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ENGAGE

Leveraging the Query String in Forms

Pre-populate forms via the form URL



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Speakers



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Samuel Perez Senior Technical Account Manager

















Scan these QR codes

https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/d65a8051dd8c4802b 0bc08092f8846c9?AttendeeType=Customer

https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/d65a8051dd8c4802b 0bc08092f8846c9?AttendeeType=Employee

https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/d65a8051dd8c4802b 0bc08092f8846c9?AttendeeType=Partner



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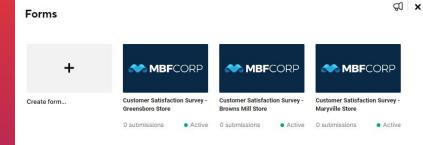
What is a query string, and how do you build one?

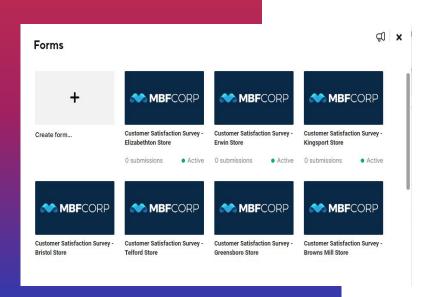
Samuel Perez

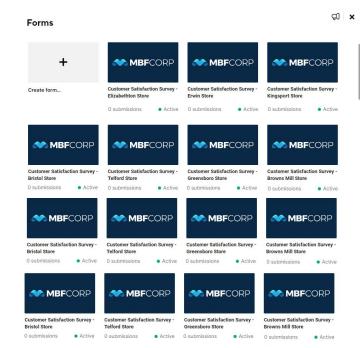
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A query string is a part of a URL that assigns values to specified parameters?

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Query_string





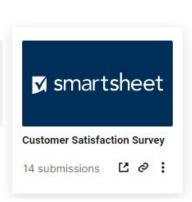


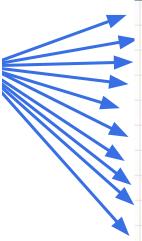




+

Create form...





StoreID
Elizabethton
Erwin
Kingsport
Bristol
Telford
Greensboro
Browns Mill
Elizabethton #2
Greensboro #2
Telford #2



Getting started

What do I need before I build my query string?



A link to the form

This will form the base of your query string.



Names of form fields

You must use the values **displayed in the form**.



Values to populate

This can be string values or values within a sheet.



Using SUBSTITUTE

Replacing existing text with new text in a string



SUBSTITUTE(search_text , old_text , new_text , [replace_num])

- search_text The string containing the text that you want to replace
- old_text The text string you want to replace
- new_text The text string to replace old_text
- replace_num —[optional] The instance in search_text to replace old_text with new_text. If omitted, all instances are replaced.



Using SUBSTITUTE

Replacing existing text with new text in a string

SUBSTITUTE(search_text , old_text , new_text)

https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/f13ebfd7020?Sales Rep=<u>Sally.Smart@smartsheet.com</u>



SUBSTITUTE(<Query String>,

```
" ",
```

"%20")



https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/f13ebfd7020?Sales %20Rep=Sally.Smart@smartsheet.com



Special characters will cause problems!

Use SUBSTITUTE Formula

="<form URL>?" +

SUBSTITUTE(

<form URL> would be the URL of the form itself (like https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/77cc5e7c2a334af2b07424d5e61ad89e)

<query string formula> would be something like "Project Number|^" +
[Project Number]@row + "||Project Name=" + [Project Name]@row

To populate this	Type this in the URL
Character space	%20
Equal sign (=)	%3D
Percent symbol (%)	%25
Number symbol (#)	%23
US dollar symbol (\$)	%24
Ampersand (&)	%26
Grave accent ()	%60
Colon (:)	%3A
Left angle bracket (<)	%3C
Right angle bracket (>)	%3E
Left bracket ([)	%5B
Right bracket (])	%5D
Left brace ({)	%7B
Right brace (})	%7D
Quotation marks (" ")	%22
Plus sign (+)	%2B
At sign (@)	%40
Slash (/)	%2F
Semicolon (;)	%3B
Question mark (?)	%3F
Backslash (\)	%5C
Caret, circumflex (^)	%5E
Pipe, vertical bar (I)	%7C
Tilde (~)	%7E
Apostrophe (')	%27
Comma (,)	%2C

https://help.smartsheet.com/articles/2478871-url-query-string-form-default-values



