

JIRA Checklist Plugin Comparison



Warning: stale info!

This comparison was done in 2016. The plugin landscape has evolved since then, and I have not had time to update this comparison.

☒ **Plan Sprint**

☒ **Code**

☐ **Write docs**

Sometimes in JIRA you want a checklist, or todo list for your issue, just like Confluence's Task List. What are your options?

1. You could model your todo items as sub-tasks. Advantages: todo items can have assignees, due dates, and a fancy workflow. Disadvantage: visual clutter, difficult to use, and you don't *need* the full power for JIRA for something this simple.
2. You might try to use JIRA's built-in 'Checkboxes' field type for a 'Todo' field. This does not work. With JIRA checkboxes, only checked items show. Unchecked items are considered to be "irrelevant to this issue", and so don't display except when editing. A todo list with no completed items wouldn't show up at all. In a todo list, unchecked means "task is not yet completed", which makes it just as (or more) important than checked items.
3. Consider the various [JIRA checklist / todo list plugins](#).

Here we review a handful of checklist / todo list plugins available (in February 2016), seeing how they stack up to each other and the built-in Checkboxes field.

	Built-in JIRA Checkboxes	My Todo (previously ToDo list custom field)
Price (Oct '20)	n/a	10 / 85 / 150 / 310 / 650 / 900 / 2200 / 2700 / 3500
Price (Feb '16)	n/a	\$0

<div>Edit View</div>	<div>Milestones</div> <div><div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Overview Doc Written</div><div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High Level User Stories Written</div><div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UX Design Developed</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Eng Tech Spec Written</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Eng t-shirt Size & Quarter Commit</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> All Sprints Scheduled</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> All Code Checked In & Tested</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> QE Testing Complete</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Limited Availability for Flagged Customers</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> GA for All Customers</div></div>	<div>Milestones: Milestones</div> <div><div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Overview Doc</div><div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High Level User</div><div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UX Design De</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Eng Tech Spe</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> Eng t-shirt Si</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> All Sprints Sc</div></div> <div>Description</div>
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<div>Structure View</div> <div>(Note: they're all terrible; see Groovy Script - simplified views of fields)</div>	<div>TestProj Structure</div> <div><div><div>▼</div><div><div> Search</div><div> </div></div></div><table><thead><tr><th></th><th>Key</th><th>Milestones</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td><div><div><div>...</div><div>●</div></div></div></td><td>PRJ-7</td><td>Overview Doc Written, High Level User</td></tr><tr><td><div><div><div>...</div><div>✖</div></div></div></td><td>PRJ-8</td><td></td></tr></tbody></table></div>		Key	Milestones	<div><div><div>...</div><div>●</div></div></div>	PRJ-7	Overview Doc Written, High Level User	<div><div><div>...</div><div>✖</div></div></div>	PRJ-8		<div>TestProj Structu</div> <div><div><div><div>▼</div><div><div> Search</div><div> </div></div></div><table><thead><tr><th></th><th>Key</th><th>Mileston</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td><div><div><div>...</div><div>●</div></div></div></td><td>PRJ-9</td><td>Overview</td></tr></tbody></table></div></div>		Key	Mileston	<div><div><div>...</div><div>●</div></div></div>	PRJ-9	Overview
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Search

Save as

✓ issuekey = PRJ-7 and cf[13800] = "Overview Doc Written"

1-1 of 1

T	Key	Summary
	PRJ-7	First Project

Search

Save as

✗ issuekey = PRJ-7 AND cf[13800] =

All Code Checked In & Tested

All Sprints Scheduled

Eng Tech Spec Written

Eng t-shirt Size & Quarter Commit

GA for All Customers

High Level User Stories Written

Limited Availability for Flagged Cus...

Overview Doc Written

QE Testing Complete

UX Design Developed

Syntax Help

Search

Save as

✓ issuekey = PRJ-9 and cf[13

1-1 of 1

T	Key	Summary
	PRJ-9	Third Epic

Configuration	<p>Options are defined centrally:</p> <p>Applicable contexts for scheme: Edit Configuration</p> <p>Issue type(s): Global (all issues)</p> <p>Default Value: Edit Default Value</p> <p>Options: Edit Options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overview Doc Written• High Level User Stories Written• UX Design Developed• Eng Tech Spec Written• Eng t-shirt Size & Quarter Commit• All Sprints Scheduled• All Code Checked In & Tested• QE Testing Complete• Limited Availabililty for Flagged Customers• GA for All Customers	<p>Options are defined per-issue. New issues acquire the Default</p> <p>Applicable contexts for scheme:</p> <p>Default Value:</p> <p>Due to what seems like a bug, the Default Value doesn't display</p> <p>Set Custom Field Defaults</p> <p>Set the default value for custom field: Milestones</p> <p>Milestones: <input type="text"/></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Overview Doc Written<input type="checkbox"/> High Level User Stories Writte<input type="checkbox"/> UX Design Developed<input type="checkbox"/> Eng Tech Spec Written<input type="checkbox"/> Eng t-shirt Size & Quarter Cor<input type="checkbox"/> All Sprints Scheduled <p><input type="button" value="Set Default"/> Cancel</p>
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Customizability	n/a	n/a
Internal Database Representation	<p>customfieldvalue.stringvalue stores ID references to predefined options:</p> <p>11202 11201 11200</p>	<p>customfield.textvalue stores one JSON field per issue, v</p> <p>[{"id":"Overview Doc Written","type":"done"}, {"id":"High Level U: Tech Spec Written","type":"todo"}, {"id":"Eng t-shirt Size & Quar</p>
Thoughts		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free, with all the implications for support that entails Compares favorably with Kanoah.

Conclusion

I would recommend [Checklist for JIRA](#), being the only plugin allowing centrally managed Task list definitions (i.e. where you can edit a Task definition once, and see the change across all issues), while still allowing per-issue tasks. Checklist for JIRA also comes with a nice set of JQL filters, and the ability to mark tasks 'Mandatory' and [other features](#). Finally, the fact that it uses the standard custom field API is preferable to plugins that become unique snowflakes by implementing their own database tables.

If you don't mind task lists differing per issue, the ~~free~~ [ToDo list custom field](#) plugin does a great job.

The [Simple Tasklists](#) and [Issue Actions Todo](#) plugins implement their own database back-ends, rather than using the custom field API. As a result, neither allows for searching of issues by todo status, or displaying todo status in gadgets. Neither takes the opportunity to make task definitions reusable. [Simple Tasklists](#) is interesting, in that it uses the flexibility of a custom back-end to allow for wiki-like interspersing of tasks with description text and comments.

I shall endeavour to keep this page updated – please [drop me a line](#) if anything is incorrect or outdated.