TFS ASAP – Quick-Start: Installation, Setup and using TFS ASAP

12.05.2014

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Introduction

Thank you for your interest in TFS ASAP. This tool will help you to leverage the advantages and usability of TFS for your company.

This hands-on tutorial will guide you through the first steps with TFS ASAP and will explain the installation and setup to you, as well as the basic adjustments and usage. The idea of this tutorial is to give you a first overview of TFS ASAP and its functions. Some parts of this tutorial contain adjustments of your TFS process templates. If you are not experienced with such customizations, make sure that you are not working on your production environment. If you need support with the installation or if you are interested in an introduction by our professionals, feel free to contact us: www.tfsasap.com/contact.html.

Preparations

Make sure you have a running TFS installation. We recommend to use the Image provided by **Brian Keller**. You can get the latest Version of the image and the necessary tutorial at:

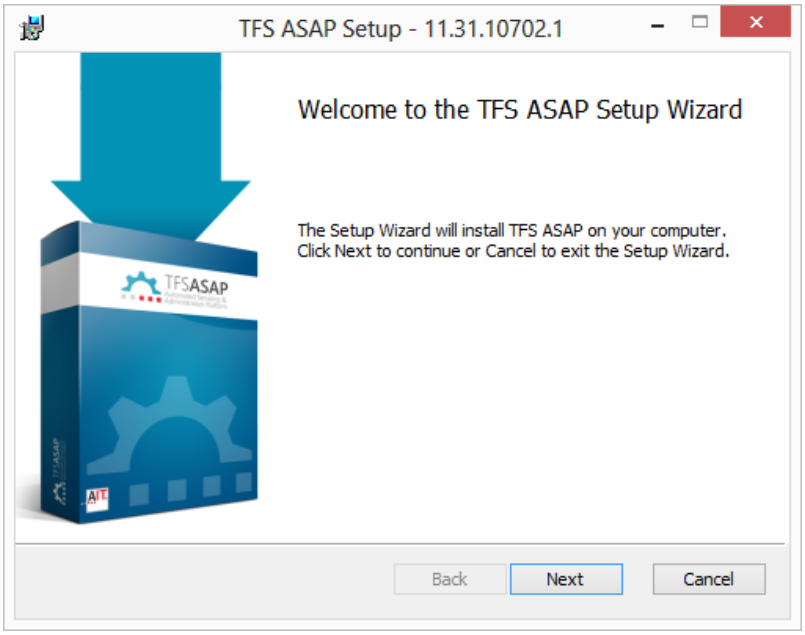
> http://blogs.msdn.com/b/briankel/archive/2011/09/16/visual-studio-11-application-lifecycle-management-virtual-machine-and-hands-on-labs-demo-scripts.aspx

Installation of TFS ASAP

Installing your copy of TFS ASAP is straightforward.

1. Get your copy from
   a. http://www.aitgmbh.de/nc/downloads/team-foundation-server-tools/tfs-asap-team-foundation-server-extension.html
   b. If you have chosen the trial version of TFS ASAP you will get a license key for the TFS-Image of Brian Keller
2. Launch the TFS ASAP.msi installation file on the machine that has TFS installed.

3. Go through the setup wizard (read and accept the license agreement)

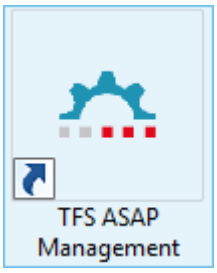


4. TFS ASAP is now installed

Activate TFS ASAP

As a first step, you have to activate your copy of TFS ASAP

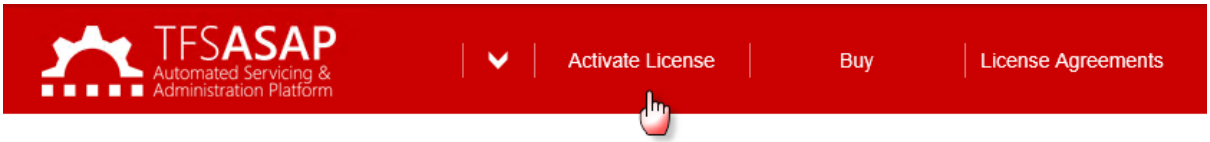
1. Navigate to the management website of TFS ASAP by using the new TFS ASAP shortcut on your desktop or by navigating to the Url directly



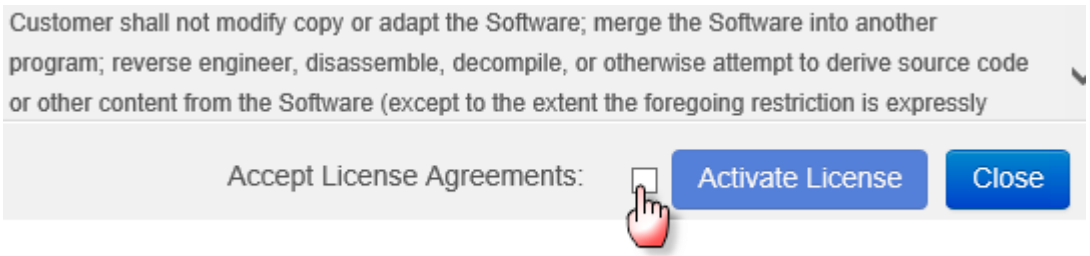
or

2. On the management website, use the arrow to switch the view and press **Licensing** to get to the licensing view

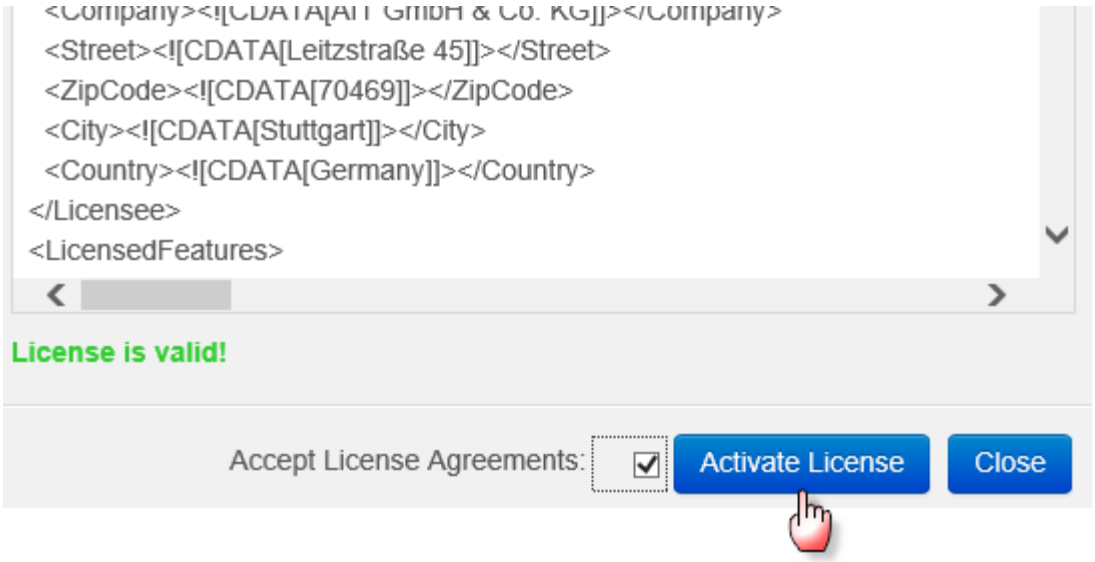
3. After that your are able to activate the license provided to you with your purchase of ASAP by using the **Activate License** option



4. Accept the license agreements



5. Paste the contents of the ***.xml file** that was send to you with your license and **activate it**

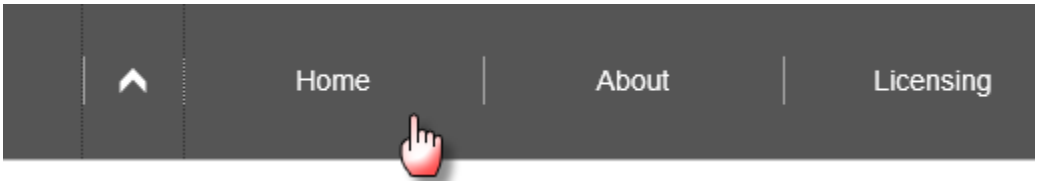


6. Your copy of TFS ASAP is now licensed

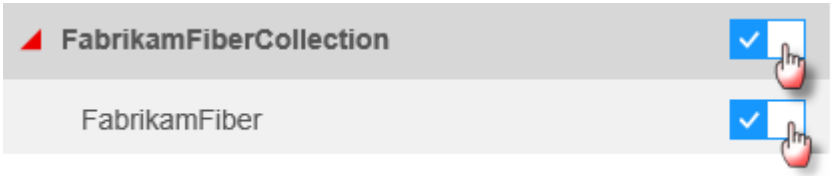
Activate the functions of TFS ASAP

Now the functions of TFS ASAP need to be activated for your collections and projects.