Creating a query string

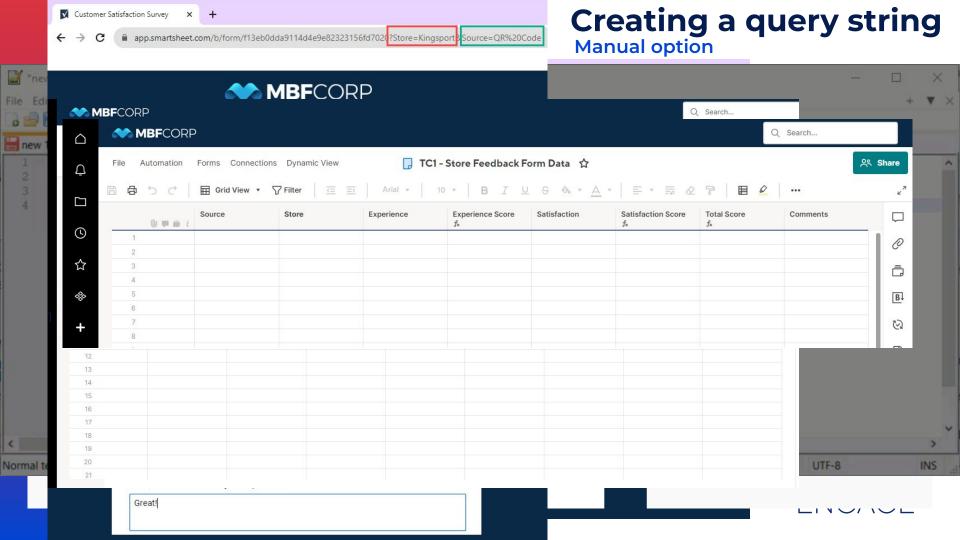
Manual option

Define one or two values on a case-by-case basis

- 1. Add a question mark (?) to the end of the URL
- 2. Enter the first field name.
- 3. Add an equal sign (=)
- 4. Enter the first field value
- 5. Separate field/value pairs with an ampersand (&)
- 6. Replace all special characters with percent encoding







Creating a query string

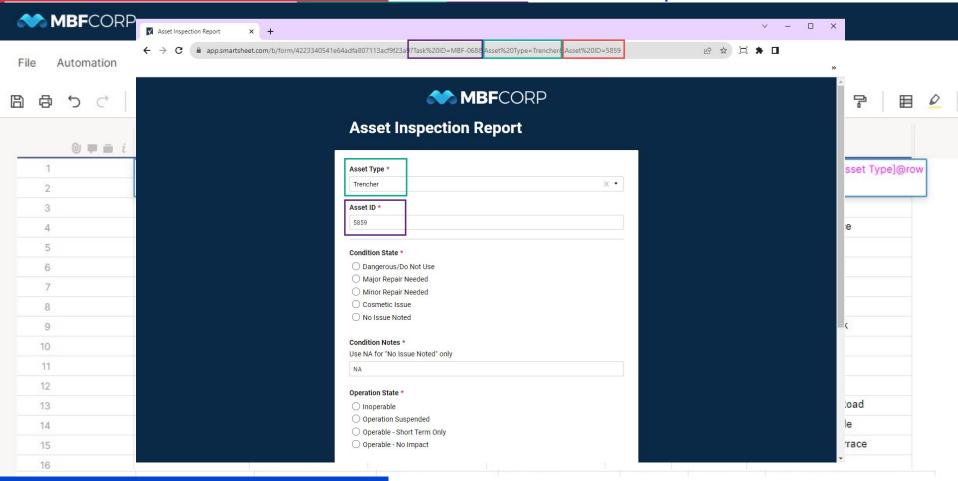
Formula option

Automate the creation of links to define multiple values, or values which change frequently



