

Quora is your best source for knowledge.

Sign up in seconds.

☒ Remember Me

[Forgot Password?](#)


[Atlassian](#) [Bug Tracking Tools](#) [JIRA](#) [Task Management and Apps](#) [Asana](#)
[Enterprise Software](#) [Project Management](#)

What are the differences between Asana and JIRA?

I am interested in the differences between using something like Asana vs. JIRA. Are they that different for task management, handling of issues, tracking of completed items and the like ?

1 Comment

6 Answers

39 Kartik Ayyar, Use Asana for bug tracking

Votes by Chris Han, Justin Rosenstein, Jack Lion Heart, Marc Bodnick, and 34 more.

At Zynga, I used the on premise enterprise version of JIRA with various addons and customizations when running a team of 50 engineers while working on Cityville. The larger installation was shared with hundreds of other engineers and even as part of our own project, there were a total of 100+ people using JIRA in roles such as QA, project management, product management, art and production.

At my current job, me and my co-founder are using Asana for bug tracking for a team of two. 95% of our use case is bug tracking, and the other 5% is tracking non engineering tasks.

Some of my analysis won't be an apples to apples comparison due to the vast difference in context, though I'll try to focus on the most noticeable differences.

Things I like about Asana:

Asana makes it very easy to enter tasks with minimal structure

It's incredibly easy to get started with using Asana. It was our initial reason for picking Asana, and we still like it for this reason.

Asana is freemium SaaS based



Sign in to read all of Quora.



Continue with Google

Continue with Facebook

By continuing you indicate that you have read and agree to the Terms of Service.

Sign Up with Email

Related Questions

[JIRA: What's the architecture behind JIRA?](#)

[Asana: Can I replace JIRA with Asana?](#)

[Management: What are the similarities and differences between Basecamp, Trello, Asana, Action Method, Todoist/Wedoist, Producteev and ...](#)

(continue)

★ [Web Application Frameworks: What are the differences between Meteor and Luna?](#)

[What are the key differences between QA and QC?](#)

[What's the difference between a Project Manager and a Product Manager?](#)

[What are the key differences between Lunascript and Opa?](#)

[What are the main differences between Cloud Foundry and Heroku?](#)

We were not required to hand over a credit card or do a time limited trial, and so we started using Asana. It worked and felt very user friendly and so we stuck with it. I would say the decision was partially driven by usability, and partially driven by the laziness to fill out a payment screen or stressing out that what data we enter would be lost in a trial.

Since there were just the two of us at present, we are not paying for Asana though of course it would be a no brainer to pay for it when we reach the seat limits.

No IT administrator to bug for setup or performance tuning

Being SaaS based, it was a no brainer to have Asana fully integrate with other cloud services like Github very easily. I'm fond of having my commits linked to tasks, and unlike past companies where it was a chore to go through someone else in another department to set this up. With Asana this was as simple as filling out one form field in Github.

You can setup Asana fully bottoms up.

Also with JIRA it was common to see mails about how there was going to be downtime for performance tuning, but I suspect this was a combination of our heavy usage coupled with our on premise hosting.

I am going to give JIRA the benefit of doubt and assume their SaaS offering doesn't come with these warts (perhaps it does, but I would say for the purposes of this question it's not anywhere close to where I've felt the difference).

Keyboard shortcuts:

I like keyboard shortcuts in general. Some of Asana's shortcuts feel a bit weird because they rely on tab, and no other software makes use of Tab-<key> combinations so heavily, but I think as long as shortcuts are there and they are useful I'll happily adapt to them.

Asana is generally faster to load up

I'm not completely satisfied with Asana's speed (it takes a few seconds vs. feeling "instant" like say Facebook), but it's a definite improvement over JIRA.

Some of this might also be a function of dataset, usage and tuning of the huge JIRA

What are the differences between working for Microsoft and Google?

Microsoft: What are the differences between SDE, SDE II, and Senior SDE at Microsoft?

deployment that we had, but in whatever experience I've had, it's pleasant to not have to twiddle thumbs.

Email integration:

Despite having the mobile app, I've found the email reply integration pretty good.

Deep links:

Asana is better at deep links. This is great for sharing and bookmarking links.

Real time:

You don't have to constantly hit reload to see new incoming changes.

In general, when you get started with it, the product polish of Asana is one of it's strong points. There are some exceptions to this rule, such as you can't archive subtasks, and moving subtasks from one task to another feels like a dentist pulling your teeth out, but for the most part the Asana team has done a really good job on usability when you first start using it.

The highest praise that I can give Asana is that as developers of collaboration software (solving a very different problem of course), we look at Asana as one of the top examples of setting the bar for usability.

