

# Bulk modify work items

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## Neste artigo

[Prerequisites](#)

[Supported tasks](#)

[Bulk edit multi-selected work items](#)

[Reassign work items](#)

[Edit one or more fields](#)

[Move work items to a sprint](#)

[Bulk modify tags](#)

[Related articles](#)

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

Use bulk modify when you need to quickly make the same change to a number of work items. For example, you might want to change the priority of several bugs or reassign several tasks to the same team member. Use the web portal to quickly modify one or more fields for work items that will contain the same value.

### Dica

To add work items in bulk or update multiple fields with different values, use [Excel](#). You can't perform a bulk add of work items through the web portal.

With bulk modify, you can edit fields, add or remove tags, reassign work, or move work to a specific sprint. You can also use bulk modify to change the work item type or move work items to other projects. The options available to you depend on the platform you work from and the permissions you've been granted.

In this article you'll learn:

- ✓ How to multi-select work items from a list and open the context menu
- ✓ Edit one or more fields of several work items
- ✓ Assign work from a backlog to a sprint using drag-and-drop
- ✓ Add or remove tags from several work items

## 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](#).

## Supported tasks

All of the following actions can be performed by team members that belong to the Contributors group. Members provided with Stakeholder access can perform multi-select, bulk edit, change type, email, and copy as HTML/copy to clipboard actions. For details, see [Work as a stakeholder](#).

Area	Task
Multi-select work items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Multi-select-query results</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Multi-select-backlog</a></li></ul>
Link work items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Link to a new item</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Link to an existing item</a></li><li>• <a href="#">New branch</a><sup>1</sup></li></ul>
Bulk edit/update/delete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Edit field(s)</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Assign to</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Move to iteration</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Change position</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Change parent</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Add/remove tags</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Update from template</a><sup>1</sup></li><li>• <a href="#">Delete</a><sup>1</sup></li></ul>
Copy, clone, change type, move, or email work items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Clone or copy a single item</a><sup>2</sup></li><li>• <a href="#">Copy as HTML/Copy to clipboard</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Email selected item(s)</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Change work item type</a><sup>1</sup></li><li>• <a href="#">Move items to another project</a><sup>1, 3</sup></li></ul>

**Notes:**

1. You can't perform certain functions on work items whose WITs belong to the [Hidden Types Category](#). This includes all work items that track tests—such as test cases, shared steps, and shared parameters—code review requests and responses, and feedback requests and responses.
2. You can choose to copy or clone a single work item from a query results list or from the [Actions menu of the work item form](#). You can only perform a clone or copy action for a single work item. Choose Copy work item when you want to create a copy of a work item and change its work item type. Choose Clone when you want to create another instance of the work item without changes to its work item type.
3. You must be a member of the Project Administrators group or be [granted explicit permissions to move work items](#).

## Bulk edit multi-selected work items

To start a bulk edit, begin by multi-selecting the work items you want to modify, either from the query results or the backlog. You can craft your query using the [query editor or search box](#).

Multi-select of work items on the backlog and sprint backlogs works in the same way as multi-select works within query results.

You can use bulk modify by selecting work items from the backlog page or query results list. From the backlog page context menu, you can change the backlog priority of several items (Change position or Move to position), assign them to a team member, move them to a different sprint, or [map them to a feature](#).

The menu options available to you change depending on the platform you work from and whether you work from a backlog page or query results list.

Backlog menu	Query results multi-select menu
<div><div>Add link...&gt;</div><div>Edit...</div><div>Copy to clipboard</div><div>Change type...</div><div>Move to team project...</div><div>Email...</div><div>Change position...</div><div>Move to iteration&gt;</div><div>Assign to&gt;</div><div>New branch...</div><div>Do exploratory testing</div></div>	<div><div>Open</div><div>Open in new window</div><div>Edit...</div><div>Change type...</div><div>Move to team project...</div><div>Assign to&gt;</div><div>Move to iteration&gt;</div><div>Delete</div><div>Templates&gt;</div><div>Clone work item</div><div>Create copy of work item...</div><div>Link to a new work item...</div><div>Link to an existing item...</div><div>Copy as HTML</div><div>Email...</div><div>New branch...</div></div>

To multi-select and open the context menu

To select several items in a sequence, hold down the shift key. To select several non-sequential items, use the Ctrl key. Then, you can either drag the selected items to a new position within the backlog, to a different sprint.

