

Work Log Attributes (WLA)

 This feature has been introduced with *ictime* version 4.2.

Work Log Attributes (WLA) are an easy and powerful way to enhance your work logs with any kind of additional data you require. You can place one or more WLA on your "Log Work" mask, and can have a different set of WLA (or no WLA at all) depending on project and/or the Activity Type selected by the user.

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What Is a Work Log Attribute

A **Work Log Attribute (WLA)** is a kind of "custom field" for work logs that can be placed on the *ictime* "Log Work" mask to collect any kind of data that is not part of the *ictime* default "Log Work" mask. At this moment, we support input text fields and dropdowns as field types, and for dropdowns, data (key-value-pairs) can be managed as static data or can be retrieved from a database with a dynamic query. A WLA can either be related to an Activity Type and/or a JIRA project, so it only appears for certain projects and/or after a user has selected an activity type. Data collected with a WLA is available in reports and via the **export** functionality of *ictime* Reporting (or via a separate add-on that exposes a REST-API for *ictime*, see [API](#)).

Some typical use cases for a WLA are:

- If you do not (or do not only) need information about time spent to charge your work, but have other **quantity-based criteria**, like pages written, hard disks erased, images converted, disks burnt, ..., you can use a WLA. This way, *ictime* does not work as a mere time tracking solution any longer, but becomes a kind of general service recording tool.
- If you need additional criteria like **travel expenses, km travelled or fixed cost** for a certain job, you can use a WLA.
- If Activity Types are not detailed enough for your purposes and you would need **another hierarchy level** below, you can do that with a WLA.
- If you need **accounting information** that needs to be tracked on the level of single work logs (so that you can't use a custom field on issue level), you can use a WLA.

Create & Configure Work Log Attributes

WLA List



Work Log Attributes (WLA)

Create WLA

Name (Internal)	Label (Screen)	Mapping ID	Field Type	Regex (Field Check)	WLA Type	Assignments	Order	Active	Mandatory	Global (All)	Depend on Activity Type	
WLA A01	GB of Data	12	INPUT	"id"\$	ACTIVITY_TYPE	Various	1					
WLA A02	Cost Center	241	INPUT		PROJECT	GHJ WS JIRA Plugin - ICNAVIGATOR JIRA Plugin IT more...	3					
WLA P01	Contract	44	DROPDOWN (JDBC)		PROJECT	TUV Migration	2					
WLA P02 DD	Additional Info		DROPDOWN (USER_DEFINED)		PROJECT	TUV Migration	0					

For description of all fields, please see below.

Once you have created a WLA and it appears in the list, the following operations are possible:

Operation	Description	Remarks
	Assignments	Depending on the type of WLA ("ACTIVITY TYPE" or "PROJECT"), here you can create/edit the assignments (relations) of a WLA to either activity types or projects. For details, see below.
	Edit	Edit the WLA. For details, see below.
	Delete	You can delete a WLA if it is not used (has no assignments and no work logs with this WLA exist). If it is no longer possible to delete a WLA, you can still deactivate it (see below).

Create & Edit WLA

To create a new WLA, click the respective button on top of the screen:

Work Log Attributes (WLA)

Create WLA

The following screen will be displayed:

Create WLA

Name (Internal)*

Label (Screen)*

Mapping ID

Order

0

Field Type

INPUT

Regex (Field Check)

WLA Type

ACTIVITY_TYPE

Active

☒

Mandatory

☐

Global (All)

☐

Submit

Cancel

Depending on your choice of **WLA Type**, you get more/different options:

WLA Type

Depend on Activity Type ☐

Active ☒

Mandatory ☐

Global (All) ☐

For the **Field Type** DROPDOWN, there are also additional and different options, depending on your choice for the data source:

Field Type

Data Source

JNDI

SQL Query

Name (Internal) *

Label (Screen) *

Mapping ID

Order

Field Type

Data Source

Key-Value-Pairs

Default Key

WLA Type

Depend on Activity ☐






Type



Active ☒

Mandatory ☒

Global (All) ☐

Field	Description	Remarks
Name (Internal)	An internal name for your purposes.	
Label (Screen)	Name like it will appear on the "Log Work" screen.	
Mapping ID	If you are connecting to an external system to retrieve data for your WLA, you can use the external ID as mapping ID for the WLA (otherwise, the external system would need to use the ID of the WLA).	

