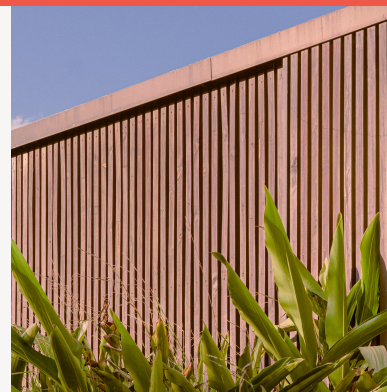


How to start a project for efficient space usage

Whitepaper 6 of 6



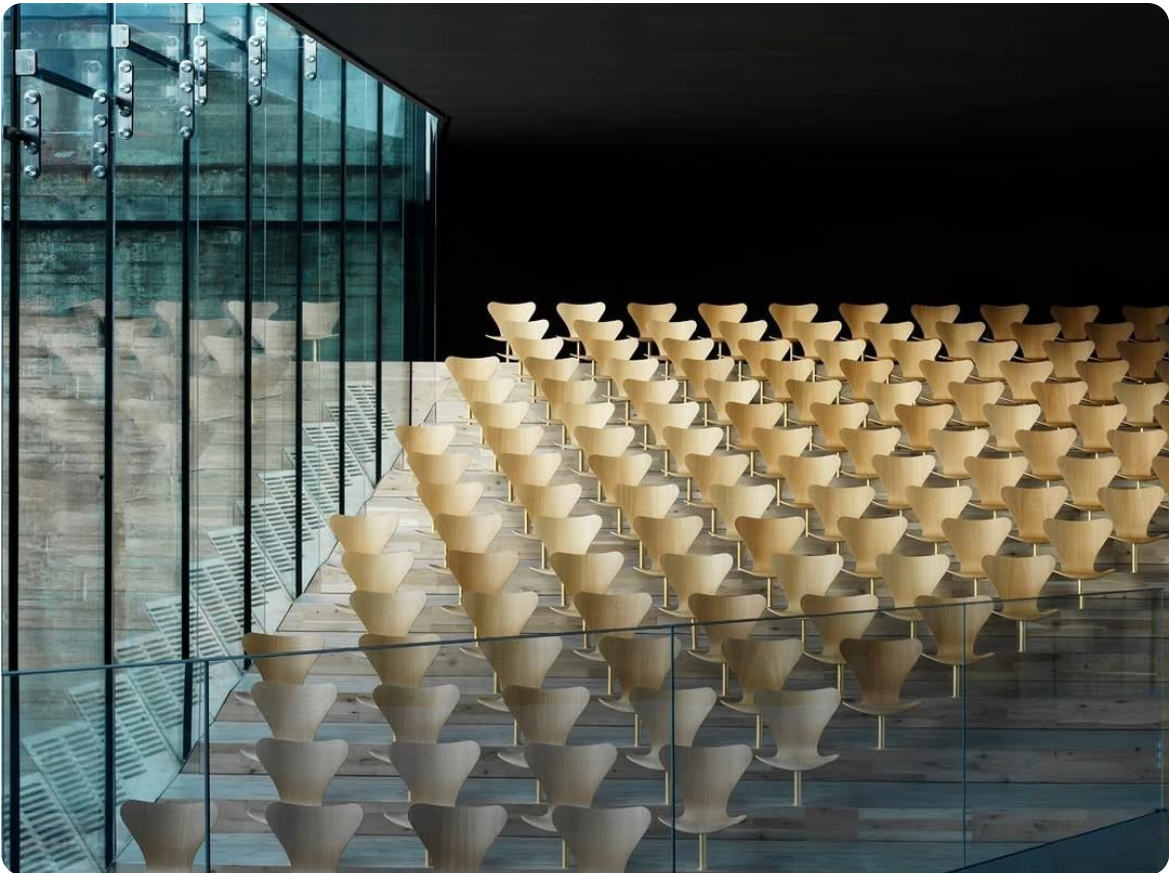
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Smart campus expert



Introduction

Hopefully, after reading all the whitepapers, you're convinced you need to start using real-time space use measurements. We understand you might want to pilot the technology first... but how exactly do you go about that?

In this final whitepaper, we address this question by discussing how to determine a good project scope.



Key takeaways

1

The objective of the pilot determines the scope of the available classrooms.

2

Three pilot project examples each require a completely different selection of rooms.

3

Maximize the value of your pilot project by linking it to a specific problem or use case.