To open the context menu, click ( \*\*\*) or (▼), and then choose the option from the menu.

Here, we use the context menu to move several non-sequential items to the current sprint.

Fabrikam Fiber Team

+ New Work Item View as board ... Stories

Order	State	Assigned To	Title
1	New		Cancel order form
2	New	Jamal Hartnett	Hello World web site
3	New	Christie Church	Slow response on form
4	New	Jamal Hartnett	Welcome back page
5	New	Raisa Pokrovskaya	Lookup service outages
6	New	Jamal Hartnett	Add an information form
7	Active	Raisa Pokrovskaya	Secure Sign-in
8	New	Johnnie M	Backlog
9	New	Johnnie M	Current (Iteration 1 - 11/26/2018 - 12/14/2018)
10	New	Christie Ch	FUTURE ITERATIONS
11	New	Jamal Hart	Iteration 2 - 12/17/2018 - 1/4/2019
12	New	Raisa Pokro	Iteration 3 - 1/7/2019 - 1/25/2019
13	New	Christie Ch	Iteration 4 - 1/28/2019 - 2/15/2019
14	Resolve	Raisa Pokrovskaya	As a <user>, I can select a nu

Edit...

Assign to

Copy to clipboard

Delete

Add link

Move to iteration

Change parent...

Move to position...

Change type...

Move to team project...

Email...

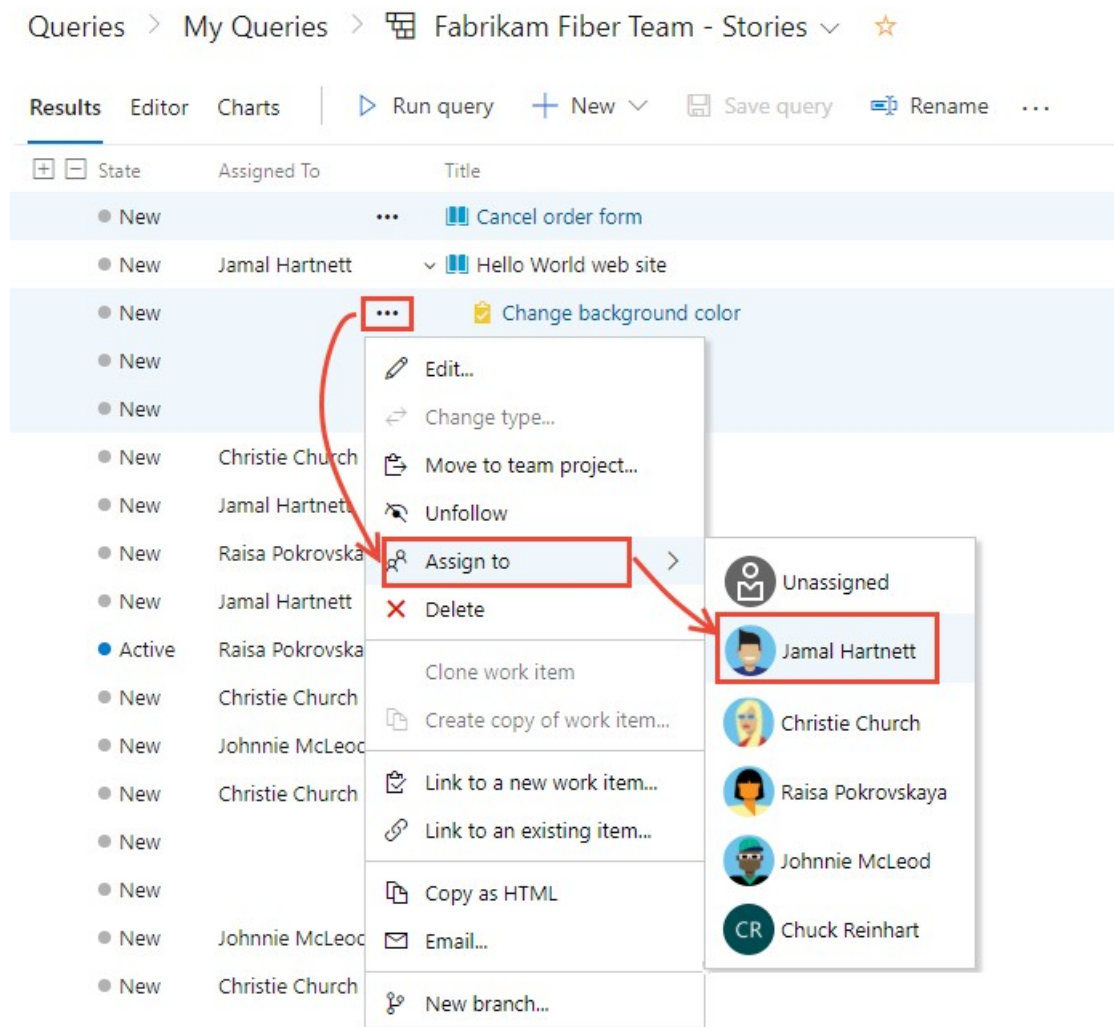
New branch...

