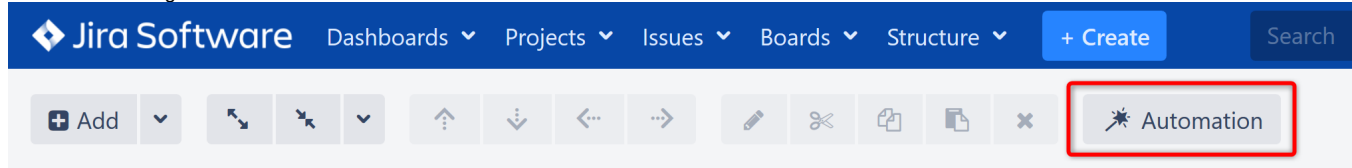


Bottom Up Automation for Backlog Grooming

Now that you've seen how easy it is to track tasks across multiple projects using the Extend generator, let's look at how we can use the Group generator to look at work assigned to specific teams or team members – and quickly manage your backlog.

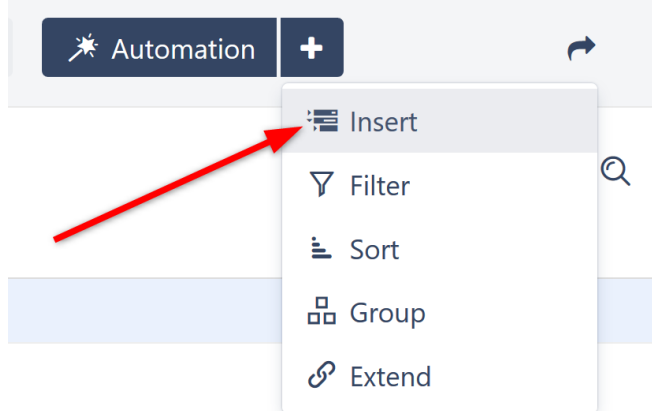
In the last tutorial, we started at the top of our hierarchy (Epics) and worked our way down. This time, we're going to start at the bottom and insert all of our active stories.

Starting with a brand new, blank structure (see [Creating Your First Structure](#)), click the **Automation** button in the Structure toolbar. This will open the Automation Editing Mode.

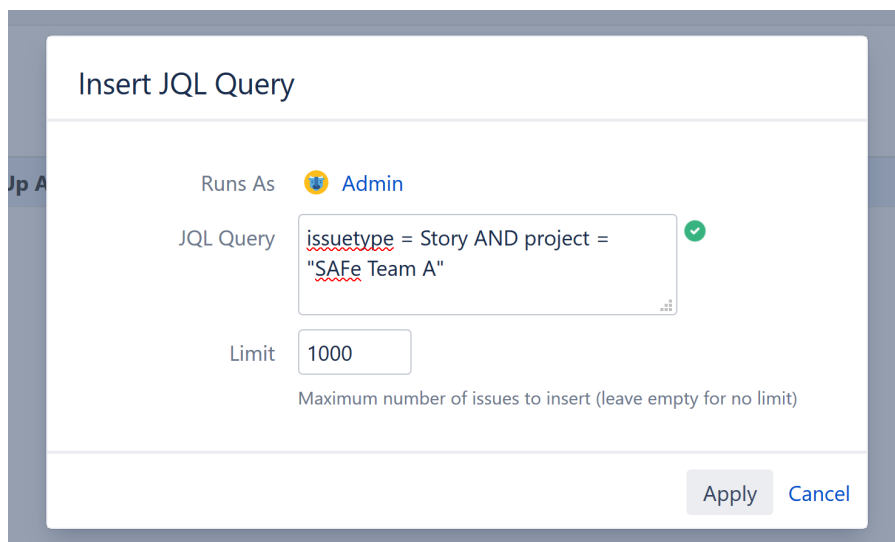


Step 1: Insert Stories

Once Automation Editing Mode is on, you'll see the '+' icon next to the Automation button. Click it and select **Import**.



This time, we'll use the JQL Query: "Issuetype = Story". Just as with our top-down structure, you can also narrow your results by specifying projects (see [Advanced Searching](#) for more information about using JQL).



Once again, the Insert generator will pull all issues that match our query into the new structure. In this case, they will add the stories from our specified project.

Bottom-Up Automation ▾

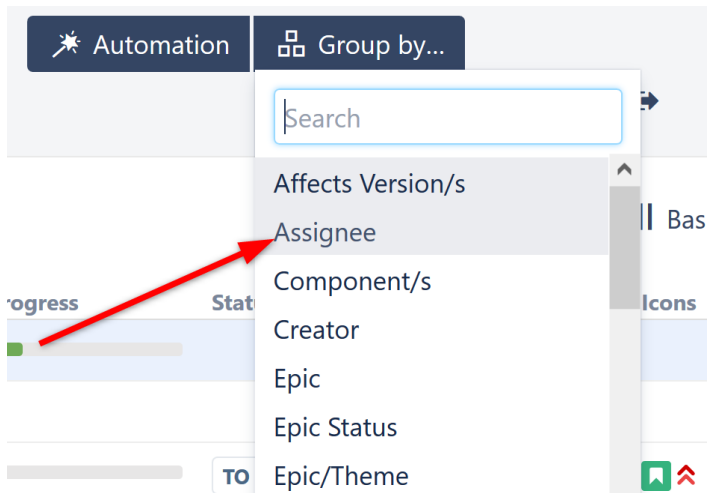
☆ ⚙️ 🔍 ⌵ Basic view ▾

Key	Summary	Progress	Status	Assignee	Icons	
⚙️	Bottom-Up Automation	<div><div></div></div>				+
	+ Insert issues: issuetype = Story AND project = "SAFe Team A"					
STMA-21	Team A Story 20	<div><div></div></div>	TO DO	Unassigned	👤 ⬆️	
STMA-16	Team A Story 16	<div><div></div></div>	TO DO	Unassigned	👤 ⬆️	
STMA-15	Team A Story 15	<div><div></div></div>	TO DO	Unassigned	👤 ⬆️	
STMA-14	Team A Story 14	<div><div></div></div>	TO DO	Unassigned	👤 ⬆️	
STMA-13	Team A Story 13	<div><div></div></div>	TO DO	Unassigned	👤 ⬆️	

These will serve as the bottom-most level of our hierarchy, and we will use the Group generator to add levels above this.