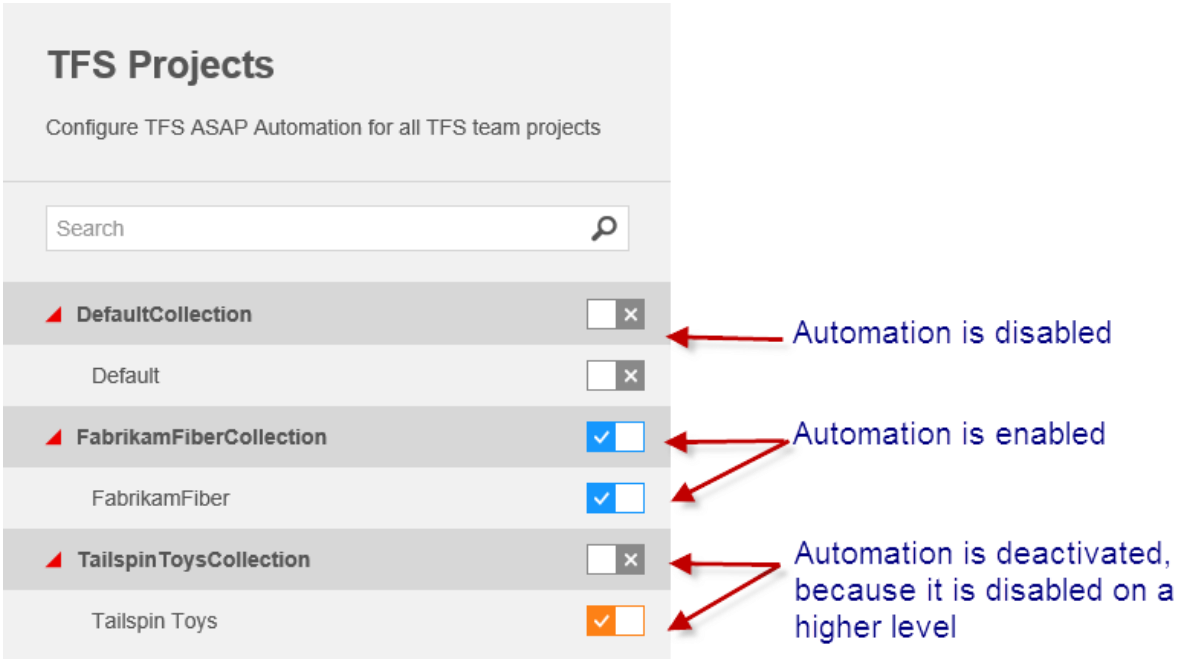
1. Switch back to the Home of TFS ASAP



2. You can enable ASAP for each project and collection separately by clicking on the switch. Enable it now for the **FabrikamFiberCollection** and the **FabrikamFiber** project



3. Make sure that the automation is always enabled for the **project and the collection,** otherwise you will get a warning, indicated by an orange box.



The Trigger-based functions of TFS ASAP

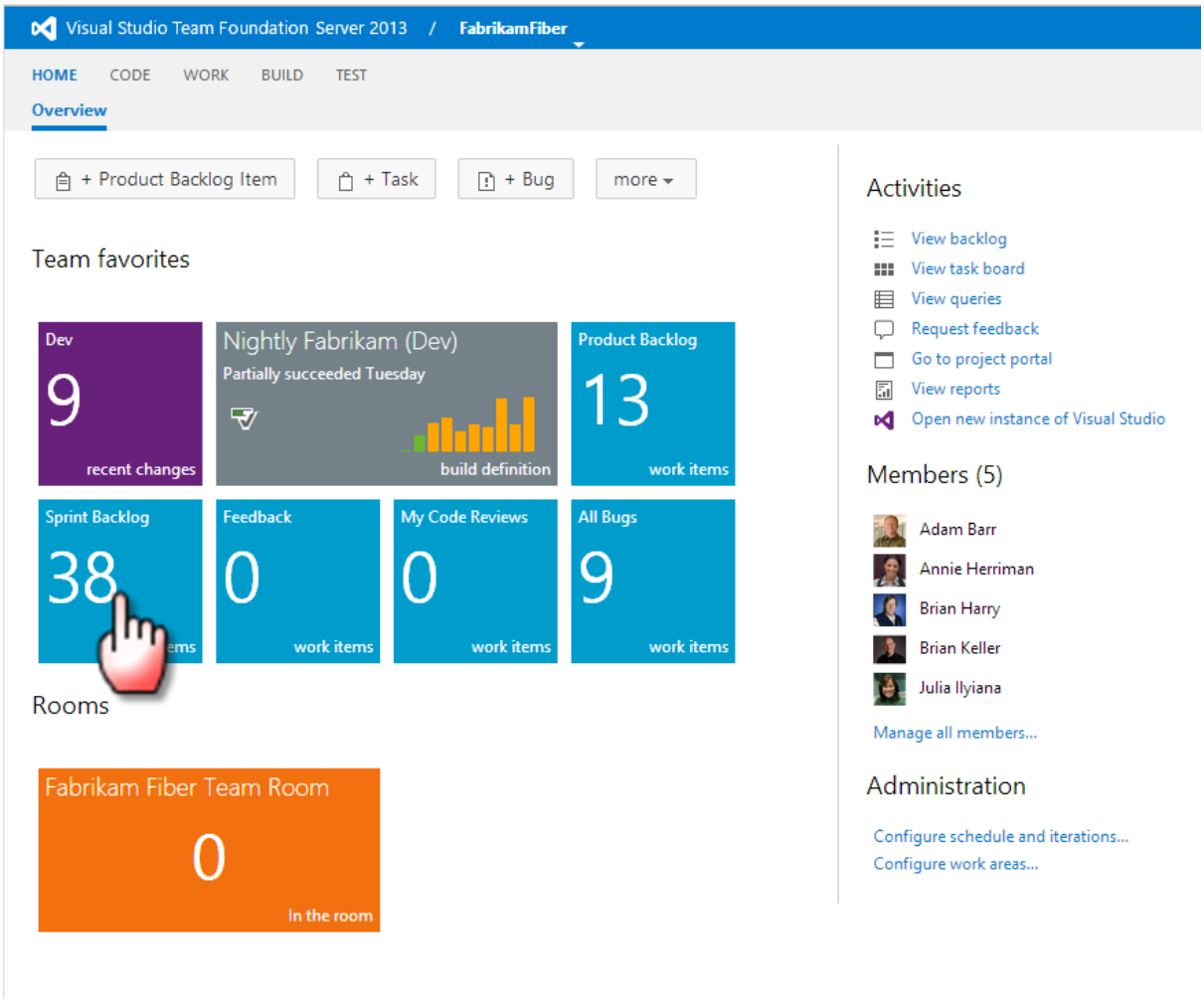
This section will show how to use the trigger-based functions of TFS ASAP. It will explain how to use and test the *Suspect Links (http://www.tfsasap.com/video/suspect-links.html) function* and the *Numeric Aggregation (http://www.tfsasap.com/video/numeric-aggregation.html)* feature of TFS ASAP.

Trigger based functions example 1: Effort-Aggregation of Work Items

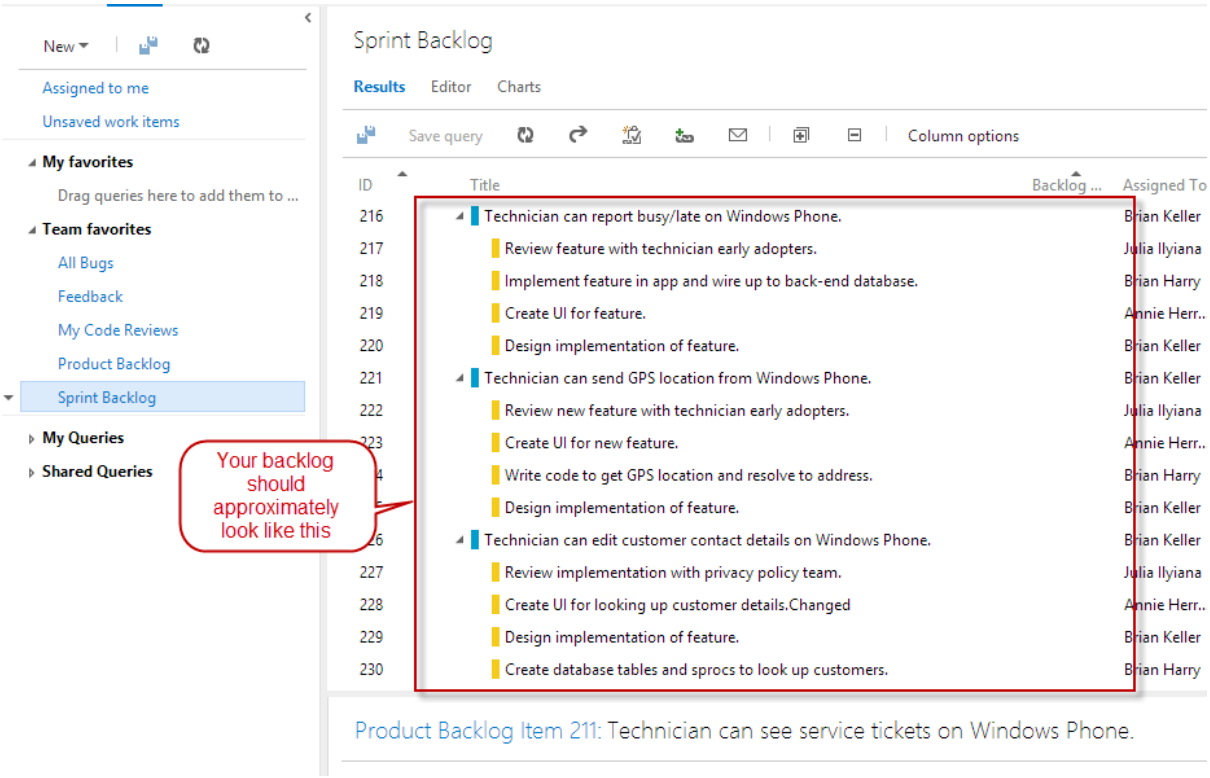
TFS ASAP is seamlessly integrated in TFS. In this example the **FabrikamFiberCollection** from the Brian Keller image will be used to demonstrate specific functions of TFS ASAP.

