

Microspeak: Closing out, duping out

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Windows has gone through many defect tracking systems. The details may change, but the overall shape remains the same. I will defer details to this summary in the Azure DevOps documentation.

One possible Reason for resolution is *Duplicate*, which means that the issue is already covered by another work item. The act of marking a work item as Duplicate is informally known as *duping out*. So you can say, “There are three new bugs today, but they are all the same issue as bug 31415, so I’ve *duped them out*.”

Similarly, the act of marking a resolved work item as Closed is informally known as *closing out*. “Please look at your resolved bugs and *close out* the ones that no longer repro.”

(*Repro* is a common abbreviation for *reproduce*.)

In both cases, the *out* is optional. You can say that you have *duped* a work item (*to* another work item), and you can say that you have *closed* a work item.

I find it interesting that the preferred adverbial preposition for “changing the status of a work item to move it further down the lifecycle” is “out”. I suspect that is used because the change in state causes the work item to disappear from a query, so it’s “out of the way”.

Also interesting is that you can’t “resolve out” a bug, even though that follows the same pattern of moving a work item further down the lifecycle.