Creating a query string

Formula option





Benefits of using query strings

- Save time and effort for form submitters by pre-populating values
- Reduce manual data entry errors by leveraging data already in a sheet
- Use one base form for multiple use cases



Limitations

- Should not be used to send sensitive information like SSNs and PHI (a query string goes across the internet as readable text)
- Smartsheet cell character limits (4,000 characters)
- Formula URLs cannot be reformatted to clickable text hyperlinks
- Changes to field names used in the query string will need to be updated wherever the link is available



2

Practical Examples of Query Strings

Chad Eiring

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Use Case #1 - Maintenance Requests





Use Case #1 - Maintenance Requests

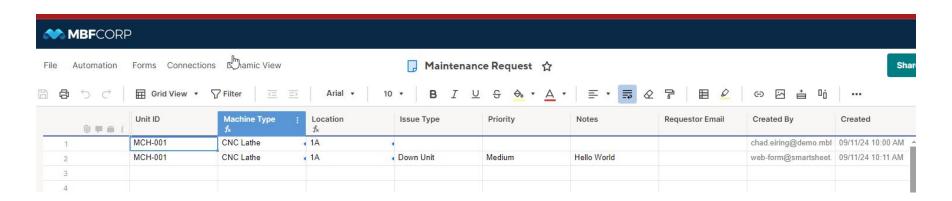
- I am a service technician for a factory. We are currently using email to allow an operator to submit a request for maintenance on machines in the factory
 - Emails are not followed up on in a timely manner, or are missed entirely
 - Only two people have access to the inbox
 - No one knows the status of their requests so additional emails are being sent that need manual follow up
 - No priority system in place

I just learned about Smartsheet Form Query Strings at Engage, and I think they can help!



Maintenance Request Intake Sheet

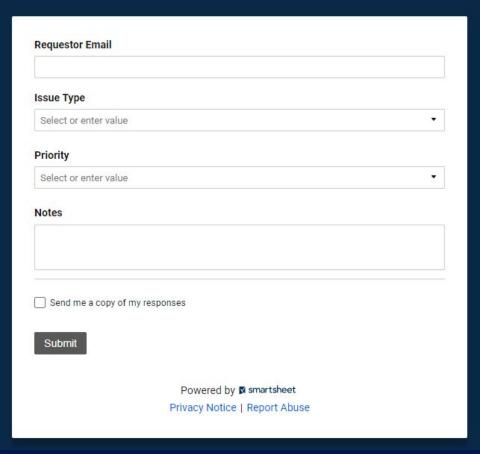
This sheet will hold all of the form submissions and is the start of the maintenance process







Maintenance Request



Maintenance Request Form

This is the form that will open when a QR Code is scanned

Unit ID is hidden, because it is filled in by a query string

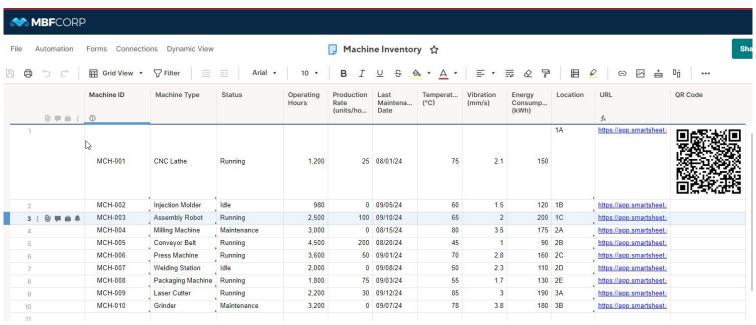
This QR code is for MCH-001





Machine Inventory Sheet

Used to hold a list of all machines and to generate QR Codes





Solution Demonstration!



