

 smartsheet

ENGAGE

# Dashboard Design

Building Engaging, User-Centric Dashboards

smartsheet

ENGAGE

v.07/16



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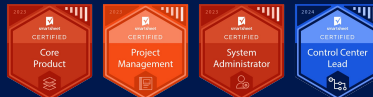
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# Meet your speaker



**Kendra Michaels**  
Senior Solutions Consultant



# Learning objectives

1

You will be able to **effectively apply color to a dashboard.**

2

You will be able to **optimize your dashboard for your use case.**

3

You will be able to **organize the information on your dashboard so that it can be consumed and understood at a glance.**

# Table of contents

**1**

Insightful layouts

**2**

Stunning design

**3**

Broad accessibility

**4**

Wrap up

# What this session IS and IS NOT

## This session IS

- **Guidance** on intuitive and logical content organization
- **Recommendations** on strategic and thoughtful color usage

## This session IS NOT

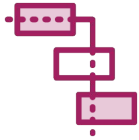
- A **tutorial** on how to put a widget on a dashboard
- Lessons on **solution set up** to prepare for dashboard data usage



Have you ever created an  
**effective**  
dashboard?



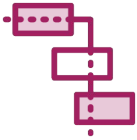
# What makes a dashboard effective?



## Clearly organised

Information is laid out logically, telling a coherent story

# What makes a dashboard effective?



## Clearly organised

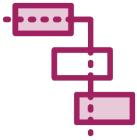
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## Easy to read

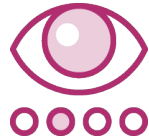
Labels and data are clearly separated, leaving no questions about what is shown

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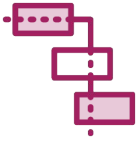
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## Strategically colored

Cohesive color stories highlight data and keep the experience consistent

# What makes a dashboard effective?



## Clearly organized

Information is laid out logically, telling a coherent story



## Easy to read

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## Strategically colored

Cohesive color stories highlight data and keep the experience consistent



## Engaging

Audience wants to view and dig deeper

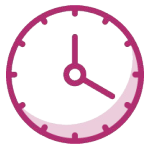
# 1

**Insightful layouts**



# Layout tips

## Tools to guide layout choices



### Five-second rule

If a viewer has only five seconds to look at your dashboard, what do they need to know?



### Headline rule

Treat your dashboard like an old newspaper — put the most important story front page above the fold.



### Real estate rule

Location, location, location — is your information in the right location for your reader?

# Pick up where we left off

## Project Dashboard

Project Health

Kendra Michaels  
Project Manager

05/09/25  
Original End

05/12/25  
Projected End

Design  
Current Phase

\$221,400  
Actual Spend

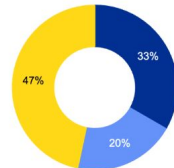
\$219,500  
Planned Budget

2 days ahead  
of schedule

*Last Status:*

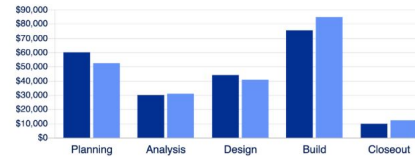
On track. North American and European upgrades are done, and the APAC phase will begin next week, despite minor delivery delays that have not impacted the timeline or budget. Ongoing attention to managing potential risks in the APAC region.

### Tasks by Status



● Complete ● In Progress ● Not Started

### Planned vs. Actual Spend



● Planned Spend ● Actual Spend

### Milestones

Phase / Task	Start Date	End Date	Q2		Q3			Q4		Q1			
			Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Planning	06/01/24	06/27/24											
Analysis	06/28/24	08/12/24											
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### RAID Log by Type

Item	Status	Priority	Issue #	Notes	Owner	Target Date
<b>Total</b>			Count			
			<b>6</b>			
Type			Count			
<b>Risk</b>			<b>1</b>			
Review Services Delivery Plan to dete	In Progress	!	R-001	<a href="#">Link to sheet</a>	Tamika Marshall	09/27/24
Type			Count			
			<b>2</b>			
Establish client colors and logo for work	New	!	R-004	Background: default Tab	Olivia Carter	09/27/24
Enter contact information on Project Teal	New	-	R-002	<a href="#">Link to sheet</a>	Kelly Smart	09/27/24
Type			Count			
<b>Decision</b>			<b>1</b>			
Set Report Out date	New	-	R-003		Jamal King	09/27/24
Type			Count			
			<b>1</b>			

# Categorize information

## Project Dashboard

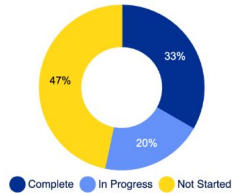
 Project Health
  **Kendra Michaels**  
 Project Manager

**05/09/25**      **05/12/25**      **Design**  
 Original End      Projected End      Current Phase

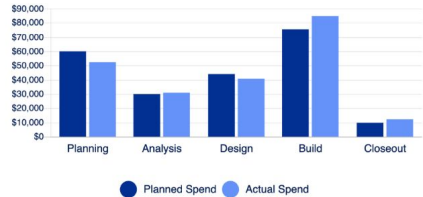
**\$221,400**      **\$219,500**      **2 days ahead**  
 Actual Spend      Planned Budget      of schedule

