Use this article to learn how to:

- ✓ Determine what is a good feature or epic
- ✓ View a backlog or portfolio backlog
- ✓ Add features and epics
- ✓ Add child items

With portfolio backlogs you can quickly add and group items into a hierarchy, drill up or down within the hierarchy, reorder and reparent items, and filter hierarchical views. Portfolio backlogs are one of three classes of backlogs available to you. For an overview of the features supported on each backlog and the two types of boards, see [Backlogs, boards, and plans](#). To learn how to track progress across teams, see [Visibility across teams](#).

Prerequisites

- You must connect to a project. If you don't have a project yet, [create one](#).
- You must be added to a project as a member of the **Contributors** or **Project Administrators** security group. To get added, [Add users to a project or team](#).
- To add or modify work items, you must be granted **Stakeholder** access or higher. For details, see [About access levels](#).
- To view or modify work items, you must have your **View work items in this node** and **Edit work items in**

this **node** permissions set to **Allow**. By default, the **Contributors** group has this permission set. To learn more, see [Set permissions and access for work tracking](#).

ⓘ Observação

Users with **Stakeholder** access for a public project have full access to backlog and board features just like users with **Basic** access. For details, see [About access levels](#).

What comprises a feature or epic?

The epics and features that you create should reflect your business focus. As user stories or product backlog items roll up into features, and features roll up into epics—you'll want to name your features and epics with that in mind.

A feature typically represents a shippable component of software. An epic represents a business initiative to be accomplished. Here are a few examples of each.

Features

- Add view options to the new work hub
- Add mobile shopping cart
- Support text alerts
- Refresh the web portal with new look and feel

Epics

- Increase customer engagement
- Improve and simplify the user experience
- Implement new architecture to improve performance
- Engineer the application to support future growth
- Support integration with external services
- Support mobile apps

Prerequisites

- You must connect to a project. If you don't have a project yet, [create one](#).
- You must be added to a project as a member of the **Contributors** or **Project Administrators** security group. To get added, [Add users to a project or team](#).
- To add or modify work items, you must be granted **Stakeholder** access or higher. For details, see [About access levels](#).
- To view or modify work items, you must have your **View work items in this node** and **Edit work items in this node** permissions set to **Allow**. By default, the **Contributors** group has this permission set. To learn more, see [Set permissions and access for work tracking](#).

ⓘ Observação

Users with **Stakeholder** access for a public project have full access to backlog and board features just like users with **Basic** access. For details, see [About access levels](#).

View a backlog or portfolio backlog

To focus on one level of a backlog at a time, choose the name of the backlog you want to view. If you don't see all three backlog levels— Epics, Features, and Backlog items— you can [enable them for your team](#).

For example, when you choose **Epics**, you'll see a list of all Epics in your team's active area paths. From there, you can drill down to see child features and backlog items.

1. (1) Check that you have selected the right project, (2) choose **Boards>Backlogs**, and then (3) select the correct team from the team selector menu.

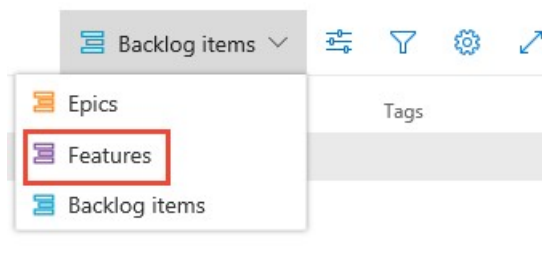
The screenshot shows the Azure DevOps interface. At the top, the project is set to 'fabrikam / Fabrikam Fiber' (1). In the left sidebar, the 'Backlogs' menu item is selected (2). In the top right, the team selector is set to 'Fabrikam Fiber Team' (3). Below the team selector, there are buttons for 'New Work Item', 'Backlog items Board', and 'Backlog items'. A table of backlog items is displayed below:

Order	Assigned To	State	Title
1	Jamal Hartnett	Committed	Hello World Web Site
2	Jamal Hartnett	Committed	Slow response on inform:
3	Raisa Pokrovskaya	New	Add an information form
4	Raisa Pokrovskaya	New	Change initial view
5	Christie Church	Committed	Secure sign-in
6	Johnnie McLeod	Approved	Welcome back page
7	Christie Church	Committed	Cancel order form

