


Set up your Backlogs and Boards

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In most cases you can start using your product and portfolio backlogs once your project is created. A default team is created along with associated backlogs and boards. You can start adding work items to your product backlog using the [Backlog](#) or [Board](#).

However, if you have added a team and want to start using the team backlogs and boards, you may need to ensure you've configured your backlogs and boards correctly. Also, over time, changes may be made to a project or team configuration which can impact the work items that appear on your backlog and boards.

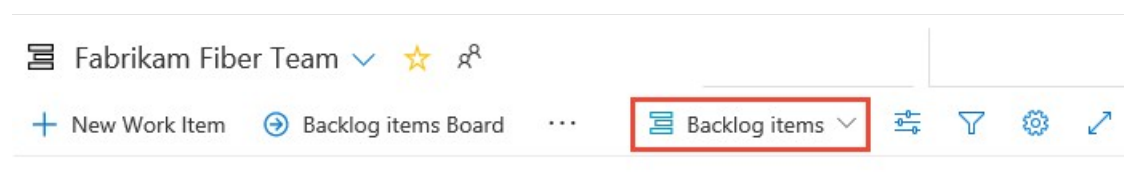
For an overview of the tools associated with your team, see [Manage and configure team tools](#).

Default backlog and board work items

The first thing you need to understand is that your product **Backlog** and **Board** display work items which meet the following criteria:

- Work item type belongs to the Requirements category. The types differ depending on the process selected for your project:
 - **Basic** : Issue, Backlog name=**Issues**
 - **Agile**: User Story, Backlog name=**Stories**
 - **Scrum**: Product Backlog Item, Backlog name=**Backlog items**
 - **CMMI**: Requirement, Backlog name=**Requirements**
- Work item **Area Path** matches one of the selected team's Area Paths
- Work item **Iteration Path** is under the team's Default Iteration Path

You can determine the work item types that belong to your Requirements category by [opening your product Backlog](#) and checking the product backlog name.



To look up your team's Area Path(s) and Iteration Paths, see [Define area paths and assign to a team](#) and

[Define iteration paths \(aka sprints\) and configure team iterations.](#)

Checklist for work items, backlogs, and boards

If you don't see the work items you expect on your [product Backlog](#) or [Kanban Board](#), perform the following checks:

1. Make sure you have selected the team backlog or board of interest. To learn how, see [Use breadcrumbs and selectors to navigate and open artifacts](#).
2. [Create a query](#) of your backlog items, specifying the work item types that belong to your Requirements category and the Area Path associated with your team, for example:

Queries > Shared Queries > Requirements 25 work items
1 selected

Results Editor Charts Run query New Save query

Type of query Flat list of work items Query across projects

Filters for top level work items

| | Field | Operator | Value |
|------------|----------------|----------|---------------------------------|
| + X And/Or | Work Item Type | In Group | Requirement Category |
| + X And | Area Path | Under | Fabrikam Fiber\Service Delivery |

+ Add new clause

3. Add the **State**, **Area Path** and **Iteration Path** fields to the [column options](#).
4. Check the query results and that the values of the work items you expect to show up on your backlog meet these criteria:
5. **Area Path** belongs to your team's area path(s)
6. **Iteration Path** belongs under your team's default iteration path
7. **State** isn't Closed, Completed, Done, or Removed.

! Observação

You can also filter your product backlog to show or hide work items that are in an **In Progress** state category, corresponding to an Active, Resolved, Committed, Doing workflow state.

Add bugs to your backlogs and boards

For all processes except the Basic process, each team can manage the way bugs are tracked. You can track bugs as belonging to the Requirements category and they show up on the Backlog and Kanban Board, or the Tasks category and they show up on the Taskboard, or the Bugs category where they don't appear on either backlogs or boards.

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If you want bugs to show up on your Backlog and Board, choose **Bugs are managed with requirements**.

Working with bugs

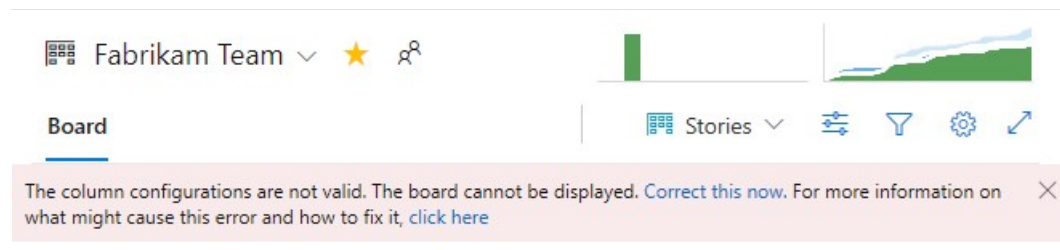
Set your team's preference for how they manage bugs. Your selection determines where bugs appear in the hierarchy and on backlogs and boards. [Learn more about the bug management setting.](#)

- ☒ Bugs are managed with requirements. ⓘ
- ☐ Bugs are managed with tasks. ⓘ
- ☐ Bugs are not managed on backlogs and boards. ⓘ

For details, see [Show bugs on backlogs and boards](#).

Correct your Kanban Board configuration

If you see the following error when you open your Kanban board, you need to correct the configuration. The main reason for this error is that the workflow states of work item types that have been added to the Requirements category aren't mapped to the column.



Choose the **Correct this now** link to open the Settings dialog. To map the workflow states, refer to [Add columns to your Kanban board, Update Kanban column-to-State mappings](#).

