

## Redmine - Feature #8488

### Create an 'Involve' mechanism to private issues

2011-06-01 15:07 - Bruno Medeiros

<b>Status:</b> New	<b>Start date:</b>
<b>Priority:</b> Normal	<b>Due date:</b>
<b>Assignee:</b>	<b>% Done:</b> 0%
<b>Category:</b> Issues	<b>Estimated time:</b> 0.00 hour
<b>Target version:</b> Candidate for next major release	
<b>Resolution:</b>	
<b>Description</b>	
<p>As requested by some people (<a href="#">#7414#note-16</a>, <a href="#">#7412#note-3</a>, and so on), sometimes we need to involve someone that cannot access an issue by "default rules". It can happen, for example, when a customer send a problem via email and we need to create a Redmine issue ourself, and give this customer access to the ticket.</p> <p>I asked Jean-Phillipe on <a href="#">#7412#note-2</a> to extend the visibility of an issue to observers, and some people liked it, but it was not done because observe mechanism was designed for notification purposes (I now I agree it is not good, that's why I'm creating this feature request).</p> <p>So my request is: Create a involve mechanism where some roles can add people in an issue, in a very similar way they add an observer, and the added users have access to the issue the were involved.</p>	
<b>Related issues:</b>	
Related to Redmine - Feature #7414: Private issues	<b>Closed</b> <b>2011-01-22</b>
Related to Redmine - Feature #7412: Add an issue visibility level to each role	<b>Closed</b> <b>2011-01-22</b>
Related to Redmine - Defect #11888: No e-mail notification for non-members wh...	<b>New</b>
Related to Redmine - Defect #12945: watcher can't see this issue from My Page...	<b>Closed</b>
Related to Redmine - Feature #12666: Involvement boolean for Custom Field 'Us...	<b>New</b>
Related to Redmine - Feature #13533: Concept for controlling visibility of users	<b>New</b>
Related to Redmine - Feature #285: Tracker role-based permissioning	<b>Closed</b>
Related to Redmine - Feature #16845: Add permission rule to allow watchers ca...	<b>New</b>
Related to Redmine - Defect #22977: A project member has no access and gets n...	<b>New</b>
Related to Redmine - Patch #23546: Issue visibility "watched by, created by o...	<b>New</b>
Related to Redmine - Feature #27731: Allow users to view and comment on their...	<b>New</b>
Has duplicate Redmine - Feature #9330: Watchers can not see the ticket status...	<b>Closed</b> <b>2011-09-27</b>
Has duplicate Redmine - Defect #10173: Private bugs are not visible to watchers	<b>Closed</b> <b>2012-02-08</b> <b>2012-02-17</b>
Has duplicate Redmine - Defect #12584: Watchers on Private Issues	<b>Closed</b>
Has duplicate Redmine - Feature #11718: If you add a watcher to an issue, the...	<b>Closed</b>
Has duplicate Redmine - Feature #13828: when users can only see their own iss...	<b>Closed</b>
Has duplicate Redmine - Patch #14318: Watchers Alerted To Changes But Cannot ...	<b>Closed</b>
Has duplicate Redmine - Feature #27028: Issue's visibility for the watchers	<b>Closed</b>
Has duplicate Redmine - Feature #27677: New notification settings value in rol...	<b>Closed</b>
Has duplicate Redmine - Feature #28368: regarding watcher added in private pr...	<b>Closed</b>
Has duplicate Redmine - Defect #29911: [Email Notification] _involved in_ cla...	<b>Closed</b>
Has duplicate Redmine - Feature #13512: Add a way to make specific issues vis...	<b>Closed</b>

#### History

##### #1 - 2011-06-01 15:40 - Etienne Massip

- Category set to Issues

##### #2 - 2011-06-01 16:32 - Anton Nepomnyaschih

Also, it would be cool to set visibility level for each comment, like in JIRA, where you can write somethings to a specific users group.

**#3 - 2011-06-01 17:31 - Bruno Medeiros**

Anton Nepomnyaschih wrote:

Also, it would be cool to set visibility level for each comment, like in JIRA, where you can write somethings to a specific users group.

Anton, There is already a feature request for that, [#1554](#). Let's try don't mix requests.

**#4 - 2011-06-01 19:12 - Anton Nepomnyaschih**

Oh, you are right! Sorry!

**#5 - 2011-06-01 22:41 - Terence Mill**

+1

**#6 - 2011-06-02 07:33 - Roman E.**

+1

ty!

**#7 - 2011-06-07 16:01 - Dmitry Salashnik**

+1

**#8 - 2011-07-13 09:46 - Pavel Konstantinov**

+1

**#9 - 2011-07-13 11:16 - Terence Mill**

There is a CCC PPlugin, which can add email adresses to be notified beyond redmine user base.

**#10 - 2011-07-14 09:56 - Pavel Konstantinov**

Terence Mill wrote:

There is a CCC PPlugin, which can add email adresses to be notified beyond redmine user base.

This comment has no relation to the issue. This issue not about notification, but about issue access control

**#11 - 2011-07-22 19:58 - Justin Hahn**

- *File private\_issue\_watchers.diff added*

While I've read the commentary about how watchers are the wrong mechanism for this, I needed this functionality to upgrade my company to v1.2.1 and meet our privacy needs. We'd previously been using the 'view own issues' patch in an old release which works roughly the same way.

Consequently, we cooked up this patch. It over-rides the `addable_watcher_users` method from `acts_as_watchable` to allow any user who can view issues to be added as a watcher, and then adds watchers of the issue to the visible named scope and the `visible?` method so that they can see operate on the issue.

I don't expect this patch to be accepted but if, like me, you can't wait another 4 years for this to get straightened out then maybe this will help you.

I've only tested this in the context of my environment, so I can't promise it won't do terrible things to yours. I'm not Rails wizard, but I think it's pretty low impact. Your Mileage May Vary. If it breaks, you get to keep both parts.

**#12 - 2011-07-26 15:23 - mm MMY**

Hello

After patching some problems happened :  
Simple users cant access Activity page and give 500 Internal Error .  
so i redo patch changes and all things work true .

**#13 - 2011-07-28 17:48 - Justin Hahn**

- *File private\_issue\_watchers\_FIXED.diff added*

I have updated the patch for allowing watchers to see private issues to fix an issue with the Activity page -- there was a reference to `Issue.visible_conditions` in the journal model (which is related to the Activity page) which requires an include of the `:watchers` relation.

This updated patch should fix the issue with Activity giving a 500 Error.

**#14 - 2011-07-30 07:39 - mm MMY**

Well done .  
Thanks .

**#15 - 2011-09-09 02:36 - Colin Mollenhour**

+1

In the meantime, thanks for sharing your patch, Justin!

**#16 - 2011-09-19 16:32 - Alessio Cassibba**

Thank you Bruno for sharing this, saved me a lot of time and effort.  
Would be nice to see it implemented upstream as well.

**#17 - 2011-10-04 19:25 - Bruno Medeiros**

Alessio Cassibba wrote:

Thank you Bruno for sharing this, saved me a lot of time and effort.

I'm not the patch author, but you're welcome anyway :) The patch has been submitted by Justin Hahn.

**#18 - 2011-10-11 07:35 - Martin G**

+1

**#19 - 2011-10-26 14:23 - Francesco Trigger**

Justin Hahn wrote:

I have updated the patch for allowing watchers to see private issues to fix an issue with the Activity page -- there was a reference to Issue.visible\_conditions in the journal model (which is related to the Activity page) which requires an include of the :watchers relation.

This updated patch should fix the issue with Activity giving a 500 Error.

Thanks Justin!! exactly what i was searching for!!! :)

**#20 - 2011-10-26 15:43 - Francesco Trigger**

Justin Hahn wrote:

I have updated the patch for allowing watchers to see private issues to fix an issue with the Activity page -- there was a reference to Issue.visible\_conditions in the journal model (which is related to the Activity page) which requires an include of the :watchers relation.

This updated patch should fix the issue with Activity giving a 500 Error.

