

# Copying Structure and Cloning Issues

When [copying a structure](#), you can turn on **Clone Issues** parameter and have Structure plugin create a copy (clone) of every issue in the original structure.

## Cloning Parameters

- Clone Issues? ☐ No — the new structure will contain the same issues as the original structure  
☒ Yes — the new structure will contain copies (clones) of the issues from the original structure

### Issue Cloning Parameters

Structure plugin will create a copy of each issue in the structure. Each new issue will have the initial status (according to the original issue).

Create in Project: 

-- same as original issue --

By default, each clone is created in the same project as the original issue. If Target Project is selected, issue clones will be created in the selected project.

Summary Prefix: 

If set, this text will be prepended to the summary of each clone.

Summary Suffix: 

If set, this text will be appended to the summary of each clone.

Labels: 

Optionally, enter labels (separated by space) to be added to each clone.

Link Back: 

☐ Link each clone to its original issue

Link type: cloned issue 

clones

 original issue

Options: 

☐ Copy comments

☐ Copy attachments

☐ Clone JIRA sub-tasks of the cloned issues (even if the sub-tasks are not in the structure)

☐ Copy issue links

☐ Copy watchers


Notifications: 

☒ Send e-mail notifications for cloned issues

Start Cloning

Cancel

Additional parameters may be specified for the cloning process:

Create in Project	Lets you specify a project for the new issues, different from the project the issues currently belong to. If not specified, every new issue is created in the same project as the original issue.
Summary Prefix Summary Suffix	Let you modify the summary of the clones
Labels	Space-delimited labels to be added to the cloned issues. (Already existing labels are preserved.)
Link Back	If specified, every new issue will be linked with its original issue.
Copy comments	If selected, all comments are also copied. If not selected, new issues will have no comments.
Copy attachments	If selected, attachments are copied (the actual files are copied on JIRA server).
Clone JIRA sub-tasks of the cloned issues	Let's say the copied structure contains issue A-1. In JIRA, A-1 has a subtask A-2. But this subtask is not in the structure. If this option is selected, A-2 will also be cloned. If the option is not selected, A-1 will be cloned without the subtask.
Copy issue links	If selected, all issue links and remote issue links will be copied. If a link exists between two issues, which both are cloned, then the new link will be created between clones of the original issues. <div><div> If you use <b>Link Back</b> option, then the links of the type selected for linking back to original issues will <b>not be copied</b>.</div></div>

<b>Copy watchers</b>	If selected, the users watching an original issue will be added to the watcher list of the clone.
<b>Notifications</b>	If selected, an email may be issued for every created issue, depending on the JIRA notification scheme for the issue's project.

 The cloned issues are always created in the initial **Status**, according to each issue's project and workflow scheme.

## Required Permissions


- To be able to clone structured issues you need **Bulk Change** global permission.
- Because the result of cloning is a new structure, you also need to be allowed to create new structures. (Configured by JIRA administrator - see [Administrator's Guide](#).)
- You need to have **Create Issue** permission in the projects where clones are created. If you specify **Create in Project** option, the issues will be created only in the specified project. Otherwise, clones are created in the same projects as their respective original issues.
- Users in the **Assignee** field of the original issues will have to have **Assignable User** permission in the target project – otherwise, issue clone cannot be assigned to that user and will be assigned by default.
- If you don't have **Modify Reporter** permission, you won't be able to set the value of **Reporter** field in the cloned issues. Instead of the original reporter, you will be the reporter of the issue clones.
- You need to have **Add Comments** permission to copy comments, **Link Issues** permission to copy issue links or use **Link Back**, **Create Attachments** permission to copy attachments, and **Manage Watchers** permission to copy watcher lists.

## Executing Bulk Cloning

When you press **Start Cloning** button, a background process starts on JIRA server, which performs the following:

1. Copy original structure's hierarchy and store it in memory.
2. Check all necessary permissions required for cloning.
3. Clone all issues.
4. Create a structure and fill it up with the cloned issues.

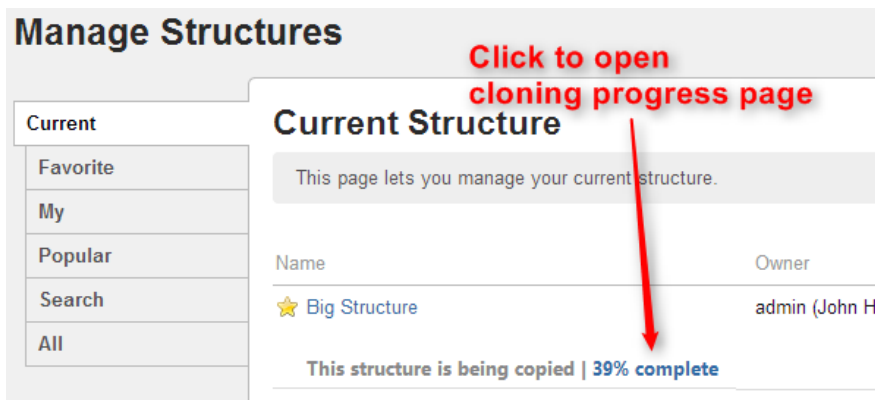
At step 2 the cloner process might discover some problems. If critical problems are discovered, an error message is shown and process is aborted. If non-critical problems are discovered, then warnings are shown and user input is required. The warnings may suggest that cloning may continue, but the resulting issues might not be exact copies. After your confirmation, the process continues.

 Cloning issues is potentially a long operation. Cloning a structure with tens of thousands of issues may take an hour or more. Cloning smaller structures usually takes reasonable time.

As cloning proceeds, progress bar is shown on the screen. When cloning is done, the resulting structure is opened for modification of its name and permissions.

## Checking Clone Progress

When cloning has started, you can navigate away from the cloning progress page. To see the progress and get back to the progress screen, open **Manage Structures** page and locate your structure. It should show that the structure is being copied.



**Manage Structures**

**Current Structure**

This page lets you manage your current structure.

Name	Owner
★ Big Structure	admin (John H.)

This structure is being copied | 39% complete

When cloning is completed, or if there are warnings or questions from the cloning process, the link will read "Waiting for input". Click the link to open cloning progress page.

## Cancelling Cloning

You can cancel cloning process from the cloning progress page by pressing **Cancel** link.

Issues that have already been created by the cloning process will be assembled into a special structure marked "[Cancelled Cloning Result]" in the structure name. You can use **Bulk Change** to quickly delete the unwanted issues.

## Cloning Queue

Cloning issues can place considerable load on JIRA server. To avoid overloading server with cloning jobs, there is a limit to the number of cloning processes that can happen simultaneously. If this limit is exceeded, your cloning process will initially be in "waiting" state, pending for other cloning processes to finish.