Customize your Kanban Board checklist items

Checklists are a great way to create work items that are automatically linked with a parent-child link to another work item on a Kanban board. You can customize the work item types that you can add as a checklist by opening the Board Settings, choose **Annotations**, and enable the work item types you want to appear on the board. For details, see [Customize cards](#).

For example, here we've chosen to track bugs along with tasks, and enable Task and Bug to appear within checklists. To learn more about checklists, see [Add task checklists](#) and [Add, run, and update inline tests](#).

Settings

Cards

Fields

Styles

Tag colors

Annotations

Tests

Board

Columns

Swimlanes

Card reordering

Annotations

Show visual cues on cards.

| Annotation | Visualization | Enabled |
|------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| Task | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Bug | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Tests | | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Hide or show backlog levels

Your team can also choose to hide or show one or more backlog level. Often times feature teams manage backlog items, while management teams manage features and epics. In this situation, you can enable or disable a backlog level.

Backlogs

See only the backlogs your team manages.

Backlog navigation levels

☒ Epics

☒ Features

☒ Stories

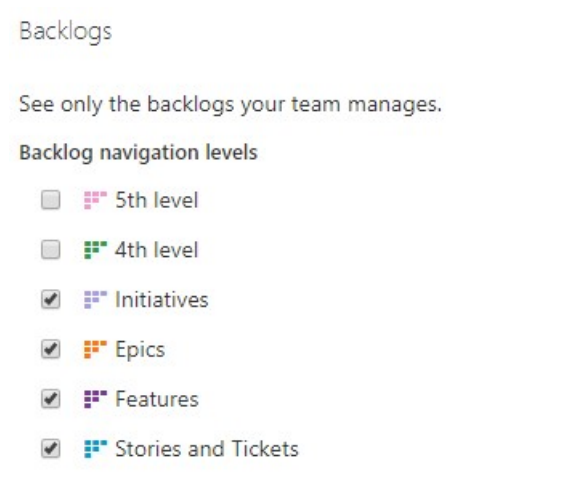
For details, see [Select backlog navigation levels for your team.](#)

Add custom work item types to your backlogs and portfolio backlog levels

If you want to track different work item types on your product backlog, you can do that by adding custom work item types and adding them to a specific backlog level.

You can also add custom work item types and add them to portfolio backlogs. You can add up to five portfolio backlogs.

For example, here we've added Initiatives, 4th level, and 5th level work item types to support five levels of portfolio backlogs. We've also added a custom work item type named Ticket and added that to the product backlog.



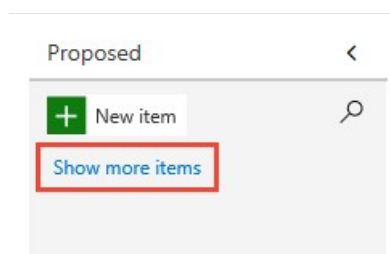
For details, see the following resources:

- [Add and manage work item types](#)
- [Customize your backlogs or boards for a process](#)
- [Customize an inheritance process](#)

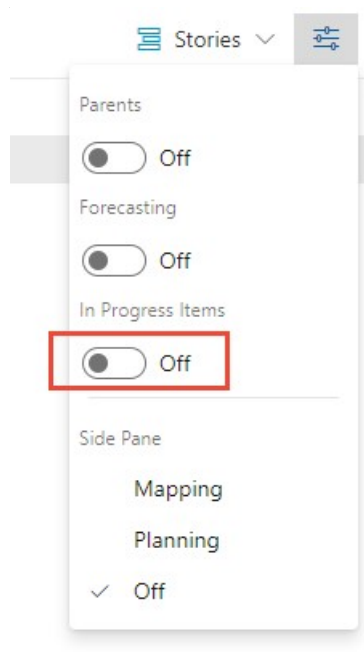
Other factors that can affect which work items appear

The following settings can impact on the type and number of work items that will appear in your backlogs and boards.

- In your Kanban board, newly added work items may not appear if they are stack ranked lower within the product backlog. By choosing the **Show more items** link, you can cause the board to refresh and display these additional items.



- If you have nested work items that belong to the same category, only leaf nodes will appear on the Kanban board. For this reason, we recommend that you don't nest work items of the same work item type or belonging to the same category. To learn more see [Backlogs, portfolios, and Agile project management, Display of leaf node work items](#).
- If you have turned off the **In Progress** view, then those work items where work has started won't appear in the backlog list.



- Work items appear in the priority order in which they are added or moved to. This order or sequence is managed by the **Stack Rank** (Basic, Agile, and CMMI processes) or **Backlog Priority** (Scrum) field. To learn more, see [Backlogs, portfolios, and Agile project management, Backlog priority or stack rank order](#).
- Each backlog can display up to 999 work items. If your backlog exceeds this limit, then you may want to consider adding a team and moving some of the work items to the other team's backlog.
- Sprint backlogs show only those work items that meet the team's area path and the **Iteration Path** defined for the sprint.
- (Inheritance process model) If an administrator [disables or deletes a work item type](#), it will no longer appear on backlogs and boards.
- (On-premises XML process model) If an administrator [deletes or destroys a work item type](#), it will no longer appear on backlogs and boards.

Related articles

- [Add a team, move from one default team to several teams](#)
- [Refine your backlog](#)
- [Create your backlog](#)
- [Backlog priority or stack rank order](#)
- [Use categories to group work item types](#)
- [Workflow states & state categories](#)