But now if the assignee is changed, the old assignee gets an 403 error if he is only allowed to see tickets as an assignee or ticket issuer. Is there a way to redirect the user to the issues page after altering the ticket assignee?

**#21 - 2011-10-26 15:54 - Francesco Trigger**

Is there a way to add the one updating the issue automatically as a watcher?

**#22 - 2011-12-09 14:10 - Bruno Medeiros**

- *File private\_issue\_watchers\_FIXED\_1.3.diff added*

I guess I could port this patch to the 1.3-stable branch, but couldn't test yet. If someone could give some feedback on it, I would appreciate. :)

**#23 - 2012-01-05 22:10 - Francesco Trigger**

Bruno Medeiros wrote:

I guess I could port this patch to the 1.3-stable branch, but couldn't test yet. If someone could give some feedback on it, I would appreciate. :)

Hey Bruno,

i tested it on 1.3 and it seems to work like a charme :) Thank you very much. Only question i have, is it possible to send an email also out to the watcher, when he was added to the issue or the issue was updated?

Thank you very much for your work!! :)

Francesco

#### #24 - 2012-01-10 17:38 - Bruno Medeiros

Francesco Trigger wrote:

i tested it on 1.3 and it seems to work like a charme :) Thank you very much. Only question i have, is it possible to send an email also out to the watcher, when he was added to the issue or the issue was updated?

I don't believe we can send email when adding the observer/watcher, but redmine is supposed to send an email when the issue is updated if the proper config is set on the administration options.

Thank you very much for your work!! :)

You're welcome, but I'm not the author of the patch, just ported it. We all need to thank Justin Hahn! :)

#### #25 - 2012-03-20 11:44 - Anton Tsapov

mm MMY wrote:

After patching some problems happened :  
Simple users cant access Activity page and give 500 Internal Error .

If I understand correctly, I have the same problem.

I use last patch: [private\\_issue\\_watchers\\_FIXED\\_1.3.diff](#), but simple users can't access to links like this /projects/project\_name/issues/report.

The error, that I've got:

```
mysql::Error: Unknown column 'watchers.user_id' in 'where clause': select s.id as status_id,
s.is_closed as closed,
j.id as tracker_id,
count(issues.id) as total
from
issues, projects, issue_statuses s, trackers j
where
issues.status_id=s.id
and issues.tracker_id=j.id
and issues.project_id=projects.id
and ((projects.id = 2) AND (projects.status=1 AND projects.id
IN (SELECT em.project_id FROM enabled_modules em WHERE em.name='issue_tracking'))) AND (projects.id IN (1,43,
34,65)
OR ((projects.is_public = 1) OR (projects.id IN (SELECT projects.id
FROM projects, project_non_member_users
WHERE projects.id = project_non_member_users.project_id
AND (project_non_member_users.user_id = 886
OR project_non_member_users.group_id IN (240,241,293,467,573,638,655,659,695
,711,718,804,854))))
AND ((issues.is_private = 0 OR issues.author_id = 886 OR issues.assigned_to_id
IN (886,240,241,293,467,573,638,655,659,695,711,718,804,854) OR watchers.user_id = 886))) OR projects.id IN (
13)))
group by s.id, s.is_closed, j.id
```

Backtrace:

```
C:/Ruby/lib/ruby/gems/1.8/gems/activerecord-2.3.14/lib/active_record/connection_adapters/abstract_adapter.rb:27:in `log'
C:/Ruby/lib/ruby/gems/1.8/gems/activerecord-2.3.14/lib/active_record/connection_adapters/mysql_adapter.rb:324:
in `execute'
C:/Ruby/lib/ruby/gems/1.8/gems/activerecord-2.3.14/lib/active_record/connection_adapters/mysql_adapter.rb:639:
in `select'
C:/Ruby/lib/ruby/gems/1.8/gems/activerecord-2.3.14/lib/active_record/connection_adapters/abstract/database_st
atements.rb:7:in
`select_all_without_query_cache'
C:/Ruby/lib/ruby/gems/1.8/gems/activerecord-2.3.14/lib/active_record/connection_adapters/abstract/query_cache.
rb:60:in `select_all'
C:/Ruby/lib/ruby/gems/1.8/gems/activerecord-2.3.14/lib/active_record/connection_adapters/abstract/query_cache.
rb:81:in `cache_sql'
C:/Ruby/lib/ruby/gems/1.8/gems/activerecord-2.3.14/lib/active_record/connection_adapters/abstract/query_cache.
rb:60:in `select_all'
```

```
D:/Draft/redmine_svn/app/models/issue.rb:1073:in `count_and_group_by'  
D:/Draft/redmine_svn/app/models/issue.rb:751:in `by_tracker'  
D:/Draft/redmine_svn/app/controllers/reports_controller.rb:31:in `issue_report'
```

And when I run tests, some of them give the same errors.

#### **#26 - 2012-04-26 16:26 - Florian Steiger**

The patch 1.3 dont work for our updated Redmine 1.4.1 (from 1.2.1).  
Are there any solutions?

Thanks for any hints.

#### **#27 - 2012-05-01 15:44 - William Roush**

+1, this is a major requirement when dealing with a part of the company that should only have access to issues that you've assigned to as watchers when they may only have "view own issues" permissions.

#### **#28 - 2012-05-04 21:06 - Max Schwer**

We need also a solution for 1.4.1  
Is there somebody we can hire to solve this problem?

#### **#29 - 2012-05-09 05:43 - Bruno Medeiros**

Max Schwer wrote:

We need also a solution for 1.4.1  
Is there somebody we can hire to solve this problem?

I would offer myself if I were something more than a rails noob.. :P

#### **#30 - 2012-06-02 10:01 - Vadim Goncharov**

Max Schwer, I successfully applied code from "private\_issue\_watchers\_FIXED\_1.3.diff" in Redmine 2.0.1 (just manually copy-paste in app/model/issue.rb and app/model/journal.rb). And now watchers can view private issues. Thanks to Justin Hahn and Bruno Medeiros.

#### **#31 - 2012-06-04 19:13 - William Roush**

Vadim Goncharov wrote:

Max Schwer, I successfully applied code from "private\_issue\_watchers\_FIXED\_1.3.diff" in Redmine 2.0.1 (just manually copy-paste in app/model/issue.rb and app/model/journal.rb). And now watchers can view private issues. Thanks to Justin Hahn and Bruno Medeiros.

How stable is this? What is the process to get this steamed into the main Redmine branch?

I guess we could pull this out into a plugin, but it would be nicer to have Redmine support this idea natively.

#### **#32 - 2012-06-13 16:50 - Daniele Palumbo**

- File *private\_issue\_watchers\_FIXED\_1.4.diff* added

I have just uploadaded the diff with 1.4.1 version.  
I would really love this small improvement to be pushed into mainstream.

#### **#33 - 2012-06-20 06:08 - Bruno Medeiros**

Applied ok on current 1.4-stable, didn't fully tested yet. Thanks!

#### **#34 - 2012-06-20 18:22 - Terence Mill**

Does the involved user have any rights in redmine or project? I assume that the user at least mus be registered. Or is this possible with adding an email the owber gest one time links?

#### **#35 - 2012-06-21 20:25 - Bruno Medeiros**

William Roush wrote:

How stable is this? What is the process to get this steamed into the main Redmine branch?

As explained on the second paragraph of the description, this approach will not be accepted on Redmine. I personally see one big downside now (I defended this approach in the past): If an user that gained access to the ticket by the observer mechanism clicks 'Unwatch', he irreversibly loses

access to the ticket. That's not acceptable and that's why I created this ticket to ask for a 'Involve mechanism' very similar to the Observe mechanism.

I guess we could pull this out into a plugin, but it would be nicer to have Redmine support this idea natively.

This is more reasonable for now, but I don't know how to create plugins.

#### #36 - 2012-06-24 16:16 - Maxim Nikolaevich

Bruno Medeiros wrote:

If an user that gained access to the ticket by the observer mechanism clicks 'Unwatch', he irreversibly loses access to the ticket. That's not acceptable and that's why I created this ticket to ask for a 'Involve mechanism' very similar to the Observe mechanism.