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Tasks by Status



Planned vs. Actual Spend



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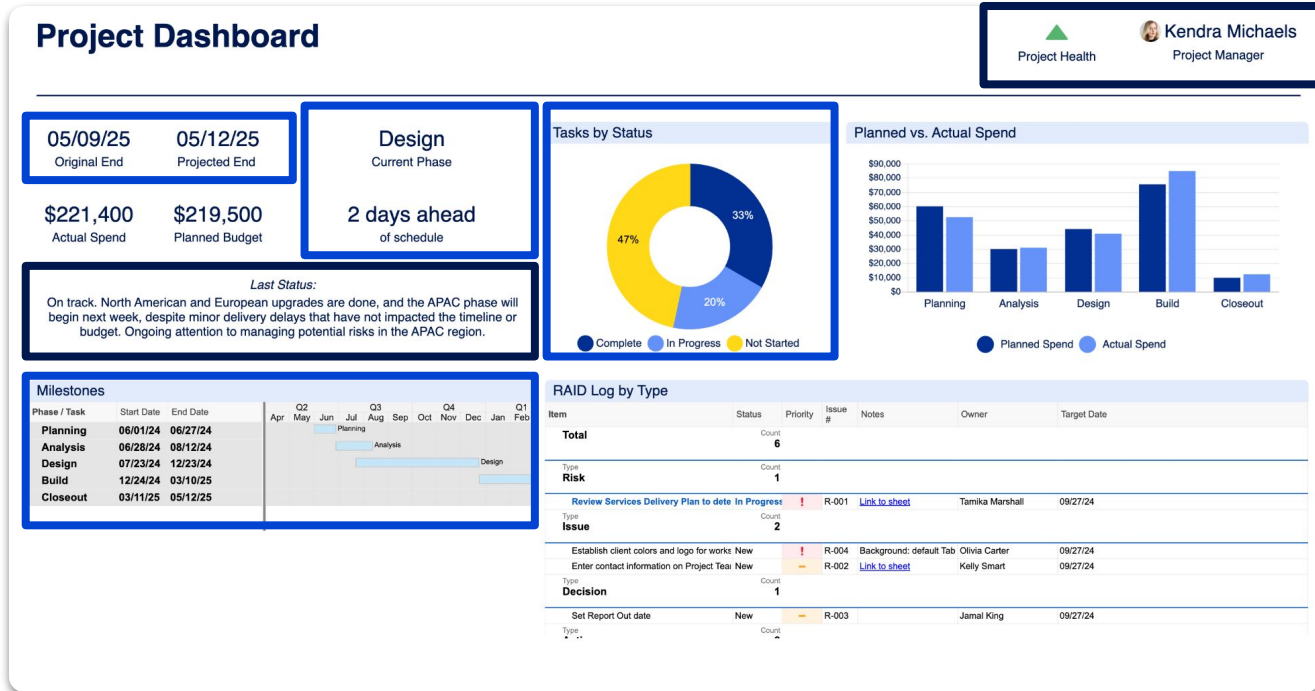
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<b>..</b>			<b>~</b>			