Order	<p>If you define multiple WLA and multiple WLA might appear on the "Log Work" dialogue, you can define a sorting order for all WLA here. Sorting applies across all WLA, regardless of their type.</p> <div>  All WLA will always display below the "Activity Type" dropdown and above the "Description" textarea. The order applies within different WLA on the same screen. </div>	Numerical, like 10, 20, 30
Field Type	Input text or dropdown.	<p>Dropdowns have two different ways to get populated with data (see "Data Source").</p> <div>  Can't be changed later on. </div>
RegEx (Field Check)	A regular expression that enforces a defined format for the user's input.	Not applicable to dropdowns.
JNDI	<p>If you want to manage dropdown values dynamically via a database query, you need to define your JNDI here. See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Java_Naming_and_Directory_Interface and below.</p> <p>Here, you just enter the name of your JNDI.</p>	Only applicable to dropdowns where dropdown values should be dynamically retrieved from a database.
SQL Query	The query used to dynamically retrieve dropdown data from an (external) database.	Only applicable to dropdowns.
Key-Value-Pairs	A list of key value pairs used to build a dropdown element. Values will be displayed. Keys will be saved in the database as well as the display values. Key value pairs are separated using ";", key and value are separated using "=". Please avoid line breaks in input fields.	Only available in Data Source Type "user defined"
Default Key	The key from the key value pair list, which should be the preselected when creating new work logs.	<p>Only available for Data Source type "user defined"</p> <div>  This feature is available for ictime version >= 5.8.1.15 </div>
WLA Type	<p>There are two different types of WLA that distinguish as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACTIVITY_TYPE: This type is related to one or more activity types. It only appears if in the "Log Work" mask, if one of the activity type assigned is selected by the user. PROJECT: This type is related to one or more projects. It only appears in the "Log Work" mask for these projects. <div>  It is not possible to create a WLA that has relations to activity types and projects at the same time. However, for certain use cases, it is possible to create a WLA with type "PROJECT" and to create a real dependency from activity types. This requires the "Depend on Activity Type" checkbox being checked. For more information, see below. </div>	<p>For details, see below.</p> <div>  Can't be changed later on. </div>
Assignments	The activity types or projects (depending on WLA Type) this WLA is assigned to. Assignments define if (under which conditions) the WLA appears on the "Log Work" mask. For more information, see below.	

Depend on Activity Type	<p>By default, a WLA Type "PROJECT" is directly displayed in the "Log Work" mask for all projects this WLA has been assigned to. "Depend on Activity Type" changes this behaviour and the WLA will only be displayed (in the "Log Work" mask for all projects this WLA has been assigned to) after the user has selected (any) activity type.</p> <div>  Usually, this setting only changes the field's display behaviour. However, if you combine this setting with field type "Dropdown" and use a dynamic database query to populate the dropdown, you could create a real dependency of this WLA from project/s and activity type /s at the same time. See below. </div>	Only applicable for WLA Type "PROJECT".
Active	If the WLA is currently active.	It is not possible to delete a WLA that is in use. You can only deactivate it. If you deactivate a WLA, all data is kept, but the WLA is no longer available for new work logs (when editing a work log, you can either not save or need to clear/delete the data of this WLA).
Mandatory	If the WLA is a mandatory field in the "Log Work" mask.	
Global (All)	If the WLA is globally assigned to all activity types or all projects (depending on WLA Type). See below.	<p>If you choose this option, it is not required to define individual assignments.</p> <div>  A global assignment automatically includes future projects or activity types that do not exist at this moment. </div>

When you **edit** a WLA, the following fields can't be changed any longer:

- Field Type
- WLA Type.