Ok, let suppose feature 'Involve' will be done.  
What should redmine do when some customer ask to uninvolve from issue?  
I suppose he should lose access to the ticket. Should he?  
to stop confuse only one additional feature required to be added to attached patch:

When customer click "unwatch" redmine should check - this customer lose access after this action and if so - show new additional dialogue like this:  
**Attention! unwatch will loses access to the ticket. Continue?**

So i think redmine should use "Watcher mechanism" and should not do new "Involve mechanism".

#### #37 - 2012-06-25 05:04 - Bruno Medeiros

Maxim Nikolaevich wrote:

Ok, let suppose feature 'Involve' will be done.  
What should redmine do when some customer ask to uninvolve from issue?  
I suppose he should lose access to the ticket. Should he?

I think that involved should not uninvolve himself.

to stop confuse only one additional feature required to be added to attached patch:

When customer click "unwatch" redmine should check - this customer lose access after this action and if so - show new additional dialogue like this:  
**Attention! unwatch will loses access to the ticket. Continue?**

So i think redmine should use "Watcher mechanism" and should not do new "Involve mechanism".

And what if you want to involve someone, but don't want to have this person being notified by email? There is no way to do that using only one mechanism.

I see your point, and that was my point before, but I can understand why Jean-Phillipe don't like it. Using something that was designed for notification purposes to access control is kind of a hack and will have its limitations.

I like this patch, and I'm using this on my redmine instance, and I say thanks to the author, but I understand if it's no integrated at any time.

#### #38 - 2012-07-20 12:52 - Francesco Trigger

- Assignee set to Mischa The Evil

Is there a fix for 2.0 ?

#### #39 - 2012-07-20 16:44 - Francesco Trigger

Francesco Trigger wrote:

Is there a fix for 2.0 ?

I tried to modify the files like in Redmine 1.x but i get this trying to access redmine in the production.log.

```
Connecting to database specified by database.yml
Creating scope :active. Overwriting existing method User.active.
Creating scope :open. Overwriting existing method Version.open.
DEPRECATION WARNING: The InstanceMethods module inside ActiveSupport::Concern will be no longer included automatically. Please define
instance methods directly in ActiveRecord::Base instead. (called from include at
/opt/redmine/apps/redmine/htdocs/lib/plugins/awesome_nested_set/lib/awesome_nested_set/awesome_nested_set.rb:58)
OpenIdAuthentication.store is nil. Using in-memory store.
```

**#40 - 2012-07-20 17:06 - Francesco Trigger**

- File redmine-2-0.zip added

**#41 - 2012-07-23 09:48 - Bruno Medeiros**

- Assignee deleted (Mischa The Evil)

Francesco Trigger, could you provide a patch? It's not a good idea override whole files since they change over time.

**#42 - 2012-07-25 06:29 - Maxim Nikolaevich**

I'm sorry for long time answer

Bruno Medeiros wrote:

And what if you want to involve someone, but don't want to have this person being notified by email? There is no way to do that using only one mechanism.

Can you describe real case how it can be: 'Guy was involved but should not notified' ?

current settings about email notification [here](#) says:

1. For any event on all my projects
2. Only for things I watch or **I'm involved in**
3. Only for things I am assigned to

...

So if you are involved - you should receive emails - it's like you watch.

If you watcher - you are involved.

It's **easy to understand** and easy to code.

In other way let me suppose involved and watched are different things.

I see many problems in this way like:

1. Guy is watcher but has no permission - somebody think they receive message but actually not
2. It's possible to set watchers in time of creating issue but probably watcher has no permissions...

So i see only one issue - 'unstar' with lose permission - but my solution i mention in comment above

In other words:

What is goal for involving somebody?

**Goal is to notify him** when hidden issue is changed. **Goal is to allow him see** hidden issue changes.

So watcher = involved i think

Let me know if i miss something

**#43 - 2012-08-01 00:51 - Bruno Medeiros**

Maxim Nikolaevich wrote:

In other words:

What is goal for involving somebody?

**Goal is to notify him** when hidden issue is changed. **Goal is to allow him see** hidden issue changes.

So watcher = involved i think

Let me know if i miss something

Yes, you missed. Involve someone doesn't necessarily mean that you want this person being notified **by email**. You may want to let this user only access an issue when he **wants to**, not notifying him **every time** the issue is changed. You're simplifying things to much considering that involve = observe.

**#44 - 2012-08-01 01:47 - Maxim Nikolaevich**

Bruno Medeiros wrote:

Involve someone doesn't necessarily mean that you want this person being notified **by email**. You may want to let this user only access an issue when he **wants to**, not notifying him **every time** the issue is changed.

If somebody assign issue to you it means you will be notified every time about changing in this issue. Is it problem? I think no.

So when somebody set you as watcher - you also will be notified about every changing in this issue.

I can't to find real usacase when i need to involve somebody to issue (from closed project!) without notifying them about changing issue.

If i assign issue from closed project to some guy then him will be notified about every changes, right?

**#45 - 2012-09-11 18:51 - Pavel Konstantinov**

I completely agree with Bruno Medeiros Maxim Nikolaevich. Watcher = involved, involve = observe.

For my project this feature is key feature. Only inability to give personal access to private issues blocks upgrade of Redmine from 1.3 to 2.x (with lot of fixes and new features).

I can not organize customer's workflow without this feature.

Dear developers, can you summarize status of this issue?

**#46 - 2012-09-12 02:09 - Maxim Nikolaevich**

I completely agree with Bruno Medeiros. Watcher = involved, involve = observe.

Bruno Medeiros has different point of view. Bruno Medeiros tell ut these should be different settings. So it's strange that you are agree but tell my point of view about this things.

What you want to tell really:

1. You agree with me
2. You think watcher should be not equal involved, and involve should be not equal observe.

Dear developers, can you summarize status of this issue?

I totally agree. Dear developers please give us your plans about this issue.

**#47 - 2012-09-12 10:47 - Pavel Konstantinov**

Maxim, you are right. I just copied a wrong name to my post.

So, my main idea is "Watcher = involved, involve = access". I see no reason to "watch" something and have no access to it but gets only notification mail about it with, actually, all same information, but packed in e-mails.

Or "be involved" but get no notification mails.

"Be envolved" mostly means "have access and get notifications" and Redmine should provide it in this way.

**#48 - 2012-09-18 12:25 - Daniele Palumbo**

Bruno Medeiros wrote:

Francesco Trigger, could you provide a patch? It's not a good idea override whole files since they change over time.

+1.

i have "deploy overwriting" mode.

thanks,  
Daniele

**#49 - 2012-09-21 08:49 - Abdul Halim Mat Ali**

- *File private\_issue\_watchers\_FIXED\_2.1.diff added*

Attached is the patch for version 2.1.

The original patch resolve not only watchers for private issue.

It is also resolve, watchers not able to view non-public projects issues when they are path of the watchers list.

I am wondering why Redmine developers are not integrating this patch.

Does it cause any other bug or slow down the query?

**#50 - 2012-09-28 21:58 - Kris Lou**

+1.

This would significantly aid the use of Redmine in a Help Desk situation. Honestly, the "view Issues Created by or Assigned to" should include "or Watching."

**#51 - 2012-09-29 04:21 - ysbranddoug andeson**

- *Assignee set to Jim Mulholland*

**#52 - 2012-09-29 12:56 - Etienne Massip**

- *Assignee deleted (Jim Mulholland)*



**#53 - 2012-10-01 09:51 - chockiquin John**

- Assignee set to Chaoqun Zou

**#54 - 2012-10-01 09:59 - Etienne Massip**

- Assignee deleted (Chaoqun Zou)

**#55 - 2012-10-03 21:28 - theylory aifseng**

- Assignee set to Mischa The Evil

**#100 - 2012-10-07 09:27 - Bruno Medeiros**

Maxim Nikolaevich wrote:

I completely agree with Bruno Medeiros. Watcher = involved, involve = observe.

