

TeamAlerts

Alerts Manager for Team System

Tutorial

2009

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1. Introduction

[TeamAlerts](#) is designed to work with Microsoft Team Foundation Server (TFS). The application greatly simplifies and speeds up working with subscriptions for work items changes (alerts) in Microsoft Visual Studio Team System (VSTS).

This document guides you through the general cases of using [TeamAlerts](#).

2. Creating a Subscription

Let's see the example of creating subscription.

2.1. Selecting a Type of a Subscription

First of all you need to select type of subscription: project or personal. Generally speaking, project and personal subscriptions differ only in their accessibility. Project subscriptions are accessible only for *project administrators* and can be modified only by *project administrators*; personal subscriptions are accessible only for you. Subscription of any type works for all team members. I.e. if you create a project subscription which sends notification to a person that is not in *Administrators group*, notifications will be sent. Process of creating subscription is the same for all types of subscriptions. Let's create personal subscription.

2.2. Selecting Subscription Template

So then to create new subscription you have to press **Add** button at the tab **My Subscriptions** (see Figure 1). Here you can select the way of creating new subscription: **Add Blank Subscription** or **Add Preset Subscription**.

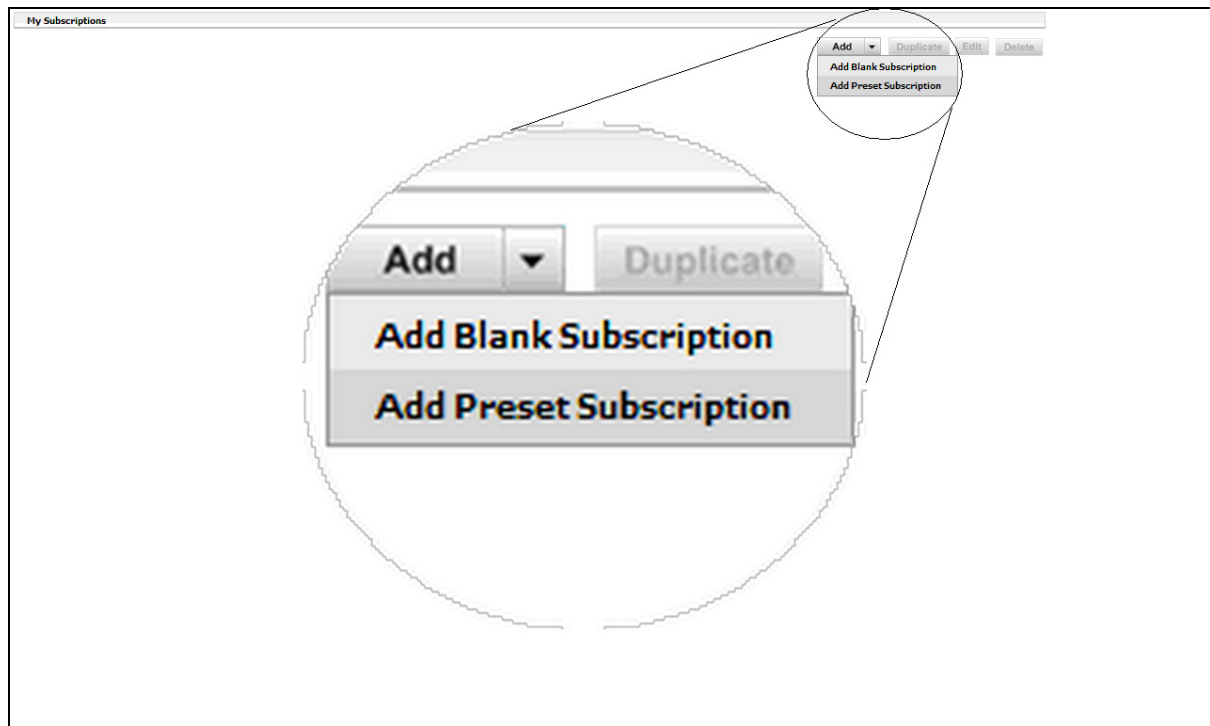


Fig. 1. Creating new subscription.

2.3. Creating Blank Subscription

Select **Add Blank Subscription**. Then you need to fill details of the subscription, e.g. **Name**, **Change Type**, **Project**, etc. After that you have to create logical expression (see [2.5. Creating Logical Expressions](#)).

2.4. Creating Preset Subscription

The application has several subscription templates which you can use. Preset subscription is a kind of standard subscription which is often used in most projects. E.g. in most projects a notification must be sent to someone when a work item is assigned to this one. For this purpose we created preset subscription called “*Any work item assigned to me*”. So there is no need to create this subscription manually. You only have to add preset subscription. Let’s have a look at this simple process.

Select **Add Preset Subscription**. Next step is to choose the template.

