




What is the Program board in my plan?

 This page refers to the advanced planning features that are only available as part of Jira Cloud Premium and Enterprise.

The Program Board interface gives planners visibility into the work, priorities, and dependencies of multiple teams so they can plan for the upcoming quarter (approx. 12 weeks). It can be used by all planners, but it's been optimized to support Program Increment Planning rituals (also called Program planning or Quarterly planning), which are an essential part of the SAFe planning methodology.

This view focuses on issues at the level 1, level 0, and level -1 hierarchy levels (commonly referred to as the Epic, Story, and Subtask levels). Any custom hierarchy levels above Epic, such as Initiative, won't show on this view. [Read more about hierarchy levels in Jira.](#)

The Program board is still in Beta

The version of the Program board you'll see on your site is still under development. In the near future, we'll be adding more features and capabilities. In the meantime, there are a few caveats you should know about:

- **The Program Board isn't designed for real-time collaborative planning sessions** (such as Big Room Planning). It doesn't yet accommodate a large number of inputs (like you'd find in a Big Room Planning session). For now, we recommend using a whiteboarding tool alongside the Program board.
- **The Program board represents a 12-week period.** When you create your Program board, Jira creates six columns that each represent an iteration lasting two weeks. The length of the quarter and the number of columns can't be changed yet.
- **Each plan can support two active program boards.** A Program board is considered active if its end date is in the future. Once a Program board's end date passes, the board is completed and no longer counts against your allotment of active boards.

As this feature is still under construction, we're interested in hearing your feedback on what you like, what you don't like, and what you want to see added. Use the **Give feedback** button in your plan to tell us what you think!

To get started with your Program board, select **Program** from the left side navigation then select **Create program board**. [See what the Program board shows.](#)

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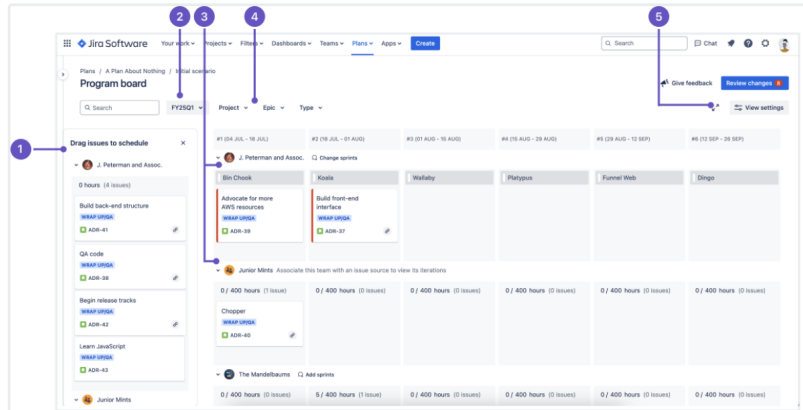
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After you create your Program board, you'll see the following:



1. The column labeled **Drag issues to schedule** shows your as-of-yet unplanned work based on the team assigned to each issue. Schedule the issues into the desired iteration column by either dragging them or using the **More actions** menu [...]. You can hide this column in the **View settings** menu. [Find out more about how the Program board schedules issues.](#)
2. Use this dropdown menu to switch between Program boards and to create a new one. [Find out how to create a new Program board.](#)
3. Each team in your Program board has their own swim lane. From here, you can associate sprints from that team's backlog to columns on the board. In the example, J. Peterman and Associates team is set up to use their planned sprints for the coming quarter, while Junior Mints team isn't. [How do I add sprints to my Program board?](#)
4. Filter the work that shows on your board based on filters like **Parent issue** (such as Epic), **Issue type**, and the **Project** it's from. This filter doesn't remove them from your board but hides them from the view for easier planning. Filter options only appear once they're relevant to your plan.
5. Adjust what information shows on your Program board using the **View settings** menu. [Find out what View settings options you have on your Program board.](#)

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Recommended preparations before using the Program board

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The Program board is designed to be used for Program Increment Planning rituals as part of the SAFe planning methodology. Before you start planning work on your Program board, the plan owner should prepare for the upcoming planning session.

