Removing a label when a card is added to a project board column

In this article

You can use GitHub Actions to automatically remove a label when an issue or pull request is added to a specific column on a classic project.

Introduction 🔗

This tutorial demonstrates how to use the `actions/github-script` `action` along with a conditional to remove a label from issues and pull requests that are added to a specific column on a classic project. For example, you can remove the `needs review` label when project cards are moved into the `Done` column.

In the tutorial, you will first make a workflow file that uses the `actions/github-script` `action`. Then, you will customize the workflow to suit your needs.

Creating the workflow 🔗

1. Choose a repository where you want to apply this project management workflow. You can use an existing repository that you have write access to, or you can create a new repository. For more information about creating a repository, see "Creating a new repository."

2. Choose a classic project that belongs to the repository. This workflow cannot be used with projects that belong to users or organizations. You can use an existing classic project, or you can create a new classic project. For more information about creating a project, see "Creating a project (classic)."

3. In your repository, create a file called `.github/workflows/YOUR_WORKFLOW.yml`, replacing `YOUR_WORKFLOW` with a name of your choice. This is a workflow file. For more information about creating new files on GitHub, see "Creating new files."

4. Copy the following YAML contents into your workflow file.

```YAML
name: Remove a label
on:
  project_card:
    types:
```

```
            - moved
jobs:
  remove_label:
    if: github.event.project_card.column_id == '12345678'
    runs-on: ubuntu-latest
    permissions:
      issues: write
      pull-requests: write
    steps:
      - uses: actions/github-script@v6
        with:
          script: |
            // this gets the number at the end of the content URL, which
should be the issue/PR number
            const issue_num =
context.payload.project_card.content_url.split('/').pop()
            github.rest.issues.removeLabel({
              issue_number: issue_num,
              owner: context.repo.owner,
              repo: context.repo.repo,
              name: ["needs review"]
            })
```

5. Customize the parameters in your workflow file:

   - In `github.event.project_card.column_id == '12345678'` , replace `12345678` with the ID of the column where you want to un-label issues and pull requests that are moved there.

     To find the column ID, navigate to your classic project. Next to the title of the column, click ··· then click **Copy column link**. The column ID is the number at the end of the copied link. For example, `24687531` is the column ID for `https://github.com/octocat/octo-repo/projects/1#column-24687531` .

     If you want to act on more than one column, separate the conditions with `||` . For example, `if github.event.project_card.column_id == '12345678' || github.event.project_card.column_id == '87654321'` will act whenever a project card is added to column `12345678` or column `87654321` . The columns may be on different project boards.

   - Change the value for `name` in the `github.rest.issues.removeLabel()` function to the name of the label that you want to remove from issues or pull requests that are moved to the specified column(s). For more information on labels, see "Managing labels."

6. Commit your workflow file to the default branch of your repository. For more information, see "Creating new files."

Testing the workflow 🔗

Every time a project card on a classic project in your repository moves, this workflow will run. If the card is an issue or a pull request and is moved into the column that you specified, then the workflow will remove the specified label from the issue or a pull request. Cards that are notes will not be affected.

Test your workflow out by moving an issue on your classic project into the target column.

1. Open an issue in your repository. For more information, see "Creating an issue."

2. Label the issue with the label that you want the workflow to remove. For more information, see "Managing labels."

3. Add the issue to the classic project column that you specified in your workflow file. For more information, see "[Adding issues and pull requests to a project (classic)](#)."

4. To see the workflow run that was triggered by adding the issue to the project, view the history of your workflow runs. For more information, see "[Viewing workflow run history](#)."

5. When the workflow completes, the issue that you added to the project column should have the specified label removed.

Next steps 🔗

- To learn more about additional things you can do with the `actions/github-script` action, see the `actions/github-script` [action documentation](#).
- [Search GitHub](#) for examples of workflows using this action.

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