

OpenCDSS Memorandum

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Subject: Notes on using GitHub custom issue labels
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Introduction

This memorandum includes notes from setting up a custom labels for GitHub issues. By default, GitHub provides the following labels that can be attached to an issue, essentially an issue “type”. The table order is as shown on GitHub, perhaps indicating most common selection to the least common. It is possible to select zero or more issues. For example, someone that does not have a GitHub account can define an issue but cannot select labels (zero will be selected), whereas someone that is part of the team and has write permissions can select as many labels as make sense.

GitHub Default Issue Labels

Label	Description
enhancement	New feature or request
bug	Something isn't working
duplicate	This issue or pull request already exists
good first issue	Good for newcomers
help wanted	Extra attention is needed
invalid	This doesn't seem right
question	Further information is requested
wontfix	This will not be worked on

Bitbucket Priority Labels

Bitbucket is another Git hosting service. It provides the following priority labels when creating a new issue. The user interface does not provide descriptions:

Bitbucket Issue Labels Indicating Priority

Label
trivial
minor
major
critical
blocker

Recommendation for OpenCDSS Priority Labels

The concept of “priority” to some degree also takes into account “severity” and severity and issue “size”. For example, a small issue might be severe, or an issue might be severe just because it is big. The Bitbucket level “minor” could be interpreted as “not important” or “small”, and “trivial” is the extreme case.

OpenCDSS will involve software developers and engineers that most likely are familiar with high, medium, and low priority. It is recommended to focus on labels that clearly deal with priority and avoiding possible confusion with size. Therefore, the following custom labels for GitHub issues are recommended, and can be used in conjunction with the existing GitHub issue labels.

Recommended GitHub Custom Issue Labels

Label	Description	Color	Description (long)
low	Planned for future	green	Will do at some point, or opportunistically, may require more discussion.
medium	Normal maintenance and enhancements	yellow	Will do as part of normal maintenance if higher priority issues don’t exist.
high	Next release if possible	orange	Will do in the next software release(s).
critical	Highest priority	red	Will do first because functionality is causing delays for others, important software feature is broken, or there is a security issue.

These values were tested by adding labels to the following repository:

<https://github.com/OpenCDSS/cdss-website-opencdss>.