Preparation: Make sure you have Work-Items that are suitable for aggregation

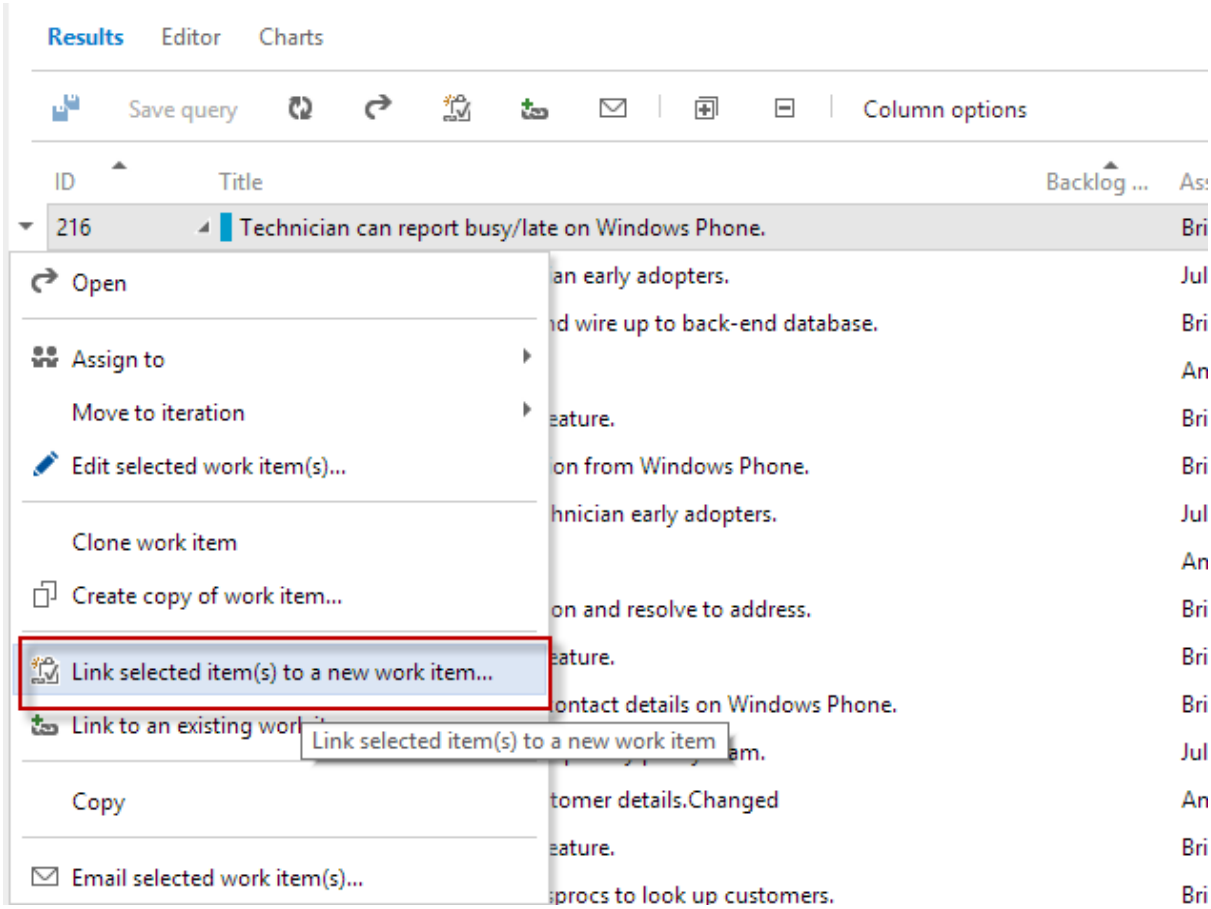
1. Navigate to the Fabrikam Fiber Team Project: **http://vsalm:8080/tfs/FabrikamFiberCollection/FabrikamFiber**
2. Open your Sprint Backlog



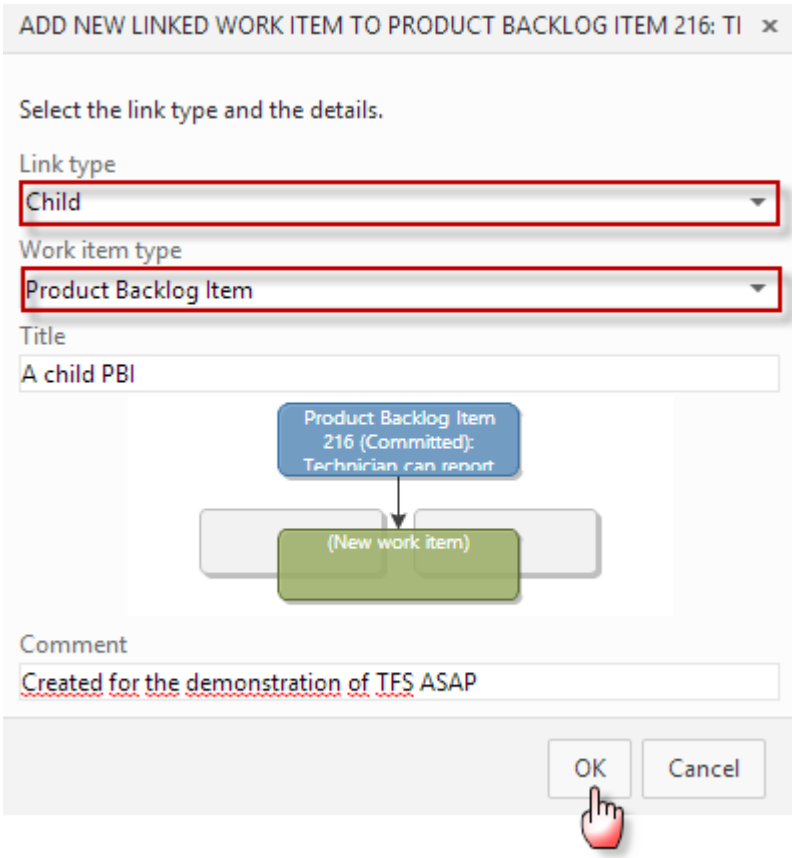
3. Make sure you have WorkItems with a Parent-Child relationship. For example a *Product Backlog Item* with another *Product Backlog Item* as a child.



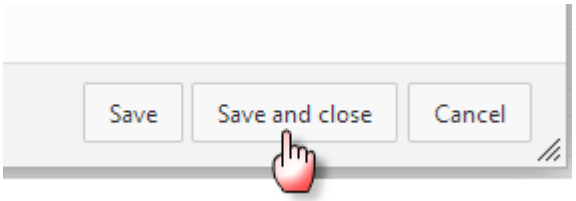
4. Right-Click on any *Product Backlog Item* (indicated by a blue box ▮) and select “Link selected item(s) to a new work item”



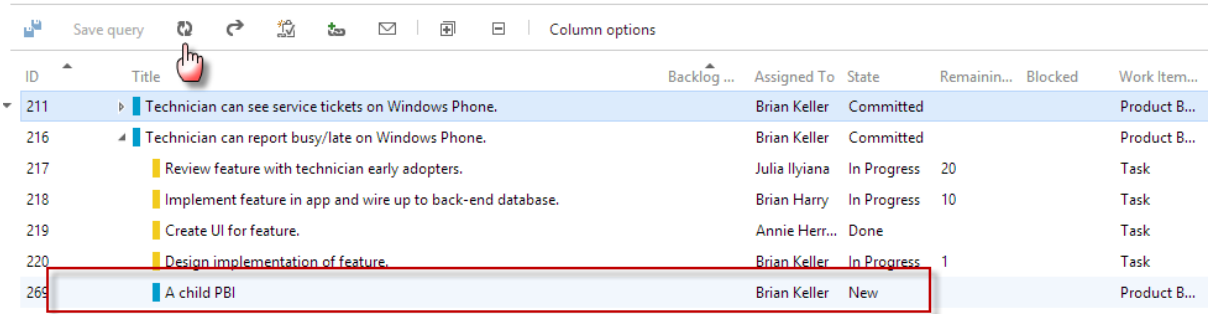
5. In the following window, select **Child** as relationship and the work item type **Product Backlog Item**