Use Case #2 - Similar Project Requests

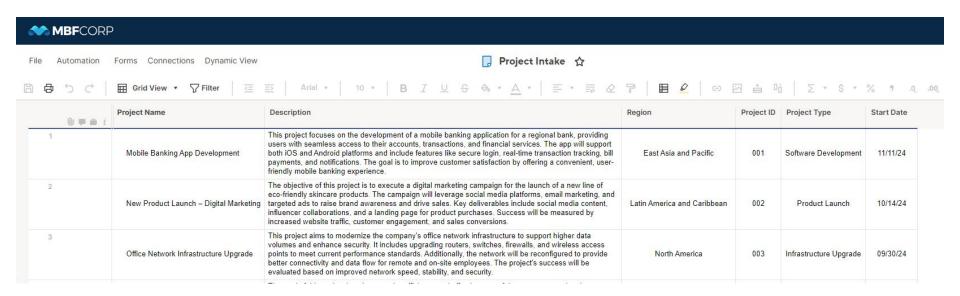
- I am responsible for entering project requests for a PMO.
 We currently use one form in order to input many fields for the submission of a project.
 - The form can take a long time to fill out
 - There are other projects requests that are similar that also need to be submitted
 - I have to start over for each project request I submit, which takes a considerable amount of time
 - I only have view access to the project intake sheet

I just learned about Smartsheet Form Query Strings at Engage, and I think they can help!



