

# Define area paths and assign to a team

10/02/2019 • 8 minutos para ler • Colaboradores

## Neste artigo

[Prerequisites](#)

[Get started sequence](#)

[Open Project Settings](#)

[Add an area path](#)

[Open team settings](#)

[Set team default area path\(s\)](#)

[Rename, move, or delete an area path](#)

[Chart progress by area](#)

[Q & A](#)

[Next steps](#)

[Related articles](#)

**Azure Boards | Azure DevOps Server 2019 | TFS 2018 | TFS 2017 | TFS 2015 | TFS 2013**

You can add area paths to support teams and to group work items based on product, feature, or business areas. Then, define area paths at the project level and assign them to a team under the team configuration. You can also create a hierarchy of area paths to support subcategories within categories.

Each team has access to a number of Agile tools as described in [About teams and Agile tools](#). Each tool references the team's default area path(s). Most teams choose one area path and several iteration paths to support their work tracking activities. However, to support other scenarios, it's possible for teams to choose several area paths to appear on their backlogs and boards.

New projects contain a single, root area that corresponds to the project name. A team is created with the same project name and the root area path is assigned to that team.

To understand how the system uses area paths, see [About area and iteration paths](#).

### 📘 Importante

Make sure that you select the correct version of this article for Azure DevOps Services or Azure DevOps Server, renamed from Team Foundation Server (TFS). The version selector is located above the table of contents.

**Azure DevOps Services** ▾

Version
Azure DevOps Services
Azure DevOps Server 2019
TFS 2018
TFS 2017
TFS 2015
TFS 2013

## Prerequisites

- Add Area Paths to a project. If you don't have a project yet, [create one now](#).
- Ensure you're a member of the **Project Administrators** group to add an Area Path under the root node or edit or delete any child node. To acquire these permissions, see [Set permissions at the project- or collection-level](#).
- Have one or more of the following permissions set to **Allow**, to add, edit, and manage Area Paths under a node:
  - **Create child nodes**
  - **Delete this node**
  - **Edit this node**
  - **View permissions in this node**

By default, the user who created the project has these permissions set. To learn more, see [Set permissions and access for work tracking](#).

- Ensure you're [added as a team administrator](#) or are a member of the **Project Administrators** group to set team Area Paths.

For naming restrictions on Area Paths, see [About areas and iterations, Naming restrictions](#).

## Get started sequence

If you're new to managing projects and teams, the most straight forward sequence for configuring your project and teams is as follows:

1. Determine the number and names of Area Paths that you want to support to categorize your work. At a minimum, you'll want to add one Area Path for each team that you'll define. For guidance, review [About areas and iterations](#).
2. Determine the number and names of teams you want to support. For guidance, review [About teams and Agile tools](#).
3. Open **Project settings>Project configuration** and define the Area Paths to support steps 1 and 2 at the project level. Follow the steps provided later in this article: [Open Project Settings, Project configuration](#) and [Add area paths](#).
4. Define the teams you need to support step 2. For guidance, see [Add a team, move from one default team to several teams](#).
5. Open the team configuration and assign the default and additional Area Path(s) to each team. Follow the steps provided later in this article: [Open team settings](#) and [Set team default area path\(s\)](#).
6. Assign the Area Path of work items to an area path you defined. Use [bulk modify](#) to modify several work items at once.

### ⚠ Observação

While you can assign the same area path to more than one team, this can cause problems if two teams claim ownership over the same set of work items. To learn more, see [About boards and Kanban, Limitations of multi-team Kanban board views](#).

As needed, you can do the following actions at any time:

- Add additional child nodes
- Rename an Area Path (except the root area path)

- Move a child node under another node
- Delete a child node
- Rename a team
- Change the Area Path assignments made to a team

## Open Project Settings

From the web portal, open **Project Settings**.

You define both areas and iterations for a project from the **Project Settings>Work>Project configuration**.

1. Choose (1) **Project Settings**, expand **Work** if needed, and choose (2) **Project configuration** and then (3) **Areas**.

