

## Redmine - Defect #19354

### Unexpected milliseconds in JSON time attributes

2015-03-11 20:20 - Alex Last

<b>Status:</b>	Closed	<b>Start date:</b>	
<b>Priority:</b>	Normal	<b>Due date:</b>	
<b>Assignee:</b>	Jean-Philippe Lang	<b>% Done:</b>	0%
<b>Category:</b>	REST API	<b>Estimated time:</b>	0.00 hour
<b>Target version:</b>	3.0.1	<b>Affected version:</b>	
<b>Resolution:</b>	Fixed		
<b>Description</b>			
<p>our original request <a href="#">#5901</a> was about exposing Redmine version through REST API so that clients would know what functionality is supported by the server.</p> <p>that request is still relevant, but I decided to submit a smaller feature request about date formats.</p> <p>Redmine 3.x broke backward compatibility - the date format used in REST responses is different from Redmine 2.6:</p> <p>From redmine 2.6.0: "updated_on":"2015-01-23T00:15:24Z"</p> <p>From redmine 3.0.0: "updated_on":"2015-01-29T10:06:19.000Z"</p> <p>one of our users submitted this bug report: <a href="https://github.com/taskadapter/redmine-java-api/pull/175">https://github.com/taskadapter/redmine-java-api/pull/175</a></p> <p>if we could query Redmine to see its version, we could pick the right date format instead of guessing... now we will have to check "are there 3 more digits after this and before that?"..</p> <p>but a better option would be querying Redmine to see what date format it uses for long dates and short dates - because this is what the library actually cares about.</p>			

#### Associated revisions

##### Revision 14101 - 2015-03-15 10:49 - Jean-Philippe Lang

Don't include milliseconds in JSON API responses (#19354).

##### Revision 14111 - 2015-03-15 15:09 - Jean-Philippe Lang

Merged r14101 (#19354).

#### History

##### #1 - 2015-03-14 10:03 - Jean-Philippe Lang

- Status changed from New to Needs feedback
- Assignee set to Jean-Philippe Lang

The date format is not supposed to change in 3.0.0. There was a problem that is fixed for 3.0.1 ([#19065](#)), but it was different. Here is what I get for an issue with current trunk:

```
<created_on>2015-03-13T11:01:27Z</created_on>
<updated_on>2015-03-13T11:02:17Z</updated_on>
```

Can you give more details about how to reproduce this?

##### #2 - 2015-03-14 10:10 - Jean-Philippe Lang

Redmine uses `#xmlschema` without arguments to format dates in XML output, which gives 0 decimals by default:

```
irb(main):002:0> Time.now.utc.xmlschema
=> "2015-03-14T09:04:32Z"
irb(main):003:0> Time.now.utc.xmlschema(3)
=> "2015-03-14T09:04:41.221Z"
```

<source:/trunk/lib/redmine/views/builders/xml.rb>

### #3 - 2015-03-14 18:17 - Alex Last

Note that I am using JSON instead of XML.

This is my Redmine 3.0.0 on the test server: <http://76.126.10.142/redmine/issues/2.json>  
(use "test"/"test" credentials).

the payload it returns is

```
{
  "issue": {
    "id": 2,
    "project": {
      "id": 11,
      "name": "permanent test project"
    },
    "tracker": {
      "id": 1,
      "name": "Bug"
    },
    "status": {
      "id": 1,
      "name": "New"
    },
    "priority": {
      "id": 2,
      "name": "Normal"
    },
    "author": {
      "id": 1,
      "name": "Redmine Admin"
    },
    "subject": "test123",
    "description": "",
    "done_ratio": 0,
    "spent_hours": 0.0,
    "custom_fields": [
      {
        "id": 1,
        "name": "my_custom_1"
      },
      {
        "id": 2,
        "name": "custom_boolean_1",
        "value": ""
      },
      {
        "id": 3,
        "name": "custom_multi_list",
        "multiple": true,
        "value": [
          "V1",
          "V3"
        ]
      }
    ],
    "created_on": "2015-03-12T20:10:27.000Z",
    "updated_on": "2015-03-12T21:46:21.000Z"
  }
}
```

#### server info:

##### Environment:

Redmine version	3.0.0.stable
Ruby version	2.0.0-p598 (2014-11-13) [x86_64-linux]
Rails version	4.2.0
Environment	production
Database adapter	Mysql2

##### SCM:

Git	1.9.1
Filesystem	

##### Redmine plugins:

no plugin installed

even if you change Json format to match XML now, Redmine 3.0.0 version will still have this other format...

how can external clients detect the proper format? one way is to search for "." in the date string and thus detect that there are milliseconds there.

but a better (much more resilient) way would be for the server to provide the formatting string either in a separate REST endpoint ("give me all server settings please") or - even better - right inside the "issues/issue/all others" response:

"hey, you asked for issues, here is the result, and by the way, the date format I use is xxx-xxx-xxx-xxx-..." - this would make the response much easier to understand and client libraries (like Redmine Java API) - easier to maintain.

#### **#4 - 2015-03-15 11:00 - Jean-Philippe Lang**

- *Tracker changed from Feature to Defect*
- *Subject changed from expose all date formats used by Redmine REST API to Unexpected milliseconds in JSON time attributes*
- *Status changed from Needs feedback to Resolved*
- *Target version set to 3.0.1*
- *Resolution set to Fixed*

This change was not intentional, this was changed by Rails 4. So the requested information about the time format would have been wrong. I've fixed this format and added a test to make sure it stays like this.

#### **#5 - 2015-03-15 15:09 - Jean-Philippe Lang**

- *Status changed from Resolved to Closed*