Things I liked about JIRA:

We were initially quite happy with our Asana experience, and we happily went about our business creating tasks. However, after about a year, of using Asana, there are some parts of the old JIRA way I've genuinely found myself missing, particularly the days we are triaging and organizing bugs in bulk.

The features from JIRA that I miss are:

JIRA forces more structure on you, but has lots of tools to make this very valuable later on

The forced entry of fields makes finding things much easier later on, particularly if you have some customizations applied. We are emulating this with tags but some part of it doesn't feel like the same as typing out a query that says "severity > x and

priority < y and target_release=z".

Tags share one namespace, and JIRA's custom fields were much more powerful - you could have fields be segregated and mandatory, be an enumeration or be numbers in a range and so on.

JIRA had a great query language:

JIRA had an SQL like language for queries, complete with superb autocomplete UI that helped you learn or develop queries - it actually understood the types of fields and the autocomplete prompts were context sensitive.

This also let me write command line scripts that could execute an arbitrary query without having to load up the JIRA web UI.

JIRA is designed from the get go for bug tracking

Asana is somewhat freeform with respect to how you setup workflows, vs. JIRA seems to be specialized for bug tracking.

We had customized fields setup too on JIRA and that's not the level of customization available in Asana.

Having forced customized fields is a slippery slope to go down (do you really have to enter 10 fields for a task ?), and it directly conflicts with the low friction data entry in Asana, but on the other hand, I have seen it being very valuable for staying on top of a high volume of bugs.

Summary:

When we end up using tags to simulate features found in a bug tracker, that's when I find myself missing JIRA the most. One of the pieces of Asana's marketing material refers to it as "versatile", but this in practice translates to "for a targeted well defined use cases, you have to do the repeated legwork to simulate what is accepted as core functionality."

Also the user interaction paradigms that make you like Asana when you like it when you use it first tend to break down a bit when you start using it for advanced tasks.

Okay so I can use tags to mark a bug in a given state, but then I've lost out on the functionality that just lets quickly walk down a list of bugs and mark a bug as

resolved and verified or resolved but needs verification or won't fix - the user interaction paradigm being advertised as "being as simple as notepad" and using spacebar to mark tasks complete no longer holds.

Asana on their blog has one short video and writeup for how to use it for bug tracking, but given bug tracking is our most valuable and mission critical use case, it's certainly left us wondering if we're doing things right (I'd be happy to go into more examples here of how we've tried following the post and why and how the suggestions didn't work for us as is, but that is probably out of the scope of the question).

At the end I've really found it boils down to this:

Do you want usability, flexibility and a lower friction unstructured task management experience or richer special cased behavior at the expense of forced structure?

Our communication overhead and reporting needs aren't high with a team of two, so we are sticking with Asana for it's usability. Most days it just gets out of the way and let us do our jobs, though the days where we have to triage and edit bugs in bulk, there are times I miss some of the power of JIRA that comes with it's more structured data entry.

Upvote · 2+ Comments · Updated 27 Dec

Guillaume Lerouge, proficient Asana user.

2 Vote by Meliza Uy.

There are several differences between the 2 solutions. Mainly JIRA ...



You must be signed in to read this answer.

 Continue with Google

Continue with Facebook

By continuing you indicate that you have read and agree to the Terms of Service.

Sign Up with Email

[Upvote](#) • [Comment](#) • Written 10 Aug, 2012

Aaron Krane, Founder/CEO/Designer of Hitpost (acq. by Yahoo)



4 Votes by Justin Rosenstein, Jackie Bavaro, and Arpit Joshi.

Asana is much simpler, and much faster. I rec...

[Redacted]

[Upvote](#) • [Comment](#) • Written 20 Jun, 2012

Sriyansa Dash, part of 2, starting 1



3 Votes by Samyam Annappa and Gilberte Houbart.

[Kartik Ayyar](#) covers most of the differences, pros, and cons. And li...

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Upvote](#) • [Comment](#) • Written 30 Dec

Arnold Almeida, Technical director, Floating Points



4 Votes by Martin Caplan, Mallik Reddy, and Aditya Mittal.

I like using Asana to manage all the high level tasks across my pro...

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Upvote](#) • [Comment](#) • Updated 24 May, 2012

Jared Messenger, Programmer sweating the details.



1 I personally use both Jira and Asana.

Jira is great if you have ...

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Redacted text block]

[Upvote](#) • [1+ Comments](#) • Written 12 Feb, 2013

Add your answer, or [answer later](#).

[About](#) [Careers](#) [Privacy](#) [Terms](#) [Sitemap](#)