Azure DevOps

fabrikam / Fabrikam Fiber / Settings

Project Settings > Project configuration

General

- Overview
- Services
- Teams
- Security
- Notifications
- Service hooks
- Dashboards

Boards

- Project configuration
- Team configuration

Work

Iterations

Areas

Create and manage the areas for this project. These areas will be used by teams to determine what shows up on the team's backlog and what work items the team is responsible for. [Learn more about customizing areas and iterations](#)

To select areas for the team, go to [the default team's settings](#).

New New child

Areas	Teams
Fabrikam Fiber	Fabrikam Fiber Team, Management team
Customer Service	Customer Service, Fabrikam Fiber Team
Email	Email, Fabrikam Fiber Team
Phone	Fabrikam Fiber Team, Phone
Voice	Fabrikam Fiber Team, Voice
Web	Fabrikam Fiber Team, Web

## Add an area path

If you haven't added any areas or teams, you'll see that only one area is defined. You add area paths under the root area path for the project, or as a child to another area path.

## Work

Iterations **Areas**

Create and manage the areas for this project. These areas will be used by teams to determine what shows up on the team's backlog and what work items the team is responsible for. [Learn more about customizing areas and iterations](#)

To select areas for the team, go to [the default team's settings](#).

NewNew child|+−

AreasTeams

▼ Fabrikam FiberFabrikam Fiber Team

- To add a child node, highlight the area path and then choose **New child**. Optionally, you can open the **...** context menu for the area path and choose **New child**.

Enter a name (255 characters or less) for the node. For additional name restrictions, see [About areas and iterations, Naming restrictions](#).

Work

Iterations **Areas**

Create and manage the areas for this project. These areas will be used by teams to determine what shows up on the team's backlog and what work items the team is responsible for. [Learn more about customizing areas and iterations](#)

To select areas for the team, go to [the default team's settings](#).

NewNew child|+−

Areas

▼ Fabrikam Fiber

Customer Service

Email

Phone

Voice

Web

**New area**

Support

Area name

Support

Location

Fabrikam Fiber


Save and closeCancel

## Open team settings

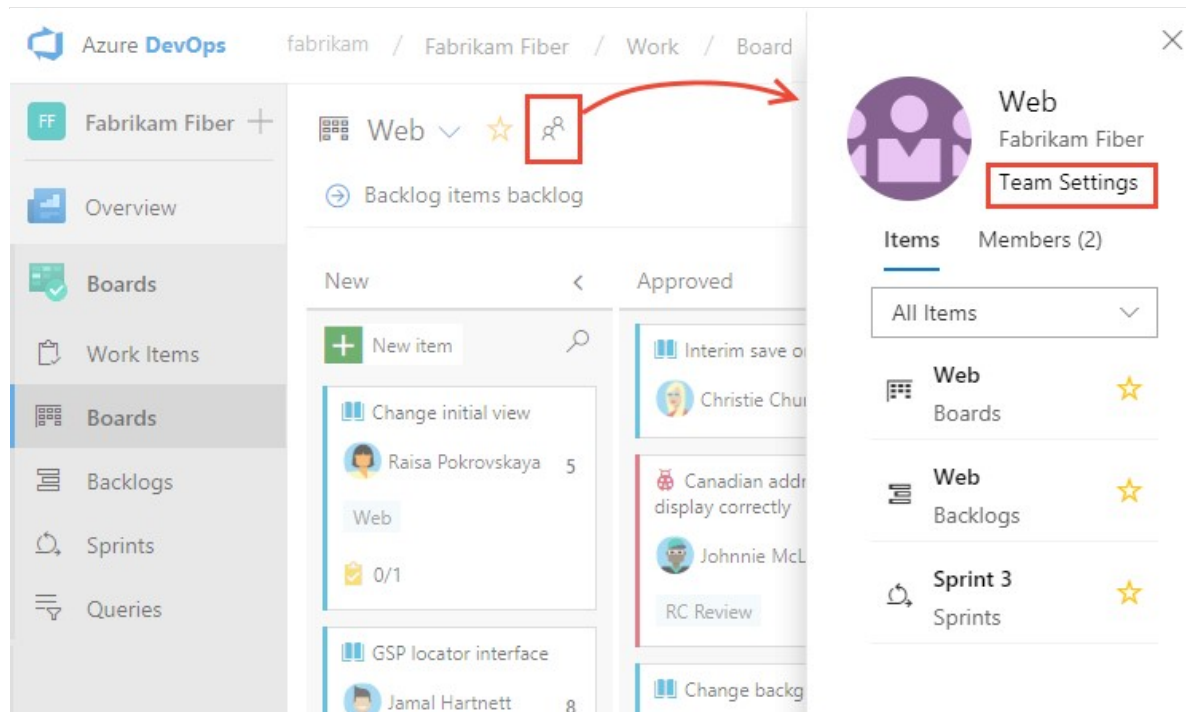
You set team defaults from team settings. If you're not a team administrator, [get added as one](#). Only team or project administrators can change team settings.

