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About the Tutorial

Bugzilla is an open-source tool used for issues and bugs tracking system. It is widely used as a bug-reporting tool for all types of testing functions. This tutorial introduces the readers to the basic features and usage of Bugzilla. This tutorial will guide the readers on how to utilize this tool in reporting and maintaining the bug status.

Audience

This tutorial has been prepared for beginners to help them understand how to use the Bugzilla tool. This tutorial will give you enough understanding of the various components of Bugzilla with suitable examples.

Prerequisites

As a reader of this tutorial, you should have a basic understanding of bug lifecycle and contents to provide in a bug.

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1. Bugzilla – Overview

Bugzilla is an open-source tool used to track bugs and issues of a project or a software. It helps the developers and other stakeholders to keep track of outstanding problems with the product

- It was written by **Terry Weissman** in TCL programming language in 1998.
- Later, Bugzilla was written in PERL and it uses the MYSQL database.
- Bugzilla can be used as a Test Management tool since it can be easily linked with other test case management tools like **Quality Centre**, **ALM**, **Testlink**, etc.
- Bugzilla provides a powerful, easy to use solution to configuration management and replication problems.
- It can dramatically increase the productivity and accountability of an individual by providing a documented workflow and positive feedback for good performance.

Most commercial and defect-tracking software vendors charged enormous licensing fees in the starting days of Bugzilla. As a result, Bugzilla quickly became a favorite among the open-source users, due to its genesis in the open-source browser project with Mozilla. It is now the most precious defect-tracking system against which all the others are measured.

Bugzilla puts the power in an individual's hand to improve the value of business while providing a usable framework for natural attention to detail and knowledge store to flourish.

Bugzilla – Key Features

Bugzilla has many keys as well as advanced features, which makes it unique. Following is a list of some of Bugzilla's most significant features:

- Bugzilla is powerful and it has advanced searching capabilities.
- Bugzilla supports user configurable email notifications whenever the bug status changes.
- Bugzilla displays the complete bug change history.
- Bugzilla provides inter bug dependency track and graphic representation.
- Bugzilla allows users to attach Bug supportive files and manage it.
- Bugzilla has integrated, product-based, granular security schema that makes it more secure.
- It has complete security audit and runs under the Perl's taint mode.
- Bugzilla supports a robust, stable RDBMS (Rational Data Base Management System) back end.

- It supports Web, XML, E-Mail and console interfaces.
- Bugzilla has a wide range of customized, user preferences features.
- It supports localized web user interface.
- Extensive configurability as it allows to be configured with other test management tools for a better user experience.
- Bugzilla has a smooth upgrade pathway among different versions.

In the next chapter, we will discuss the prerequisites for installing Bugzilla.

2. Bugzilla – Installation Prerequisites

To install and run Bugzilla on the server, the core requirement is to have Perl installed. This means that Bugzilla can be installed on any platform, where Perl can be installed; including Windows, Linux and Mac OS X.

Hardware Requirements

- It is recommended to have a 4 GB RAM or more.
-
- Should have a Fast Processor, for instance, at least 3GHz or more.
-
- The hard disk space depends on the size of the team and the number of defects. A 50GB hard disk memory is a quite enough.

Software Requirements

Bugzilla requires a database server, a web server and Perl. In all the cases, (the newer, the better) the newer releases have more bug fixes, but they are still supported and they still get security fixes from time to time.

- **Perl:** Bugzilla 4.4 and older requires Perl 5.8.1 *or newer*, but Bugzilla 5.0 and newer will require Perl 5.10.1 or newer. It is not recommend installing Perl 5.8.x at this stage. Instead, install Perl 5.12 or newer, as these newer versions have some useful improvements, which will give better user experience.

- **Database Server:** Bugzilla supports MySQL, PostgreSQL, Oracle and SQLite. MySQL and PostgreSQL are highly recommended, as they have the best support from Bugzilla and are used daily by the Bugzilla developers. Oracle has several known issues and is a 2nd-class citizen. It should work decently in most cases, but may fail miserably in some cases too. SQLite is recommended for testing purposes only for small teams. If MySQL is used, version 5.0.15 is required by Bugzilla 4.x, but highly recommended version 5.5 or newer. For PostgreSQL installation, version 8.3 is required.

- **Web Server:** Bugzilla has no minimum requirements for its web server. It is recommended to install Apache 2.2, although Bugzilla works fine with IIS too (IIS 7 or higher recommended). To improve performances in Apache, recommend to enable its mod_perl module.