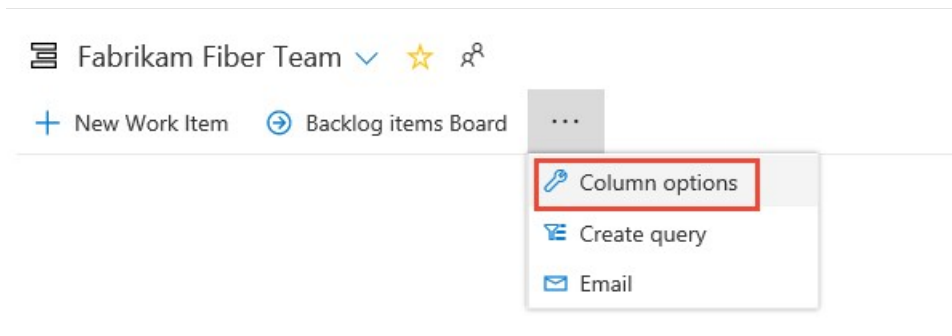
To choose another team, open the selector and select a different team or choose the [Browse all sprints](#) option. Or, you can enter a keyword in the search box to filter the list of team backlogs for the project.

The screenshot shows the team selector dropdown menu. The 'Fabrikam Fiber Team' selector is highlighted with a red box. The dropdown menu is open, showing a search box and a list of team backlogs. The list includes 'My Team Backlogs', 'Account Management', 'Customer Profile', 'Fabrikam Team', 'Phone', 'Service Delivery', 'Service Status', 'Shopping Cart', and 'Browse all backlogs'.

2. Choose the portfolio backlog that you want, **Features** or **Epics**.



3. (Optional) To choose which columns should display and in what order, choose the **...** actions icon and select **Column options**. You may want to add the Iteration Path to the set of columns that appear on your backlog. To learn more, see [Change column options](#).



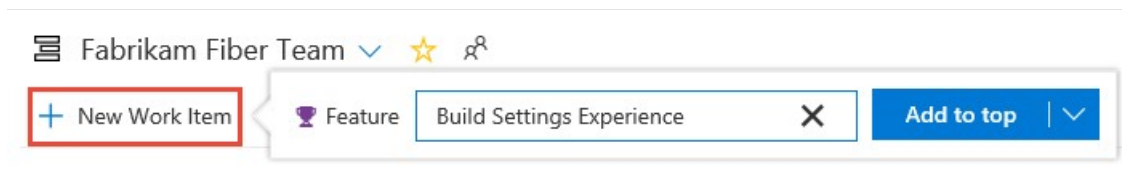
💡 Dica

Each team can choose the backlog levels that are active as described in [Select backlog navigation levels for your team](#).

Add features and epics

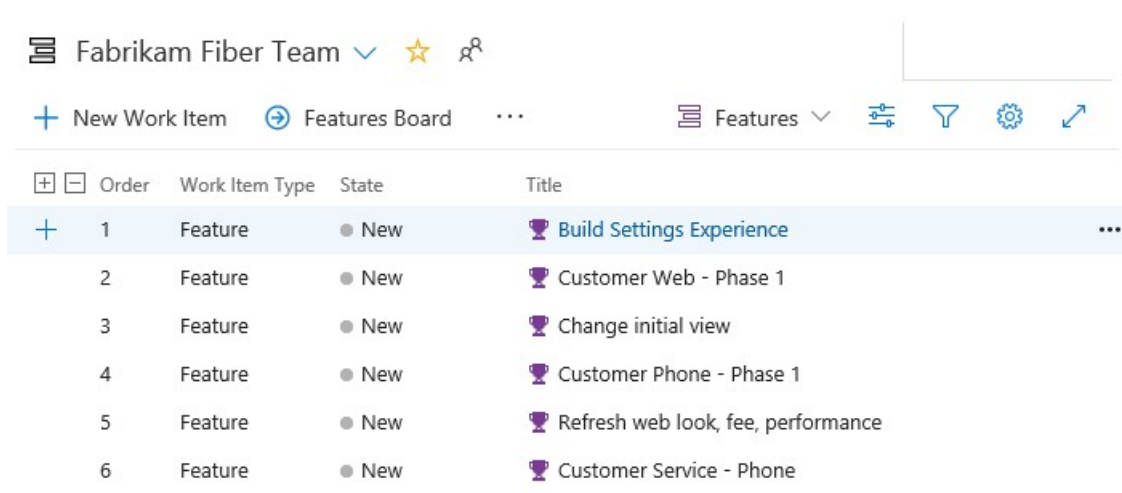
Just as you can [add items to your product backlog](#), you can add items to your features and epics backlogs.

