

Redmine - Feature #4138

Add spent time comments in search

2009-10-29 14:30 - Spyros Oikonomopoulos

<b>Status:</b>	Needs feedback	<b>Start date:</b>	2009-10-29
<b>Priority:</b>	Normal	<b>Due date:</b>	
<b>Assignee:</b>		<b>% Done:</b>	0%
<b>Category:</b>	Search engine	<b>Estimated time:</b>	0.00 hour
<b>Target version:</b>	Candidate for next major release		
<b>Resolution:</b>			
<b>Description</b>			
Hello,			
we are using the "log time" function extensively for reporting activities related to long running issues. However "spent time" comments are not included in searches. Can they be added?			
Thanks in advance			
Related issues: <a href="#">#3082</a> <a href="#">#3936</a>			
<b>Related issues:</b>			
Related to Redmine - Feature #992: Option to search open issues only		<b>Closed</b>	<b>2008-04-04</b>
Related to Redmine - Feature #3082: Repository Search		<b>New</b>	<b>2009-03-31</b>
Has duplicate Redmine - Feature #9063: Searchable comments from "Log time"		<b>Closed</b>	<b>2011-08-16</b>
Has duplicate Redmine - Feature #13693: Possibility to search in time log com...		<b>Closed</b>	
Has duplicate Redmine - Defect #36059: Fulltext search in timelog comments		<b>New</b>	

History

#1 - 2009-11-19 20:37 - Jean-Philippe Lang

- Category set to Search engine

#2 - 2011-04-19 08:37 - snow windwaves

+1. I log all my time for invoicing and have lots comments to back up my bills. it would be great to be able to search them

#3 - 2011-06-28 08:52 - Jamie Gruener

+1

We use Redmine time entry comments for invoices, too, and being able to search comments would be a real help.

#4 - 2013-04-05 11:24 - Alexander Bagiev

+1  
Since spent hours are associated with comments, we fill this field instead of notes, but cannot search.

#5 - 2013-09-24 22:36 - Mischa The Evil

- Has duplicate Feature #9063: Searchable comments from "Log time" added

#6 - 2013-09-24 22:56 - Mischa The Evil

- File `rm4138-make_time_entries_searchable-trunk_12160.diff` added

I have created a rough patch, against Redmine trunk at [r12160](#), that should provide this feature.

Known issues:

- shown search results display created\_on date of time entry comments instead of date from :date
- time entry comments should be ordered by :date instead of :created\_on (but can not because it is a date column)
- no tests added yet

#### #7 - 2013-09-27 15:28 - Karl Fenech

Hi,  
im new to this, can anyone let me know how patch can be installed?

Thanks in advance

#### #8 - 2013-09-27 15:45 - Karl Fenech

Managed to run the patch but am getting the following:

```
bitnami@linux:/opt/bitnami/apps/redmine$ patch p0 < rm4138.diff
can't find file to patch at input line 5
Perhaps you used the wrong -p or --strip option?
The text leading up to this was:
-----
|Index: lib/redmine.rb |=====
(revision 12160) |+++ lib/redmine.rb   (working copy)
-----
File to patch:
```

Am i running the patch in the correct folder? How should i proceed?

#### #9 - 2013-09-30 05:09 - Mischa The Evil

Karl Fenech wrote:

```
bitnami@linux:/opt/bitnami/apps/redmine$ patch p0 < rm4138.diff
...
Am i running the patch in the correct folder? How should i proceed?
```

No, that is not the correct directory. It should be the top directory where Redmine source files are stored (a.k.a. the RAILS\_ROOT or REDMINE\_ROOT). It is {BITNAMI\_DIR}/apps/redmine/htdocs for BitNami Redmine deployments<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> according to <http://bitnami.com/stack/redmine/README.txt>

#### #10 - 2013-10-01 09:21 - Karl Fenech

Thanks, update worked.

I can now search for comments from the overall time spent under a project and is working fine. only thing that did not work is that comments cannot be searched using the search button top right, is this expected?

#### #11 - 2013-10-01 12:30 - Toshi MARUYAMA

- Related to Feature #992: Option to search open issues only added

#### #12 - 2013-10-01 12:31 - Toshi MARUYAMA

- Related to Feature #3082: Repository Search added

#### #13 - 2013-10-09 05:07 - Mischa The Evil

- Assignee set to Mischa The Evil

- Target version set to Unplanned backlogs

I'll schedule some time to work on this issue to come up with a usable and tested (!) patch.

Karl Fenech wrote:

```
Thanks, update worked.
I can now search for comments from the overall time spent under a project and is working fine. only thing that did not work is that comments
cannot be searched using the search button top right, is this expected?
```

No, it is not. I think the behavior you are experiencing is caused by other search variables. Though, I haven't tested the patch I posted well enough yet to be certain of that. To be continued...

Mischa The Evil wrote:

- shown search results display created\_on date of time entry comments instead of date from :date
- time entry comments should be ordered by :date instead of :created\_on (but can not because it is a date column)

A second look at the core code has left me in doubt if these two issues really are issues because the same created\_on is already used/displayed in the activity view ([r2877](#)). Any suggestions on this are welcome...