Bruno Medeiros has different point of view. Bruno Medeiros tell ut these should be different settings. So it's strange that you are agree but tell my point of view about this things.

What you want to tell really:

1. You agree with me
2. You think watcher should be not equal involved, and involve should be not equal observe.

Men, I believe you're missing the main point here. I created this ticket because Redmine developers rejected the idea of using observe mechanism to do access control.

I said it before and I'll say it now again: As user, I agree with you and I use the patch that is being maintained here. Using the already existing observe mechanism to involve people is reasonable.

But, as a developer, I can understand why Redmine developers don't want to integrate this patch.

Please, let's stop asking something that has already been rejected by Redmine developers. it will only bother them.

Dear developers, can you summarize status of this issue?

I totally agree. Dear developers please give us your plans about this issue.

The status is implicit: Implement a involve mechanism, apart from observer mechanism, and it can be considered to be integrated on Redmine. Or we can maintain this patch in parallel forever (many thanks for who is doing that now, I'm a very happy user of this patch :)).

**#101 - 2012-10-07 09:42 - Toshi MARUYAMA**

- Assignee deleted (Mischa The Evil)

**#102 - 2012-10-08 09:49 - Ton Nguyen**

Hi,

After applying this patch, I got the following error when trying to access page 'http://myserver/projects/<project\_id>/issues/report'

```
ActiveRecord::StatementInvalid (Mysql::Error: Unknown column 'watchers.user_id' in 'where clause': select s.id as status_id,
s.is_closed as closed,
j.id as tracker_id,
count(issues.id) as total
from
issues, projects, issue_statuses s, trackers j
where
issues.status_id=s.id
and issues.tracker_id=j.id
and issues.project_id=projects.id
and (((projects.id = 84) AND (projects.status=1 AND projects.id IN (SELECT em.project_id FROM enabled_modules em WHERE
em.name='issue_tracking')) AND (projects.id IN (86,89) OR (projects.id IN (84,80) AND ((issues.is_private = 0 OR issues.author_id = 3 OR
watchers.user_id = 3 OR issues.assigned_to_id IN (3,5))))))
group by s.id, s.is_closed, j.id):
app/models/issue.rb:1099:in `count_and_group_by'
app/models/issue.rb:789:in `by_tracker'
app/controllers/reports_controller.rb:31:in `issue_report'
```

But when I access this page with admin account, I do not get this error. I am really appreciate your help!

Regards,

### #103 - 2012-10-09 00:25 - Maxim Nikolaevich

Bruno Medeiros wrote:

I created this ticket because Redmine developers rejected the idea of using observe mechanism to do access control.

I saw [#7412-13](#) discussion

Jean-Philippe Lang wrote:

A user who unwatches a private issue would lost access to it. It may be quite confusing for many users.

So developers rejected this patch because, it does not solve one very important usecase (which i describe above):

When customer click "unwatch" redmine should check - this customer loose access after this action and if so - show new additional dialogue like this:

**Attention! unwatch will loses access to the ticket. Continue?**

So i agree without additional dialogue this feature should not be used in production. (like this patch allow)

But i think this dialogue not so hard to code

### #104 - 2012-10-09 00:29 - Maxim Nikolaevich

hm... this page has 'Google Page Rank'=3

So google see how this feature is important :)

### #105 - 2012-10-15 16:27 - Bruno Medeiros

Maxim Nikolaevich wrote:

So developers rejected this patch because, it does not solve one very important usecase (which i describe above):

When customer click "unwatch" redmine should check - this customer loose access after this action and if so - show new additional dialogue like this:

**Attention! unwatch will loses access to the ticket. Continue?**

So i agree without additional dialogue this feature should not be used in production. (like this patch allow)

But i think this dialogue not so hard to code

This isn't the only issue with the current patch/approach. I will list all the problems I see now (again):

1. *Unwatch make user irreversible lose access to ticket* - This is the first issue people first realized, and maybe the biggest issue in this patch. And I don't think create a dialog fixes the problem. Make a confirmation dialog would create a big inconsistency: If I click unwatch in a ticket that I have access granted by "normal" rules, I turn off email notification for this ticket. If I do that with a ticket that I'm involved, I lose access? That doesn't make sense at all.
2. *Be involved not equals watch* - This is a fact. If they seem the same for you, you need less from Redmine than other people would. A watcher needs to be involved, but involved people don't necessarily need to watch. Like I said before: **Involve someone doesn't necessarily mean that you want this person being notified by email.** You may want to let some user only access an issue when he wants to, not notify this user every time the issue is changed. You're simplifying things to much considering that involve = observe.
3. *Permission control needs to be separated* - We have today 3 permissions: Add watcher, Remove watcher, See watchers list. Using observe mechanism to involve people implies that every role that is able to add/remove watchers will be able to involve/uninvolve people. This would be a design failure. We need separated permissions for involve.
4. *Watch mechanism was designed for notification purposes* - And when I say mechanism I don't mean only the option to watch/unwatch a ticket, I mean this combo on the ticket screen, plus all the permissions to allow different roles to add and remove watchers, plus all tables in the database, mail senders, etc. All this was designed thinking of notifying people with emails about changes, not control access. If Redmine developers decide to use this mechanism to control access to tickets, this could bring problems to the project in the future.

And before people start to say again that I'm against this patch: **I'm not against this patch, I'm a very happy and thankful user of it. I just understand why Redmine developers refuse to integrate it.**

### #106 - 2012-10-30 18:50 - Francesco Trigger

Abdul Halim Mat Ali wrote:

Attached is the patch for version 2.1.

The original patch resolve not only watchers for private issue.

It is also resolve, watchers not able to view non-public projects issues when they are path of the watchers list.

I am wondering why Redmine developers are not integrating this patch.

Does it cause any other bug or slow down the query?

Hey,

thanks for the new patch, i tried it, but it does not work :(  
Any ideas?

Francesco

**#107 - 2012-10-31 03:39 - Abdul Halim Mat Ali**

I have tried it on Redmine version 2.1.0.  
I don't know whether it will work on other version or on the latest svn checkout.

Francesco Trigger wrote:

Abdul Halim Mat Ali wrote:

Attached is the patch for version 2.1.

The original patch resolve not only watchers for private issue.  
It is also resolve, watchers not able to view non-public projects issues when they are path of the watchers list.

I am wondering why Redmine developers are not integrating this patch.  
Does it cause any other bug or slow down the query?

Hey,

thanks for the new patch, i tried it, but it does not work :(  
Any ideas?

Francesco

**#108 - 2012-11-06 11:03 - Christophe Badoit**

+1

I would love this feature, although I understand this patch would break a lot of currently used workflow.

Thanks for the patch, it works well with 2.1.

**#109 - 2012-11-06 11:43 - Abdul Halim Mat Ali**

Christophe Badoit wrote:

+1

I would love this feature, although I understand this patch would break a lot of currently used workflow.

Thanks for the patch, it works well with 2.1.

What kind of workflow it will break? I am curious.

**#110 - 2012-12-24 10:42 - Adnan Topçu**

+1

And also, there is a need for redmine 2.2  
I was tried to manual update but there was not successfully. :(

**#111 - 2013-01-22 11:01 - Tolga Yaman**

Is there a plan for integrating this patch to stable releases?

**#112 - 2013-02-06 06:23 - Jinyi Cui**

+1  
I met the same question, add a watcher means u want notify the issue's change to the watcher.

**#113 - 2013-02-06 09:51 - Daniel Felix**

- Target version set to Candidate for next major release

Because many people seem to need this. I propose to set this as a candidate for the next major release. Maybe Jean-Philippe would disagree, but this is just a proposal. :-)

#### #114 - 2013-02-13 00:10 - Anonymous

As I suggested in [#12666](#), I think a clean way to do this would be, when creating a custom field and setting the type to 'user', having a check box for enabling involvement in the issue. Coupled with multi-select, this lets you have as much or as little control over how users are involved in an issue as you need.

