

# 41SMAR - From Concept to Launch: How Smartsheet Manages Product Development

## Top 20 Questions & Answers

**1. Q: Is your owner column pulling from a Team List?**

A: Contacts in Smartsheet are based on the information in your organizations contact list, your personal contact list which functions as a personal contact list or anyone shared to the sheet specifically. The sheet admin can specify at the column level which contacts are available in a drop down contact list.

**2. Q: We have had problems with Control Center and cross reference links into the**

**team list especially when needing to add rows. The cross reference links to the Team List then have to be added to all those added rows.**

A: The new release of column formulas should allow you to update your templates and sheets so you don't need to worry about dragging your formulas to new rows. That releases today! Try right clicking a cell in a column that you have a formula.

**3. Q: Will you be providing a link to this demo smartsheet?**

A: This session is looking at Smartsheets actual internal process so we will not be providing a link to this as a template. That said you can access 100's of helpful templates in the solution center and there is a template set called "New Product Development" in the Smartsheet Solutions center which is a great place to start

**4. Q: Where can I find the ENGAGE Brain Boosts links?**

A: All Brain Boosts can be found here: [ENGAGE Brain Boosts](#)

**5. Q: Do you create roadmaps using smartsheet? How can I achieve benefits of launch plans if we dont use smartsheet for creating roadmaps?**

A: Yes, our roadmap is done in Smartsheet as well. To utilize the launch plan flow we showed without having the roadmap, you would just need a source sheet that would trigger a launch plan to be spun up. That is what our Release Roadmap does for us in this

case. Our Release Roadmap is huge, but we only rely on 6 columns to spin up a launch plan and pull in the needed data.

**6. Q: In this example, anyone who is adding a feature to the Release Roadmap has to submit a form correct? And then they can still edit the information in the actual Release Roadmap if needed?**

A: We use the form to add entries to our Release Roadmap, yes. But if they have editor permissions on that sheet, they can technically go there and add a new row of info as well. But we prefer the form so we can use conditional logic and get the required fields and not waste anyone's time filling in fields they do not need to. In our case, our Product Managers have edit access, but they all make sure to use the form so we get the right info from the start.

**7. Q: I see this session is applicable for PMI PDU's - is there a shortcut code to claim these at PMI by chance?**

A: You can claim PDUs directly on the PMI website. Here's the link:  
<https://ccrs.pmi.org/search/courses?kwd=smartsheet>

**8. Q: I have a quick question regarding dynamic view. Is the export to excel for outside user going to be capable soon?**

A: The value in Dynamic view is really being able to provide each individual user type access to just the information they need (in Dynamic view) without exporting. Once exported the information no longer is live.

**9. Q: When would you use DataMesh instead of cell links?**

A: DataMesh is great to use on a sheet with constantly changing

**10. Q: Where can I learn more about Control Center?**

A: There are a few places! I suggest starting with our [Help and Learning Center](#). We also have a [Control Center page](#) on our website with starter info. Your Smartsheet account team is also a great resource.

**11. Q: Where can I learn more about DataMesh?**

A: There are a few places! I suggest starting with our [Help and Learning Center](#). We also have a [DataMesh page](#) on our website with starter info. Your Smartsheet account team is also a great resource.

**12. Q: How do I do a column formula? Is that new?**

A: These are new and just released at ENGAGE on Oct 1! There is a great new [column formulas help article](#) that can take you through getting started.

**13. Q: Is there a way that I can learn about new features when they release?**

A: Yes, there is! We have a [Smartsheet Public Release Notes](#) page on our website where you can scroll through releases for Smartsheet, Smartsheet Gov, 10,000ft, Mobile, Bridge and more! You can also [Subscribe for Public Release Notes Alerts](#) which are sent to your email inbox M-F when there is new news to share.

**14. Q: You mentioned you use automation rules in the Release Roadmap. What are the main ones you use?**

A: That's a great question! We have a few that we commonly use. Since we have other teams that rely on updates when certain fields change, we use alerts to notify the Support team stakeholders when a release date is added or changed, as well as if a release status is changed. This is all in one automation workflow! Another we use is an update request to the Product Managers. If they leave a critical field blank, we have set an update request workflow that asks them to fill in the blanks. This makes it so much easier to get the necessary information without emailing or messaging them.

**15. Q: That training planning sheet you showed. So DataMesh populates some of the information, but you can still edit the sheet?**

A: Yes, but let me explain a bit more. DataMesh will bring in data for whatever columns you map from the source sheet to your new target sheet. Those fields we suggest not editing, but in some cases, it's part of the the use case. In our case, we bring in the important information and then added other columns for each department team so we can plan out training.

**16. Q: How much does Control Center cost?**

A: Control Center is available for purchase for Business, Enterprise and Premier Plan customers. It's an annual recurring cost. Please reach out to your Smartsheet account team for more information or contact us about Control Center [here](#).

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**18. Q: Can I do the launch plan process you showed without using Control Center?**

A: Yes, you absolutely can, but it will not be able to standardly have cell link references or populate fields automatically as things change in the source sheet. Others have done something a bit simpler and that is to make a launch plan, then save it as a template. Those that make a copy of the template will need to manually add cell links to populate fields, but it works for less frequent project needs.

**19. Q: Can you use Control Center to make a program with more than just a sheet?**

A: Yes! Control Center is like a blank canvas. You can have sheets, reports, dashboards, rollups, and more. Depending on how simple or complex you need it to be, it can do it at scale and with consistency!

**20. Q: Do you have any advanced training videos or courses I can take?**

A: We have our Center of Excellence, which is all activity-based self-paced learning. There is a ton on here! It is a subscription service offered to any plan type, so talk with your Smartsheet account team if you don't have it yet. We also offer Instructor-Led Training. You can learn more about both at [help.smartsheet.com/training](https://help.smartsheet.com/training).