

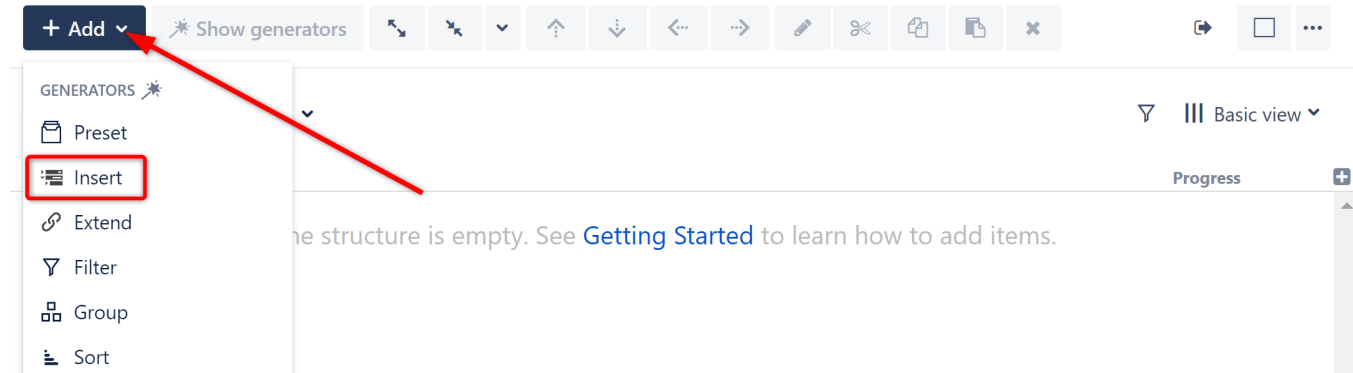
Top Down Generators to Identify Blockers Across Projects

Structure allows you to visualize the relationships between issues across multiple projects, in as many layers of hierarchy as you need. Let's imagine you're trying to complete a set of epics, and you need to see which issues are holding you up. Obviously, you need to know which stories aren't finished yet - but you probably need to go further than that. What issues are blocking those stories from getting done? And do those blockers have blockers of their own?

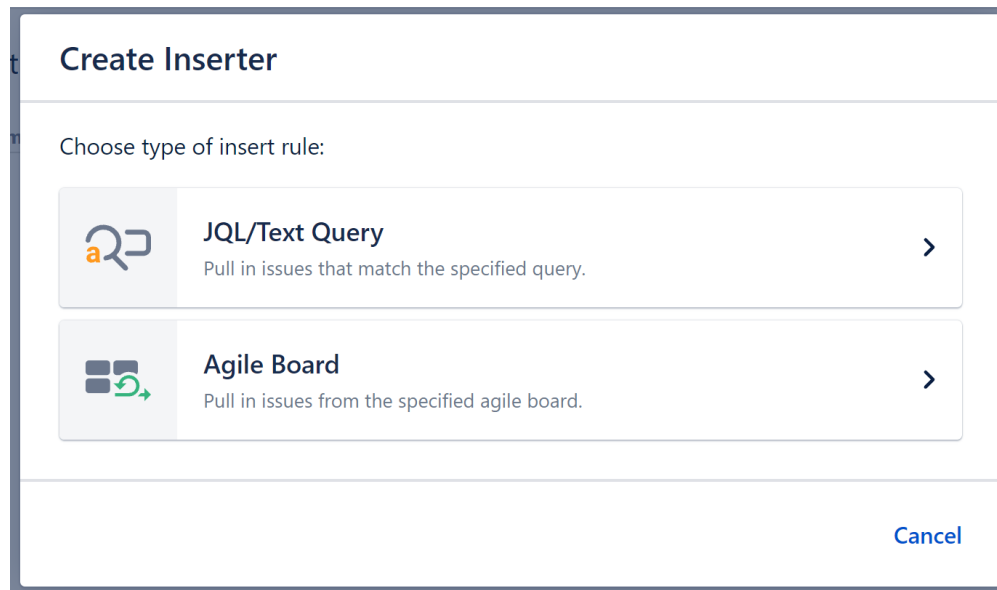
Let's take a look at how easy it is to visualize all of your blockers, across multiple projects, in a single structure.

Step 1: Insert Epics

Starting with a brand new, blank structure (see [Creating Your First Structure](#)), open the **Add** menu and select **Insert**.



This will display the Insert generator options. Select **JQL/Text Query**...



You can add issues based on a JQL or Text search. For this example, we're going to add the epics from our "Learning Structure" project using a JQL search.

Search Inserter

Pull in issues that match the specified query. [Learn more](#)

Runs As

 Admin

Query type

☒ JQL

☐ Text

JQL query 

project = "Learning Structure" AND issuetype = epic

Limit

1000

Maximum number of issues to insert

Place the generator on Current level  Create Close



When entering a JQL query, auto-complete will suggest fields, operators and values as you type. It will also check that the JQL query is valid:



a green checkmark icon will appear if the query is valid



a red exclamation icon will appear if the query is invalid

To learn more about JQL, see the Atlassian article on [Advanced Searching](#).

Once you click **Apply**, the Inserter will pull all issues that match your query into your new structure.

Automated Structure 

Basic view 

Key	Summary	Progress	Status
	 Insert issues: Project = "Learning Structure" AND Issuetype = epic		
LEAR-2	 Epic 1	<div><div></div></div>	IN PROGRESS
LEAR-1	 Epic 2	<div><div></div></div>	IN PROGRESS



Your generators are listed in red.






