

How mantis is useful for project management Activities

Mantis; a bug Tracker



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1- Project Management:

Project Management is basically the Planning, organizing and managing the project. It includes all the activities for the successful completion of project. Project management is needed because software development is always subject to budget and schedule constraints that are set by the organisation developing the software.

It is concerned with activities involved in ensuring that software is delivered on time and on schedule and in accordance with the requirements of the organisations developing and procuring the software.

2- Mantis; a Bug Tracker:

Mantis is a bug tracker and is used to track the bugs. It is very simple and written in PHP and uses mysql as a database. It is an open source project released under GNU General Public License (GPL).

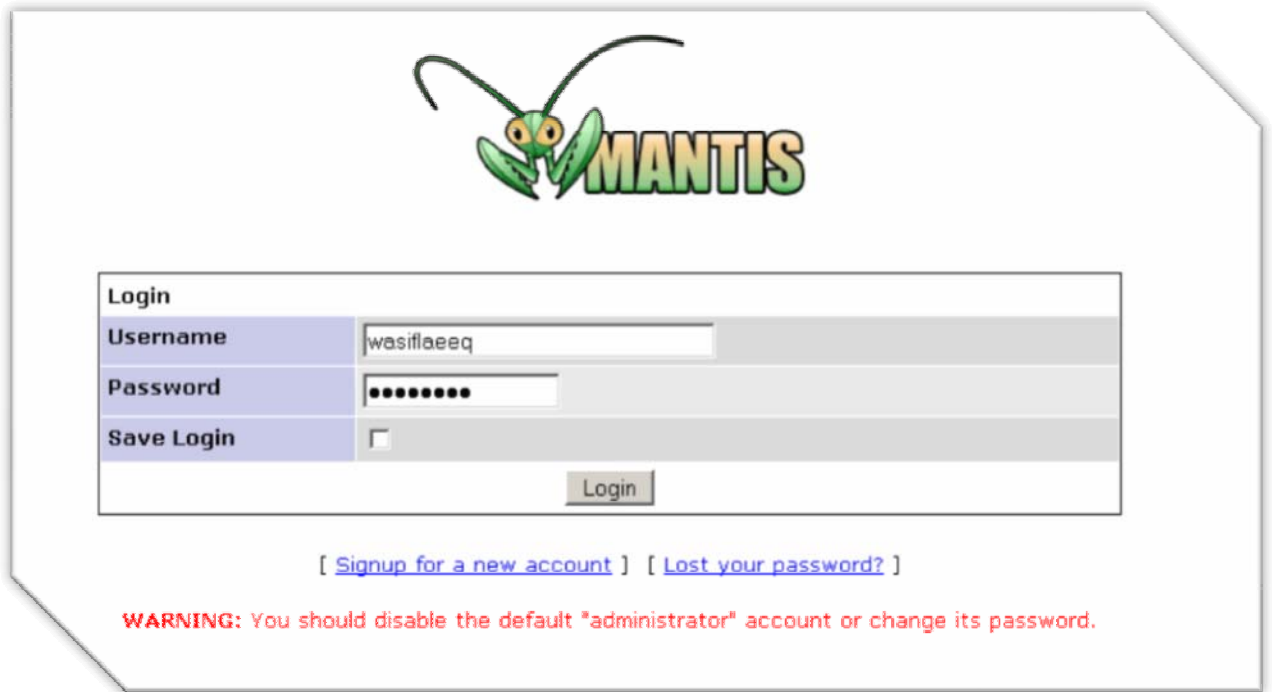


Figure 1 - First login screen after Install

2.1- Administering the Mantis 1.1.6:

Default login for administrator account in mantis 1.1.6 is

Username: administrator

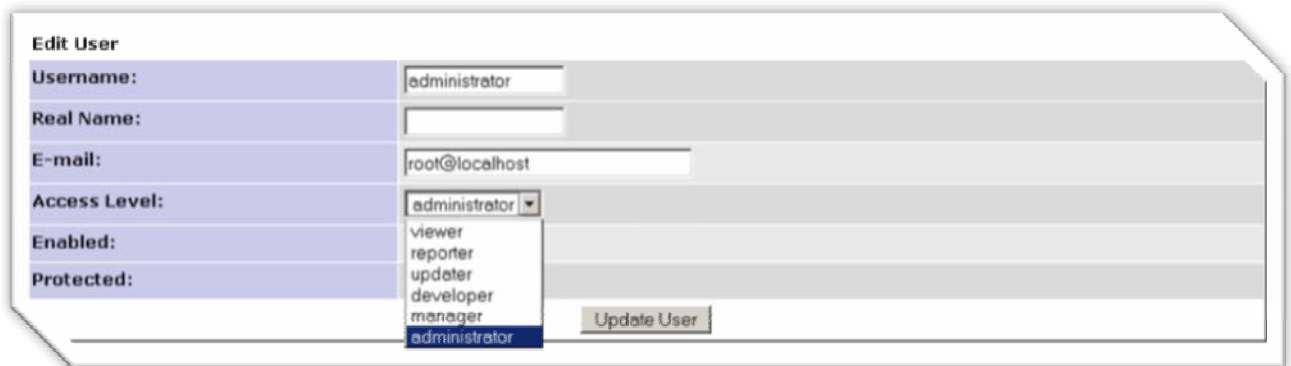
Department of Computer Science, Bahauddin Zakariya University, Multan.