Edit WLA

Name (Internal) *	<input type="text" value="WLA A01"/>
Label (Screen) *	<input type="text" value="GB of Data"/>
Mapping ID	<input type="text" value="12"/>
Order	<input type="text" value="1"/>
Field Type	<input type="text" value="INPUT"/>
Regex (Field Check)	<input type="text" value="^\d*\$"/>
WLA Type	<input type="text" value="ACTIVITY_TYPE"/>
Active	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mandatory	<input type="checkbox"/>
Global (All)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Submit

Cancel

WLA Types

The WLA Type defines a relation of a WLA, either to one or more projects or one or more activity types. This relation defines under which circumstances the WLA appears on a "Log Work" screen.

- **ACTIVITY_TYPE:** This type is related to one or more activity types. It only appears if in the "Log Work" mask, if one of the activity types assigned is selected by the user.
- **PROJECT:** This type is related to one or more projects. It only appears in the "Log Work" mask for these projects.



It is not possible to create a WLA that has relations to activity types and projects at the same time. However, for certain use cases, it is possible to create a WLA with type "PROJECT" and to create a real dependency from activity types. This requires the "Depend on Activity Type" checkbox being checked. For more information, see below.



You can only set the WLA Type once, it is not possible to change this setting later on.

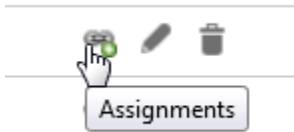
Assignments

Depending on the WLA Type, a WLA can be assigned to one or more projects or one or more activity types.



If you are not defining assignments, the WLA won't appear in "Log Work" masks. As an alternative to specific assignments, a WLA can always be set to "Global" (see above); this means that it will appear on the "Log Work" masks for all projects or all activity types (depending on WLA Type).

Assignments are done via the respective icon in the WLA list as a separate step after creation of the WLA:



The assignment screen looks like follows (depending on WLA Type):

Assign Activity Types

WLA Assignments

Available Activity Types

Activity I
Another One
Brainstorming
Consulting
Design & Usability

Assign selected activity types

Assigned Activity Types

Various

Unassign selected activity types

Save

Cancel

Assign Projects

WLA Assignments

Available Projects

AAA
AAA Kopie 1
AAA Kopie 2
ABC Project 2
DEF Project MV

Assign selected projects

Assigned Projects

GHJ WS
JIRA Plugin - ICNAVIGATOR
JIRA Plugin IT
KLM Consulting
NOP Relaunch 2014

Unassign selected projects

Save

Cancel

Mark one or more activity types (or projects) to add or remove them, click the respective button and save.



You can change - add or remove - assignments at any time. When removing assignments, you should be aware of the implications for those work logs that have been using the WLA. When editing such work logs, WLA data needs to be deleted.

Depend on Activity Type

By default, a WLA Type "PROJECT" is directly displayed in the "Log Work" mask for all projects this WLA has been assigned to. "Depend on Activity Type" changes this behaviour and the WLA will only be displayed (in the "Log Work" mask for all projects this WLA has been assigned to) after the user has selected (any) activity type.

Usually, this setting only changes the field's display behaviour. However, if you combine this setting with field type "Dropdown" and use a dynamic database query to populate the dropdown, you could create a real **dependency** of this WLA from **project/s and activity type/s at the same time**. See below. For details, see example query in the chapter "Dynamic Data (SQL Query)".

Configuring Field Type DROPDOWN

Static Data

If you have static data, i.e. a limited set of data that will be the same wherever the dropdown appears (and usually remains stable over a longer period of time), you should manage the key-value-pairs for the dropdown manually.

If you have selected the respective option, you can enter the static data:

Field Type	<input type="text" value="DROPDOWN"/>
Data Source	<input type="text" value="USER_DEFINED"/>
Key-Value-Pairs	<input type="text" value="key1=Cost Center 1; key2=Cost Center 2; key3=Cost Center 3"/>

The following formats are supported:

- `key1=value1;key2=value2;key3=value3;`
- `key1;key2;key3`

If you do not define a value, the key will be displayed as value. Data is trimmed if there are empty spaces at the beginning or the end.

Dynamic Data (SQL Query)

 If you want to work with a query/dynamic data, you first need to define your JNDI, see below.