#### Dica

Use the backlog **Create Query** feature to create a query with the backlog items. You can then open the query within the web portal or [Excel](#) to perform additional bulk updates.

## Reassign work items

With work items selected, open the context menu for any selected item, and reassign all of them. By doing this, you can quickly assign them to a member of your team or to another sprint or iteration.



To learn more about the *Assign To* and *Iteration Path* fields, see [Query by assignment, workflow or Kanban board changes](#) and [Query by area or iteration path](#).

## Edit one or more fields

To assign or modify several fields, choose *Edit* from the context menu of one of the selected work items. Enter a value for each field that you want to update.

1. For audit purposes, you can type a description for your bulk update task. To learn more about each field, see the [Work item field index](#).

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Edit work items

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×

Field

Priority

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Value

1

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Add new field

Identifying Priority 1 User Stories

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OK

Cancel

1. From the Query results page, you must save all work items that you bulk-modified. When you bulk modify items from the backlog, they are automatically saved. Work items shown in bold text indicate that local changes have not yet been saved to the data store.

Queries

>

My Queries

>

Fabrikam Fiber Team - Stories

▼

★

Results

Editor

Charts

▶ Run query

⊕ New

▼

💾 Save query

🔄 Rename

⋮

State	Assigned To	Title
● New	Jamal Hartnett	⋮ <b>Cancel order form</b>
● New	Jamal Hartnett	▼ <b>Hello World web site</b>
● New	Jamal Hartnett	⋮ <b>Change background color</b>
● New	Jamal Hartnett	⋮ <b>Change page layout</b>
● New	Jamal Hartnett	⋮ <b>Develop about page</b>
● New	Christie Church	🐛 Slow response on form
● New	Jamal Hartnett	🔧 Welcome back page