1. To add a feature, choose the **+ New Work Item**, enter a title and then press the Enter key or choose **Add to top**.



2. Repeat this step to capture all your ideas as work items.

Here, we've added six features.



	Order	Work Item Type	State	Title
+	1	Feature	New	Build Settings Experience
	2	Feature	New	Customer Web - Phase 1
	3	Feature	New	Change initial view
	4	Feature	New	Customer Phone - Phase 1
	5	Feature	New	Refresh web look, fee, performance
	6	Feature	New	Customer Service - Phone

You can add epics in the same way. Simply open the **Epics** backlog from the backlogs selector.

Add details to a feature or epic

Open each item (double-click, or press Enter to open the selected item) and add all the info you want to track. Enter as much detail as the team needs to understand the scope, estimate the work required, develop tests, and ensure that the end product meets acceptance criteria.

ⓘ Observação

The images you see from your web portal may differ from the images you see in this article. These differences result from updates made to your web app, options that you or your admin have enabled, and which process was chosen when creating your project—[Agile](#), [Basic](#), [Scrum](#), or [CMMI](#).

FEATURE 479

479 Customer Web - Phase 1

Jamal Hartnett

1 comment

Add tag

Save & Close

Follow

Refresh

More

State

New

Area

Fabrikam Fiber\Service Delivery\Internet

Updated just now

Reason

New feature

Iteration

Fabrikam Fiber\Release 1\Sprint 1

Details

Related Work items

🕒

🔗 (5)

📎

Description

Update all web pages to more modern UI, user form factories, and implement new security requirements.

Acceptance Criteria

Click to add Acceptance Criteria

Discussion

Add a comment. Use # to link a work item, ! to link a pull request, or @ to mention a person.

Jamal Hartnett commented just now

@Raisa Pokrovskaya - Please add links to information on form factories and security requirements.

Status

Start Date

Target Date

Development

+ Add link

Development hasn't started on this item

Create a new branch

Related Work

+ Add link

Parent

👑

359 Phase 1 - Customer acce...

Updated 9/14/2018, ● New

Child (3)

👑

364 Slow response on inform...

Updated 3 minutes ago, ● Committed

👑

366 Hello World Web Site

Updated 3 minutes ago, ● Committed

👑

360 Change initial view

Updated 3 minutes ago, ● New

Related

👑

545 Customer Web - Phase 1

Updated 9/27/2018, ● Closed

Details

Priority

2

Effort

Business Value

Time Criticality

Value area

Business

Field	Usage
Value Area	<p>The area of customer value addressed by the epic, feature, or backlog item. Values include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Architectural —technical services to implement business features that deliver solution Business (Default) —services that fulfill customers or stakeholder needs that directly deliver customer value to support the business
Effort Story Points Size	Provide a relative estimate of the amount of work required to complete a Feature or Epic. Use any numeric unit of measurement your team prefers. Some options are story points , time , or other relative unit .
Business Value	Specify a priority that captures the relative value of an Epic, Feature, or backlog item compared to other items of the same type. The higher the number, the greater the business value. Use this field when you want to capture a priority separate from the changeable backlog stack ranking.
Time Criticality	A subjective unit of measure that captures the how the business value decreases over time. Higher values indicate that the Epic or Feature is inherently more time critical than those items with lower values.
Target Date	Specify the date by which the feature should be implemented.