# Basics



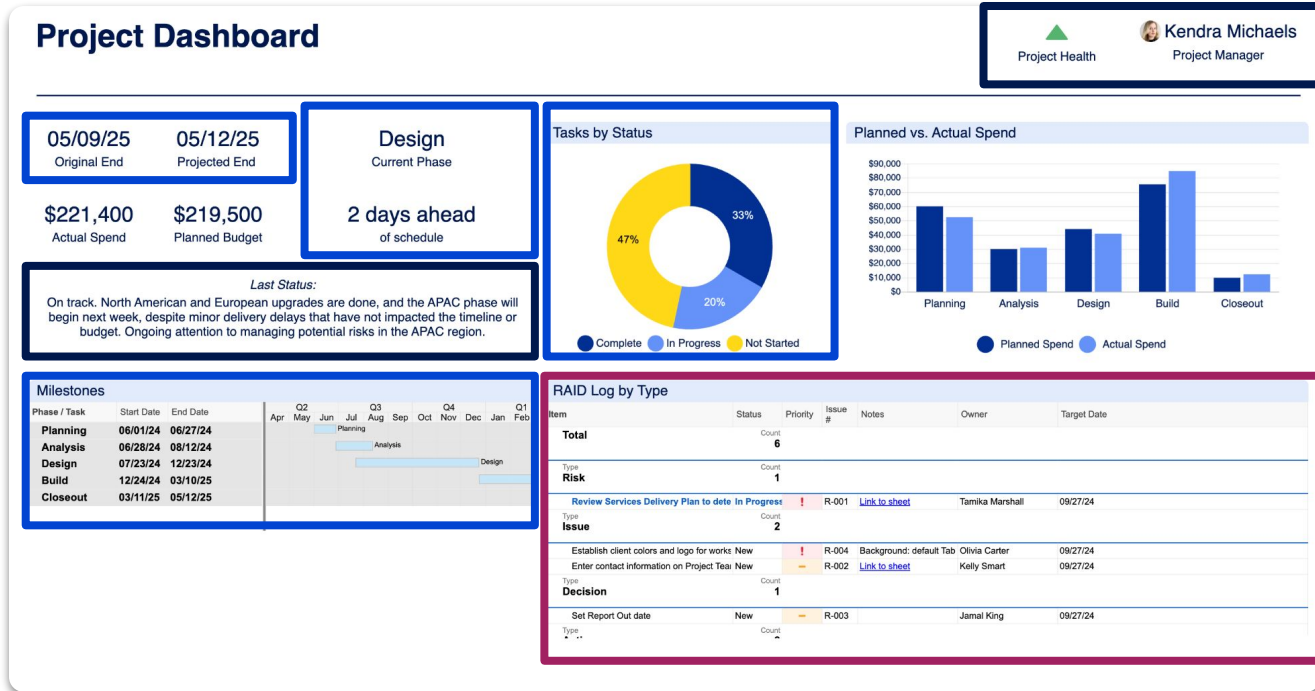
# Categorize information



**Basics**

**Schedule**

# Categorize information

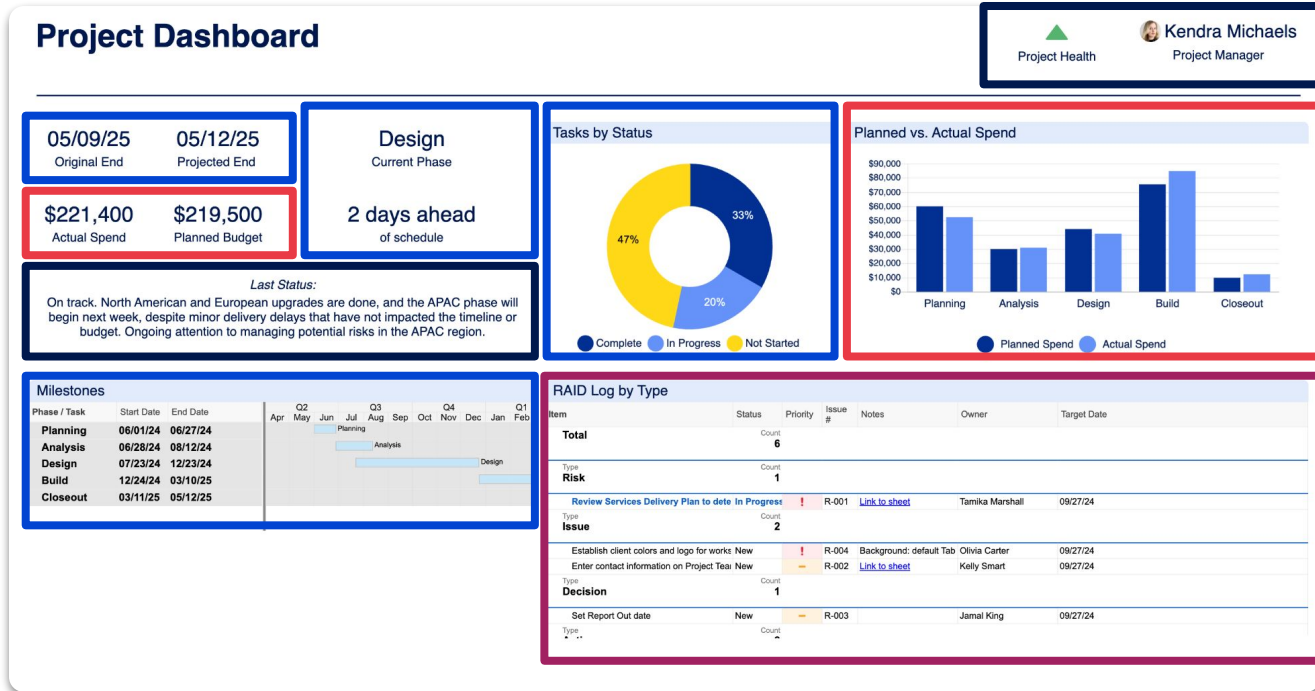


**Basics**

**Schedule**

**RAID**

# Categorize information



**Basics**

**Schedule**

**RAID**

**Budget**

# Organize by category

## Project Dashboard

### Overview

 **Kendra Michaels**  
Project Manager

 **Project Health**

*Last Status:*

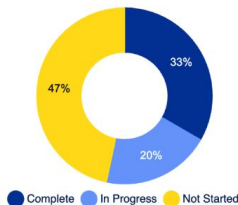
On track. North American and European upgrades are done, and the APAC phase will begin next week, despite minor delivery delays that have not impacted the timeline or budget. Ongoing attention to managing potential risks in the APAC region.

### Schedule

**05/09/25** **05/12/25**  
Original End Projected End

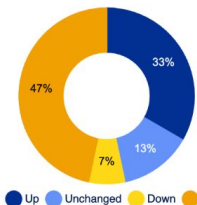
**Design**  
Current Phase  
**2 days ahead**  
of schedule

Tasks by Status



● Complete ● In Progress ● Not Started

Tasks by Health



● Up ● Unchanged ● Down ● -

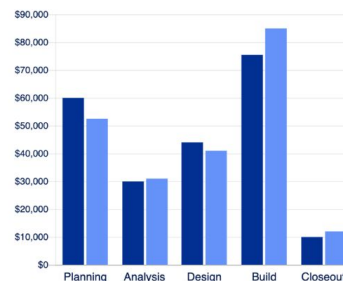
### Raid

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<b>Total</b>			Count			
			<b>6</b>			
<b>Risk</b>			Count			
			<b>1</b>			

### Budget

**\$221,400**  
Actual Spend to Date

**\$219,500**  
Proposed Budget



### Milestones

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# Expand information

## Project Dashboard

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05/12/25  
Projected End

1  
High Pri Risks

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-\$1,900  
Budget Variance

Project Health

Design  
Current Phase

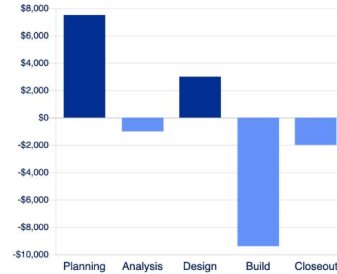
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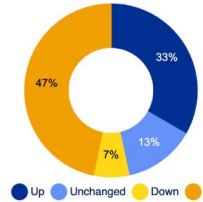
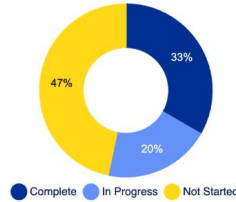
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Tasks by Status

Tasks by Health

Design  
Current Phase  
  
2 days ahead  
of schedule

Manage Schedule



### Raid

#### Open RAID Items



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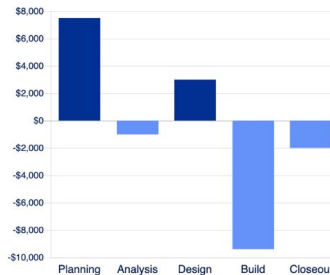
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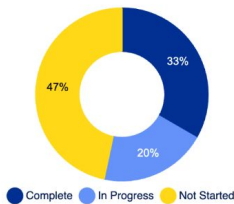
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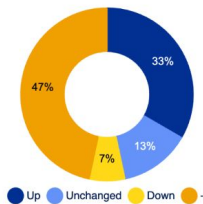
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Tasks by Health