Add a custom field or label to reduce the number of issues in your board

By default, your Program board includes all future work from your plan with **To do** or **In progress** statuses. To declutter the planning view, planners should tag work (both parent and child issues) they want to include for the upcoming iteration using either of the following fields:


- a custom field (single-select or multi-select) or
- the **Label** field

You can then use this field as a filter when you [create your Program board](#).

Create teams and configure them in your plan

The Program board plans work based on Teams. Before you start your quarterly planning ritual, you need to [add teams to your plan](#).

Once your plan includes Teams, you need to [associate teams with issue sources](#) to use capacity planning.

 If you don't associate Teams with an issue source, any issues from scrum boards will be scheduled according to the dates at the top of the column and not the team's sprints, even if the sprint happens over the same timeframe.

Create sprints for the coming quarter for all of your scrum teams

 Sprints only apply to Scrum teams.

As a planner, you can [schedule issues on the Program board](#) in one of two ways:

- assign issues directly to a team's sprint or
- schedule issues using the dates at the top of the columns

We recommend that you create all of the sprints you'll need before you set up your Program board. When you add a team's sprints to your board, you'll need to add a team's sprints to all of the columns at one time. You won't be able to add three then come back later to add the rest.

[Find out how to add sprints to your Program board.](#)

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Create a new Program board in your plan

 This page refers to the advanced planning features that are only available as part of Jira Cloud Premium and Enterprise.

For a smoother experience, we recommend that you do some preparations before creating your Program board.

To create a new board:

You can only have two active Program boards in a plan

A Program board is considered active if its end date is in the future. Once a Program board's end date passes, the board is completed and no longer counts against your allotment of active boards.

1. Select **Program** from the left side navigation, then:
 - select the **Create program board** button in the middle of the screen to begin to create your first board
 - select the dropdown menu next to the search bar, and choose **Create a new Program board** to create a second board
2. Name your Program board, then select the start date. The Program board automatically spans 12 weeks and creates six iterations that each last two weeks. For now, these details can't be changed.
3. Select which issues you want to schedule on your Program board using a custom field that's been added to your plan or the **Label** field. If you skip this step, your board adds all issues with **To do** or **In progress** statuses. For this reason, we recommend that you groom your issues before creating a Program board.
4. Confirm your choices, then select **Create**.

How the Program board sorts unscheduled issues

When you first open your Program board, issues appear in the **Drag issues to schedule** column if:

- they have no scheduling information or
- are currently scheduled outside the scope of your board

How the Program board sorts scheduled issues

Issues with partial information are automatically placed them in the columns it thinks are most appropriate:

- If you link sprints to your Program board, issues assigned to those sprints are placed in the corresponding column
- If you don't link your sprints and your issues have an end date (or you're inferring sprint dates on your timeline), your board moves these issues based on the date at the top of the column

If your partially filled issues don't meet either of these cases, they'll show in the **Drag issues to schedule** column.

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Schedule issues from the Program board in your plan



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To schedule or reschedule issues on your Program board, select and move the cards between the columns. Alternatively, select the **More** menu [...] on the issue and choose which column you want to move it to. To unschedule work, move it back to the column on the left by either dragging it or using the same menu as before.

The program board focuses on when the work is expected to be delivered, not started. For this reason, place issues on your board based on when you expect the work to be completed.

By default, the Program board schedules issues by dates. To schedule work by sprints, you need to [add sprints to your Program board](#).



Issues not where you expected them to be? [See how the Program board sorts scheduled issues when you create your board](#).

Using dates on your Program board

When you move an issue, your board schedules it based on the start and end dates at the top of the column.

If you move a parent-level issue to a column, only the end date is assigned; you'll need to add a start date manually.