Contents

- 6-7 **Determine the goal of your pilot project first, and then the scope**
- 8-9 **Pilot portfolio management**
- 10-11 **Pilot scheduling**
- 12-13 **Pilot sensor testing**
- 14-15 **Extracting value from your pilot**

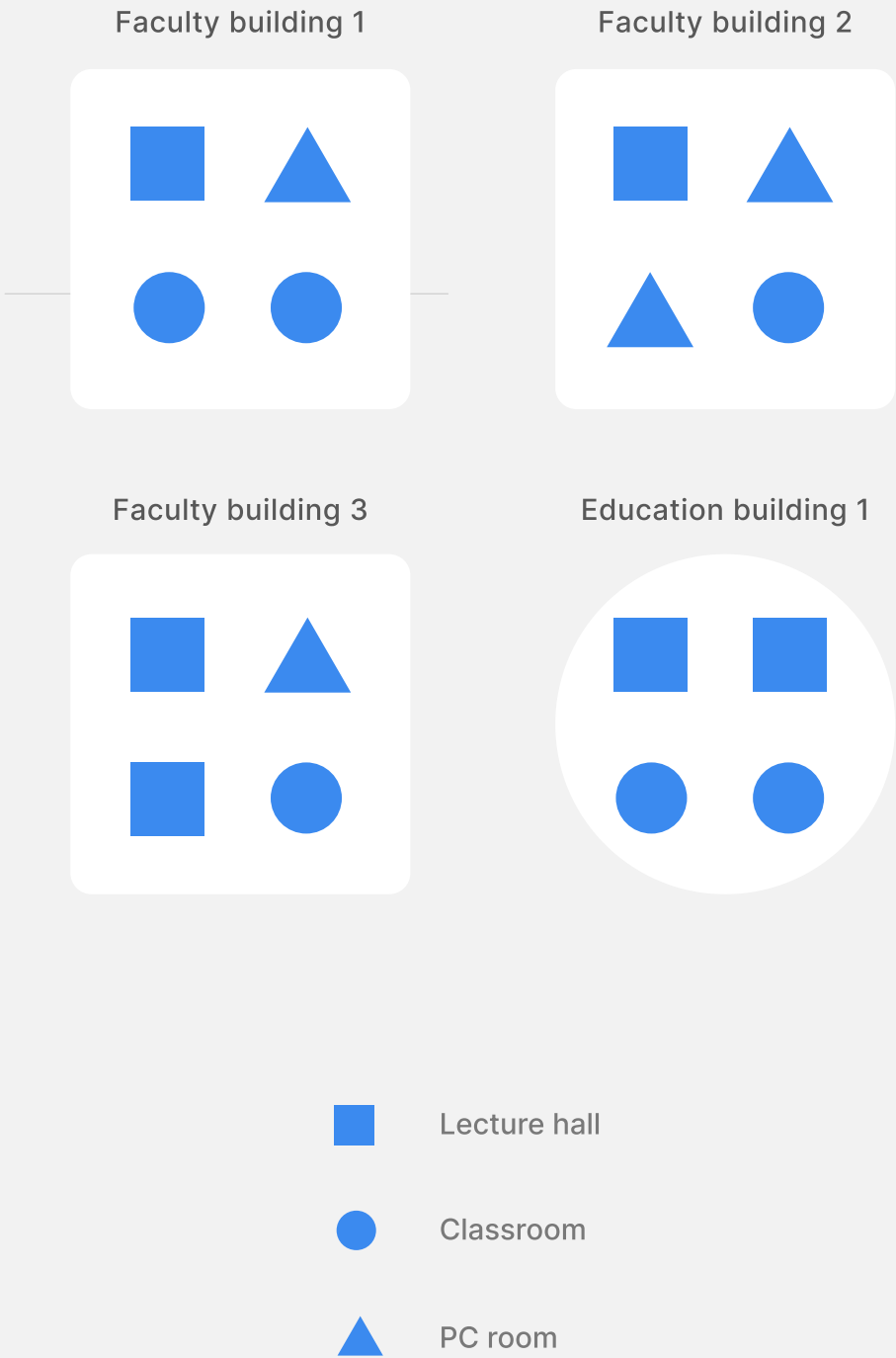


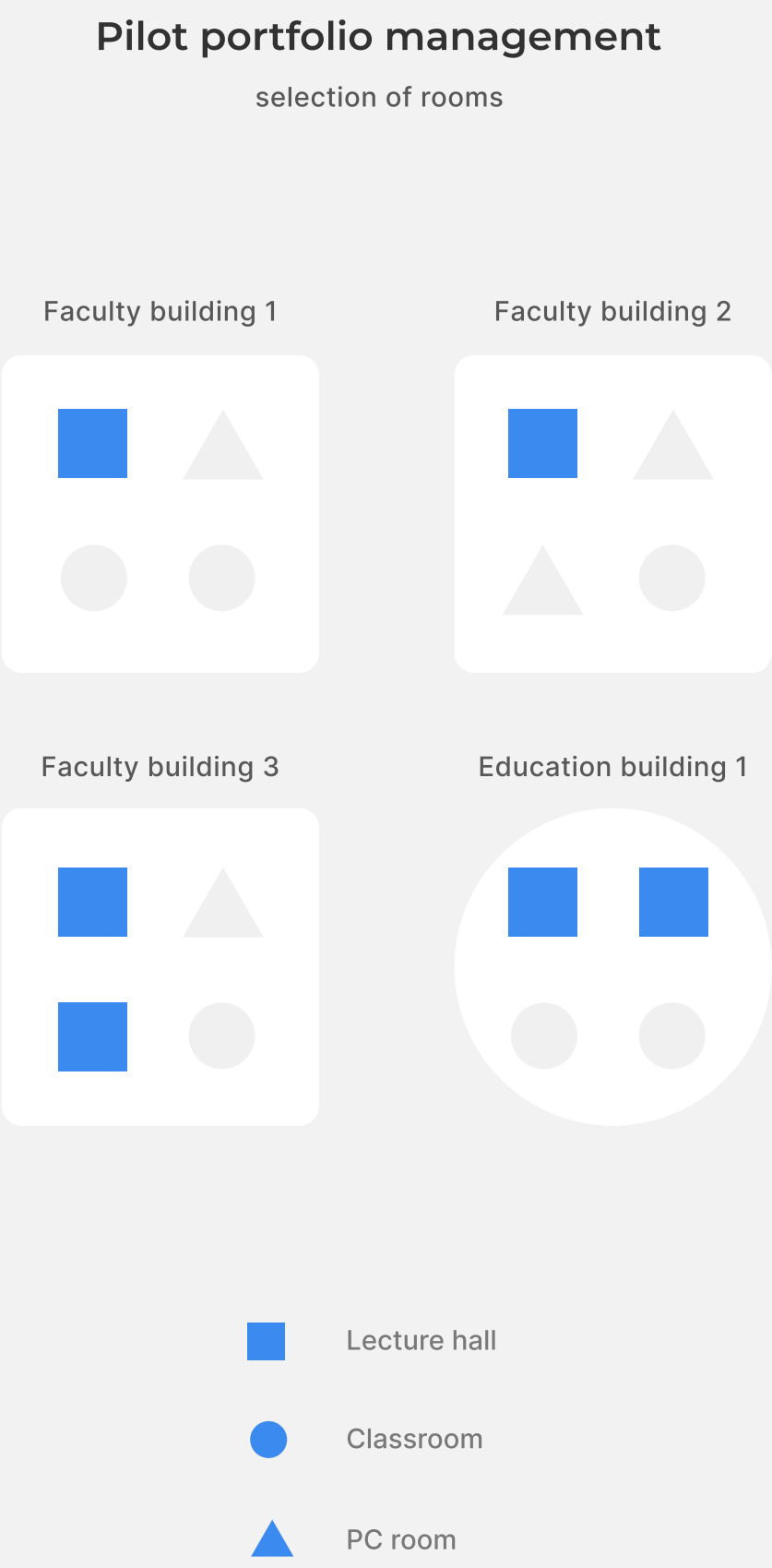
Determine the goal of your pilot project first, and then the scope

Let's start with the objective of your pilot. Typically, the goal of a pilot is to test the suitability of a solution before proceeding with full implementation. The next question is: which aspects of the solution do you want to test? In a pilot, you can test whether the dashboard meet your needs, how you could use the attendance feature in the scheduling process for evaluation, or how you could use the information for other decisions. We know how to measure classroom attendance, but you could also test the accuracy of the sensors.

The design of the pilot depends on this objective. We'll show you several options here. We'll use a simplified example of a portfolio of classrooms; see the figure on the next page. It shows that this institution has several different buildings, and within each building several different types of classrooms.

Teaching space portfolio of an institution
(simplified example)





Pilot portfolio management

The first example we'll give is a pilot project aimed at determining how Pleq works for portfolio management. This pilot focuses on reporting capabilities, as portfolio management requires insight into the total portfolio's space usage, and comparisons between different users to assess the validity of new demands for space.