Step 2: Group by Assignee

Make sure the top line of your structure is still highlighted and click the Add Generator button (+) again. This time, select **Group**. In the "Group by..." menu, you will see more options than were available for the Extend generator. You can group issues by nearly any attribute. But for the purpose of this guide, we're going to begin by grouping all of our stories by their assignee. So in the drop-down list, choose **Assignee**.



At this point, all of your stories should appear beneath their respective assignee.

Bottom-Up Automation ▾

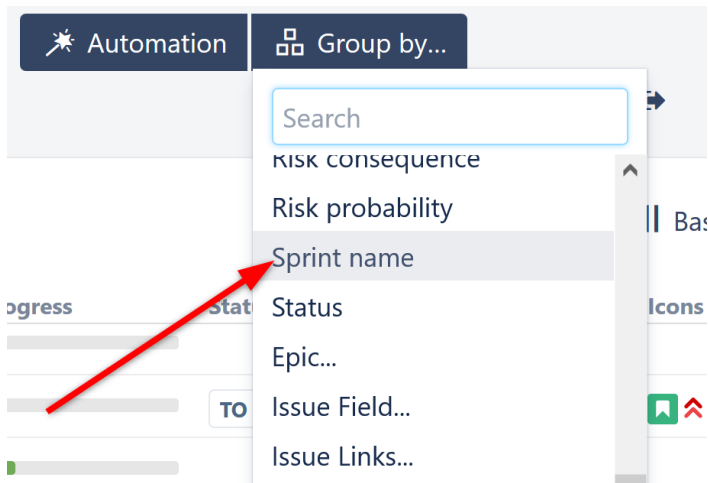
☆ ⚙️ 🔍 ⌵ Basic view ▾

Key	Summary	Progress	Status	Assignee	Icons	
albert	Albert	<div><div></div></div>				+
STMA-8	Team A Story 8	<div><div></div></div>	TO DO	Albert	👤 ⬆️	
anna	Anna M.	<div><div></div></div>				+
STMA-10	Team A Story 10	<div><div></div></div>	TO DO	Anna M.	👤 ⬆️	
STMA-9	Team A Story 9	<div><div></div></div>	TO DO	Anna M.	👤 ⬆️	
STMA-5	Team A Story 5	<div><div></div></div>	IN PROGRESS	Anna M.	👤 ⬆️	

Now we'll add another level to our hierarchy, so we can view the work being done for each sprint.

Step 3: Group by Sprint

Make sure the top row of your structure is still highlighted and return to the Add Generator menu. Select **Group** again. But this time, let's group by **Sprint name**.



Once you apply this new generator, the top-level of your hierarchy will show all of your sprints. Under each of these, you can see which team members are assigned to which stories, and which stories are still unassigned.

Bottom-Up Automation ▾

Basic view ▾

Key	Summary	Progress	Status	Assignee	Icons	
	Team A Sprint 1					
anna	Anna M.					
STMA-5	Team A Story 5		IN PROGRESS	Anna M.		
STMA-4	Team A Story 4		TO DO	Anna M.		
STMA-1	Team A Story 1		IN PROGRESS	Anna M.		
claire	Claire T.					
STMA-6	Team A Story 6		IN PROGRESS	Claire T.		
jack	Jack Brown					
	Team A Sprint 2					
albert	Albert					
STMA-8	Team A Story 8		TO DO	Albert		

Any stories that have yet to be assigned will be placed under an **Unassigned** folder. You can assign (or reassign) items simply by dragging them to a new location in the structure.

Taking it Further

At this point, you already have an incredibly useful structure. But you don't have to stop there.

As we noted above, you can group by nearly any attribute:

- Perhaps you want to see who worked on which projects for a fix version. Simply add another Group generator, this time grouping by Fix Version.
- Or you could group all of your results by Priority.

Take some time to explore the many options available under the Group extender. And remember, you don't have to choose just one configuration. You can create as many structures as you need. Set up one that just looks at assignees, and then have others that dig deeper in whatever way you need to see the information. Since generators are re-run every time you open the structure, you'll always have the up-to-date information you need, just the way you need it.



These are just examples of a few ways you can build structures using Automation. There are hundreds of other possibilities, allowing you to create the perfect hierarchy for your business needs – or several perfect hierarchies! In this guide, we focused on building down with extenders and building up with groupers, but you don't have to work in just one direction. You can start in the middle and add both extenders and groupers. If you really want to customize things, you can add multiple inserters, group different levels by different attributes, sort specific levels, and more.

To learn more about some of these advanced steps, check out our full articles on [Automation](#).

Next Steps

If you're interested in learning about adding items to a structure manually, continue on to [Building a Structure Manually](#)

If you would rather keep things simple, jump ahead to [Working with Structure](#)