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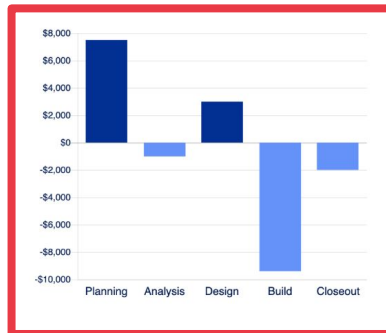
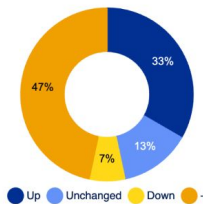
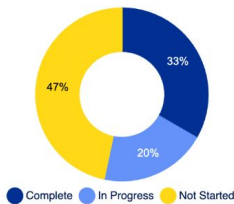
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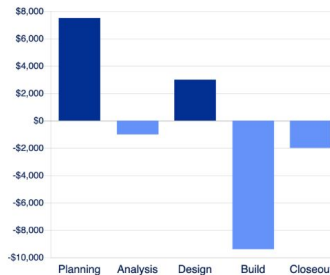
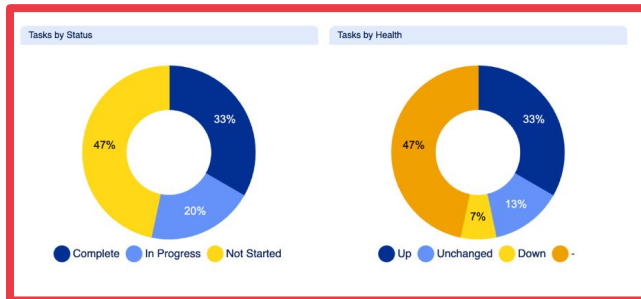
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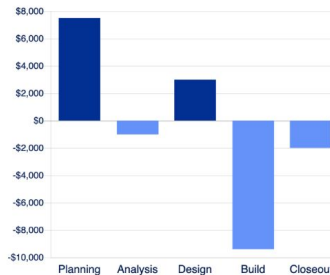
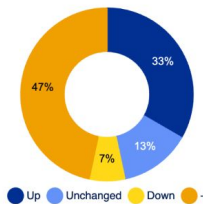
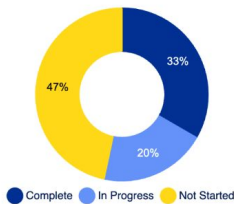
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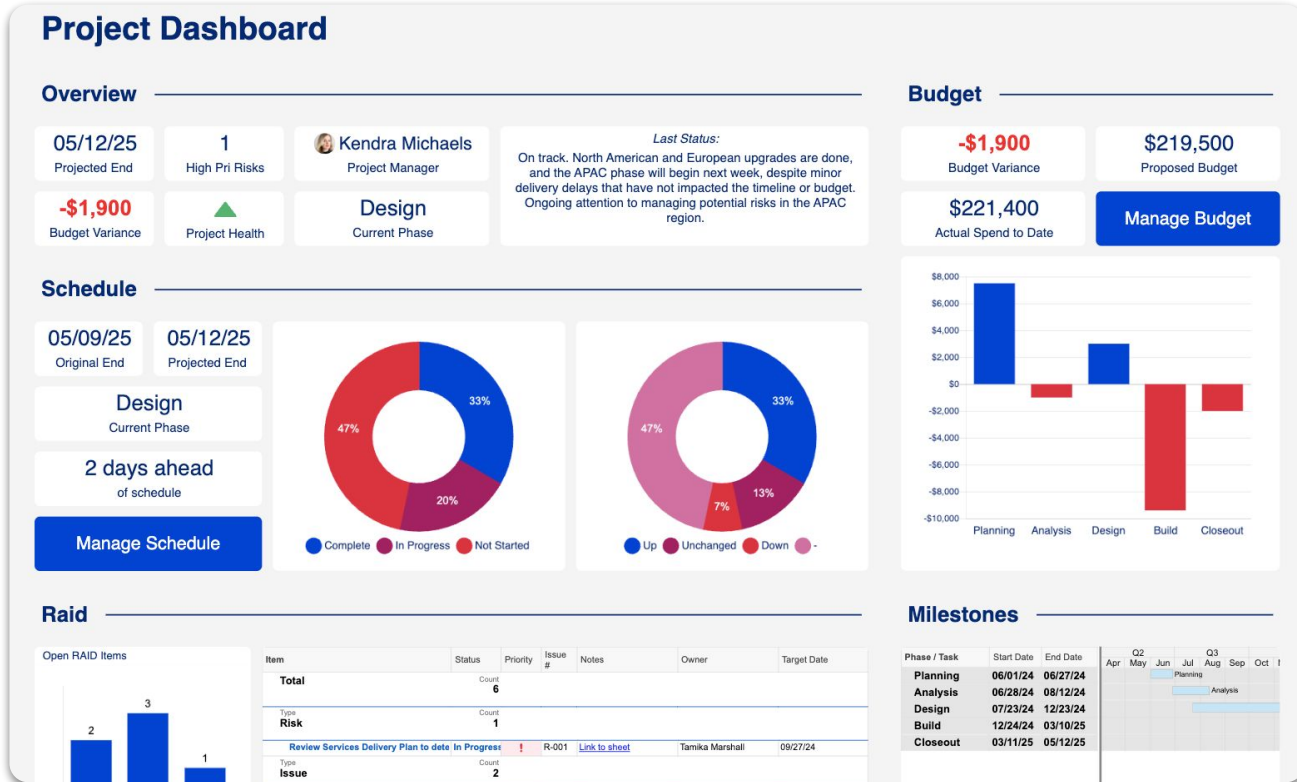
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# 2

Stunning design



# Apply theme

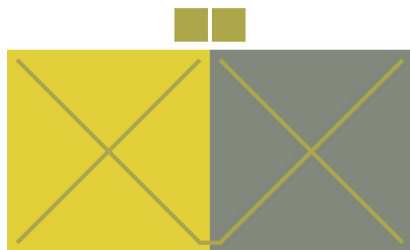


# Color is deceptive

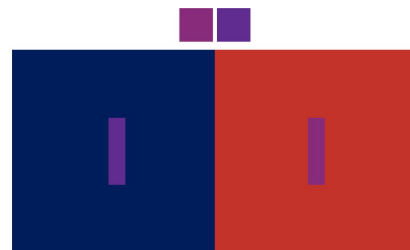
## Exploring the fundamentals

How color behaves in relation to other colors and shapes is a complex area of color theory.