Using dynamic data means that

- you can use any kind of data source (database) accessible from your JIRA installation to populate your dropdown, e.g. with larger amounts of data or data that changes more frequently,
- you can filter data of your dropdown retrieved by an external data source by a few additional JIRA parameters (like projekt key),
- you can create a dependency of a WLA Type "Project" from an activity type (for specific use cases; see below).

Field Type

Data Source

JNDI

SQL Query

You can define any kind of valid **SELECT** statement; if you try to use UPDATE, CREATE or DELETE, you won't be able to save.



You can also work with a stored procedure. Keep in mind that in this case, **ictime** does not have any control over the kind queries that are executed, so it is up to you to ensure that you are not changing or deleting data.

A few parameters available within a JIRA issue or from **ictime** can be used to parametrize your query:

Field	Description	Remarks
projectKey	Current JIRA project key (retrieved via the JIRA issue).	
projectId	Current JIRA project ID (retrieved via the JIRA issue).	
userKey	Current JIRA user.	
activityTypeId	Activity type currently selected.	Available after the user has selected an activity type.
activityTypeExtMapId	External Mapping Id of the activity type currently selected.	Available after the user has selected an activity type.
issueId	Issue ID.	Available starting with ictime-5.2.15
issueKey	Issue key.	Available starting with ictime-5.2.15

Example 1: Filter by Current Project

A simple example is using the JIRA project key to retrieve project-specific data (of course this would require that the JIRA project key is available in the database you are using to get the data):

```
SELECT contract_id AS `optKey`, description as `optValue` FROM mydb WHERE :projectKey = :projectKey
```

This example query would fill the dropdown with those contracts that are assigned to the project the current issue belongs to.

Example 2: Filter by Current Project and Activity Type

The following example shows how you could create a **dependency between a WLA of type "Project" and an activity type** (this example strictly requires that the WLA is of type "Project" and that the checkbox **"Depend on Activity Type"** is ticked - otherwise the WLA would load/display before the activity type has been selected by the user so that the query can't work):

```
SELECT contract_id AS `optKey`, description as `optValue` FROM mydb WHERE :projectKey = :projectKey AND :activityTypeExtMapId=:activityTypeExtMapId
```

This query does basically the same like the first example, but only after an activity type has been selected. Provided that your database shows a relation between contracts **and** projects **and** activity types (= contracts are assigned to projects, and only for certain activity types, it is desired/required to select a contract), you will only get the contract selectbox if you are working on an issue of a project with contracts, and the selectbox will only show the contracts of the current project, and only those applicable for the activity type selected by the user.

JNDI

To define the database you want to use to retrieve data for the case of Dynamic Data (see above), you first need to define your JNDI and when you configure the WLA where you want to use this data source, enter the name of the respective JNDI. You can define multiple JNDI with different names for multiple purposes.




Usually, JIRA comes packaged with a Tomcat, an open source software implementation of the Java Servlet and JavaServer Pages technologies. You might want to have a look at the following documentation of the JNDI topic for Apache Tomcat 7.x: http://tomcat.apache.org/tomcat-7.0-doc/jndi-resources-howto.html#JDBC_Data_Sources

To create a new JNDI, go to

[JIRA_HOME]/conf/server.xml

and add the following code (adapted to your specific configuration) to the file:

```
<Resource name="jdbc/TestIdName"
  auth="Container" type="javax.sql.DataSource"
  username="dbUsername"
  password="dbPassword"
  driverClassName="com.mysql.jdbc.Driver"
  url="jdbc:mysql://hostname:3306/databaseName"
/>
```

Field	Description	Remarks
Resource name	individual name ("jdbc/" part is mandatory and must go first)	 This value needs to be entered in the WLA mask in the "JNDI" field.
username	user name for this database	
password	password for this database	
driverClassName	class name for the driver of your database (example shows MySQL)	
url	URL to your database	

There might be more parameters available (refer to the specification of your servlet container), you might set them according to your needs.

Implications of Changing or Deleting Dropdown Data



This chapter is basically referring to

- changing keys of key-value-pairs (**you should never do that**). If only values are changed, this will also have an effect (on users and on data provided/saved), but does not require specific handling.
- taking away (deleting) keys (key-value pairs).