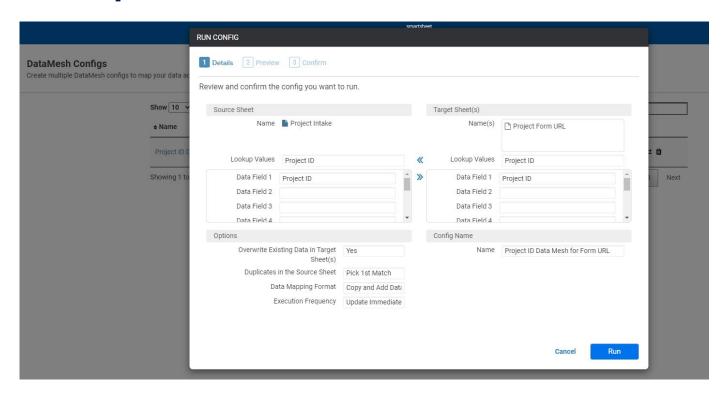
Project Request Intake Sheet

This sheet will hold all of the form submissions



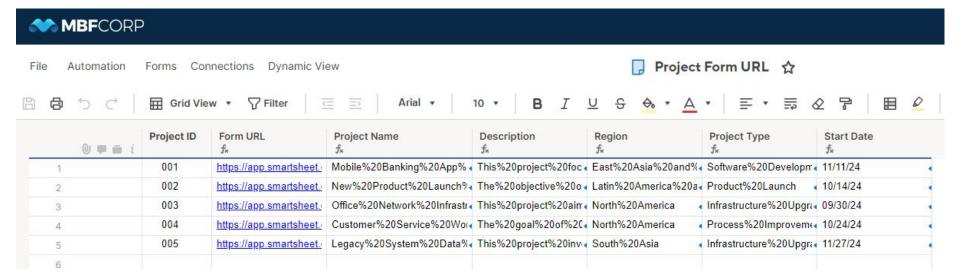


Project Request Intake Sheet





URL Staging Sheet





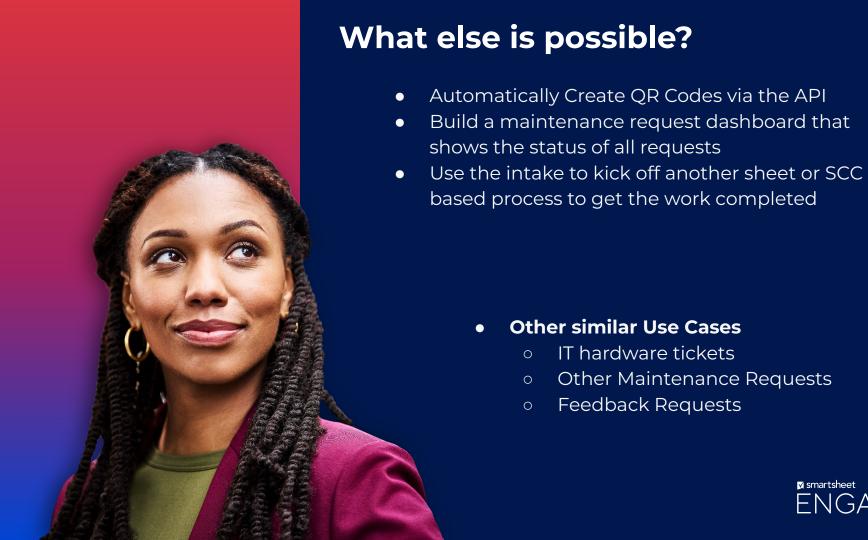
Project Request Intake Sheet w/ URL

File Automation Forms Connections Dynamic View ☐ Project Intake ☆ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐									
1	=INDEX!{Project Form URL	JRL), MATCHI[Project ID]@row, (Project Fo	rm URL Project ID), () The development of a mobile banking application for a regional bank, providing less to their accounts, transactions, and financial services. The app will support atforms and include features like secure login, real-time transaction tracking, bill ons. The goal is to improve customer satisfaction by offering a convenient, user-increment.	East Asia and Pacific	001	Software Development	11/11/24		
2	https://app.smartsheet.com	New Product Launch – Digital Marketing	The objective of this project is to execute a digital marketing campaign for the launch of a new line of eco-friendly skincare products. The campaign will leverage social media platforms, email marketing, and targeted ads to raise brand awareness and drive sales. Key deliverables include social media content, influencer collaborations, and a landing page for product purchases. Success will be measured by increased website traffic, customer engagement, and sales conversions.	Latin America and Caribbean	002	Product Launch	10/14/24		
3	https://aop.smartsheet.com	Office Network Infrastructure Upgrade	This project aims to modernize the company's office network infrastructure to support higher data volumes and enhance security. It includes upgrading routers, switches, firewalls, and wireless access points to meet current performance standards. Additionally, the network will be reconfigured to provide better connectivity and data flow for remote and on-site employees. The project's success will be evaluated based on improved network speed, stability, and security.	North America	003	Infrastructure Upgrade	09/30/24		
4	https://app.smartsheet.com	Customer Service Workflow Optimization	The goal of this project is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the customer service department by re-engineering current workflows. Through process mapping, bottleneck analysis, and the introduction of automation tools, the project aims to reduce the average response time to customer inquiries and improve customer satisfaction. Key milestones include identifying process inefficiencies, implementing software automation, and training staff on the new system.		004	Process Improvement	10/24/24		
8	https://app.smartsheet.com	Legacy System Data Migration to Cloud	This project involves migrating company data from a legacy on-premises database to a modern cloud- based solution. The goal is to ensure a smooth transition with minimal downtime while improving data accessibility and scalability. The project will include data extraction, transformation, and loading (ETL), along with validation to ensure data integrity. Deliverables include cloud infrastructure setup, database migration, and post-migration testing.	South Asia	005	Infrastructure Upgrade	11/27/24		

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Solution Demonstration!





Learning objectives: Recap

- Understand what a query string is
- Be able to create a query string manually and with a formula
- Understand practical examples of query strings



Register for upcoming User Groups



Continue to expand your Smartsheet skills and connections by attending a User Group.

Smartsheet User Groups

- Discover how others are using Smartsheet
- Network with the Smartsheet team and your peers
- Virtual and in-person events around the globe



Next steps...

- Review the other "Stretch your power user skills" sessions
- Go try query strings yourself
- Come talk to us at the Professional Service, Support, or Technical Solutions Engineering booths

Take the survey

We'd love to hear your thoughts on the session.

Open this session in the mobile app, click "Survey," and answer two questions — it's that easy!

Thank you.

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