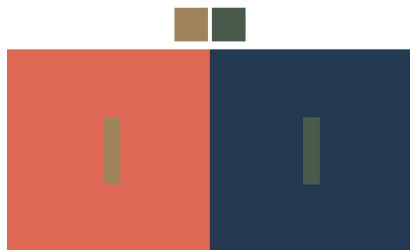
Color perception can be deceptive and influenced by a variety of factors, including the light, culture, and surroundings in which the color is viewed.



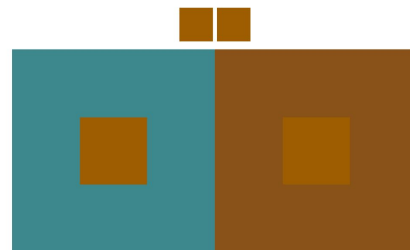
One color appears to be two colors



Two colors appear to be one color



Two colors appear to be one color



One color appears to be two colors

# Color harmony

## Make your colors mesh

The colors chosen should be visually pleasing and harmonious, creating a cohesive overall look and feel.

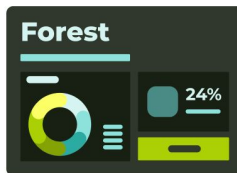


# Functionality

## Make your colors work

Use colors strategically to highlight important information, building hierarchy, creating visual cues, and providing visual feedback — this ensures that the color palette serves a functional purpose and enhances the overall experience.

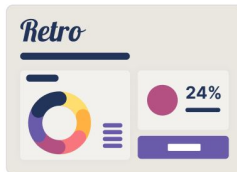
analogous



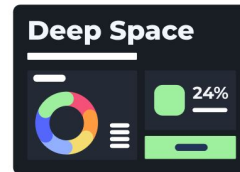
monochromatic



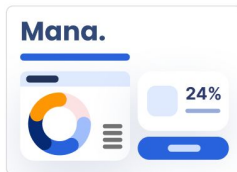
compound



tetradic



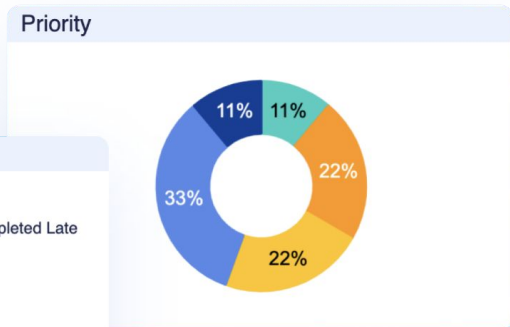
complementary



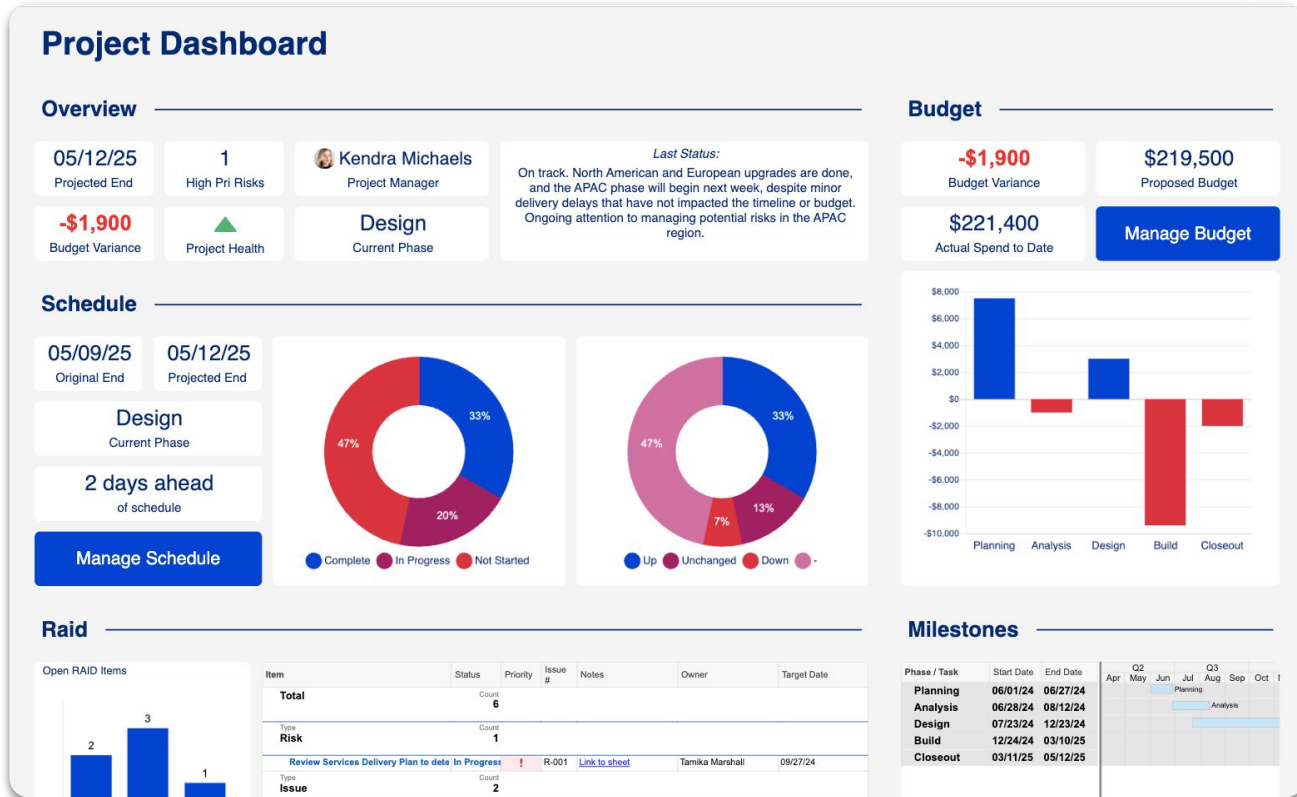
# Readability

## Make your colors distinguishable

Color themes should aid in the efficient digestion of information.