Save and close your new Product Backlog Item in the next window

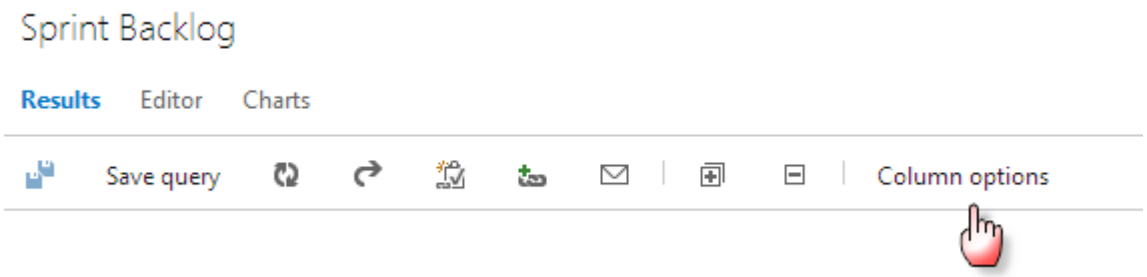


6. Refresh your Backlog, you will see your new item afterwards

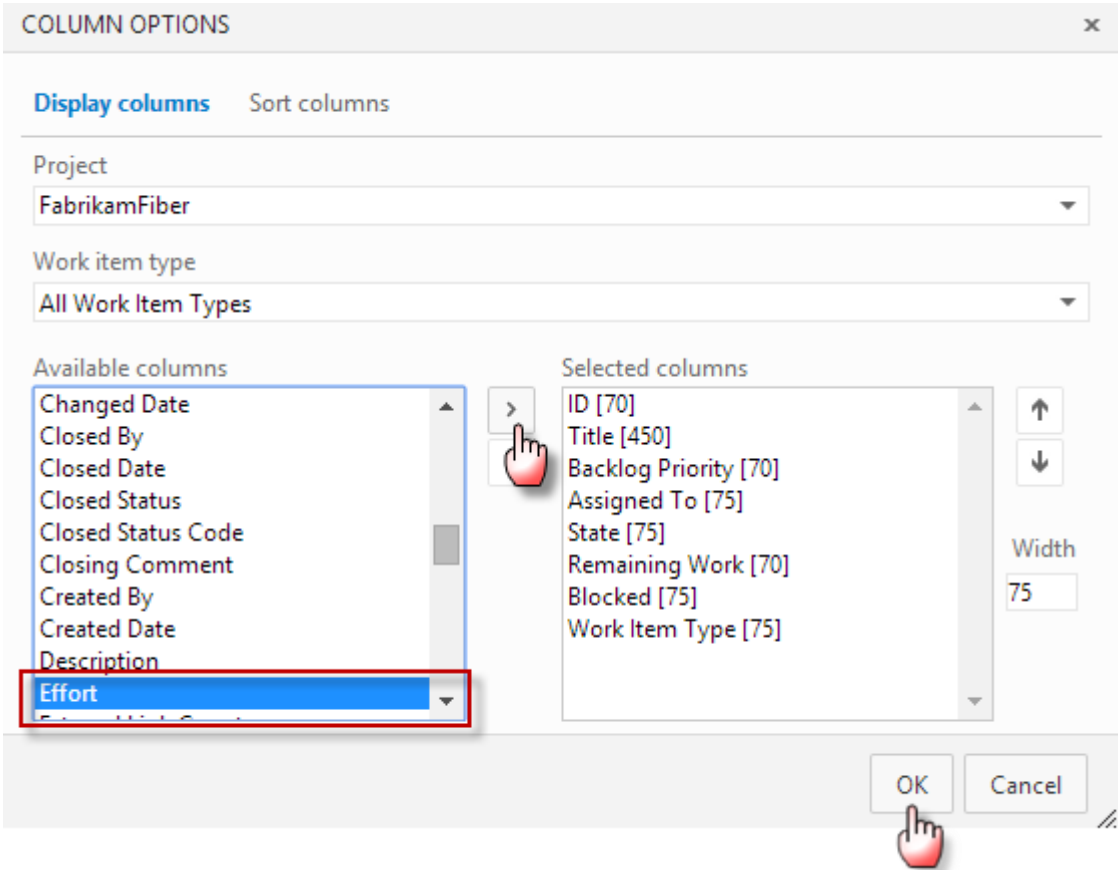


7. **Repeat the steps again to create another child item**

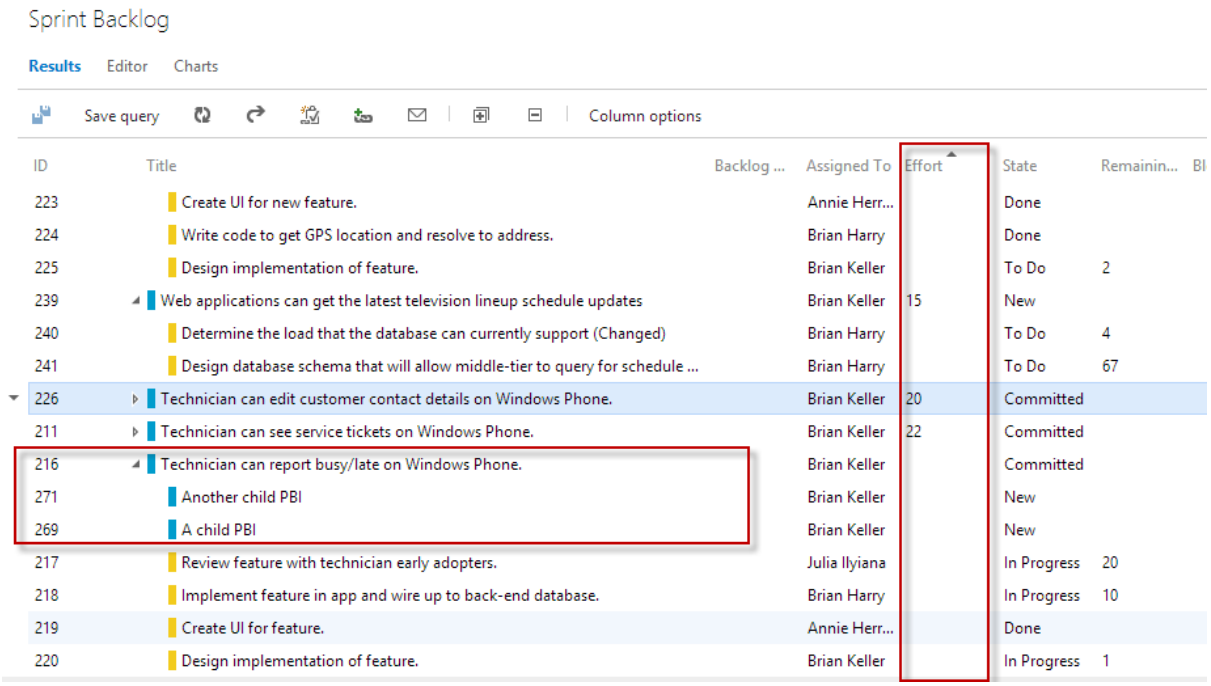
8. At the end use the column options



9. Add the *Effort* column to your backlog



At the end, your backlog should contain a Product Backlog Item with two children and the *Effort* column should be visible.

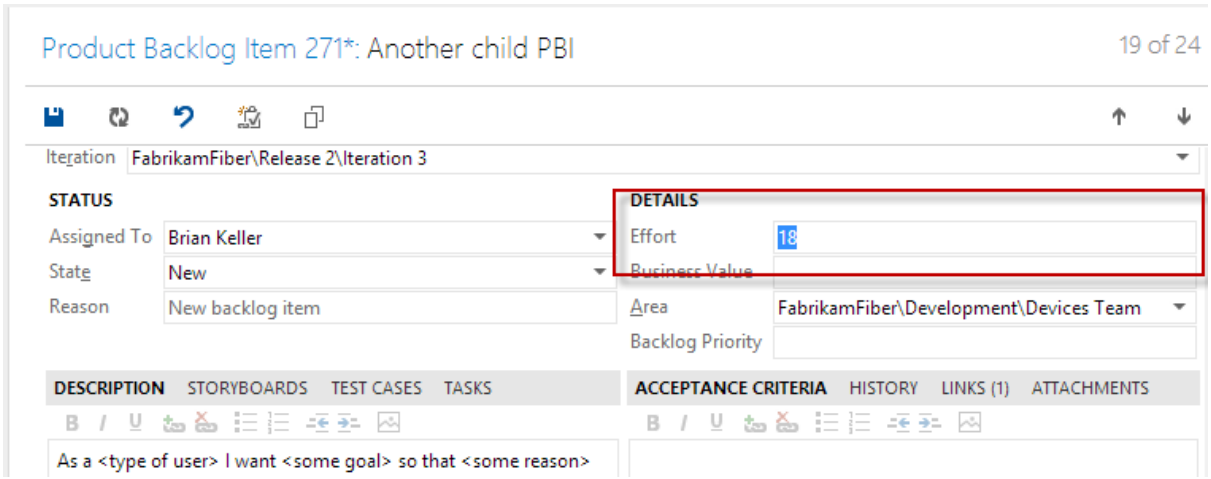


You are now ready to test the automation for the numeric aggregation.