- To make changes to a generator, double-click it.
- To delete a generator, highlight its row and click the delete icon (x) or delete key.

Step 2: Extend with Stories and Tasks


Now it's time to **Extend** our results to include Stories and Sub-tasks. Open the **Add** menu, select **Extend**, and then choose **Issues under Epics...**

Create Extender

Choose type of extend rule:

-  **Linked Items**
Pull in issues that are linked to issues already in the structure. >
-  **Issues under Epics**
Pull in issues to epics from company-managed projects. >
-  **Sub-tasks**
Pull in sub-tasks to issues from company-managed projects. >
-  **Child Issues (Advanced Roadmaps)**
Pull in child issues using the Parent Link field from Advanced Roadmaps. >
-  **Team-managed Project Hierarchy**
Pull in sub-tasks and/or stories to issues from team-managed projects. >

[Cancel](#)

 If you're working with a Team-managed project, select **Team-managed Project Hierarchy...** instead.

Next, you'll be asked to select which levels you want the Extender applied to. Since our epics are all on the first level of our hierarchy, we'll choose **from 1 to 1**. To learn more about customizing levels, see [Generator Scope](#).

Extend Epics with Stories

Pull in stories to epics from classic projects. [Learn more](#)

Runs As

 Admin

Extend levels 

from to

Place the generator on  [Create](#) [Close](#)

After clicking apply, Structure will add any linked stories or tasks beneath the epics we added in the previous step.


Key	Summary	Progress	Status
Add issues belonging to epics			
+ Insert issues: Project = "Learning Structure" AND Issuetype = epic			
LEAR-2	⚡ Epic 1	<div></div>	IN PROGRESS
LEAR-8	📖 Story 3	<div></div>	TO DO
LEAR-10	📖 Story 1	<div></div>	IN PROGRESS
✓ LEAR-16	☑ Task 2.1	<div></div>	DONE
LEAR-1	⚡ Epic 2	<div></div>	IN PROGRESS
LEAR-7	📖 Story 4	<div></div>	IN PROGRESS
LEAR-9	📖 Story 2	<div></div>	TO DO

Step 3: Add Blockers with the Linked Items Extender

Now it's time to add our blockers. Open the **Add** menu, select **Extend**, and then choose **Linked Items...**


Create Extender

Choose type of extend rule:




Linked Items
Pull in issues that are linked to issues already in the structure.

>




Issues under Epics
Pull in issues to epics from company-managed projects.

>




Sub-tasks
Pull in sub-tasks to issues from company-managed projects.

>



Child Issues (Advanced Roadmaps)
Pull in child issues using the Parent Link field from Advanced Roadmaps.

>



Team-managed Project Hierarchy
Pull in sub-tasks and/or stories to issues from team-managed projects.

>

Cancel

Since we want to see all blockers affecting our issues, we're going to set the Link Type to **Blocks**, Link Direction to **parent issue is blocked by sub issue** and leave Extend Levels **from 1 to 5** (see [Linked Items Extender](#) to learn more about these options).

Extend with Linked Issues

Pull in issues that are linked to issues already in the structure. [Learn more](#)

Runs As

 Admin

Link Type

Blocks



Link Direction

parent issue is blocked by sub-issue

Options

☒ Moving items in the structure will update links

Extend levels 

from 1 to 5

Place the generator on


Current level














Create

Close

Blockers will now appear beneath the issues already in our structure. Notice that some of these blockers are from different projects, and some of them have their own blockers as well. Now we can quickly spot which issues are holding up our project!

Automated Structure 

Basic view 

Key	Summary	Progress	Status	
LEAR-2	 Epic 1	<div><div></div></div>	IN PROGRESS	
LEAR-8	 Story 3	<div><div></div></div>	TO DO	
✓ LEAR-14	 Sub-task 1.1	<div><div></div></div>	DONE	
LEAR-9	 Story 2	<div><div></div></div>	TO DO	
DGP-4	 Story 11	<div><div></div></div>	BACKLOG	
LEAR-4	 Story 7	<div><div></div></div>	TO DO	
LEAR-10	 Story 1	<div><div></div></div>	IN PROGRESS	
TS-8	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> task4	<div><div></div></div>	TO DO	
NGDP-2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Task 2	<div><div></div></div>	IN PROGRESS	
✓ LEAR-16	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Task 2.1	<div><div></div></div>	DONE	
LEAR-1	 Epic 2	<div><div></div></div>	IN PROGRESS	
LEAR-7	 Story 4	<div><div></div></div>	IN PROGRESS	
✓ LEAR-11	 Sub-task 3.1	<div><div></div></div>	DONE	

Taking it Further

This is just one of many ways to build a top-down structure. Depending on your needs, you may want to:

- Include different types of links, or view different link types on different hierarchy levels.

- Add sub-tasks with the [Sub-task Extender](#).
- Include stories and sub-tasks from a Next Gen project with the [Team-managed Project Hierarchy Extender](#).

We don't have space to cover all those options in this guide, but you can explore your options in the [Generators](#) section of our User's Guide.

Next Steps

Next, we'll take a look at how to create a bottom-up structure, which can be very useful for tracking projects and tasks across teams or departments.

[Bottom Up Generators for Backlog Grooming](#)