#### #115 - 2013-02-28 20:13 - Justin Hahn

- File `private_issue_watchers_2.2.diff` added

I have updated the patch for v2.2.3 of redmine. It appears to be working fine for me. Please let me know if you experience problems with it on 2.2

#### #116 - 2013-03-02 05:21 - Justin Hahn

- File `private_issue_watchers_2.2_FIXED.diff` added

It turns out that patch has a subtle defect. Attempting to sort on Assignee or any other user-based column would result in no data being returned. After much debugging, I think I've found a resolution. For the technically inclined, I've moved from eager loading the :watchers association to using an explicit LEFT OUTER JOIN via a :join parameter/method.

It's not obvious to me at all why this was breaking with watchers as an include, and I suspect the way I've done this is a touch ugly (It's certainly not very DRY), but it works at least. I really wish the proper "Involve" functionality were in place so we could end of life this tweak.

Anyhow, corrected patch attached.

#### #117 - 2013-03-06 09:54 - Stanislav Židek

- File `private_issue_watchers_2.2_FIXED_2.diff` added

Justin Hahn wrote:

It turns out that patch has a subtle defect. Attempting to sort on Assignee or any other user-based column would result in no data being returned.

I tried to apply your patch and got an error when trying to see a project or "My page":

```
(0.5ms) SELECT COUNT(DISTINCT `issues`.`id`) FROM `issues` LEFT OUTER JOIN `projects` ON `projects`.`id` = `issues`.`project_id` LEFT OUTER JOIN `issue_statuses` ON `issue_statuses`.`id` = `issues`.`status_id` LEFT OUTER JOIN "watchers" ON "watchers"."watchable_id" = "issues"."id" AND "watchers"."watchable_type" = 'Issue' WHERE `issues`.`assigned_to_id` IN (11, 17, 24, 85) AND (((projects.status <> 9 AND projects.id IN (SELECT em.project_id FROM enabled_modules em WHERE em.name='issue_tracking')) AND ((projects.id IN (73,49,12,77) AND ((issues.author_id = 11 OR watchers.user_id = 11 OR issues.assigned_to_id IN (11,17,24,85)))) OR (projects.id IN (66,72) AND ((issues.is_private = 0 OR issues.author_id = 11 OR watchers.user_id = 11 OR issues.assigned_to_id IN (11,17,24,85)))) OR (projects.is_public = 1 AND ((issues.author_id = 11 OR watchers.user_id = 11 OR issues.assigned_to_id IN (11,17,24,85)))) OR projects.id IN (72) OR (projects.id IN (69,68,64,57,63,71,12,70,66,72,3) AND ((issues.is_private = 0 OR issues.author_id = 11 OR watchers.user_id = 11 OR issues.assigned_to_id IN (11,17,24,85)))))) AND (issue_statuses.is_closed = 0)
```

```
Mysql::Error: You have an error in your SQL syntax; check the manual that corresponds to your MySQL server version for the right syntax to use near "watchers" ON "watchers"."watchable_id" = "issues"."id" AND "watchers"."watchabl' at line 1: SELECT COUNT(DISTINCT `issues`.`id`) FROM `issues` LEFT OUTER JOIN `projects` ON `projects`.`id` = `issues`.`project_id` LEFT OUTER JOIN `issue_statuses` ON `issue_statuses`.`id` = `issues`.`status_id` LEFT OUTER JOIN "watchers" ON "watchers"."watchable_id" = "issues"."id" AND "watchers"."watchable_type" = 'Issue' WHERE `issues`.`assigned_to_id` IN (11, 17, 24, 85) AND (((projects.status <> 9 AND projects.id IN (SELECT em.project_id FROM enabled_modules em WHERE em.name='issue_tracking')) AND ((projects.id IN (73,49,12,77) AND ((issues.author_id = 11 OR watchers.user_id = 11 OR issues.assigned_to_id IN (11,17,24,85)))) OR (project.s.id IN (66,72) AND ((issues.is_private = 0 OR issues.author_id = 11 OR watchers.user_id = 11 OR issues.assigned_to_id IN (11,17,24,85)))) OR (projects.is_public = 1 AND ((issues.author_id = 11 OR watchers.user_id = 11 OR issues.assigned_to_id IN (11,17,24,85)))) OR projects.id IN (72) OR (projects.id IN (69,68,64,57,63,71,12,70,66,72,3) AND ((issues.is_private = 0 OR issues.author_id = 11 OR watchers.user_id = 11 OR issues.assigned_to_id IN (11,17,24,85)))))) AND (issue_statuses.is_closed = 0)
```

I suppose there is a problem because of double-quotes (") instead of back quotes (`) around some table/column names:

```
LEFT OUTER JOIN "watchers" ON "watchers"."watchable_id" = "issues"."id" AND "watchers"."watchable_type" = 'Issue'
```

I tried to modify your patch according to this (attaching). I will keep testing it.

Notes:

- I am less than beginner with Ruby/Rails, I work with it only from sysadmin point of view. Therefore, I might have done some incredibly stupid things because of misunderstanding. Feel free to correct me.
- I am using mysql database backend. I have no idea if the changes might break if you use other database.

#### #118 - 2013-03-06 14:23 - Justin Hahn

- File `private_issue_watchers_2.2_FIXED_3.diff` added

Stanislav, thanks for the report. However, it turns out there are other problems with the patch I put together. I use/test on postgres, so the issue you experienced must be due to that difference. Regardless, the change I put together is bad. It will break pagination on large issues lists in that pages will have fewer results than expected and you'll end up with inaccessible issues. (This is because the join that I added causes the query Rails/Redmine issues to the database to return duplicates)

So, instead, I've modified the patch to work differently. Instead of attempting to `:join` or `:include` the watchers relation, I've gone with fetching a list of watched issue ids by the given user, and then adding those issue ids to the WHERE clause on the SQL conditions. This seems to work much better, and is less invasive (in particular we no longer have to modify the `app/models/journal.rb` file)

I think this updated patch may solve both our issues. To be honest, I'm surprised past versions of this patch didn't have similar issues. Make sure to apply this against the pristine sources, and not against a previously patched version of the code. (`revert app/models/issue.rb` and `app/models/journal.rb`)

Patch attached.

#### #119 - 2013-03-06 14:47 - Justin Hahn

- File `private_issue_watchers_2.2_FIXED_4.diff` added

I hate to update my own patch in less than an hour, but I found a slightly cleaner way to do what I did. So, alas, here is `FIXED_4`. It's not, functionally, any different than `FIXED_3` but the code is a bit cleaner.

#### #120 - 2013-03-07 07:00 - Sergey Norv

I use redmine 2.2.3

```
Environment:
  Redmine version      2.2.3.stable
  Ruby version         1.9.2 (x86_64-linux)
  Rails version        3.2.12
  Environment          production
  Database adapter     Mysql2
```