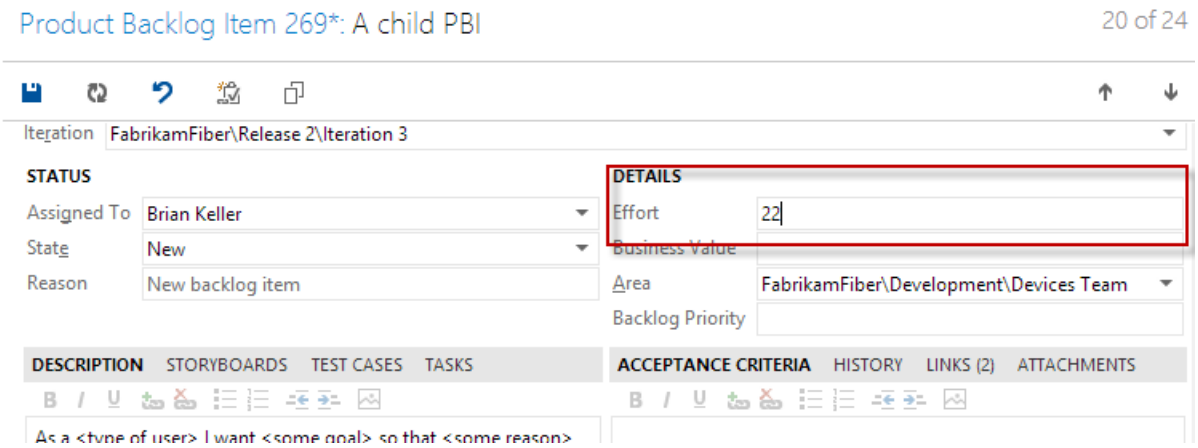
Trigger the automation

The automation will be triggered by changing an affected work item.

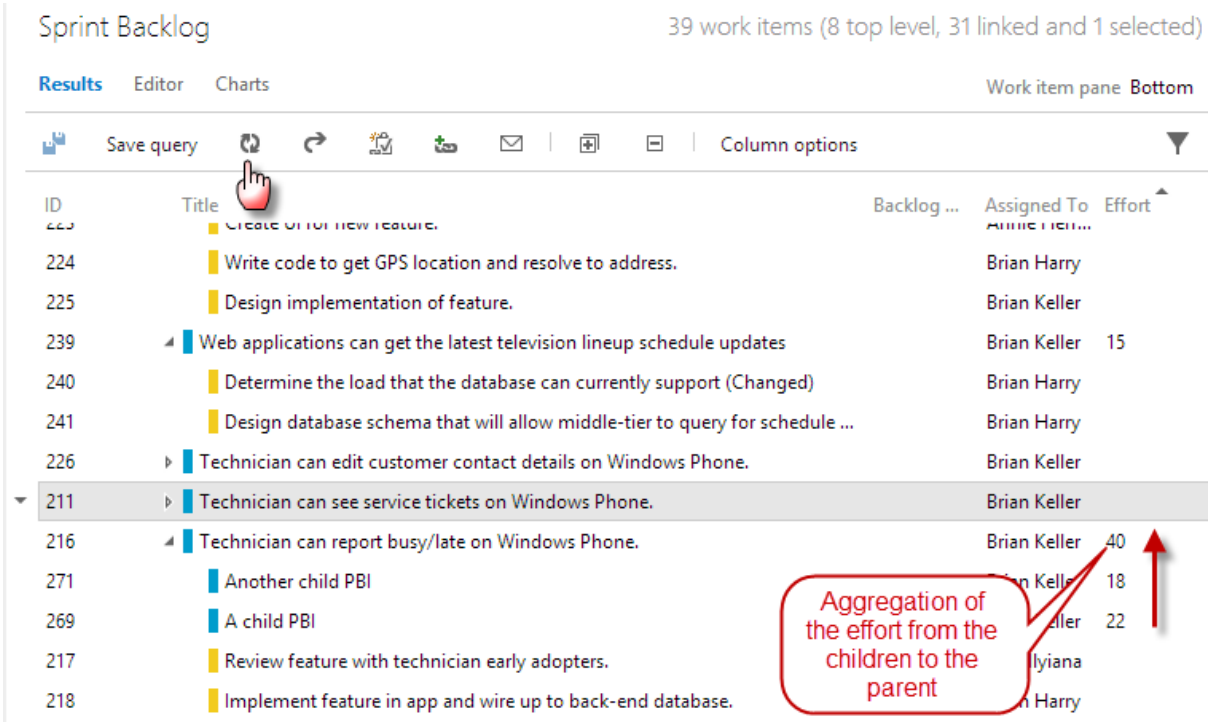
1. Select one of your created Product Backlog Items, change the value of **Effort** to any value and save the work item



2. **Do the same** for the other Product Backlog Item that you have created and save it



3. When the work item is saved the automation is triggered in the background.
4. The connected work items are now updated automatically. **This takes a couple of seconds, the effect cannot be seen immediately.**
5. Refresh your Backlog. As you can see the Remaining Work of the parent work item has been refreshed and the values of the children have been aggregated to it.



Trigger based functions example 2: Suspect-Links

The suspect-links feature of TFS ASAP will help you to discover all changed items through a hierarchy of work items. In this example we will configure the *suspect links* feature for the parent-child hierarchy of *Product Backlog Items* and *Tasks*.

Preparation

The preparation of this feature needs some effort, because you have to customize the process template.

- A proper text editor (e.g. Notepad ++) will make your life easer!
- You will have to use command-line tool “witadmin” provided by Microsoft to import and export the changes to your process templates. More information on that tool can be found under: http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/dd312129.aspx

This is an advanced customization of TFS features and your process template.
Make backups of your process template, if you are working on a productive environment!
If you need help with the installation and integration of TFS ASAP at your TFS installation, feel free to contact us: www.tfsasap.com/contact.html

Adjusting the template

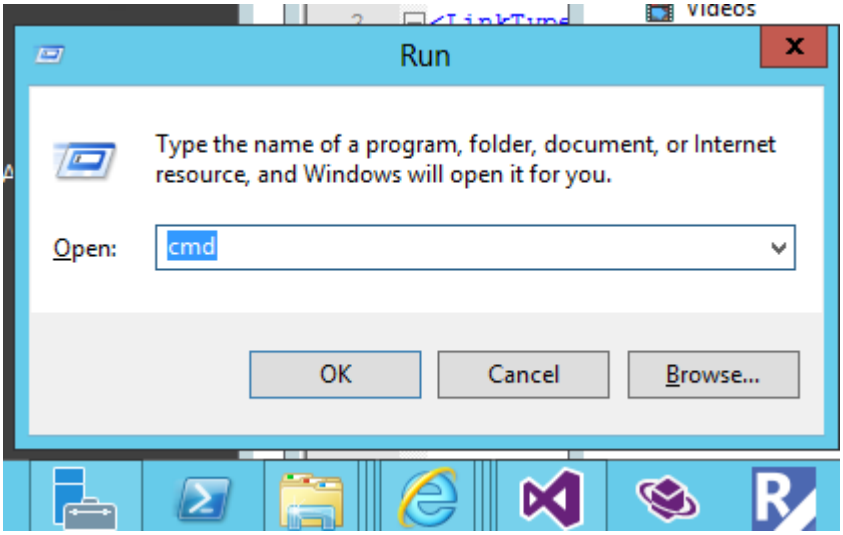
1. Create a folder on your virtual machine (e.g. “ASAP Customizations” on the desktop)

2. Navigate to that folder
3. Create a file *suspects.xml* in that folder which includes the link type definition:

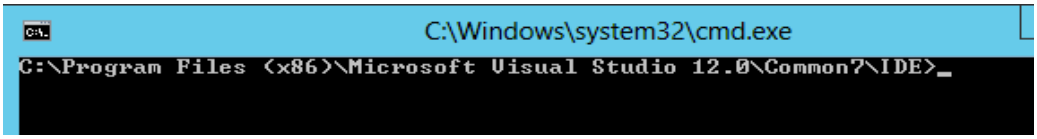
```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>
<LinkTypes>
  <LinkType ReferenceName="Custom.Suspects" ForwardName="Suspects"
ReverseName="Suspected By" Topology="Dependency" />
</LinkTypes>
```

Make sure windows explorer is showing file name extensions, otherwise your created files might end up as **suspects.xml.txt.**

4. Now, you have to adjust the definition of your *Requirements* work item.
   a. Open a (Command Prompt). The easiest way is to use the Run command (⊞+R) and to type in “cmd”.



b. Navigate to: *"C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft Visual Studio 12.0\Common7\IDE*



c. Use the witadmin tool to import the suspects.xml file that you have been created by using the command:

```
witadmin importlinktype /collection:http://vsalm:8080/tfs/FabrikamFiberCollection
/f:"C:\Users\Brian\Desktop\ASAP Customization\suspects.xml"
```

