



About the Remaining Work Reports

patterns & practices



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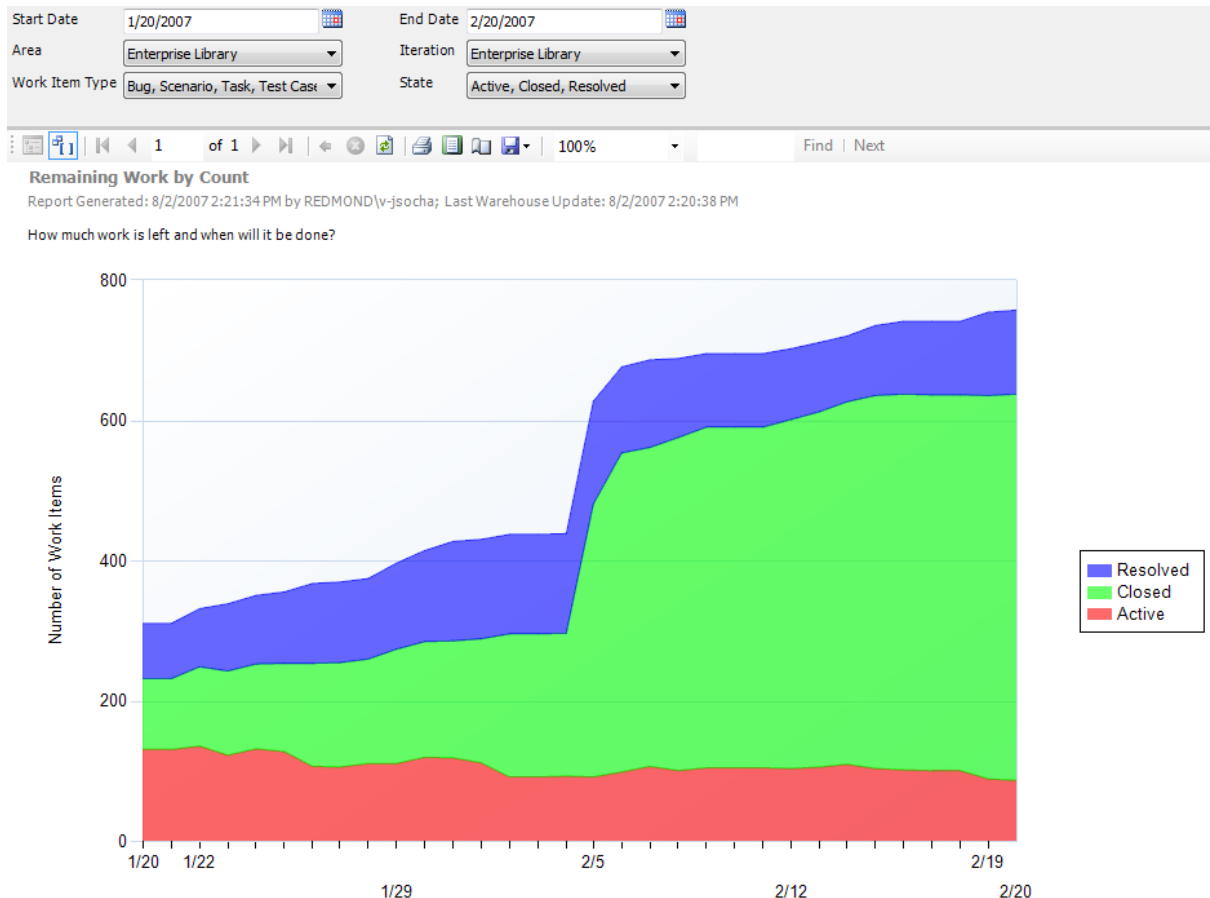
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About the Remaining Work Reports



About This Report

Title: Remaining Work by Count and Remaining Work by Size

Version: 1.1

Answers: How much work is left and when will it be done?

How to Use This Report

Notice that you can obtain a report about any specific type of work item or about all of the work items together.

You can view the report by total work size (that is, the sum of the estimates in the tasks) or by count of tasks. View by size is available for only some of the work item types.

Parameters

Start Date, End Date	Choose the range of dates you want the report to include.
Area, Iteration	Choose the scope you want the report to include.
Work Item Type	Choose one or all for the report to include.
State	Choose the states you want the report to show on the diagram.

Remaining Work (Tasks)

The way you use this report with **Work Item** type set to **Task** depends on your process and how you enter tasks into TFS.

Agile Projects

In an Agile project, tasks are often entered at the start of each iteration. That means you would expect the number of active tasks to remain relatively constant over time. A sudden rise in active tasks could be an indication of a problem.

Likewise, the number of resolved tasks should remain relatively constant over time. Resolved tasks are tasks that have been developed but haven't been closed by the QA team. If resolved tasks begin to rise, it is often an indication that testing is falling behind development.

Closed tasks should continue to rise over time. A flattening out would be an indication of a problem that is stalling development or testing.

Up Front Planned Projects

If you plan all your tasks at the start of the project, the number of active tasks will initially be all the tasks for the project (except for unforeseen tasks). Therefore, the number of active tasks should fall over time. The total tasks in all states should remain relatively constant over time.

Versions of This Report

There are two versions of this report. The "by Count" version displays the number of work items in each state, while the "by Size" version uses the value in the **Remaining Work** field of the **Task** work item type. Depending on your process, **Remaining Work** could represent the number of hours, days, or perhaps even weeks.

If you're not diligent about updating the **Remaining Work** field, you will probably prefer to use the "by Count" version of this report. For example, agile projects often use the count to monitor their progress. This works well for agile projects because tasks are often short lived (a day or two).

However, if you have longer-running tasks and you are diligent about maintaining the **Remaining Work** field, the "by Size" version is a better choice. For example, organizations where a program manager uses Excel can easily monitor and maintain the remaining work.

Methodology Requirements

This section describes the assumptions behind this report that might impact the way you use and update information in work items.

Fields and Values Assumed

We've tried to minimize the number of assumptions and requirements for using this report in your own projects. The following table describes the dependencies with fields and/or values in work items.

Field	Assumptions
Work Item Type	All—The earlier description refers to monitoring tasks. However, this report displays a parameter that initially selects all work item types. You can change this to show any subset of work item types you wish.
State (Work Item.State)	All—All states are initially shown. You can use the State parameter of the report to show a subset of states.
Remaining Work	If you're using the "by Size" version of this report, you should ensure you have correct values in this field for all your work items.

Customizing the Report

The RDL file is ready to install in a TFS project.

You can customize this report using the Report Designer, which is a set of tools hosted in Visual Studio after you install the SQL Server client tool set named Business Intelligence Development Studio.

Modifying the RDL to Work Inside Report Designer

You can create a Report Server project to work on this report. After you do that, you'll need to make the following changes before you can customize the report:

1. In Visual Studio's Report Designer, open the RDL file.
2. Click either the **Data** tab or **Layout** tab.
3. On the **Report** menu, click **Report Parameters**.
4. Click **ExplicitProject**, and then clear the **Hidden** check box.

The **ExplicitProject** parameter is usually hidden, but during development you'll want it visible so you can type a project name and then press the TAB key to initialize the other parameters using that project.

You can also provide an explicit project name so you don't have to type it each time during development. To do this, click the **Non-queried** option button in the **Default values** area, and then enter the project name in the text box for the **ExplicitProject** parameter. After you do this, you can hide the **ExplicitProject** parameter, even during development.

We used "Enterprise Library" as the initial project in each dataset, area, and/or iteration when we developed this report. You'll want to select a project on your TFS server so you can run the queries and see the results.