Add child items

With your features defined, you're able to add child items to them. From any backlog, you can add child

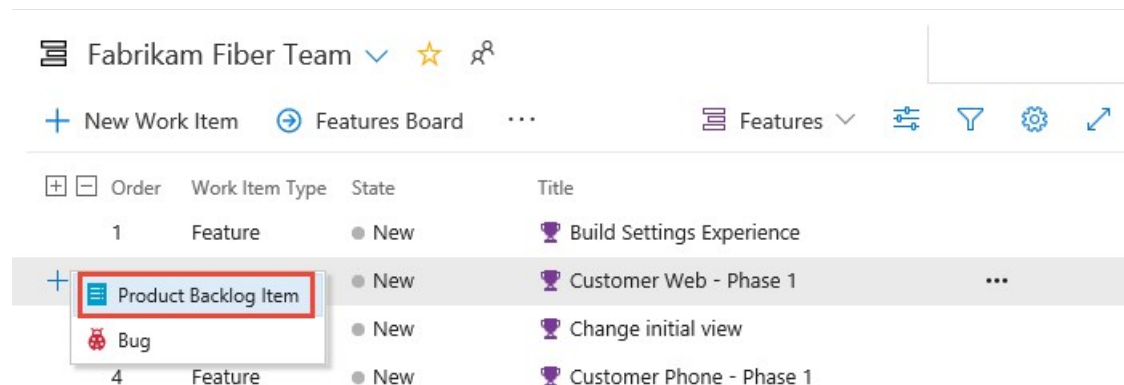
items. You can add features to epics, and backlog items to features.

💡 Dica

You can also add child user stories (Agile), or product backlog items (Scrum) or requirements (CMMI) from the Kanban board for Features. And, you can add child features from the Epic board. For details, see [Kanban board features and epics](#). Also, you can quickly parent or reparent children from a backlog using the mapping pane as described in [Organize your backlog, map child work items to parents](#).

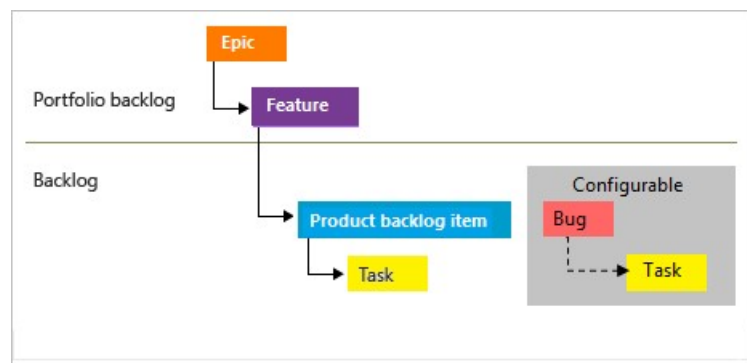
To add a work item, choose the **+** and choose from the options provided.

Here we add a product backlog item as a child to the Customer Web - Phase 1 feature.



Whenever you see the plus **+**, you can add a child item. The work item always corresponds to the hierarchy of work item types that are defined for your project.

For Scrum projects, your hierarchy is as shown:



Because [teams can also set bugs as tasks](#), bugs can be added as children of PBIs.

The work item types you'll see depends on the [process you selected to create your project](#).

If you want bugs to show up on your backlog and you're not seeing them, [enable them for your team](#).

Add portfolio backlog levels and boards

If you need more than two portfolio backlogs, you can add up to two more for a total of five backlog levels.

You can add them by customizing your process, adding new work item types, and then configuring your backlogs and boards. You can also add or modify the fields defined for a work item type (WIT) or add a custom WIT. For details, see [Customize an inheritance process](#) and [Customize your backlogs or boards \(Inheritance process\)](#).

Try this next

Portfolio backlogs are not only a great way to organize your project plan, but also a great way to provide visibility of project plans across enterprise teams. With portfolio backlogs, management teams can gain insight into project status across all their development teams.

[Organize your backlog](#)

Related articles

- [Product backlog controls](#)
- [Filter product and portfolio backlogs](#)
- [Select backlog navigation levels for your team](#)
- [Work with multi-team ownership of backlog items](#)
- [Product backlog controls](#)
- [Backlog keyboard shortcuts](#)