From a web browser, open the web portal administrative context for your team.

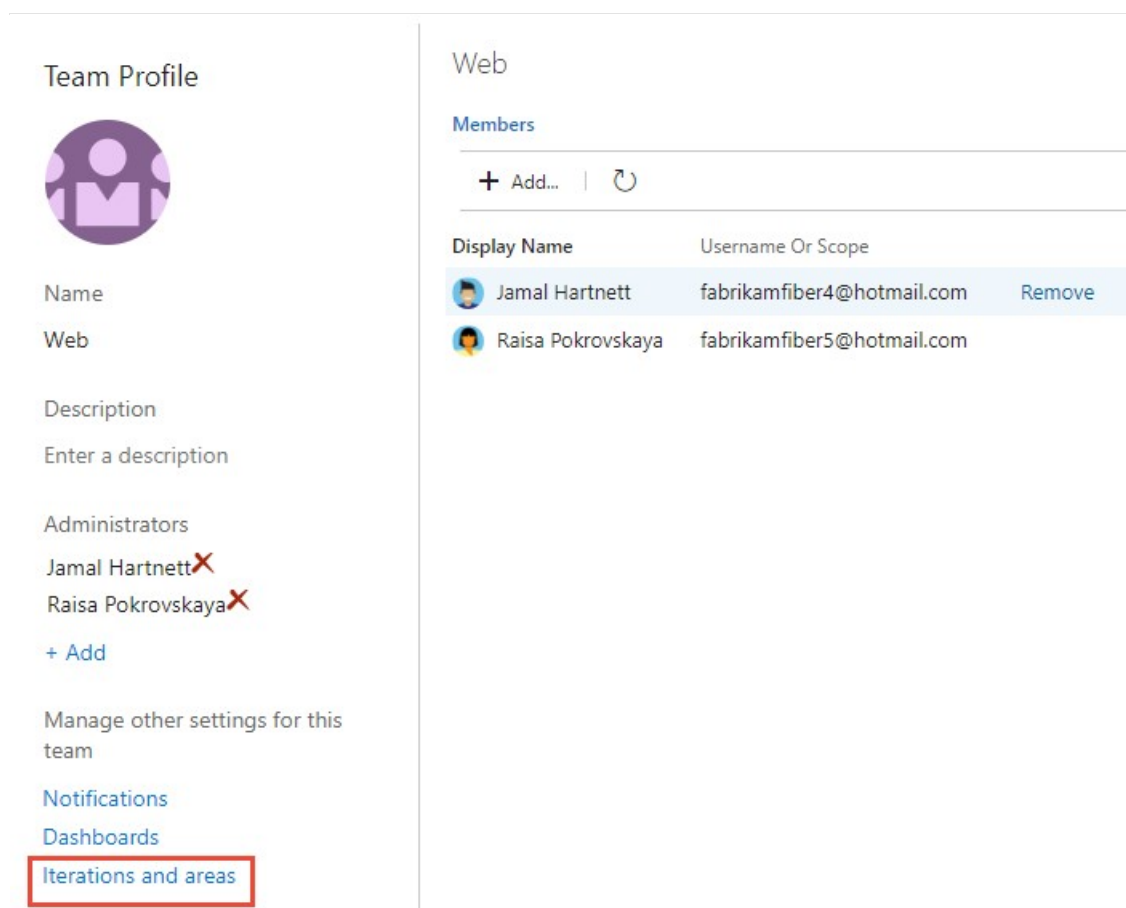
You define both areas and iterations from **Project Settings>Boards>Team configuration**. You can quickly navigate to it from a team work tracking backlog, board, or dashboard.