📄 Save items


🔧 Column options

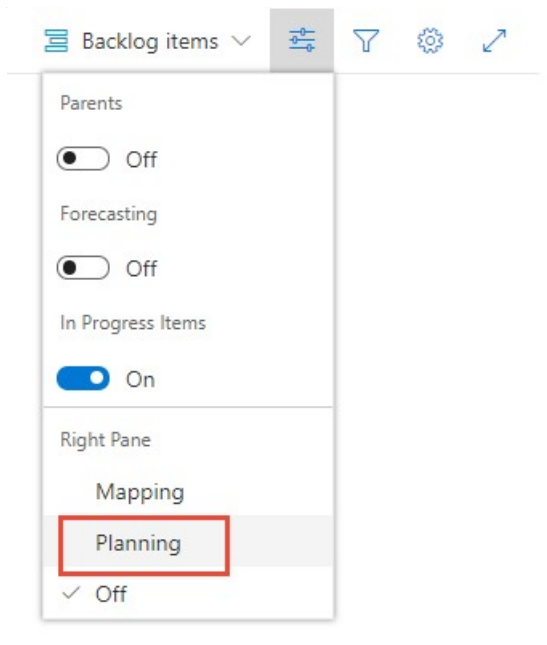
✉ Email query

📄 Copy query URL

## Move work items to a sprint

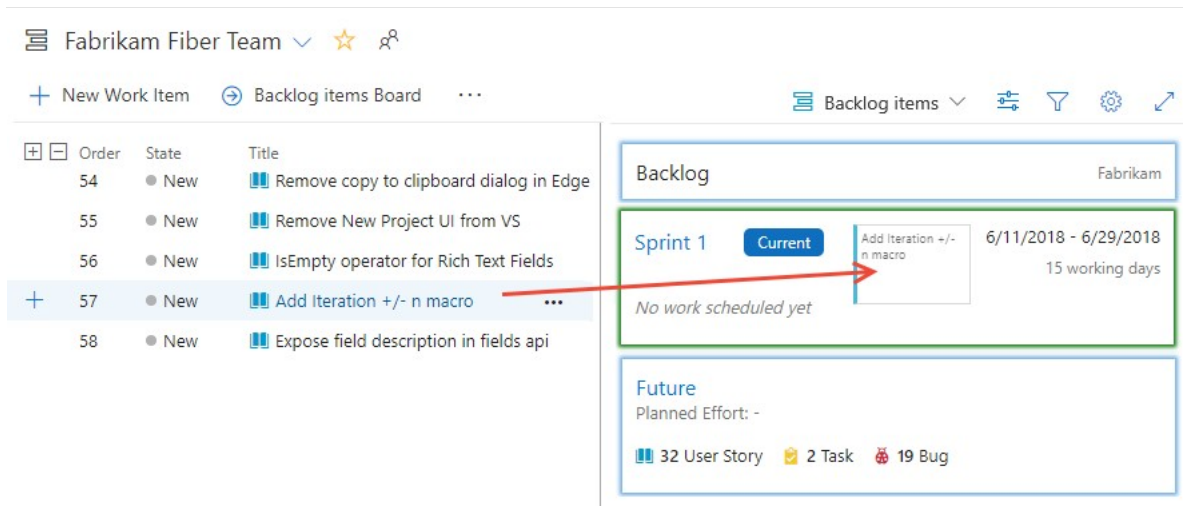
From any product, sprint, or portfolio backlog, you can drag a multi-selected list of work items and drop it onto a sprint in the **Planning** pane to change it's iteration path. (Not supported for users with **Stakeholder** access.)

1. To open the **Planning** pane, choose the  view options icon and select **Planning**. You can choose to set **In Progress** items to On or Off.



The set of sprints selected for your team appears. If you don't see any sprints listed, you can add sprints or select existing sprints for your team's use. To learn how, see [Define sprints](#).

2. You can drag and drop items from the **Backlog** onto a sprint.



This action will update the Iteration Path of the backlog items and any of its child tasks to the sprint you selected.

## Bulk modify tags

From the Edit work items dialog, select **Tags (Add)** or **Tags (Remove)**.

Here we choose to add the *Service* tag to the selected work items.

×

Edit work items

+

×

Field

Tags (Add) ▾

=

Value

Service ▾

+

Add new field

Adding Service tag to several backlog items

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ab ▾

A ▾

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Save

Cancel

## Related articles

To add fields or customize a work item form, see [Customize your work tracking experience](#). The method you use depends on the process model that supports your project.

### Migrate or change a large number of work items

For large scale, organizational moves, use the REST API calls for [Work item batch operations](#).

At this time, you can't move work items to a different organization or collection. You can only migrate work item information by exporting and then importing them using [Excel](#).

### Add multiple values to a field

If you have implemented a [custom control that supports multiple values](#), you can use Excel to bulk edit the field, but you can't modify it using the web portal. In the web portal, you can only select a single value for the field.