Name	Expression
Any work item assigned to me	System.AssignedTo <> 'Nadezhda A. Tarbeeva' AND System.AssignedTo.NewValue = 'Nadezhda A. Tarbeeva'
Any change to work items I created	System.CreatedBy.NewValue = 'Nadezhda A. Tarbeeva'
Work items assigned to me changed	System.AssignedTo.NewValue = 'Nadezhda A. Tarbeeva' OR System.AssignedTo = 'Nadezhda A. Tarbeeva'

Edit subscription before save


Fig. 2. List of preset subscriptions.

Click on the title of the preset subscription and it is ready. Learn the expression at the right column to make sure this is what you need. You can then also edit this subscription just like others.

If you want to edit the preset subscription before it is created, check **Edit Subscription before save**.

2.5. Creating Logical Expression

Logical expression defines events when TFS have to send you a notification. In our case it is: “when defect moves to closed or rejected state”.

Note. When selecting a project, work item type or other work item fields may be reloaded. In this case you will see the  element. Be sure that the fields are reloaded before doing next changes.

Under logical expression you can see XPath and your expression. Using these you can check accuracy of your logical expression. You can hide or show XPath with a special link (**Show/Hide XPath**).

Name: Change Type: Team Project:

Logical Expression

	And/Or	Work Item Type	Work Item Field	Old/New Value	Operator	Value	
<input type="checkbox"/>		Defect	System.State	New Value	=	Closed	Add Delete
<input type="checkbox"/>	OR	Defect	System.State	New Value	=	Rejected	Add Delete

Defect.System.State.NewValue = 'Closed' OR Defect.System.State.NewValue = 'Rejected'

Show XPath +

Fig. 3. Creating logical expression.

Note. You can create as complex expression as you need by adding new rows and grouping it with the grouping controls on the left side.

2.6. Defining Recipients

The last step is to define recipients of your notification. There are three formats of notification: HTML, Plain text and SOAP. In first two formats you can specify only e-mail address (one or more) of a recipient.

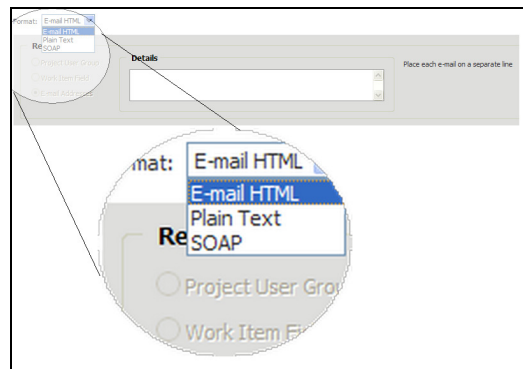


Fig. 4. Selecting format of notification e-mail.

For SOAP notification you must provide URL of web-service responsible for notifications. Such web-service is provided with [TeamAlerts](#) and can be accessed via special link in the **Start -> Programs -> TeamAlerts** menu. Normally, URL looks like `http://<hostname>/TeamAlertsService`, where `<hostname>` is a network name of the machine where [TeamAlerts](#) is installed.

E.g. if you select SOAP format and check field **System.CreatedBy** at **Work Item Field** option the notification will be sent to author of the work item.