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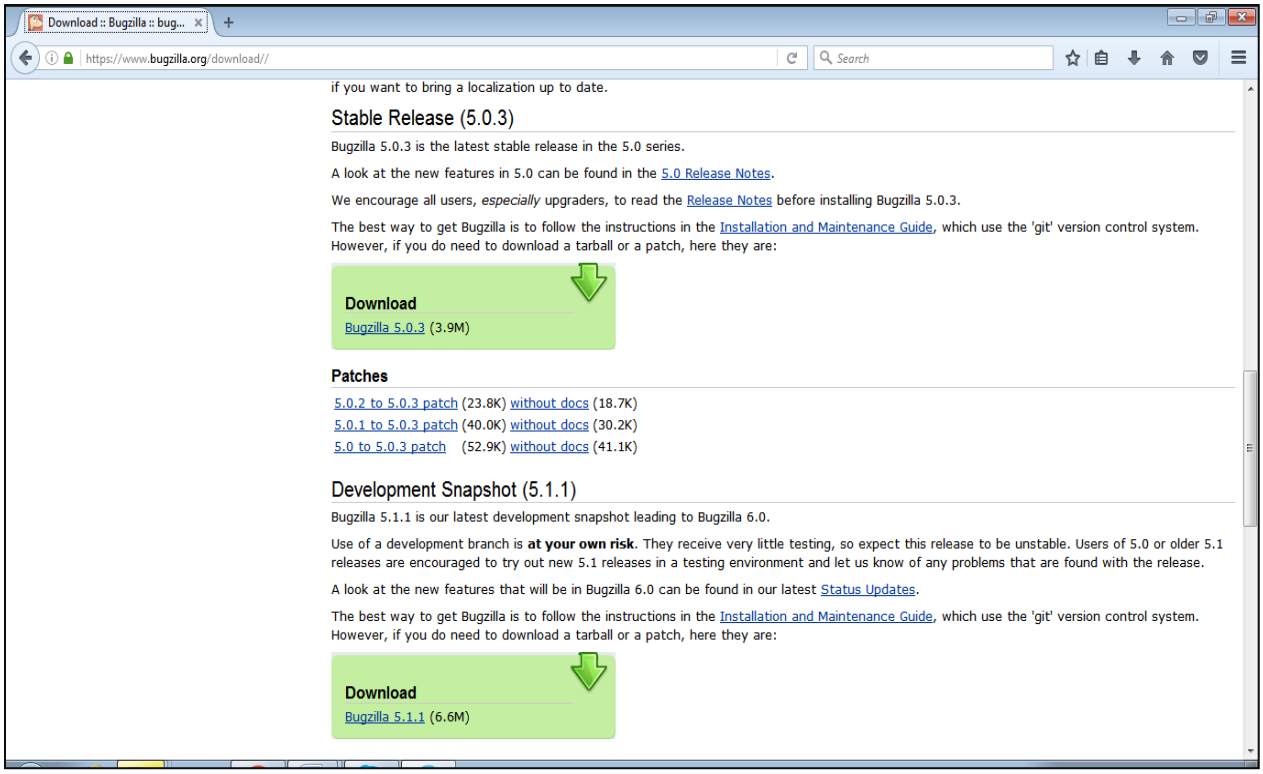
3. Bugzilla – Installation

The Bugzilla GIT website is the best way to get Bugzilla. Download and install GIT from the website – https://git-scm.com/download and Run it.

```
git clone --branch release-X.X-stable https://github.com/bugzilla/bugzilla
C:\bugzilla
```

Where, "X.X" is the 2-digit version number of the stable release of Bugzilla (e.g. 5.0)

The another way to download Bugzilla is from the following link – https://www.bugzilla.org/download/ and move down to the Stable Release section and select the latest one from the list as shown in the following screenshot. Click on Download Bugzilla 5.0.3.



Bugzilla comes as a 'tarball' (.tar.gz extension), which any competent Windows archiving tool should be able to open.