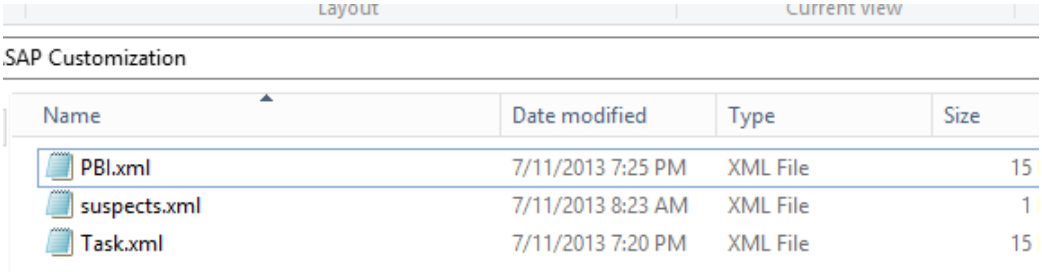
d. Use the witadmin.exe tool to export the work item type of *Product Backlog Item* work item type by using the command:

```
witadmin exportwitd /collection:http://vsalm:8080/tfs/FabrikamFiberCollection
/p:"FabrikamFiber" /n:"Product Backlog Item" /f:"C:\Users\Brian\Desktop\ASAP
Customization\PBI.xml"
```

e. Use the witadmin.exe tool to export the work item type of *Task* work item type by using the command:

```
witadmin exportwitd /collection:http://vsalm:8080/tfs/FabrikamFiberCollection
/p:"FabrikamFiber" /n:Task /f:"C:\Users\Brian\Desktop\ASAP Customization\Task.xml"
```

f. After that your folder should look like this:



5. Now you are ready to adjust the work item definitions. Open the *Requirement.xml* file in a text editor and the following description directly after the first <FIELDS> tag.

```
```

```
<FIELD name="Auto Suspect" refname="Custom.AutoSuspect" type="String" >
  <HELPTEXT>Determines whether you want TFS to create links to affected items in case of changes to relevant contents.</HELPTEXT>
  <ALLOWEDVALUES>
    <LISTITEM value="Yes" />
  </ALLOWEDVALUES>
</FIELD>
<FIELD name="Suspected" refname="Custom.Suspected" type="String" >
  <HELPTEXT>Determines whether the work item is still suspected. Set back to empty after you have checked and adopted the changes.</HELPTEXT>
  <ALLOWEDVALUES>
    <LISTITEM value="Yes" />
  </ALLOWEDVALUES>
</FIELD>
```

6. Add the following changes the <group> section of the same file :

```
<Group>
  <Column PercentWidth="50">
    <Control Type="FieldControl" FieldName="Custom.AutoSuspect" Label="Auto Suspect:" LabelPosition="Left" />
  </Column>
  <Column PercentWidth="50">
    <Control Type="FieldControl" FieldName="Custom.Suspected" Label="Suspected" LabelPosition="Left" />
  </Column>
</Group>
```

7. Save the PBI.xml

Repeat steps 5, 6 and 7 for the file Task.xml

8. Upload your changed files for the *Product Backlog Item* to the TFS by using the witadmin tool again with the command:

```
witadmin importwitd /collection:http://vsalm:8080/tfs/FabrikamFiberCollection /p:"FabrikamFiber" /f:"C:\Users\Brian\Desktop\ASAP Customization\PBI.xml"
```

9. Upload your changed files for the *Task* to the TFS by using the witadmin tool again with the command:

```
witadmin importwitd /collection:http://vsalm:8080/tfs/FabrikamFiberCollection /p:"FabrikamFiber" /f:"C:\Users\Brian\Desktop\ASAP Customization\Task.xml"
```

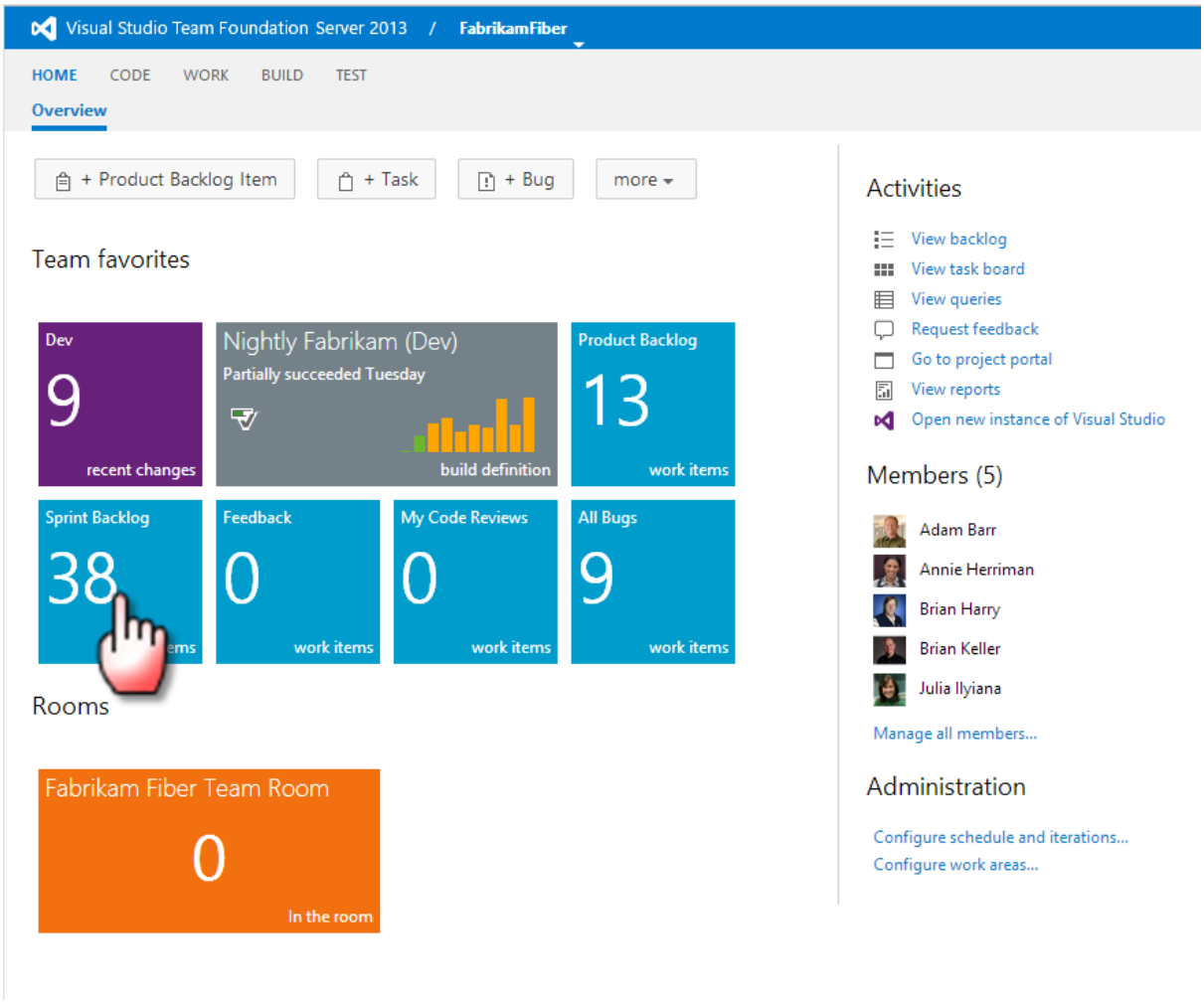
10. Your TFS ASAP installation is now configured for the use of the suspect links function

Trigger the automation

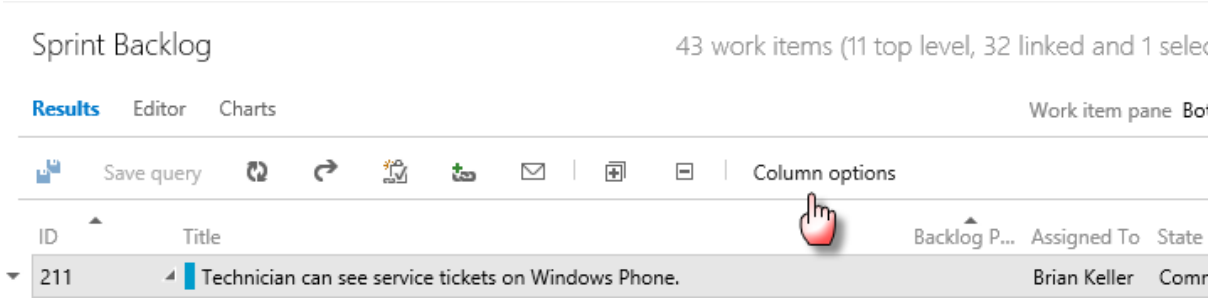
The suspect links function is integrated into TFS in the same manner as the numeric aggregation.