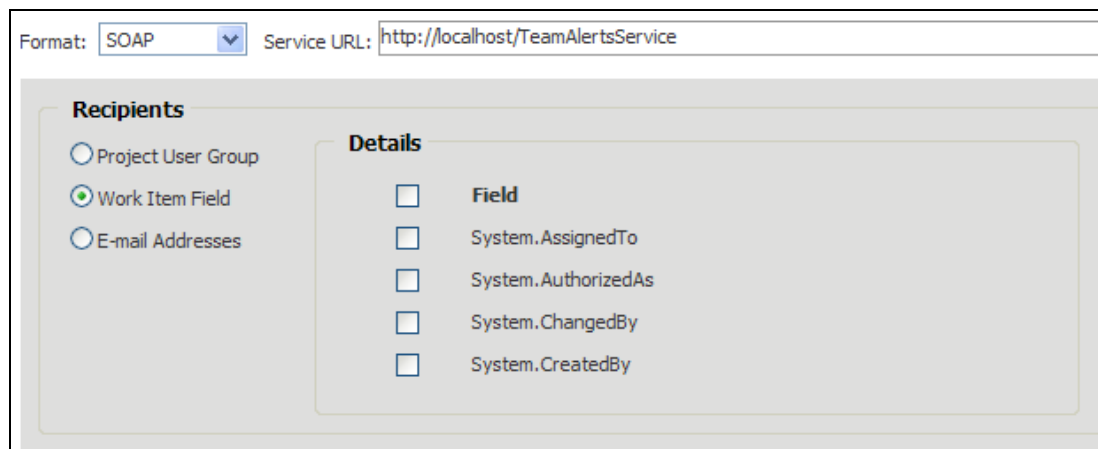
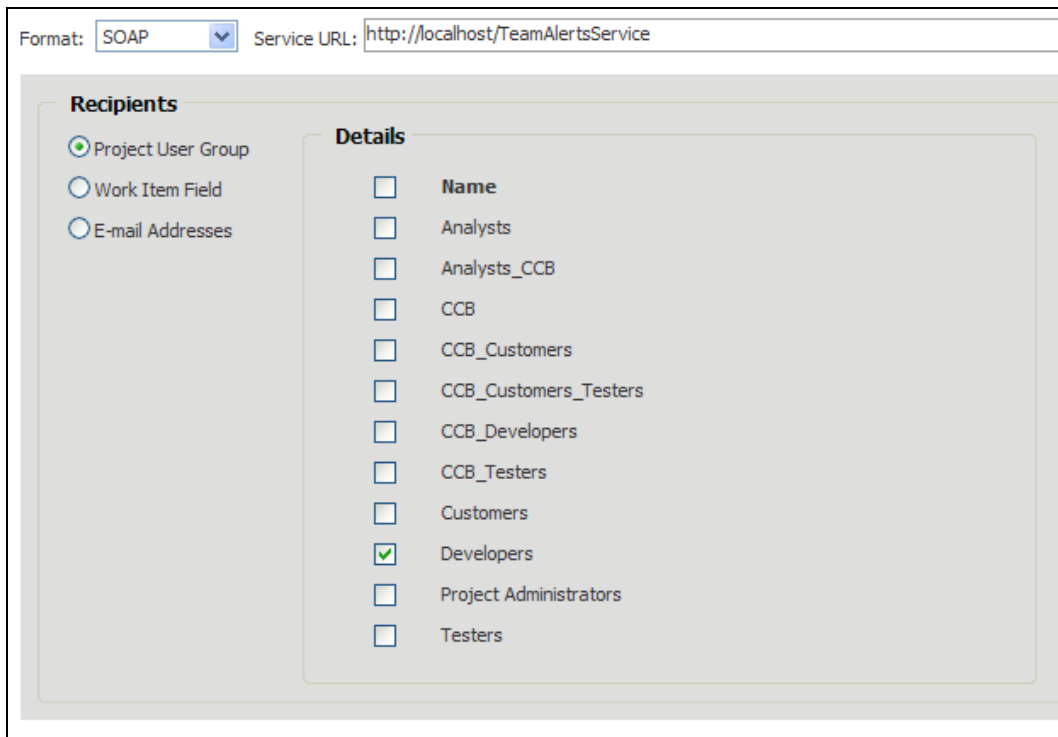


Fig. 5. Specifying recipients by field.

You can also define recipients according to their role in project. E.g. if you select field **Developers** at **Project User Group** option, all users in this group will get a notification.



Format: Service URL:

Recipients

- Project User Group
- Work Item Field
- E-mail Addresses

Details

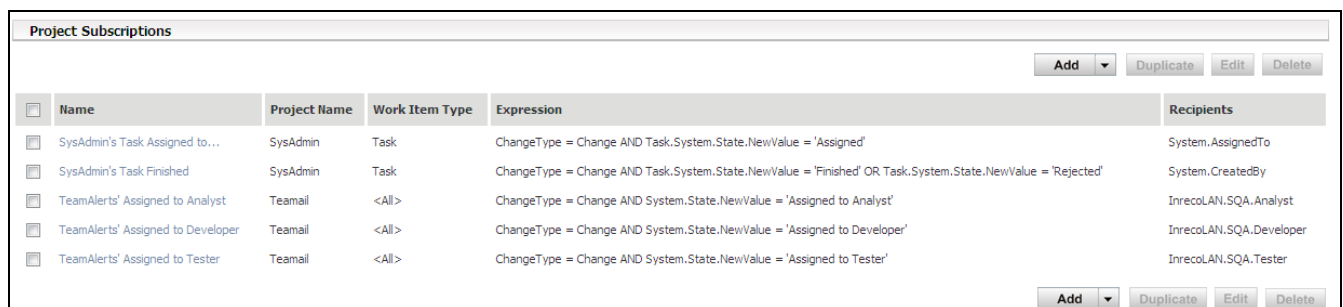
- Name
- Analysts
- Analysts_CCB
- CCB
- CCB_Customers
- CCB_Customers_Testers
- CCB_Developers
- CCB_Testers
- Customers
- Developers
- Project Administrators
- Testers

Fig. 6. Specifying recipients by role.

Select preferred format and input e-mail addresses if needed. Then press **Subscribe** button and your subscription is ready. Now recipients will get notification every time anyone closes or rejects defects in your project.