All parent-level issues (issues Level 1 such as Epics or Features) are scheduled using dates on the Program board. This way, the timeline view shows the full length of the parent-level issue when roll-ups are enabled. [What are rollups in Plans?](#)

Using sprints on your Program board

If you've [added sprints to your Program board](#), your board updates the **Sprint** field when you drag it to a new column. From here, it's scheduled according to the dates of the sprint.

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Add and change sprints on the Program board in your plan

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When you create your Program board, it automatically creates six columns and assigns start and end dates to them each lasting two weeks based on the start date of your board. If your scrum teams use sprints, you can associate the columns to sprints, then schedule issues to them. [How does the Program board schedule issues once I add sprints?](#)

 Because sprints are a scrum-only concept, only teams that use a scrum board as their issue source can plan using sprints.

To add a team's sprints to your Program board:

1. Associate the teams on your board with a scrum board. [How do I associate teams with issue sources?](#)
2. Select **Add sprints** next to the team's name. In the modal that opens, choose which sprints belong to which columns on the board.
 - a. When you add a team's sprints to your board, you'll need to add all sprints for that team at one time. You won't be able to add three then come back later to add the rest. For this reason, we recommend creating all of a team's sprints in their backlog to prepare for your planning session.
3. Select **Add** when you're done. Any issues already in a column will be assigned to the sprint.

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Manage and remove Program boards in your plan

 This page refers to the advanced planning features that are only available as part of Jira Cloud Premium and Enterprise.

To manage the Program boards in your plan:

- 1. Select **Plan settings** from the left side navigation.
- 2. Select **Program boards**.

From this screen, you can manage, edit, or delete the Program boards associated with your plan.

Rename a Program board

Select the name of the Program board to open the name editor. Choose your new name, then select Enter.

Delete a board

Select **Delete**  next to the plan you want to delete. This action can't be reversed.

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Change issue info from the Program board in your plan

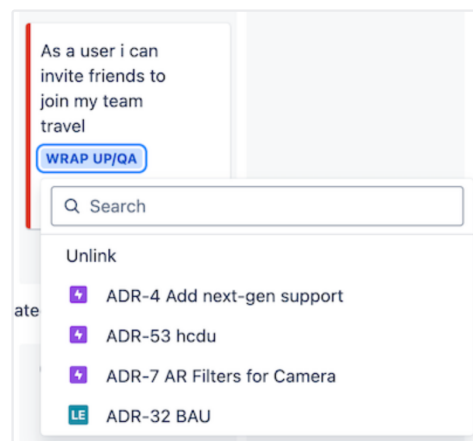
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The Program board lets you make common adjustments when planning across multiple sprints, such as:

Re-parent issues

To assign an issue to a parent issue, select the **More actions** [...] menu on the child issue's card, then choose the issue to which you want to link it.

If a child issue already has a parent issue, select the status lozenge on the card to change or remove the link.



This only works with story-level issues. Parent issues can't be reparented to a higher hierarchy level from the Program board.

Assign an issue to a different team

When you move an issue to a new team, it inherits the scheduling information of that column (sprint of dates). You may need to reschedule it based on the new teams' information.

To move an issue to a new team, either:

- select the **More actions** [...] menu on the issue, then **Change team**.
- drag the issue to the new team's swimlane

Add a Dependency

To create a dependency between two issues, select the ... menu on the issue, then **Add dependency**. In the modal that appears, select which dependency type you want, then select the other issue in the relationship. You can only link issues included in your plan.

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Change what the Program board in your plan shows

To make planning easier, you can change what shows on your Program board.

Filter the work that shows on your board

Use filters to focus on particular streams of work in the Program board. When you apply filters, the issues aren't removed from your board; they're just hidden for easier planning. The available filters are:

- **Parent issue** (such as Epic)
- **Issue type**, and
- **Project**

Show or hide the unplanned work column

Use the **Show unscheduled work** toggle in the **View settings** menu show or hide the panel showing unplanned work on your board.

Expand or collapse swimlanes

Select **Expand all swimlanes** or **Collapse all swimlanes** to quickly show or hide all of the team swimlanes in your Program board.

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