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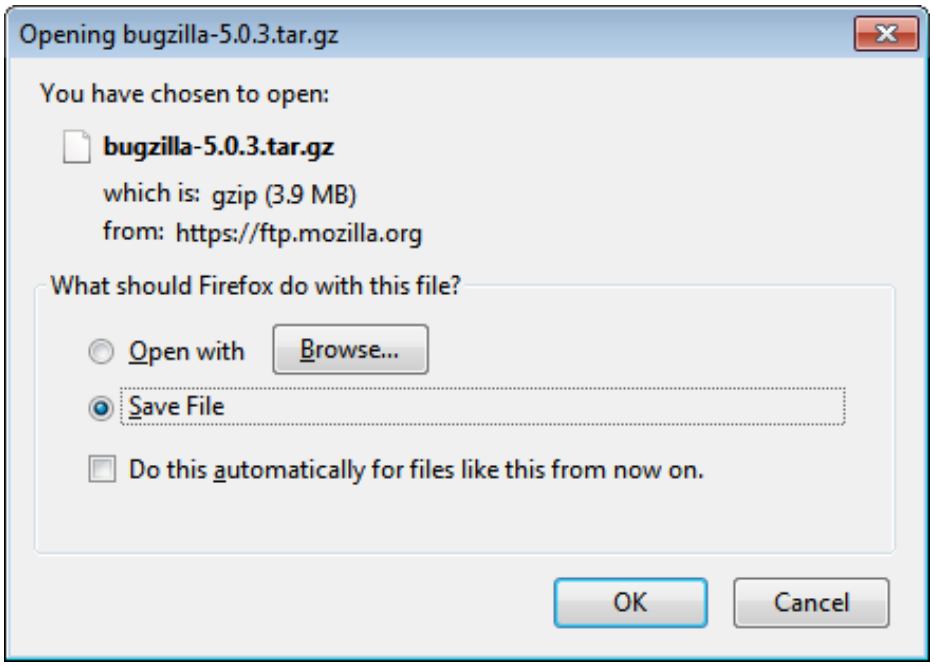

PERL Modules

Bugzilla requires a number of Perl modules to be installed. Some of them are mandatory, and some others, which enable additional features, are optional.

In **ActivePerl**, these modules are available in the **ActiveState** repository, and are installed with the ppm tool. Either it can use it on the command line or just type **ppm** and the user will get a GUI.

Install the following mandatory modules with the following command.

```
ppm install <modulename>
```

Some of the most important PERL modules have been described below.

- **CGI.pm –** It is an extensively used Perl module for programming the CGI (Common Gateway Interface) web applications. It helps to provide a consistent API for receiving and processing user inputs.

- **Digest-SHA –** The Digest-SHA1 module allows you to use the NIST SHA-1 message digest algorithm from within the Perl programs. The algorithm takes as input a message of arbitrary length and produces as output a 160-bit "fingerprint" or "message digest" of the input.

- **TimeDate –** TimeDate is a class for the representation of time/date combinations, and is part of the Perl TimeDate project.

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- **DateTime –** DateTime is a class for the representation of date/time combinations, and is part of the Perl DateTime project.

- **DateTime-TimeZone –** This class is the base class for all time zone objects. A time zone is represented internally as a set of observances, each of which describes the offset from GMT for a given time period.

- **DBI –** It is the standard database interface module for Perl. It defines a set of methods, variables and conventions that provide a consistent database interface independent of the actual database being used.

- **Template-Toolkit –** The Template Toolkit is a collection of Perl modules, which implement a fast, flexible, powerful and extensible template processing system. It can be used for processing any kind of text documents and is input-agnostic.

- **Email-Sender –** The Email-Sender replaces the old and problematic email send library, which did a decent job at handling the simple email sending tasks, but it was not suitable for serious use for a several reasons.

- **Email-MIME –** This is an extension of the Email-Simple module. It is majorly used to handle MIME encoded messages. It takes a message as a string, splits it into its constituent parts and allows you to access the different parts of the message.

- **URI –** A Uniform Resource Identifier is a compact string of characters that identifies an abstract or physical resource. A URI can be further classified as either a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) or a Uniform Resource Name (URN).

- **List-MoreUtils –** It provides some trivial but commonly needed functionality on lists, which is not going to go into the List-Util module.

- **Math-Random-ISAAC –** The ISAAC (Indirection, Shift, Accumulate, Add, and Count) algorithm is designed to take some seed information and produce seemingly random results as the output.

- **File-Slurp –** This module provides subs that allow you to read or write files with one simple call. They are designed to be simple, have flexible ways to pass in or get the file content and are very efficient.

- **JSON-XS –** This module converts the Perl data structures to JSON and vice versa. The primary goal of JSON-XS is to be correct and its secondary goal is to be fast.

- **Win32 –** The Win32 module contains functions to access Win32 APIs.

- **Win32-API –** With this module, you can import and call arbitrary functions from the Win32's Dynamic Link Libraries (DLL), without having to write an XS extension.

- **DateTime-TimeZone-Local-Win32 –** This module provides methods for determining the local time zone on a Windows platform.

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