

## Redmine - Feature #25625

### Turn issue numbers into UUIDs

2017-04-17 19:34 - Pavel Kretov

<b>Status:</b> New	<b>Start date:</b>
<b>Priority:</b> Normal	<b>Due date:</b>
<b>Assignee:</b>	<b>% Done:</b> 0%
<b>Category:</b> Issues	<b>Estimated time:</b> 0.00 hour
<b>Target version:</b>	
<b>Resolution:</b>	
<b>Description</b>	
<h3>Problem with issue numbering</h3>	
<p>It seems like global sequential issue numbering in Redmine makes a lot of people unhappy; they filled a number of feature requests to advocate PROJECT-01 scheme support (that's Jira-style, I guess), for example: #282, #1926, and #2885.</p> <p>The core developers were always reluctant to adopt such a scheme, because it doesn't allow issues to be easily moved between projects. Somebody even wrote <a href="#">a plugin</a> which does exactly that thing (I don't know how reliable it is).</p> <p>However, there is a feature which is worth considering important: the ability to export and import individual projects, as well as transfer them between different Redmine installations (see #3647). Since issue numbers are often put in commit messages, it's critical for them to never change after moving to another Redmine instance. Unfortunately, neither global numbering, nor PROJECT-01 scheme allows that, since:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- small global numbers (#1, #2, and so on) are likely to be already taken on the target server;</li><li>- people tend to use short project names which are not unlikely to collide.</li></ul>	
<h3>Proposed solution</h3>	
<p>I think that the only reliable approach to the problem would be to use UUIDs instead of plain numbers. Nobody is surprised about Git's SHA-1 revision hashes, why issue numbers are different? Strings like</p> <p><code>http://www.redmine.org/issues/af666b6a-4245-43dc-a42b-f3cd44a58e7c</code></p> <p>are unlikely to ever clash with another Redmine issue in the world, but still short enough to serve as URLs; they can be easily put into commit messages on a separate line. These UUIDs can be abbreviated when presented to the user on the web interface, while commit messages, comments and wiki sources should always refer to full UUIDs.</p> <p>Of course, these IDs are harder to memorize than plain numbers, but they have an inherent beauty of some kind:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- they are all created equal (most people will find #42 better than #97014),</li><li>- they are not leaving the impression of an imperfection when a project has its issues numbered with large gaps.</li></ul> <p>Unfortunately, this would apparently be a breaking change. Maybe, 4.x could afford it?</p>	
<b>P.S.</b>	
<p>BTW, the UUID approach automatically solves #6642 at the same time.</p>	
<b>Related issues:</b>	
Related to Redmine - Feature # 2885: A segregated numbering per project	<b>New</b> <b>2009-03-02</b>
Related to Redmine - Feature # 3647: Data Import/Export System	<b>New</b> <b>2009-07-21</b>
Related to Redmine - Feature # 6642: anonymized issue numbers	<b>New</b> <b>2010-10-12</b>

### History

#1 - 2017-05-17 14:52 - Toshi MARUYAMA

- Related to Feature #2885: A segregated numbering per project added

**#2 - 2017-05-17 14:53 - Toshi MARUYAMA**

- Related to Feature #3647: Data Import/Export System added

**#3 - 2017-05-17 14:53 - Toshi MARUYAMA**

- Related to Feature #6642: anonymized issue numbers added