After install the patch (`private_issue_watchers_2.2_FIXED_4.diff`) when the page opens with a list of problems some users displays 500 error. log:

```
Started GET "/projects/5135p?jump=overview" for 172.19.32.97 at 2013-03-07 09:57:57 +0400
Processing by ProjectsController#show as HTML
  Parameters: {"jump"=>"overview", "id"=>"5135p"}
  Current user: sapatoit (id=89)
Redirected to http://172.19.32.47:3000/projects/5135p
Completed 302 Found in 10ms (ActiveRecord: 1.1ms)
Started GET "/projects/5135p" for 172.19.32.97 at 2013-03-07 09:57:57 +0400
Processing by ProjectsController#show as HTML
  Parameters: {"id"=>"5135p"}
  Current user: usertest (id=89)
Completed 500 Internal Server Error in 67ms
```

```
ActiveRecord::StatementInvalid (Mysql2::Error: You have an error in your SQL syntax; check the manual that cor
responds to your MariaDB server version for the right syntax to use near ')))) OR (projects.id IN (14,3) AND (
(issues.author_id = 89 OR issues.assigned_to' at line 1: SELECT COUNT(DISTINCT `issues`.`id`) AS count_id, tra
cker_id AS tracker_id FROM `issues` LEFT OUTER JOIN `projects` ON `projects`.`id` = `issues`.`project_id` LEFT
OUTER JOIN `issue_statuses` ON `issue_statuses`.`id` = `issues`.`status_id` WHERE (((projects.status <> 9 AND
projects.id IN (SELECT em.project_id FROM enabled_modules em WHERE em.name='issue_tracking')) AND ((projects.
is_public = 1 AND ((issues.author_id = 89 OR issues.assigned_to_id IN (89,97) OR issues.id IN ()))) OR (projec
ts.id IN (14,3) AND ((issues.author_id = 89 OR issues.assigned_to_id IN (89,97) OR issues.id IN ()))) OR (proj
ects.id IN (14) AND ((issues.author_id = 89 OR issues.assigned_to_id IN (89,97) OR issues.id IN ()))))) AND (
issue_statuses.is_closed = 0) AND ((projects.id = 14 OR (projects.lft > 7 AND projects.rgt < 8))) GROUP BY tra
cker_id):
  app/controllers/projects_controller.rb:156:in `show'
```

After removal of the patch, everything works fine.  
How can I fix this?

**#121 - 2013-03-07 14:27 - Justin Hahn**

Oh, interesting. I believe the problem is there are no issues being watched by those users. I don't have a good way to test this right now. Can you try this to verify for me?

Take one of the users with this issue and have them watch a single issue. If the problem goes away, I think I know how to fix it. If not, let me know.

**#122 - 2013-03-07 16:42 - Justin Hahn**

- File `private_issue_watchers_2.2_FIXED_5.diff` added

OK, I've been able to reproduce in my environment. This patch should fix that issue. We now only insert the watched issues.id clause when there are actually watched issues for the user. Let me know if you run into anything else.

**#123 - 2013-03-07 17:54 - Justin Hahn**

OK, I've been able to reproduce in my environment. This patch should fix that issue. We now only insert the watched issues.id clause when there are actually watched issues for the user. Let me know if you run into anything else.

**#124 - 2013-03-08 08:34 - Stanislav Židek**

Justin, I tried your last patch and it seems to work (still using mysql).

Btw, I've also tried the original patch (`private_issue_watchers_2.2.diff`) and haven't been able to reproduce the problem. Can you tell me the exact way how to do that?

**#125 - 2013-03-21 09:13 - Anton Nepomnyaschih**

Does the patch work with Redmine 2.3.0?

**#126 - 2013-03-21 13:45 - Justin Hahn**

Given that 2.3.0 was just released two days ago, I'd say there's at best a 50/50 chance of it. Feel free to post an updated version if it doesn't.

**#127 - 2013-03-21 21:19 - César Perales**

Justin Hahn, thank you for the patch , i tried it (`private_issue_watchers_2.2_FIXED_5.diff`) and it works when i create the issue ~~but not when the issue its already created and watchers are added. Using redmine 2.2.3.~~

Works ok

**#128 - 2013-03-22 06:47 - Anton Nepomnyaschih**

The patch seems working with 2.3.0.

**#129 - 2013-04-05 11:40 - Massimo Rossello**

I've made a plugin for the 1.4.x version: [http://www.redmine.org/plugins/redmine\\_extended\\_watchers](http://www.redmine.org/plugins/redmine_extended_watchers)

It also disables adding watchers foreign to the project. It seems weird to me the possibility to be watchers and not being able to inspect and be notified about some issue, in private projects.

Probably this aspect needs fix with public projects; any contribution is appreciated

**#130 - 2013-05-08 07:05 - Bruno Medeiros**

I've just upgraded my Redmine to 2.3 and installed the plugin. So far, so good!

One downside I see on the plugin approach is that some fragments of the core are copied in the plugin, and there will be no conflict if the core changes. Any thoughts on this?

**#131 - 2013-06-06 12:29 - Adnan Topçu**

Hello,  
`private_issue_watchers_2.2_FIXED_5.diff` and `redmine_extended_watchers` plugin have same effect and they works well.  
But watcher search function does not work during the adding new watcher when you use one of them ??

Environment:  
Redmine version 2.2.3.stable  
Ruby version 1.9.3 (x86\_64-linux)  
Rails version 3.2.12  
Environment production  
Database adapter MySQL2

**#132 - 2014-04-01 04:28 - Toshi MARUYAMA**

- Related to Feature #11718: If you add a watcher to an issue, they should have rights to view it. added

**#133 - 2014-04-01 04:31 - Toshi MARUYAMA**

- Related to deleted (Feature #11718: If you add a watcher to an issue, they should have rights to view it.)

**#134 - 2014-04-01 04:32 - Toshi MARUYAMA**

- Has duplicate Feature #11718: If you add a watcher to an issue, they should have rights to view it. added

**#135 - 2014-04-02 14:22 - Konrad Baranowski**

Unfortunately after patching issue.rb on Redmine 2.5.0 stable I have an Internal Error 500 when I want to update issue. More strange is that after reverting changes, error still appears. Apart of this error, patch doesn't make issues visible for watchers.

**#136 - 2014-04-08 08:04 - Krzysztof Wosinski**

- File private\_issue\_watchers\_2.2\_FIXED\_6.diff added

Hi,

I had the same error as Konrad on my Redmine 2.4.2 (working on Bitnami VM). Updating the patch helped. I attach the patch working in my 2.4.2 version (maybe it will also work in 2.5.0?).

**#137 - 2014-04-08 10:16 - Konrad Baranowski**

Thank you Krzysztof. It's working on 2.5.0.

**#138 - 2014-04-08 13:46 - Geetansh Jindal**

this patch is not working on our version , i am trying to patch redmine 2.5.1.stable

I getting the following outup

```
File to patch: app/models/issue.rb
patching file app/models/issue.rb
Hunk #1 FAILED at 94.
Hunk #2 succeeded at 134 (offset 13 lines).
Hunk #3 succeeded at 151 with fuzz 1 (offset 18 lines).
1 out of 3 hunks FAILED -- saving rejects to file app/models/issue.rb.rej
```

even we are not seeing any error message. but even after applying this patch, the purpose of the patch is not met. the purpose of this patch was : "Private Issues should be visible to Watchers". its not happening even after patch

Following are my environment details

```
Environment:
Redmine version      2.5.1.stable
Ruby version         1.9.3-p545 (2014-02-24) [i686-linux]
Rails version        3.2.17
Environment           production
Database adapter     MySQL
```

**#139 - 2014-04-08 17:09 - Dmitry Salashnik**

[https://github.com/NEXSTEP/redmine\\_show\\_private\\_for\\_watcher](https://github.com/NEXSTEP/redmine_show_private_for_watcher)

tested on last trunk

**#140 - 2014-05-14 22:54 - Lucky Boy**

Dmitry Salashnik wrote:

[https://github.com/NEXSTEP/redmine\\_show\\_private\\_for\\_watcher](https://github.com/NEXSTEP/redmine_show_private_for_watcher)

tested on last trunk

not help for me on 2.5.1

**#141 - 2014-06-13 08:44 - Toshi MARUYAMA**

- Description updated

**#142 - 2014-07-17 00:50 - Toshi MARUYAMA**

- Related to Feature #285: Tracker role-based permissioning added

**#143 - 2015-04-05 18:34 - Go MAEDA**

- Related to deleted (Defect #12116: Watchers added as a non-member doesn't receive emails notifications)

**#144 - 2015-04-08 17:34 - Mustapha TAMI NOURINE**

Can anybody provide the same changes for redmine 3.0.1?

**#145 - 2015-06-21 00:26 - Ling Li**

In addition to the useful extended watcher plugin, is there a plan to implement the "Involve" mechanism?

**#146 - 2015-08-27 12:45 - Michael Schaefer**

+1! we're so looking forward for this to become implemented. this really limits the overall functionality of issue tracking as it's implemented in our company. as we're on 3.x the patches don't really work for me. It would be really great to see this implemented!