2.7. Creating Project Subscriptions

There is another type of subscriptions – project subscriptions. These subscriptions are shared between all administrators and can be created and edited only by them. They are useful for project managers E.g. when project manager wants every tester in the project to get e-mail notification after a new bug had been submitted.



Project Subscriptions					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Name	Project Name	Work Item Type	Expression	Recipients
<input type="checkbox"/>	SysAdmin's Task Assigned to...	SysAdmin	Task	ChangeType = Change AND Task.System.State.NewValue = 'Assigned'	System.AssignedTo
<input type="checkbox"/>	SysAdmin's Task Finished	SysAdmin	Task	ChangeType = Change AND Task.System.State.NewValue = 'Finished' OR Task.System.State.NewValue = 'Rejected'	System.CreatedBy
<input type="checkbox"/>	TeamAlerts' Assigned to Analyst	Teamail	<All>	ChangeType = Change AND System.State.NewValue = 'Assigned to Analyst'	InrecoLAN.SQA.Analyst
<input type="checkbox"/>	TeamAlerts' Assigned to Developer	Teamail	<All>	ChangeType = Change AND System.State.NewValue = 'Assigned to Developer'	InrecoLAN.SQA.Developer
<input type="checkbox"/>	TeamAlerts' Assigned to Tester	Teamail	<All>	ChangeType = Change AND System.State.NewValue = 'Assigned to Tester'	InrecoLAN.SQA.Tester

Fig. 7. List of project Subscriptions.

3. Editing a Subscription

To edit a subscription you have to click on subscription's name or select subscription in list and press **Edit** button.

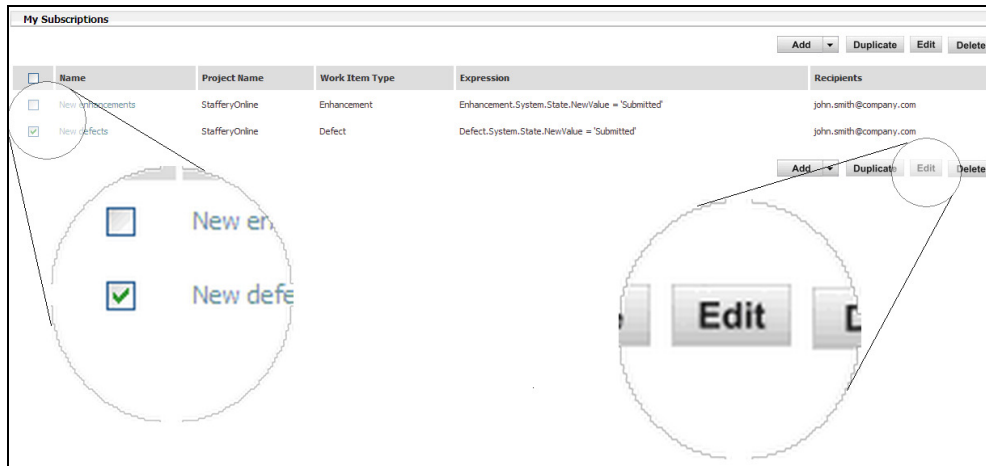


Fig. 8. List of subscriptions.

You will see subscription details on the page. After changing a subscription press **Subscribe** button and your changes will be saved.

4. Deleting a Subscription

To delete a subscription you need to select subscription in list and press **Delete** button.

5. Changing E-mail Template

E-mail template applies to all notifications. It can be modified only by administrators. After you login as administrator you can see the group of checkboxes in the lower part of window. Here you can check fields which will be included in notification e-mail. To change an e-mail template simply check all needed fields and press **Save** button.

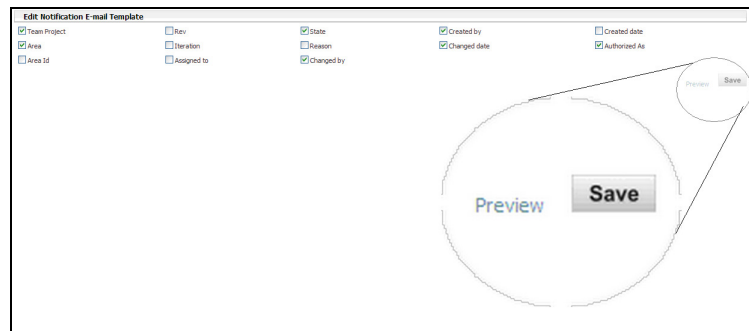


Fig. 9. E-mail template fields.

By clicking *Preview* link, you can at once see how an e-mail will look.

6. Support

In the right top corner of the application you can always find a **FAQ** link to the [TeamAlerts](#) site support area.

Do not hesitate to make a request to [TeamAlerts](#) support team if you meet issues with our product. We also appreciate any new ideas or questions regarding [TeamAlerts](#). You can submit them directly to support@teamalertsmanager.com.