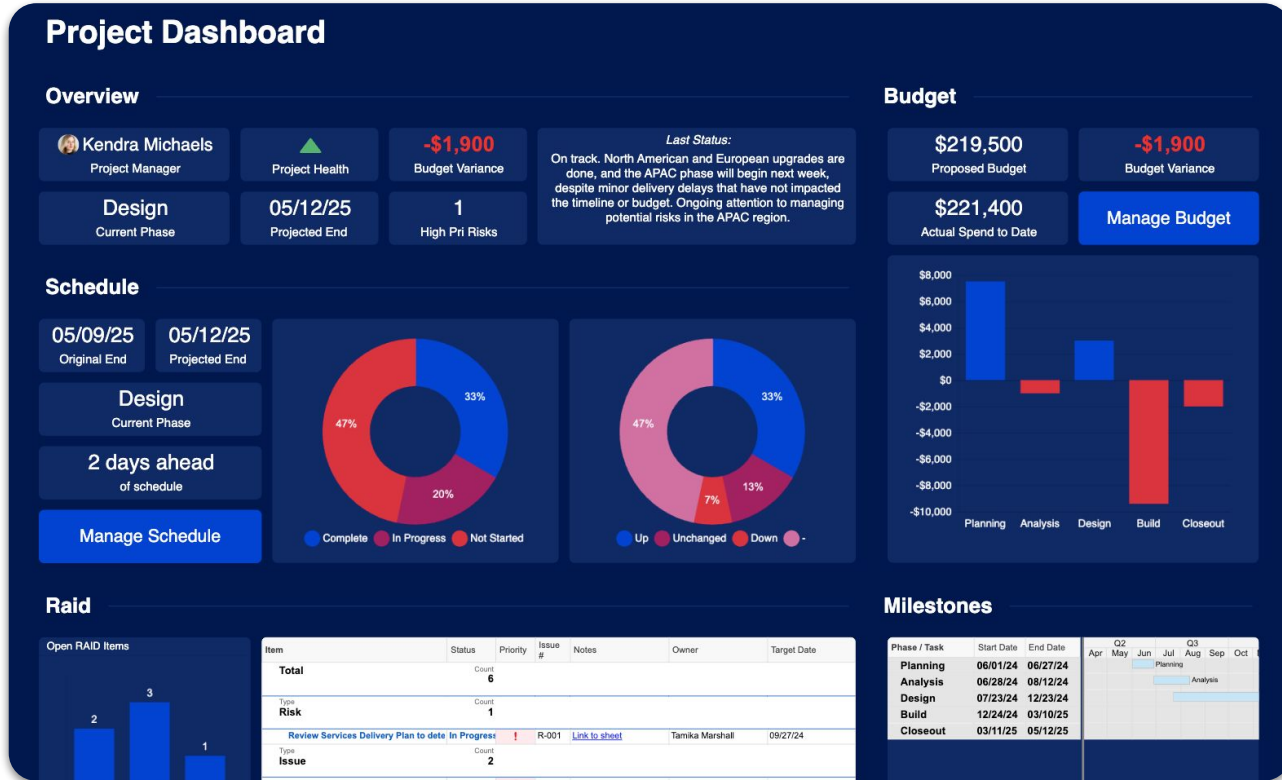


# Apply theme





# Alternate coloring



# 3

**Broad accessibility**



# Accessibility

## Make your colors accessible for all

All people should be able to read your dashboard, even those with color impairments. Accessible color decisions enable that.

### BY THE NUMBERS

72

Total Stores

4

At Risk

# Yup

Small Text  
AA: 4.5 AAA: 7.0

**AA**

Bold Text 18px and over  
AA: 3.0 AAA: 4.5

**AAA**

Large Text 24px and over

AA: 3.0 AAA: 4.5

**AAA**

Contrast Ratio

**6.71 : 1**

# Nope

Small Text  
AA: 4.5 AAA: 7.0

**Fail**

Bold Text 18px and over  
AA: 3.0 AAA: 4.5

**Fail**

Large Text 24px and over

AA: 3.0 AAA: 4.5

**Fail**

Contrast Ratio

**2.17 : 1**

### Sunny Surf



24%

Dashboard background color

Dashboard widget color

Widget title background color

Accent color (button, link)

Text Color

Primary Secondary

Chart Theme

Semantic chart color

Positive Negative

## SONATA STORE OPENINGS PORTFOLIO DASHBOARD


### BY THE NUMBERS

- 72** Total Stores
- 4** At Risk
- 8** Opened L90 Days
- 52** Fully Open
- 13** Under Construction
- 7** Planned

[Store List](#)
[Financials](#)
[OKRs](#)

