

Basic Concepts

Structure plugin lets you organize issues into multiple hierarchical lists. To get started, you need to get acquainted with a few basic notions we're using throughout this manual and in the Structure plugin itself.

Structure Plugin	A really cool JIRA plugin that you are reading about.
a structure	A single hierarchical list of issues. By default, there's only one structure called "Global Structure", but you can create as many structures as needed.
a structure contains an issue	A structure is initially empty - it does not contain any issues. Issues can be added to a structure manually , or they can be imported or added automatically by a synchronizer . A single issue may be present in many structures at the same time, or not be present in any.
structure widget	The main tool for working with the structure - a grid with columns that shows the hierarchy and allows to work with it. That's what you saw on our live demo server . Structure widget is present at several places in JIRA .
a sub-issue is under a parent issue	When you place an issue under another issue in the hierarchy, you can say that it's a sub-issue and the other one is the parent issue. A sub-issue may contain sub-issues on its own (and so it's a sub-issue and parent issue at the same time). To make matters worse, an issue that's a sub-issue in one structure may not be a sub-issue in another structure.
children issues	Sometimes we call sub-issues "children issues", but "sub-issues" is the preferred term.
JIRA has sub-tasks	JIRA has a very limited hierarchy based on sub-tasks, and since Structure integrates nicely with the sub-tasks we need to refer to them as, well, "sub-tasks". So "sub-tasks" are JIRA issues of the specific issue types ("sub-task types"), while sub-issues are just any issues that happen to be placed under a parent issue in a structure.