Adding new keys (key-value-pairs) is a non-problematic change.

Changing keys or deleting keys has an **impact on existing work logs** (that have been using the respective WLA) when they are **edited**. If you don't edit such work logs, nothing will happen. Data already stored is not touched and would be exported (or provided via API) as is.

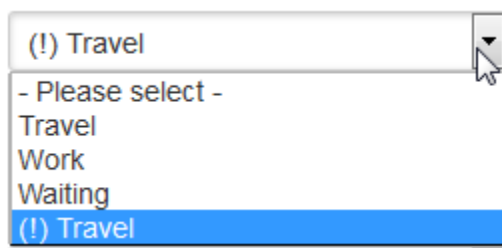
If you **delete** or **change** a key and later on try to edit a work log that had been saved using this key (having selected the entry with this key), you will get the following behaviour:

Additional Info

(!) Travel



The (!) indicates that this is an entry that no longer exists. However, you **will be able to save** this work log with this entry. Once you have made a change (selected another entry) and saved, the entry with the (!) will be gone. If you did not delete the respective key, but change it without changing the value (you should not do that), in addition you will now see another entry with the same value:



Log Work with Work Log Attributes

Create Work Logs

A maximum of 10 WLA are supported for a work log. You can create as many WLA as you want, but it is not possible that the "Log Work" screen displays and handles more than 10 fields.

A "Log Work" screen with a couple of WLA might look like follows.

1. No activity type selected yet

The screenshot shows a form with two fields. The first field is labeled 'Activity*' and has a dropdown menu with the text '- Please select -'. The second field is labeled 'Description*' and is a large, empty text area.

2. Activity type selected

The screenshot shows a form with four fields. The first field is labeled 'Activity*' and has a dropdown menu with the text 'Documentation'. The second field is labeled 'No. Copies' and is a text input field. The third field is labeled 'Document Category' and has a dropdown menu with the text '- Please select -'. The fourth field is labeled 'Description*' and is a large, empty text area.

In this example, two WLA of type "ACTIVITY TYPE" had been created and assigned to the activity type "Documentation". The user has selected this activity type and after selection, both WLA appear.

Edit Work Logs in Case of Configuration or Content Changes

Deactivating a WLA or Removing an Assignment


If you are editing a work log and this work logs contains a WLA that (after creation of the work log you are editing)


- has been deactivated
- or the (project or activity type) assignment has been removed



so that this work log in the new configuration would not contain the WLA any longer, the behaviour of **ictime** will be as follows:

The screen will show the WLA field that is no longer valid (no longer related to the project/activity type, but when you try to save, you will get a general error message and the respective WLA field will be marked:

Update Work Log

 You are trying to save values for WLA fields that do not exist any longer in the current configuration.

Date* 

Time* ☒ From  To 

☐ Time spent (e.g. 3w 4d 12h)

Corrected Result


Remaining Estimate ☒ Automatically


☐ Use existing estimate of 0h

☐ Set to (e.g. 3w 4d 12h)

☐ Reduce by (e.g. 3w 4d 12h)

No charge ☐ Info

Activity* 

Additional Info 

Please delete/clear entry or selection.

You need to delete the value in the respective field (in case of an input field) or to clear the selection (in case of a dropdown) or you cancel editing the work log. If you delete/clear the entry/selection and save, the WLA will be deleted from the work log and if you edit again, it will have disappeared.



If such a non-valid field is empty (no content or no selection of a value), there will be no error, but on saving, the field will simply be deleted.

Content Changes (Dropdown Only)

Please refer to [Implications of Changing or Deleting Dropdown Data](#), see above.

Moving Issues in JIRA: Work Logs with Warnings

If you **move issues in JIRA** between different projects that have a different WLA configuration, and these issues have work logs with WLA data, these **work logs are no longer consistent**, because they contain WLA data from the original project that does not match with the WLA configuration of the target project. As a result, reports might generate **incorrect data for accounting purposes**. The same problems also affects Activity Types, Rounding Rules and Teams/Price Lists. For all known cases, this problem is addressed with a specific tool to fix such work logs, see [Fix Work Logs \(Warnings\)](#).