

Redmine - Feature #13585

Make sub-task inherit the properties of parent

2013-03-25 14:59 - Dipan Mehta

Status:	New	Start date:	
Priority:	Normal	Due date:	
Assignee:		% Done:	0%
Category:	Issues	Estimated time:	0.00 hour
Target version:			
Resolution:			

Description

Background

Sub-task as such is a pretty much a complete issue like any other. It has it's own values of each custom fields, states, permissions, authors and so on. Currently the only thing common or linked between the parent task and sub-task are dates, closure etc.

However, when we think of sub-task it's not just-another-work-item; else it would be just another relation. Sub-task should necessarily derive it's properties or workflow from parent task - since it is the parent task which defines the 'larger scope' for all its children.

Some scenarios

1. In many cases - for a given issue, there are many custom fields liek customer-representatives, QA specific attributes, project and process specific attributes etc. which should be governed by parent issues.

- The sub-tasks shouldn't be required to keep copy and updating issues when parent is updated
- The sub-tasks sometimes shouldn't be allowed to change some of the properties.

2. Many a times, when we are building a feature, some specific use-cases, exceptions keeps arising. In this case, we create a sub-task (not a new task). From the customer/accounting point of view it may be regarded as an 'extra work' but from release or QA point of view the patch for the full parent issue inclusive of all sub-tasks is single. In such cases many feature specific custom field should be simply 'as per parent'

3. Another example, if the parent feature is 'client approved' the sub-tasks should also get 'client approved'

Currently the shortcut is to 'copy' a task straight away to preserve the values but when the same values change on the parent task - the sub tasks should reflect the same.

Approaches

Given this principle, we should be able to define specific behaviors:

1. The target version should get directly linked to sub-task assuming both the sub-task and parent tasks are expected to be finished together.
2. Custom fields of issues can have a properties as 'derive from parent'. Hence they can be automatically linked from parent tasks.
3. Alternatively, in the "New issue"/"Update" form, the custom fields (even if mandatory) can have option called 'Follow parent' option which will follow value of parent as applicable. This way, specific properties can be linked to parent without any standard template.
4. Specific State transition in workflow can have a flag <move sub-task along> which will reflect the corresponding states of the issues as well.
5. Alternatively, when parent's status is changed, additional drop-down of child's status can be selected or can be kept unchanged if no change is more appropriate.
6. Closure should be completely linked
7. %done of the parent task can be directly derived from the sub-tasks.

There is no assumption that parent task and sub-task are of the same tracker - hence this overlap only applies to states and custom fields which overlaps in the respective trackers.

What do you people think about it?

Related issues:

Related to Redmine - Feature # 6217: When creating a subtask, pre-fill fields...	Closed	2010-08-25
Related to Redmine - Feature # 9972: Subtasks assigned to same version by def...	Closed	2012-01-10
Related to Redmine - Feature # 7057: Send email notification on subtask and p...	Closed	2010-12-06
Related to Redmine - Feature # 11177: Email notification for subtasks status ...	Closed	
Related to Redmine - Feature # 9991: Estate parent task vs subtask	Closed	

Related to Redmine - Feature # 7450: Subtask : automatic status	New	2011-01-26
Related to Redmine - Feature # 5875: Changes to child estimates should trigge...	New	2010-07-12
Related to Redmine - Feature # 6117: subtasks default to parent issue target ...	New	2010-08-12
Related to Redmine - Feature # 10989: Prevent parent issue from being closed ...	Closed	

History

#1 - 2013-03-25 17:35 - Dipan Mehta

Different issues which discuss about linking child issues with parent:

1. Target Version:

There are number of Issues that request linking sub-tasks' Target version to be same or linked to parent's Target version: See #6117 and #9972 (Also see <http://www.redmine.org/boards/4/topics/28743>)

2. Blocking of parent by child issues. see #5462

3. Watchers: Another linkage is to have watchers to be directly inherited. See #7057, #11177.

4. Issue status: #9991, #7450, #5734

5. Time and Estimates: #5733, #5875

#2 - 2013-04-10 15:22 - Dipan Mehta

Another important related issue: #6117

#3 - 2014-07-14 09:34 - Edosoft Factory

You should checkout Subtasks Inherited Fields Plugin at <https://github.com/edosoft/redmine-inherit-fields-plugin>

#4 - 2015-02-13 20:12 - Bryn Jeffries

Edosoft Factory wrote:

You should checkout Subtasks Inherited Fields Plugin at <https://github.com/edosoft/redmine-inherit-fields-plugin>

Great plugin. In addition, to retrospectively inherit target milestones you can issue via the database console (at least for PostgreSQL)

```
UPDATE issues
SET fixed_version_id=l2.fixed_version_id
FROM issues l2
WHERE issues.parent_id=l2.id;
```

#5 - 2015-07-08 13:19 - Ricard F

This would be great to have it natively... There is nothing similar to that plugin working on 3.X

#6 - 2015-07-16 10:19 - Jérôme L

Maybe proposing parent values as default is not enough. What if a parent value (say, milestone, for example) changes? Should the child value change as well?

For each potentially inherited property, the choice should include "Inherited from parent" and this link should be remembered instead of the value itself. This could be the default choice.

This way, the user can choose to have a property of the child issue (priority, version) differ from its parent property, but if it is set to be inherited, changing the parent's property changes the child property as well.

#7 - 2015-10-01 13:33 - Florian ROBERT

+1

#8 - 2016-02-02 13:13 - Alessandro Zucchi

+1

#9 - 2016-09-20 14:11 - Toshi MARUYAMA

- Related to Feature #10989: Prevent parent issue from being closed if a child issue is open added

#10 - 2016-09-20 14:11 - Toshi MARUYAMA

- Related to deleted (Feature #10989: Prevent parent issue from being closed if a child issue is open)

#11 - 2016-09-20 14:12 - Toshi MARUYAMA

- Related to Feature #10989: Prevent parent issue from being closed if a child issue is open added

#12 - 2016-09-20 14:13 - Toshi MARUYAMA

- Related to deleted (Feature #5462: Blocking issues to be closed which have open subtasks)