1. Open a backlog or board for a team and choose the  team profile icon. Then choose **Team Settings**.

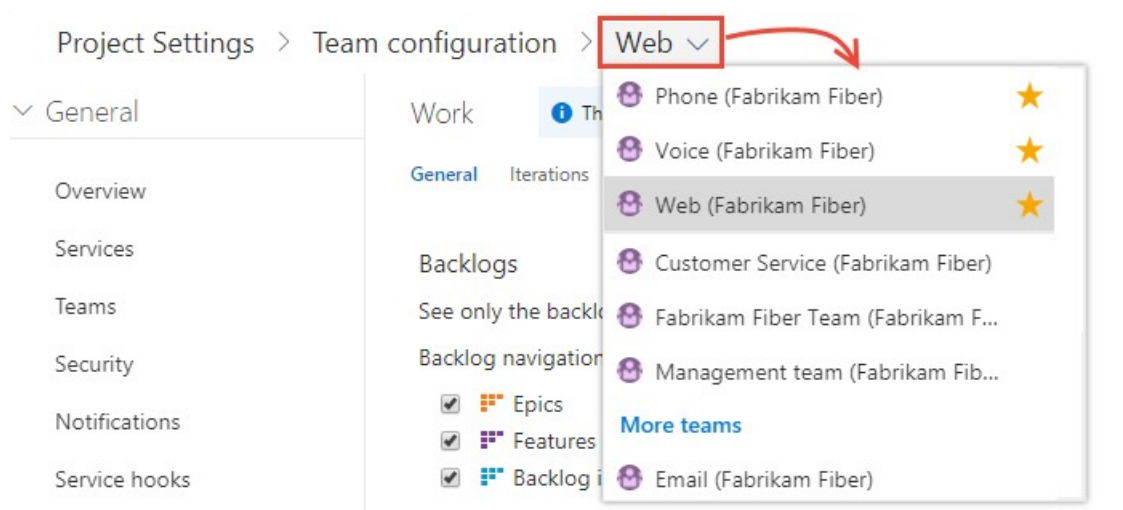
Here we open the Board for the Web team and from there the team profile.



2. Choose **Iterations and areas**.



3. If you need to switch the team context, use the team selector within the breadcrumbs.



## Set team default area path(s)

All work items assigned to the area paths selected for a team appear on the backlogs and boards for that team. You can select one or more area paths and optionally include their sub-area paths. Choose to include sub-area paths when you want to support rollup views of work performed across several teams or areas.

The default area path determines the default area path assigned to work items that are created from the team context.

### **Importante**

Work items that appear on more than one team's Kanban board can yield query results that don't meet your expectations. Because each team can customize the Kanban board [columns](#) and [swimlanes](#), the values assigned to work items which appear on different boards may not be the same. The primary work around for this issue is to maintain single ownership of work items by team area path.

1. Open **Areas** for the team context.

Here, we show the Areas for the Web team.

General Iterations **Areas** Templates

To manage areas for the project, navigate to [Project settings](#)

### Areas

Select the areas your team owns below. The selected area paths will determine what shows up on your team's backlog and what work items your team is responsible for.

**Default area**  
Fabrikam Fiber\Web [Change](#)

[+ Select area\(s\)](#) [✖ Remove](#) | [New](#) [New child](#)

Area
Fabrikam Fiber\Web ... default area sub-areas are included

2. Choose the area path(s) to be active for each team.

**Areas**

Select the areas your team owns below. The selected area paths will determine what shows up on your team's backlog responsible for.

**Default area**  
Fabrikam Fiber

[+ Select area](#) [✖ Remove](#)

Area

Fabrikam Fiber
Fabrikam Fiber Phone

### Select an area

Work items in this area path will show up on your team's backlog

Area

Fabrikam Fiber Web

☒ Include sub areas

[OK](#) [Cancel](#)

In this instance, we choose to activate all three sub-area paths for the project. The management team can now track progress across all three teams.