1. Navigate to the Fabrikam Fiber Team Project: **http://vsalm:8080/tfs/FabrikamFiberCollection/FabrikamFiber**

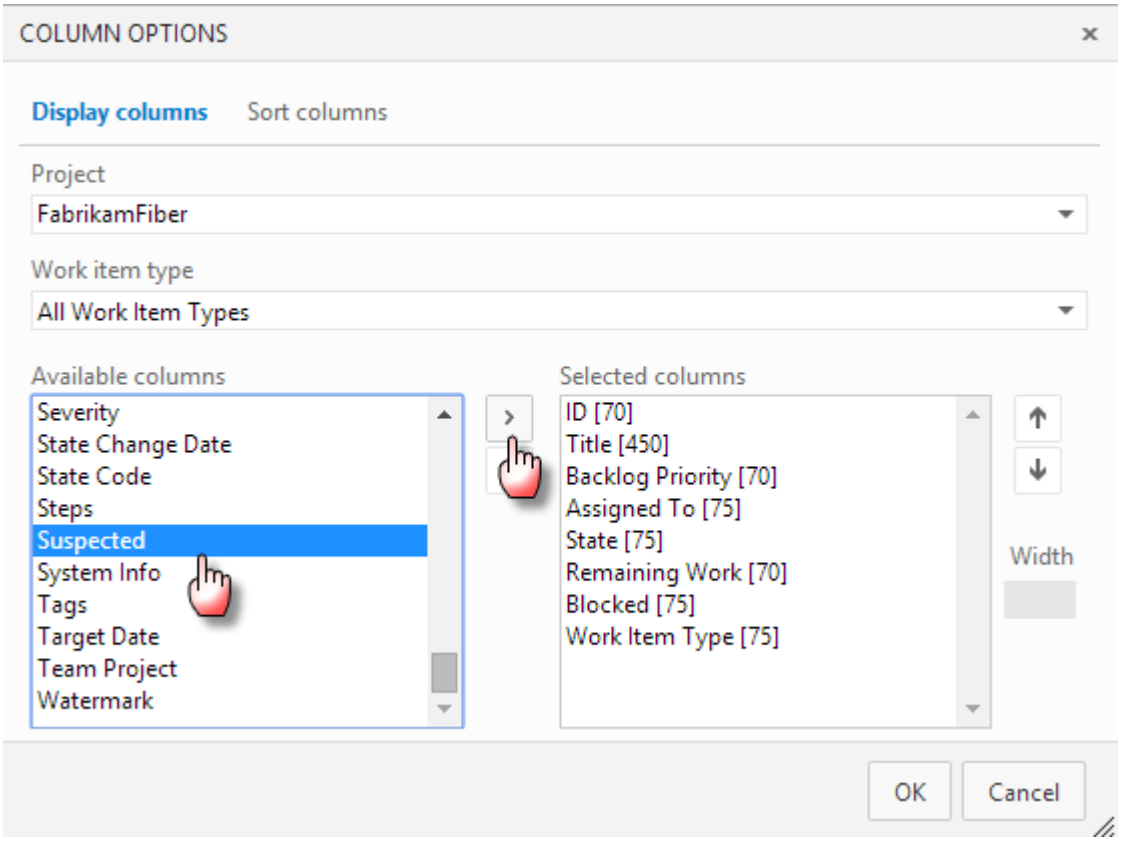
2. Open your Sprint Backlog



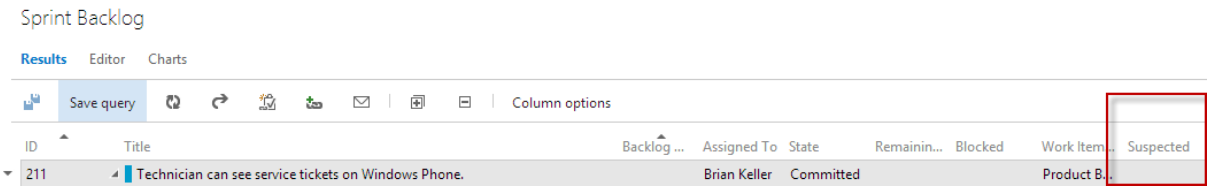
3. Click “Column Options”



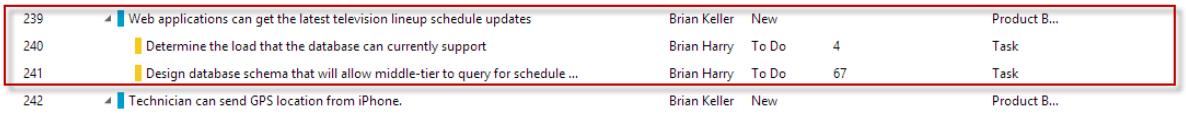
4. Select the *Suspected* column and add it to the view



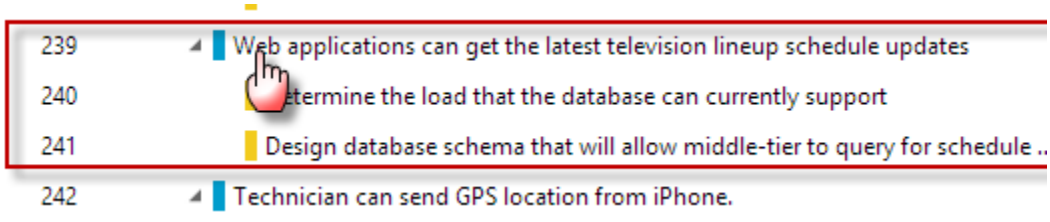
5. The new column should now be visible at the end of the column list



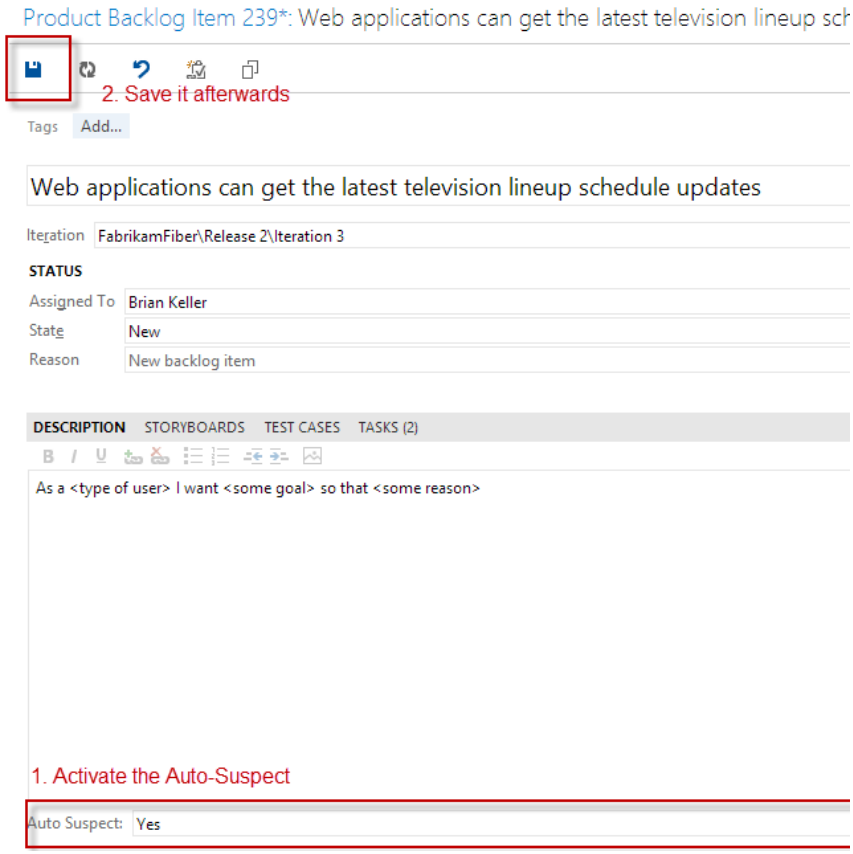
6. Pick any *Product Backlog Item* that has child work items of type *Tasks.*



7. Activate the Auto-Suspect function for each item of this hierarchy:
   a. Open the item



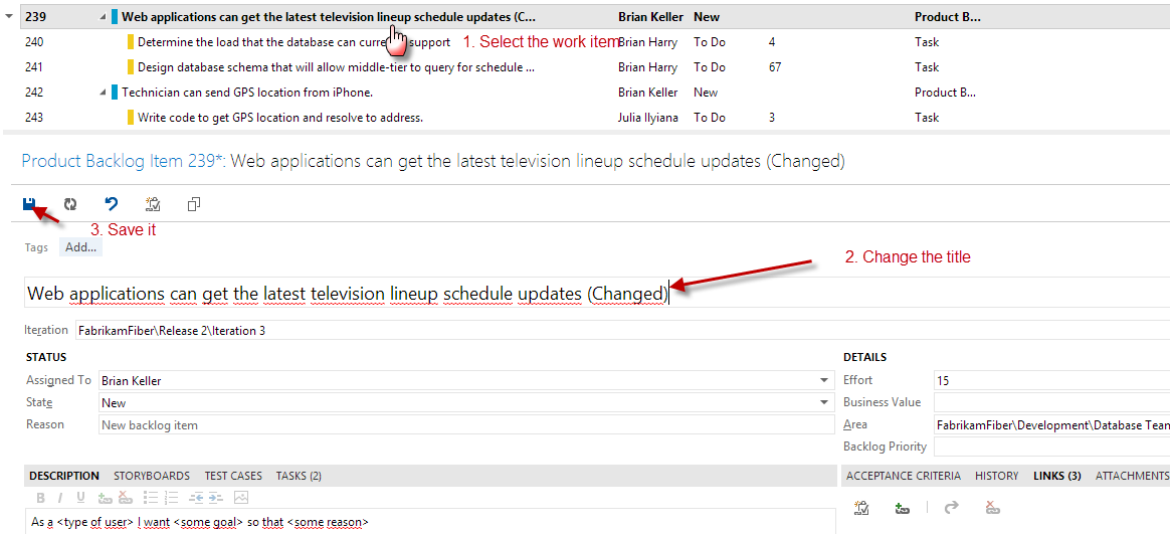
   b. Set Auto-Suspect to **yes** and save the work item