**#147 - 2015-10-08 10:37 - Jasur Mirkhamidov**

+1

mine is 3.1.0

is anybody tested?

**#148 - 2015-10-16 17:53 - Roman Zak**

Please someone provide a patch for 3+ version!

**#149 - 2015-10-28 17:18 - Pavel Konstantinov**

+1

It's the only thing that blocks me from upgrading to version on 3.x.  
In my work-flow it's the key feature.

**#150 - 2015-11-19 06:59 - Hang Xie**

- File *private\_issue\_watchers\_3.1.x.diff* added

patch for 3.1.x (working on 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 )

**#151 - 2015-12-18 05:34 - Toshi MARUYAMA**

- Related to Feature #20106: Adding issue watchers to "Issues Visibility" permissions added

**#152 - 2015-12-18 05:35 - Toshi MARUYAMA**

- Related to Feature #16845: Add permission rule to allow watchers can edit issues added

**#153 - 2016-01-16 07:32 - Go MAEDA**

- Has duplicate Feature #13828: when users can only see their own issues; give watchers the ability to view issues they watch added

**#154 - 2016-02-15 04:42 - Toshi MARUYAMA**

- Related to deleted (Feature #20106: Adding issue watchers to "Issues Visibility" permissions)

**#155 - 2016-05-08 09:13 - Jean-Philippe Lang**

- Related to Patch #14318: Watchers Alerted To Changes But Cannot See Issues (potentially) added

**#156 - 2016-05-08 09:14 - Jean-Philippe Lang**

- Related to deleted (Patch #14318: Watchers Alerted To Changes But Cannot See Issues (potentially))

**#157 - 2016-05-08 09:14 - Jean-Philippe Lang**

- Has duplicate Patch #14318: Watchers Alerted To Changes But Cannot See Issues (potentially) added

**#158 - 2016-06-07 11:08 - Tobias Fischer**

Hang Xie wrote:



patch for 3.1.x (working on 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 )

I can confirm that this patch also works for 3.2.3.stable.15464 and should be included as a feature in the next release.  
This would be very useful!

**#159 - 2016-06-07 12:55 - Go MAEDA**

Tobias Fischer wrote:

Hang Xie wrote:

patch for 3.1.x (working on 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 )

I can confirm that this patch also works for 3.2.3.stable.15464 and should be included as a feature in the next release.

I want this feature, but I think any patches that uses watchers for access controlling purpose would not be accepted for now.

The following is Jean-Phillippe Lang's comment from [#7412#note-13](#):

watchers were designed for notification purpose only. A user who unwatches a private issue would lost access to it. It may be quite confusing for many users.

See also [#14318#note-23](#).

So we should think different approach.

**#160 - 2016-06-07 13:31 - Tobias Fischer**

Go MAEDA wrote:

So we should think different approach.

Okay, agreed. But Redmine really needs a solution for that!

---

*Tobias Fischer wrote:*

Hang Xie wrote:

patch for 3.1.x (working on 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 )

I can confirm that this patch also works for 3.2.3.stable.15464 and should be included as a feature in the next release.

While testing the patch `private_issue_watchers_3.1.x.diff` with Redmine 3.2.3 I found a bug which allows users to view tickets they are not assigned to or which they aren't watching.

So I wouldn't recommend using the patch in production!

**#161 - 2016-06-07 14:29 - Tobias Fischer**

For those of you who need the functionality right now, I suggest to use the patch `allow_watchers_and_contributors_access_to_issues_3.2.0.patch` by Fabrizio Sebastiani from [#14318#note-22](#). It works well for 3.2.3.stable.15464.

However, I still agree with Go MAEDA that we need another/better solution for implementation in one of the next releases...

**#162 - 2016-07-11 15:56 - kay rus**

+1 for this feature

**#163 - 2016-07-12 16:18 - Toshi MARUYAMA**

- Related to Defect #22977: A project member has no access and gets no notification, when being a watcher of the issue added

**#164 - 2016-08-09 09:29 - Jan from Planio [www.plan.io](http://www.plan.io)**

- Related to Patch #23546: Issue visibility "watched by, created by or assigned to" for roles added

**#165 - 2016-08-09 09:40 - Jan from Planio [www.plan.io](http://www.plan.io)**

Go MAEDA wrote:

I want this feature, but I think any patches that uses watchers for access controlling purpose would not be accepted for now.

The following is Jean-Phillippe Lang's comment from [#7412#note-13](#):

watchers were designed for notification purpose only. A user who unwatches a private issue would lost access to it. It may be quite confusing for many users.

So we should think different approach.

We've had similar requests to this at Planio numerous times and we've spent quite some time internally thinking about better or alternative ways. Yet we couldn't come up with anything simple that wouldn't make things even more confusing for users. Being able to set people as watchers AND being able to "involve" users via two different buttons seemed to be causing even more confusion unfortunately.

So, we've implemented this based on watchers for Planio and it seems that users "get it". We're not receiving many support requests by people who are confused by the new feature.

Felix has posted the patch in [#23546](#) for everyone's consideration :-)

#### #166 - 2017-02-16 22:34 - Bruno Medeiros

Jan from Planio [www.plan.io](http://www.plan.io) wrote:

So, we've implemented this based on watchers for Planio and it seems that users "get it". We're not receiving many support requests by people who are confused by the new feature.

Jan, I'm a happy Planio user and at the same time my company develop a custom solution based on Redmine. I see your point and I use this patch in quite a few Redmine instances. As a Redmine core developer, though, I wouldn't accept it on core, exactly as Jean-Philippe stated. I wonder if it is really a good idea to have it on Planio core.

The main problem with this patch, reported by a few of our custom solution's customers, is: **Once you are involved in an issue** (in this case, using the observe mechanism) **you cannot stop receiving emails from that issue**. If you stop observing, you lose access. If you keep observing, emails keep coming. If you reach that point, there is no way back. No solution. Period. And this is kind of obvious, because this patch uses something designed to handle email notifications to do access control, which is wrong by design.

Besides that, if you allow a role to add observers, this role is also allowed to give access to users that may not be supposed to have access. "Add watchers" permission becomes much more powerful and dubious. See [my previous comment](#) for more details.

I think a lot of people demand that because they don't care about losing the observer mechanism, this is a valid way, but we need to accept one thing: Observe and be involved are different things, we cannot fully resolve the problem with only one flag. If you drop the observe feature and transform it in an involve feature (I think that is what most people that use this patch do), that's fine, but keep in mind that you may be creating a bigger problem for you if people want to use the observe as it was designed to work.

#### #167 - 2017-04-25 15:59 - Frederico Camara

Bruno Medeiros wrote:

The main problem with this patch, reported by a few of our custom solution's customers, is: **Once you are involved in an issue** (in this case, using the observe mechanism) **you cannot stop receiving emails from that issue**. If you stop observing, you lose access. If you keep observing, emails keep coming. If you reach that point, there is no way back. No solution. Period. And this is kind of obvious, because this patch uses something designed to handle email notifications to do access control, which is wrong by design.

Maybe we should understand what it is to be a watcher differently. Nowadays, and I may be wrong, being a watcher means I *could* be notified via email: in "my account" I choose to be notified in combos regarding my involvement with the issues. I can not specify what changes I want to be notified about, neither select which level of involvement triggers notification individually. Neither I can choose to silence specific issues. Actually, users end up resorting to email filters to complement this lack of control in Redmine.

So, what really would I like to have? Let me try and design something simple, that people should "get":

- In "my account", a user should be able to choose which events to be notified about by email;
  - It could be the selected subset from Administration > Settings > Email notifications;
  - Not in a combo. Make each kind of notification specific.
- In "my account", a user should be able to choose if i should be notified if I am the owner, involved...
  - Not in a combo. Make each kind of notification specific.
- Redmine should have a way to give unrelated people access to issues (IMO, this **is** what people understand as *watching*);
  - Some roles could give more people access to the issue;
  - Give view access to the issue should be the default feature.
- Receive email notifications should be a separate option:
  - When seeing an issue, the user can see if they are receiving email, show in the side panel;

- Users set the default value in "my account";
- Users could add themselves to a whitelist (for each issue) to receive emails;
- Users could add themselves to a blacklist (for each issue) to receive emails;

PS:

- If the user loses view permission to an issue, remove him from the issue whitelist or blacklist.
- Please, do not redirect him out of the project, to an error page, back link not working;
  - Error 404: tell user also he may not have access to page.
- When migrating the database, whoever would be in an issue watcher list, should be added to its whitelist.

