



# Painless Bug Tracking

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# Reference

- <http://www.joelonsoftware.com/articles/fogooooo00029.html>

# Painless Bug Tracking

- “At any given time, I can only remember two bugs.”
- “Keeping a database of bugs is one of the hallmarks of a good software team.”
- “... without an organized database listing all known bugs in the code, you are simply going to ship low quality code. “



# Every good bug report needs exactly three things

- Steps to reproduce,
- What you expected to see, and
- What you saw instead.



**ID**  
**Project**  
**Area**  
**Title**  
**Assigned To**  
**Status**  
**Priority**  
**Fix For**  
**Version**  
**Computer**  
**Description**

1203

Bee Flogger 2.0

FTP Client

**Uploading file causes FTP server to dump core**

CLOSED

CLOSED (RESOLVED - FIXED)

2 - Must Fix

2.0 Alpha

Build 2019

Jill's iMac, Mac OS 9.0, 128M RAM, 1024x768 millions of colors

**11/1/2000 Opened by Jill the Very, Very Good Tester** \* Start Bee Flogger

\* Create an unnamed document simply containing the letter "a"

\* Click on the FTP button on the toolbar

\* Try to ftp to your server

BUG: Observe; the ftp server is no longer responding. Indeed ps -augx shows that it is not even running and there is a core dump in /.

EXPECTED: No crash **11/1/2000 Assigned to Willie the Lead Developer by Jill the Very, Very Good Tester**

**11/2/2000 (Yesterday) RESOLVED - WON'T FIX by Willie the Lead Developer**

Not our code, Jill, that's just proftpd which comes with Linux.

**11/2/2000 (Yesterday) Reactivated (assigned to Willie the Lead Developer) by Jill the Very, Very Good Tester**

That doesn't sound right. I've never been able to crash proftpd when I connect with a normal ftp client. Our code crashes it every single time. Ftp servers don't just "crash".

A Bug gets assigned to one person. ("hot potato")

When it gets "resolved", it will get assigned to the original opener

**11/3/2000 (Today) Assigned to Mikey the Programmer by [Willie the Lead Developer](#)**

Mikey, can you look at this? Maybe your client code is doing something wrong.

**11/3/2000 (Today) RESOLVED - FIXED by [Mikey the Programmer](#)**

I think I was passing the user name instead of the password or something...

**11/3/2000 (Today) Reactivated (assigned to Mikey the Programmer) by [Jill the Very, Very Good Tester](#)**

Still happens in Build 2021.

**11/3/2000 (Today) Edited by [Mikey the Programmer](#)**

Whoa. That's strange. Lemme debug this.

**11/3/2000 (Today) Edited by [Mikey the Programmer](#)**

I'm thinking it might be MikeyStrCpy()...

**11/3/2000 (Today) RESOLVED - FIXED by [Mikey the Programmer](#)**

Ahhh!

FIXED!

**11/3/2000 (Today) Closed by [Jill the Very, Very Good Tester](#)**

Appears fixed in build 2022, so I'll go ahead and close this.

# Ten tips

- Reduce the repro steps to the *minimal steps*
- **The only person who can *close* a bug is the person who opened it** in the first place. Anyone can *resolve* it, but only the person who saw the bug can really be sure that what they saw is fixed.
- There are many ways to resolve a bug. For example: *fixed, won't fix, postponed, not repro, duplicate, or by design.*
- **Not *Repro* means that nobody could ever reproduce the bug.** Programmers often use this when the bug report is missing the repro steps.
- You'll want to keep careful track of versions.

# Ten tips

- **If you're a programmer**, and you're having trouble getting testers to use the bug database, just *don't accept bug reports by any other method*. If your testers are used to sending you email with bug reports, just bounce the emails back to them with a brief message: "please put this in the bug database. I can't keep track of emails."
- **If you're a tester**, and you're having trouble getting programmers to use the bug database, just *don't tell them about bugs* - put them in the database and let the database email them.
- **If you're a programmer**, and only some of your colleagues use the bug database, just start assigning them bugs in the database. Eventually they'll get the hint.



# Ten tips

- **If you're a manager**, and nobody seems to be using the bug database that you installed at great expense, start assigning new features to people using bugs. A bug database is also a great "unimplemented feature" database, too.
- **Avoid the temptation to add new fields to the bug database.** For the bug database to work, everybody needs to use it, and if entering bugs "formally" is too much work, people will go *around* the bug database.