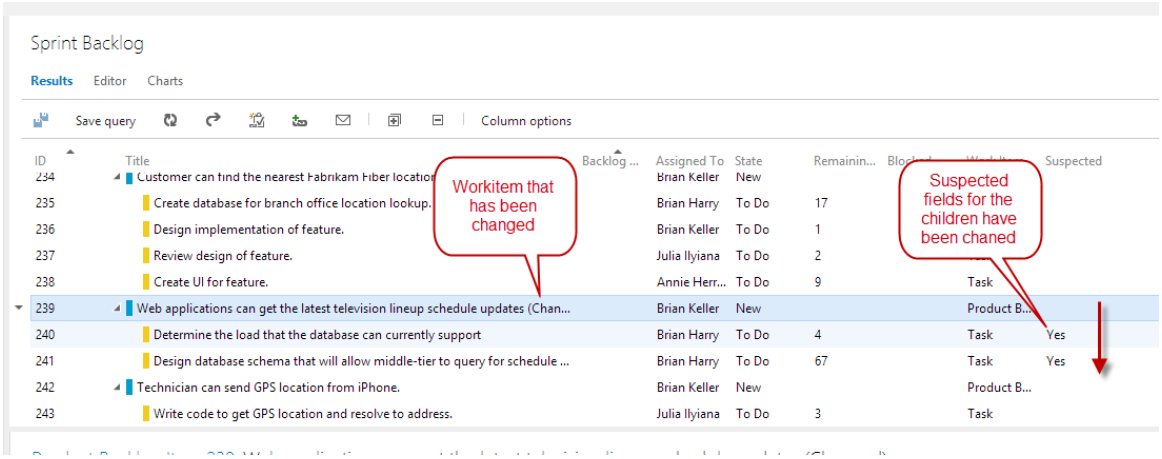
c. Close it
d. Repeat **this for each item** of the hierarchy

> If you do not see the "Auto Suspect" field, you may forgot something in the preparation part. Make sure you followed all steps correctly and uploaded your changed work item definitions.

8. Select the topmost item of your hierarchy and change the title of it



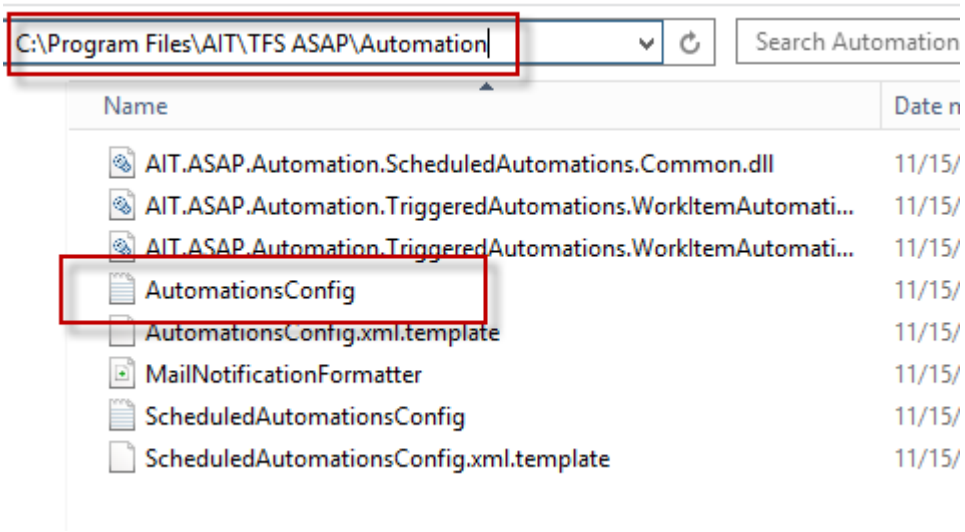
9. Wait a couple of seconds and refresh your Sprint Backlog. You will now see that the children of the work item that you have changed are now showing the *Suspected* flag



Adjusting the Trigger based function of TFS ASAP

All automations provided by TFS ASAP are adjustable, so that they fit your needs and your **process template**. Customizing the automations is easy and will explained to you by changing the direction of the **Suspect Links** automation**.**

1. Navigate to the Automation folder of your TFS ASAP installation and open the *AutomationsConfig.xml*. You can change the settings for all automations in this file.



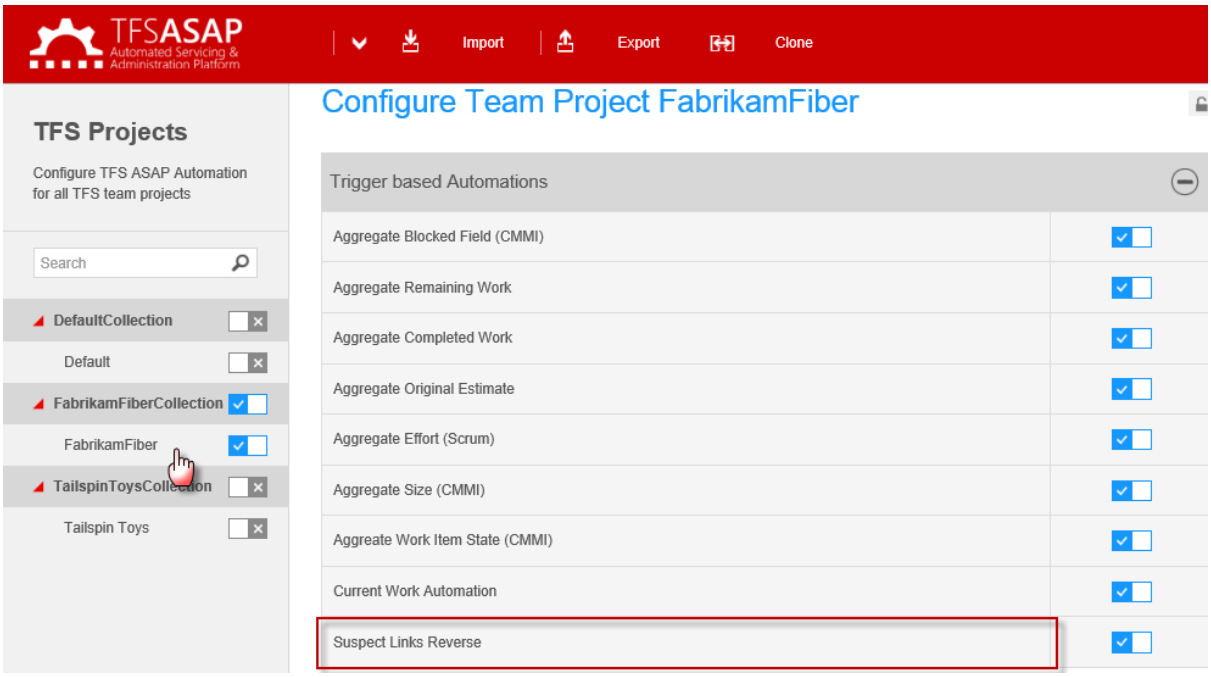
2. Navigate to the xml element with the DisplayName “Suspect Links”.
3. Change <MonitoredLinks> from “Child” to “Parent”. If you want, you can also adjust the name of the automation, by changing the “DisplayName”.

```
</Automation>
<Automation ID="{CA515A36-95EB-485C-8A9F-659628874923}" DisplayName="Suspect Links Reverse" nam
  <MonitoredFields>
    <Field>System.Title</Field>
    <Field>System.Description</Field>
  </MonitoredFields>
  <MonitoredLinks>
    <MonitoredLink>Parent</MonitoredLink>
  </MonitoredLinks>
  <SuspectLink ReferenceName="Custom.Suspects" ForwardName="Suspects" ReverseName="Suspected By
  <AutoSuspectFieldName>Custom.AutoSuspect</AutoSuspectFieldName>
  <SuspectedFieldName>Custom.Suspected</SuspectedFieldName>
</Automation>
```

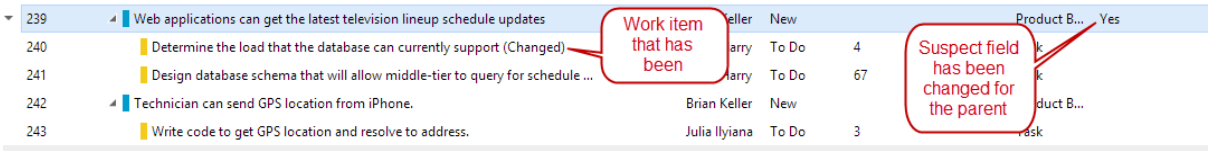
4. Save the file

> Depending on your text editor you can get an “Access is denied” error when you try to save the edited file. In that case, use another text editor (e.g. Notepad ++) or copy the file to a different location, edit it and copy it back to the automations folder

5. **Optional:** You can check if the automation has been changed by navigating to http://vsalm:8080/asap, selecting your Team Project looking at the name of the automation. If you have changed the DisplayName in the xml, the new name should be visible here



6. Navigate back to your Sprint Backlog
7. Change a *Task* that is a child of a *Product Backlog Item.* The “Suspected” flag will now be populated to the parent work item.



As you can see, the suspected field is now populated in the other direction.

Final Remarks

Thank you for your interested in our product. If you need support for the customization of automations or the installation and configuration of TFS ASAP, feel free to contact us.

If you miss any functionalities, rules or automations, feel free to send your idea to AIT – we will provide you with an individual offer to realize your idea in a future version of TFS ASAP.

www.tfsasap.com/contact.html

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