**Default area**  
Fabrikam Fiber [Set](#) [Cancel](#)

[+ Select area](#) [✖ Remove](#)

Area

Fabrikam Fiber	... default area
Fabrikam Fiber Customer support	sub-areas are included
Fabrikam Fiber Phone	sub-areas are included
Fabrikam Fiber Web	sub-areas are included



- When you've finished, refresh the product backlog page for the team, and you'll see those work items assigned to the team. Add Area Path to the columns shown to see the assignments made to work items.

The screenshot shows the Azure Boards interface for a team named 'Fabrikam Fiber'. The 'Work' tab is selected, and the 'Backlogs' view is active. The 'Product backlog' is displayed, showing a list of work items. The columns shown are Order, State, Title, and Area Path. The work items are listed in a table:

Order	State	Title	Area Path
1	Committed	Hello World Web Site	Fabrikam Fiber\Web
2	Committed	Slow response on information form	Fabrikam Fiber\Web
3	New	Add an information form	Fabrikam Fiber
4	New	Change initial view	Fabrikam Fiber\Web
5	Committed	Secure sign-in	Fabrikam Fiber\Phone
6	Approved	Welcome back page	Fabrikam Fiber\Phone
7	Committed	Cancel order form	Fabrikam Fiber\Voice
8	Approved	Interim save on long form	Fabrikam Fiber\Web
9	Approved	Canadian addresses don't display	Fabrikam Fiber\Web
10	Approved	Switch context issues	Fabrikam Fiber\Phone
11	Committed	Hello World Web Site	Fabrikam Fiber\Web
12	Committed	Cancel order form	Fabrikam Fiber\Phone

## Rename, move, or delete an area path

When you rename an area or an iteration, or move the node within the tree hierarchy, the system automatically updates the work items and queries that reference the existing path or paths.

- To rename an area or iteration path, choose the **...** actions icon for the node, and select **Edit**.

The screenshot shows the 'Areas' view in Azure Boards. The 'Fabrikam Fiber' team is selected. The 'Customer Service' area is highlighted. A context menu is open, showing options: New, New child, Edit, Delete, and Security. The 'Edit' option is highlighted with a red box.

- In the dialog that opens, enter the new name.



×

Edit area

Customer Service

Area name

Customer Service

Location

Fabrikam Fiber

Save and close

Cancel

3. To move the node within the hierarchy, change the Location field.

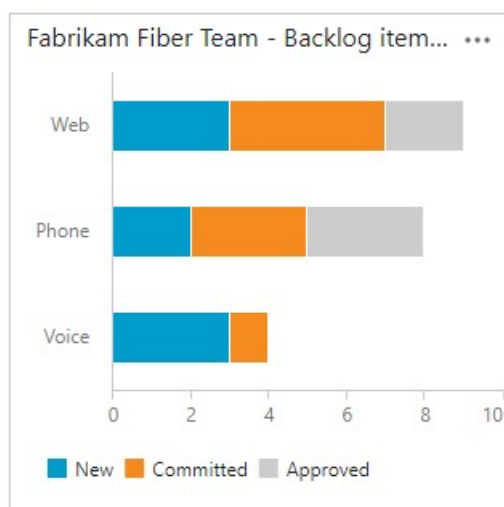
4. To delete a node, choose the **Delete** option from the actions menu.

#### ⚠ Observação

When you delete an area node or change the Location field for a node, the system automatically updates the existing work items with the node that you enter at the deletion prompt.

## Chart progress by area

You can quickly generate [queries](#) to view the progress based on an area path. For example, [visualize progress of work items that are assigned to each team's area path](#), as shown in the following stacked bar chart. Choose Node Name to get the leaf node of the Area Path.



## Q & A

**Q:** Do I have to assign an area path to a team?

A: No. You assign area paths to teams so that the work items assigned to that area path appear on the team's backlogs and boards. By default, all work items are assigned to the root area path and show up in the default team that's defined for the project.

## Next steps

Set iteration paths or sprints

## Related articles

As you can see, areas play a major role in supporting Agile tools and managing work items. Learn more about working with these fields from the following articles:

- [About areas and iterations](#)
- [Add another team](#)
- [Configure team settings and add team administrators](#)
- [Agile tools that rely on areas or iterations](#)
- [Query by area or iteration path](#)
- [Set permissions and access for work tracking](#)