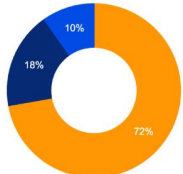
### ANALYSIS

Opening Trends



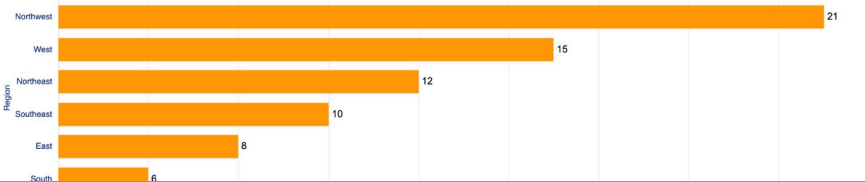
● This Year ○ Last Year

Distribution of Stores by Status



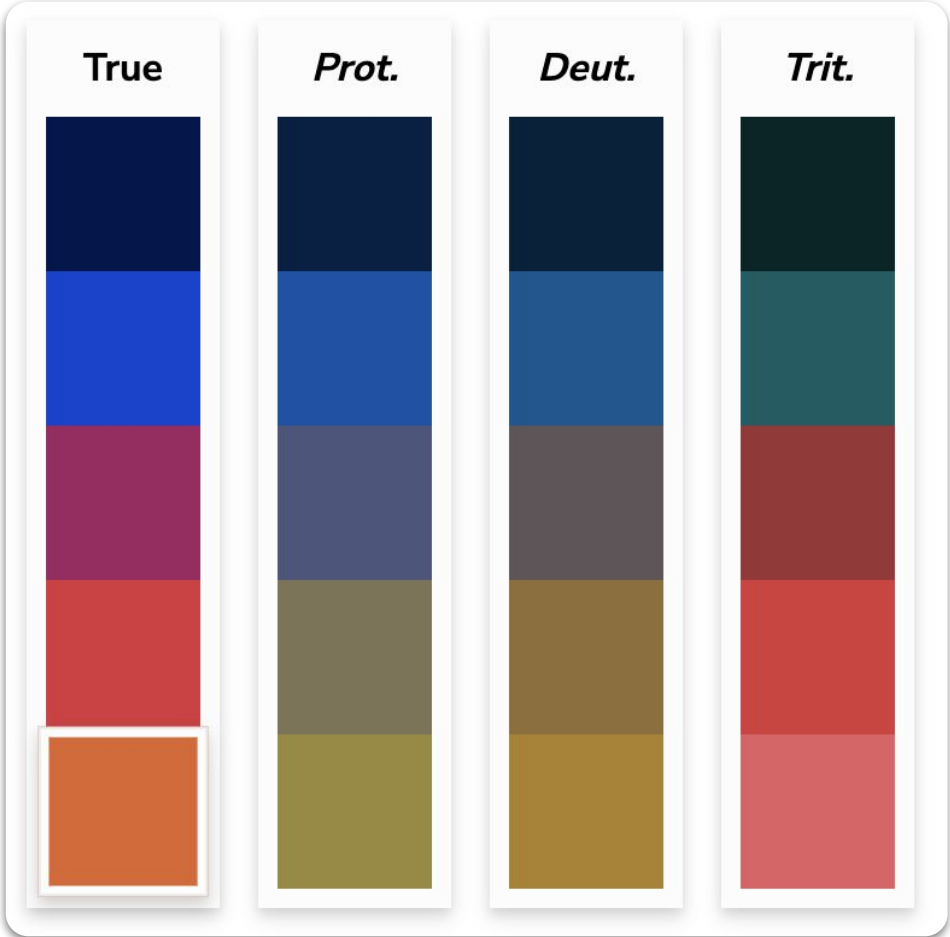
● Fully Open
 ● Under Construction
 ● Planned