#### #14 - 2013-12-12 22:47 - Mischa The Evil

- Has duplicate Feature #13693: Possibility to search in time log comments added

#### #15 - 2013-12-16 11:55 - Mischa The Evil

- File `rm4138-make_time_entries_and_their_custom_fields_searchable-trunk_r12406.diff` added

- Target version changed from Unplanned backlogs to Candidate for next minor release

I continued working on this issue and have come up with a new, extended and thoroughly tested patch against Redmine trunk at [r12406](#). It turns out that the patch I posted earlier in note-6 was already fully functional and bug-free. The changes between that patch and the new patch I'll upload here are:

1. added three tests to `search_controller_test`<sup>1</sup> (including pulling-in the required `time_entries` fixtures) and one to `timelog_controller_test`<sup>2</sup> to make sure the new `TimeEntry` comments searching functionality works correctly in all the cases
2. fixed two assertions in `SearchControllerTest#test_search_all_projects` that broke due to the fact that issue 2 has now been pushed to the second page of the search results
3. added additional functionality to also search `TimeEntry` custom field values (this seems a logic next step now that `TimeEntry` comments can be searched)
4. added yet another test (with accompanying custom field and custom value fixtures) to `search_controller_test`<sup>3</sup> to make sure that `TimeEntry` custom field value searching is working correctly

I tried to separate the patch into two dedicated patches, but this wasn't possible because of the test changes that are in the same file.

Please let me know if something else is needed to get these features integrated. Regarding the "issues" with the dates that are used to sort and display the search results that I mentioned earlier in note-6 and note-13: I stick to my previous conclusion that it is not a real issue. Though, it might be something that could be improved in the future (maybe we can change the event title to also include the date of the time entry?), but I don't think that something like that should block the possible integration of these features.

Disclaimer: the patch currently breaks an existing unit test (`ProjectTest#test_destroying_root_projects_should_clear_data`), but this is caused by a defect in the Redmine core instead of a bug in the functionality provided by the patch. See [#15709](#).

<sup>1</sup> `SearchControllerTest#test_search_time_entries_on_project`, `SearchControllerTest#test_search_time_entries_on_project_with_subprojects_scope` and `SearchControllerTest#test_search_time_entries_on_all_projects`.

<sup>2</sup> `TimelogControllerTest#test_default_search_scope`

<sup>3</sup> `SearchControllerTest#test_search_time_entries_with_searchable_custom_fields`

#### #16 - 2018-02-25 17:58 - Marius BĂLTEANU

+1

Having the possibility to search in spent time comments will be very useful.

[Mischa The Evil](#), do you have the time to update your patch in order to apply cleanly on the current trunk? If not, I can take a look in the next period.

#### #17 - 2018-02-26 09:04 - Mischa The Evil

Marius BALTEANU wrote:

[Mischa The Evil](#), do you have the time to update your patch in order to apply cleanly on the current trunk? If not, I can take a look in the next period.

I'll see what I can do. Though, feel free to 'take over'. It doesn't seem too much of a work. It is mostly the tests that needs some rewrites (remove the use of assigns and, whenever possible, the fixture additions).

#### #18 - 2021-08-26 10:36 - Mischa The Evil

- File `0001-Make-time-entries-searchable-by-their-comments-hours.patch` added

- File `0002-Make-time-entries-searchable-by-their-custom-field-v.patch` added

- Assignee deleted ([Mischa The Evil](#))

Here's an updated patchset against [source:/trunk@21200](#) as a continuation of the patches provided in note#6 and note#15.

Changes compared to the patch provided in note#15:

- Patch: split-up the patch into atomic commits.
- Feature: added additional support for searching time entries by their 'hours' and 'spent\_on' attributes (along with their 'comments' attribute and their custom field values).
- Implementation: added association preloading.
- Implementation: rewritten test coverage using `assert_select` and added new tests for the added features.

Some notes about the patch transported from note#15:

- It was needed to fix some assertions in SearchControllerTest#test\_search\_all\_projects that broke due to the fact that issue 'Feature #2' has now been pushed to the second page of the search results.
- The date that is used to sort and display the search results is the 'created\_on' date and not the 'date' date.
- It adds new custom\_fields and custom\_values test fixtures for a searchable time entry custom field.

Please review, especially the code implementing the querying of the DB, thoroughly.

**#19 - 2021-08-29 05:45 - Mischa The Evil**

- Status changed from New to Needs feedback

**#20 - 2021-09-06 21:59 - Marius BĂLTEANU**

- Target version changed from Candidate for next minor release to Candidate for next major release

Thanks Misha for working on this.

Mischa The Evil wrote:

- Feature: added additional support for searching time entries by their 'hours' and 'spent\_on' attributes (along with their 'comments' attribute and their custom field values).

Searching in 'comments' and 'custom field value' is useful, for sure, but I'm not sure what to say about 'hours' and 'spent\_on' because I don't see a real use case. 'spent\_on' could be quite confusing because it accepts only the database format (yyyy-mm-dd) and some users are used to use the localization format (for ex: dd-mm-yyyy). I'm in favour of extracting the 'hours' and 'spent\_on' to another ticket to get more feedback.

Also, I think it's important to check the impact on the application performance because on some instances, the time entries table can be bigger than the issue table (an issue tends to have more time entries).

**#21 - 2023-10-29 07:06 - Mischa The Evil**

- Has duplicate Defect #36059: Fulltext search in timelog comments added

**Files**

rm4138-make_time_entries_searchable-trunk_12160.diff	1.42 KB	2013-09-24	Mischa The Evil
rm4138-make_time_entries_and_their_custom_fields_searchable-trunk_262436.diff	7.26 KB	2013-12-16	Mischa The Evil
0001-Make-time-entries-searchable-by-their-comments-hours.patch	5.89 KB	2021-08-26	Mischa The Evil
0002-Make-time-entries-searchable-by-their-custom-field-v.patch	3.17 KB	2021-08-26	Mischa The Evil