Password: root

2.1.1- Change access Level of a User:

Whenever a new user is registered on Mantis, its default access level is reporter.

Administrator has to change access level. Administrator can change the access level of user to Administrator, Manager, developer, updater and viewer by editing that user’s account.



The screenshot shows the 'Edit User' form in Mantis. The form has several fields: 'Username' (administrator), 'Real Name' (empty), 'E-mail' (root@localhost), 'Access Level' (administrator), 'Enabled' (checkbox), and 'Protected' (checkbox). The 'Access Level' dropdown menu is open, showing options: viewer, reporter, updater, developer, manager, and administrator. The 'Update User' button is visible at the bottom right.

Figure 2 - Edit a user & change access level

2.2- Mantis for a Project Manager:

A user to whom administrator has assigned the access level of manager can perform the following functions, though admin can also perform these actions.

2.2.1- Managing Projects:

Project is the basic element in the mantis. Only administrator (usually project manager) can create the project by interacting with the user friendly interface provided by mantis.

The screenshot shows a web form titled "Add Project". It contains the following fields:

- Project Name**: A text input field.
- Status**: A dropdown menu with "development" selected.
- View Status**: A dropdown menu with "public" selected.
- Upload File Path**: A text input field.
- Description**: A large text area.

An "Add Project" button is located at the bottom right of the form.

Figure 3 - Add a new Project

Above is the screen shot of the page for adding a new project. In the status dropdown there are options to select that status of project. There are 4 options to select from, Development, Release, stable and obsolete.

2.2.2- Subprojects & Categories:

Subprojects are smaller projects that have assigned parent by the similar interface shown below. Administrator can create sub projects and categories for a project.

Categories are used within projects to separate issues into smaller groups. New issues in each category can be assigned to an individual team member by default.

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The screenshot displays three sections of the Mantis interface:

- Subprojects:** Includes a "Create New Subproject" button and a dropdown menu with an "Add as Subproject" button.
- Categories:** Includes an "Add Category" button and a "Copy Categories From" dropdown menu with a "Copy Categories To" button.
- Versions:** Includes "Add Version" and "Add and Edit Version" buttons, and a "Copy Versions From" dropdown menu with a "Copy Versions To" button.

Figure 4 - Manage Subprojects, categories and Versions.

2.2.3- Add Users to a Project:

A project manager can add a user to his project, and can also specify the role of that user.

The screenshot shows the "Add user to project" form with the following details:

Username	Access Level	
wasiflaeeq	reporter	Add User
	[Default access level]	
	viewer	
	reporter	
	updater	
	developer	
	manager	

At the bottom, there are "Copy Users From" and "Copy Users To" buttons.

Figure 5 - Add users to project

2.3- Issues and Status Colors:

On main page of mantis, issues are displayed. These issues are categorized by unassigned, resolved, etc... and can further be differentiated by the colors shown below

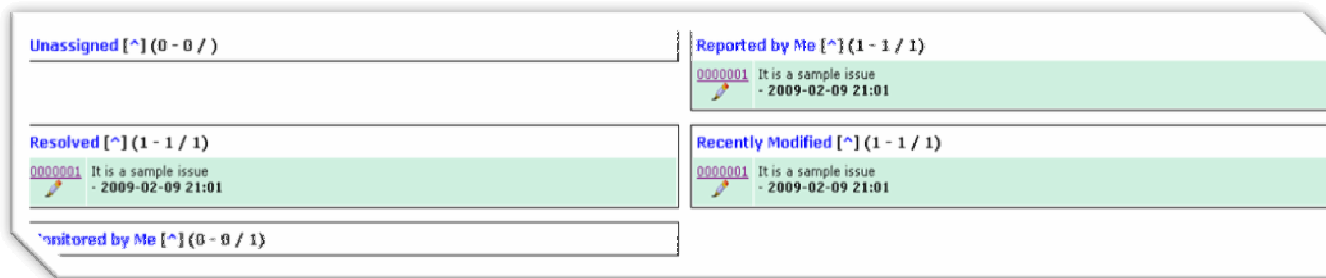


Figure 6 - Issues Status



Figure 7 - Project Status Colors

2.4- Change log Support:

Mantis also supports change log. Whenever a new bug is posted and is resolved it will automatically be added to change log.

2.5- Built-in Reporting (reports / graphs):

Mantis has some modules that can automatically generate graphs.

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<http://manual.mantisbt.org/manual.configuration.jpgraph.php>

This is a package for mantis which will provide the users with graphs that capture the state of the bugs database.

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References:

<http://mantisbt.org>

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