#### #168 - 2017-08-21 16:01 - Ilya Vyganov

Thanks for this patch!

I was looking for a solution to this problem for a very long time.

But if use patch for 3.1.X on redmine 3.3.X show up bug: All users can see issue by direct link like this [http://\[redmine\\_url\]/issues/\[issue\\_number\]](http://[redmine_url]/issues/[issue_number])  
 We can fix it next code in patch:

```
when 'own'
-     self.author == user || user.is_or_belongs_to?(assigned_to)
+     #self.author == user || user.is_or_belongs_to?(assigned_to)
+     !self.is_private? || (self.author == user || self.watched_by?(user) || user.is_or_belongs_to?(assigned_to))
```

to

```
when 'own'
-     self.author == user || user.is_or_belongs_to?(assigned_to)
+     #self.author == user || user.is_or_belongs_to?(assigned_to)
+     self.author == user || self.watched_by?(user) || user.is_or_belongs_to?(assigned_to)
```

#### #169 - 2017-08-21 23:17 - Tobias Fischer

[Илья Нестеров](#): You could also try and check the patches from related issue [#14318#note-35](#) which are updates for Redmine 3.3 and 3.4

#### #170 - 2017-08-22 08:16 - Ilya Vyganov

Tobias Fischer wrote:

[Илья Нестеров](#): You could also try and check the patches from related issue [#14318#note-35](#) which are updates for Redmine 3.3 and 3.4

Tobias, Thank you!

This patch is much better!

#### #171 - 2017-09-20 16:05 - Go MAEDA

- Has duplicate Feature #27028: Issue's visibility for the watchers added

#### #172 - 2017-11-29 12:03 - Jess Nielsen

+1

#### #173 - 2017-11-29 23:26 - Mischa The Evil

- Has duplicate Feature #27677: New notification settings value in role setting added

#### #174 - 2017-11-30 08:24 - Tom Wawerek

+1

#### #175 - 2017-12-06 00:32 - Mischa The Evil

- Related to Feature #27731: Allow users to view and comment on their own issues, even if moved into a project where they don't have access. added

#### #176 - 2018-01-24 09:49 - Joaquim Homrighausen

+1

#### #177 - 2018-02-15 14:42 - Diego Smalinsky

Definitely +1.

Redmine is an excellent piece of software, we've been wanting this Private functionality for a couple of years and it's the one causing us more trouble (the need to keep separate projects)

**#178 - 2018-03-23 07:52 - Marius BĂLTEANU**

- Has duplicate Feature #28368: regarding watcher added in private project but not getting notification added

**#179 - 2018-05-11 10:05 - Lara R**

Diego Smalinsky wrote:

Definitely +1.

Redmine is an excellent piece of software, we've been wanting this Private functionality for a couple of years and it's the one causing us more trouble (the need to keep separate projects)

I am trying to install the 23546-watched\_or\_created\_or\_assigned\_issue\_visibility.patch but unable to do it.

I run the command `patch -p0 < filename.patch` but getting too many errors. Could you give me the steps you followed to install it?

Thanks.

**#180 - 2018-05-25 23:57 - Mitchell Fang**

+1

Patch on <http://www.redmine.org/issues/14318#note-35> works great. Apology for updating closed ticket.

**#181 - 2018-11-20 08:21 - Marius BĂLTEANU**

- Related to Defect #29911: [Email Notification] \_involved in\_ clarification added

**#182 - 2018-11-20 08:21 - Marius BĂLTEANU**

- Related to deleted (Defect #29911: [Email Notification] \_involved in\_ clarification)

**#183 - 2018-11-20 08:21 - Marius BĂLTEANU**

- Has duplicate Defect #29911: [Email Notification] \_involved in\_ clarification added

**#184 - 2018-12-06 10:41 - Philipp N**

Is there any possibility to get this as a plugin ?

I only want some persons to see tickets they are assigned as "watcher" (or similar) to.

**#185 - 2020-01-02 15:13 - Robert Röttger**

Philipp Neuhaus wrote:

Is there any possibility to get this as a plugin ?

I only want some persons to see tickets they are assigned as "watcher" (or similar) to.

+1

**#186 - 2020-03-28 09:35 - Nikaola Pitserskii**

Any chance of adding this functionality?

**#187 - 2020-04-07 15:40 - Aleksandar Pavic**

+1

**#188 - 2020-04-20 16:30 - Marius BĂLTEANU**

- Related to deleted (Feature #13512: Add a way to make specific issues visible to a user)

**#189 - 2020-04-20 16:30 - Marius BĂLTEANU**

- Has duplicate Feature #13512: Add a way to make specific issues visible to a user added

**#190 - 2020-05-06 14:25 - Marco Koch**

+1 Watchers need to be able to see private issues

**#191 - 2020-05-06 22:35 - Yannick SAVANIER**

+1 IMHO this is really a feature needed by a lot of people and need to be re-evaluated.

**#192 - 2020-05-07 07:21 - Robert Röttger**

It's absolutely necessary to be able to have a permission like "Observer is allowed to read and comment tickets" for a role.

**#193 - 2020-09-30 17:02 - Cyrion Beleriand**

+1

**#194 - 2020-09-30 17:14 - Cyrion Beleriand**

Cyrion Beleriand wrote:

+1

This plugin did the job for me: [https://github.com/maxrossello/redmine\\_extended\\_watchers](https://github.com/maxrossello/redmine_extended_watchers)

The affected watcher can see the issue he is watching, and not the other issues.

Tested on redmine 4.1.1.

**#195 - 2022-05-09 13:18 - Aleksandar Pavic**

+1 again and I don't agree that [#14318](#) should be closed!

**#196 - 2023-04-12 13:37 - Joan J**

As Cyrion I am using the redmine\_extended\_watchers with current versions 5.0.4 at the moment and works as expected. Meanwhile this issue is open it will serve as a solution.

**#197 - 2024-10-29 14:12 - Stefan Mueller**

I agree with previous user: [#14318](#) should not be closed!

**Files**

---

private_issue_watchers.diff	2.24 KB	2011-07-22	Justin Hahn
private_issue_watchers_FIXED.diff	2.78 KB	2011-07-28	Justin Hahn
private_issue_watchers_FIXED_1.3.diff	2.94 KB	2011-12-09	Bruno Medeiros
private_issue_watchers_FIXED_1.4.diff	2.73 KB	2012-06-13	Daniele Palumbo
redmine-2-0.zip	12 KB	2012-07-20	Francesco Trigger
private_issue_watchers_FIXED_2.1.diff	3.02 KB	2012-09-21	Abdul Halim Mat Ali
private_issue_watchers_2.2.diff	2.91 KB	2013-02-28	Justin Hahn
private_issue_watchers_2.2_FIXED.diff	3.09 KB	2013-03-02	Justin Hahn
private_issue_watchers_2.2_FIXED_2.diff	3.09 KB	2013-03-06	Stanislav Židek
private_issue_watchers_2.2_FIXED_3.diff	2.3 KB	2013-03-06	Justin Hahn
private_issue_watchers_2.2_FIXED_4.diff	2.14 KB	2013-03-06	Justin Hahn
private_issue_watchers_2.2_FIXED_5.diff	2.58 KB	2013-03-07	Justin Hahn
private_issue_watchers_2.2_FIXED_6.diff	2.59 KB	2014-04-08	Krzysztof Wosinski
private_issue_watchers_3.1.x.diff	3.32 KB	2015-11-19	Hang Xie