Understand the Jira Backlog

Roles
- Developer
- Project Manager

Where
- Jira dashboards are available from the Project Management drop-down list.

You are interested in participating in a project, but first, you want to see if the project has an accumulation of uncompleted work that needs to be dealt with in the backlog.

Do these steps:

1. Click a project name on a project of interest that shows the Jira logo.
2. From the Project Management drop-down list, select Jira > Backlog.
   A dashboard focuses on open issues, their accumulated time, and associated organization:
   - **Open Issues Statistics** shows the total number of Open Issues, Accumulated Open Days, and the Average Time Open Days per Issue.
   - **Backlog** shows a table that lets you sort values by Title, Info, Repository, Submitter, and Days Open. The default sort is by the greatest number of open days.
   - **Issues waiting to be closed** shows a stacked bar graph that represents the number of issues that are not closed per day over time by status: Open or In Progress. Mouse over a color in the graph to see the total number of issues by status that occurred on a date.
   - **Accumulated Time (days): Issues waiting to be closed** shows a bar graph that represents the number of issues by accumulated open days per day over time. Mouse over a color in the graph to see the accumulated number of days issues were waiting to be closed on a date.
   - **Assignee Organizations** shows a doughnut chart that represents the total number of assignees in the project by organization. Mouse over a color in the chart to see the total number of assignees for the organization, and their percentage of the project's organization.
   - **Backlog Submitters** shows a table that lets you sort values by Submitters, Issues, Avg. Time Open Days, and Repositories, which is the number of repositories per submitter.
   - **Organizations** shows a table that lets you sort values by Organization, Issues, Avg. Time Open (Days), and Avg. Num. Watchers.
   - **Repositories** shows a table that lets you sort values by Repository, Issues, and Avg. Time Open (Days).
4. Look at the data in Issues waiting to be closed and Accumulated Time (days): Issues waiting to be closed to learn about the number of issues by status over time.

5. Find more information in the dashboard such as who the submitters are and the average days open of the issues that they submit. For example, you might notice a recurring pattern of issues that accumulate in a certain time frame.

This data can help you decide if this is a project in which you want to spend your time.