### STORE DENSITY BY REGION

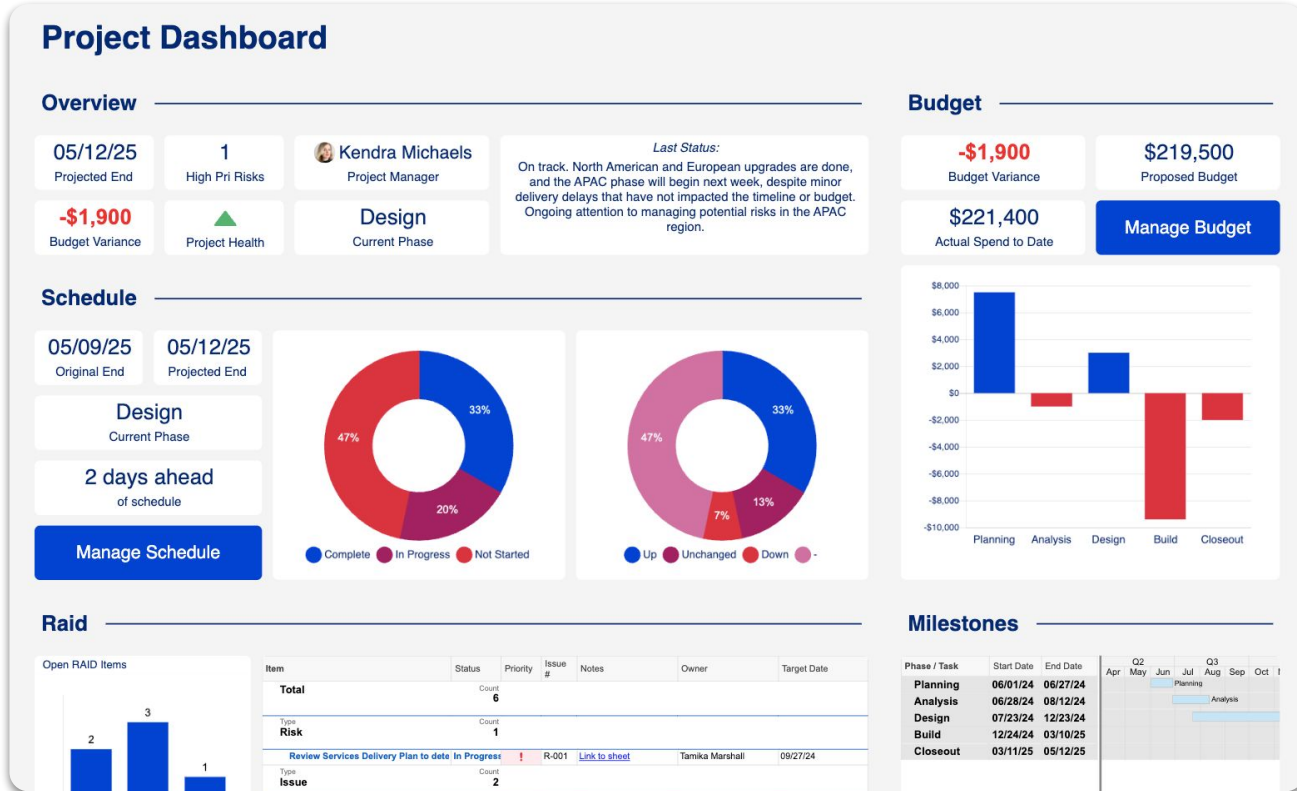


Region	Count
Northwest	21
West	15
Northeast	12
Southeast	10
East	8
South	6

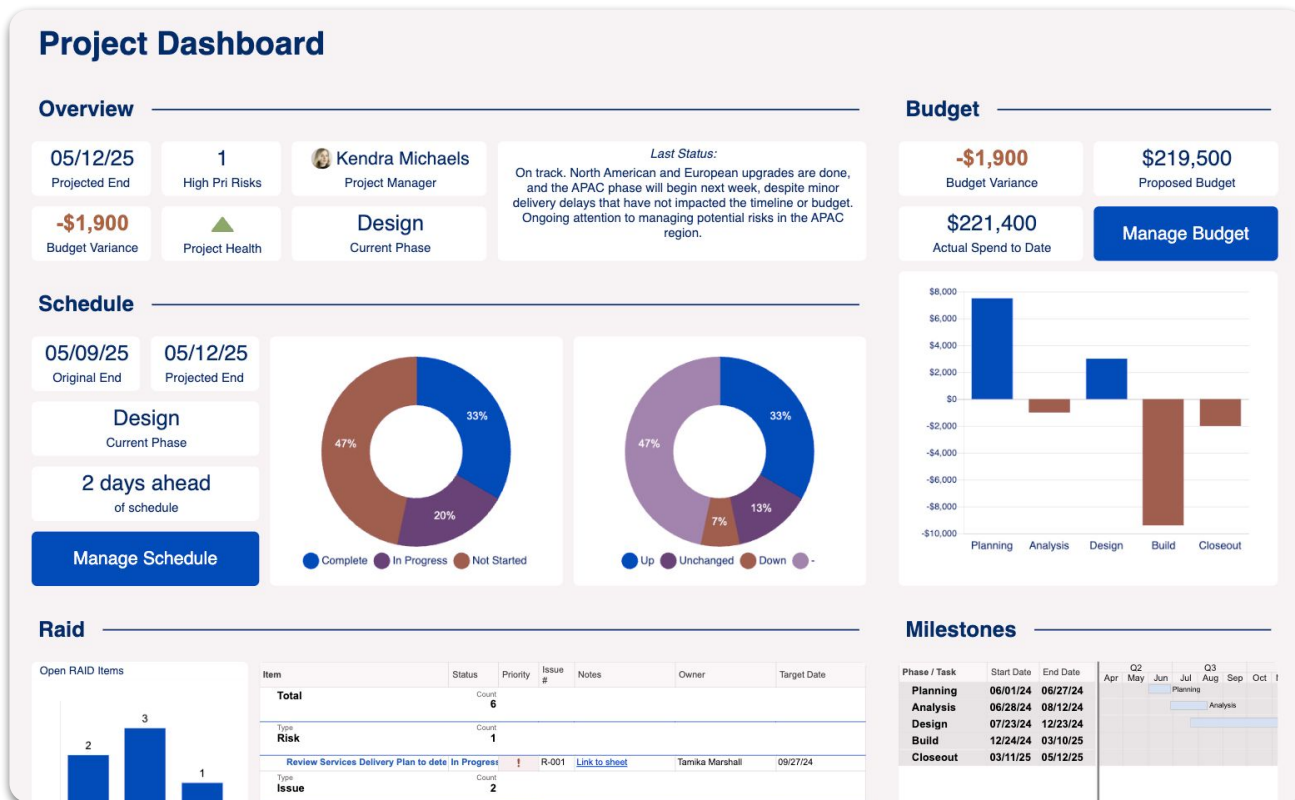
# Apply theme



# Apply theme



# Apply theme



# 4

Wrap up





# Wrap up

What have we learned?

# 1

How to **effectively apply color to a dashboard.**

# 2

How to **optimise your dashboard for your use case.**

# 3

How to **organise the information on your dashboard so that it can be consumed and understood at a glance.**

# Dashboard design resources



## Design guide

Dashboard design resource



## Dashboards feedback

Feedback form



## Strategic color use

Blog post

# Next steps...

- Visit Dashboards booth
- Download Dashboard resources
- Update one of your dashboards

## 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.

 smartsheet

# ENGAGE

# Share your experience at ENGAGE

by participating in the conversation on social media!  
Use **#SmartsheetENGAGE** and tag Smartsheet  
in your posts all week long.



@smartsheet



@smartsheetplatform



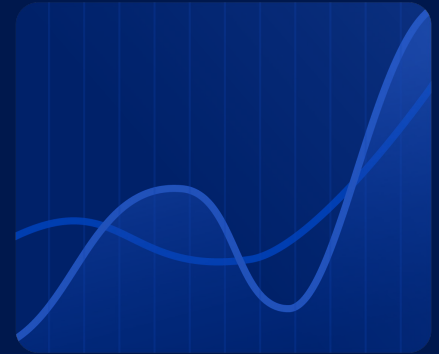
@smartsheet



@smartsheet



@smartsheet



 smartsheet

# ENGAGE