The goal of a portfolio management pilot is to test the reporting capabilities. We recommend testing in one space type, but in multiple buildings.

For this reason, we propose focusing a portfolio management pilot on a single room type and equipping those rooms in several buildings with sensors. This would provide insight into, for example, the use of lecture halls or project rooms. This would allow for comparisons between buildings, but also for determining whether there is a genuine shortage of these rooms, and how many classes could have been scheduled in a smaller room.

Pilot scheduling

For a pilot linked to scheduling, the goal is to test whether the information generated by Pleq can be used to adjust the schedule. In this case, you want to ensure that the scheduler can experiment with the information from the dashboard, move classes from larger to smaller rooms, or even remove them from the schedule if they prove to be unnecessary.

For this type of pilot, we recommend equipping multiple room types and sizes with sensors (particularly lecture halls and instruction rooms) within the same building. Ideally, for example, three lecture halls and three instruction rooms should be equipped, with each room having a slightly different capacity. This makes it easier for the scheduler to reschedule classes. Alternatively, the pilot could be conducted jointly with a single faculty, which simplifies coordination regarding any rescheduling of classes.

The goal of the scheduling pilot is to test the application within the scheduling process. Here, we propose: lecture halls and instruction rooms in a single building with a single faculty.

Pilot scheduling

selection of rooms

Faculty building 1



Faculty building 2



Faculty building 3



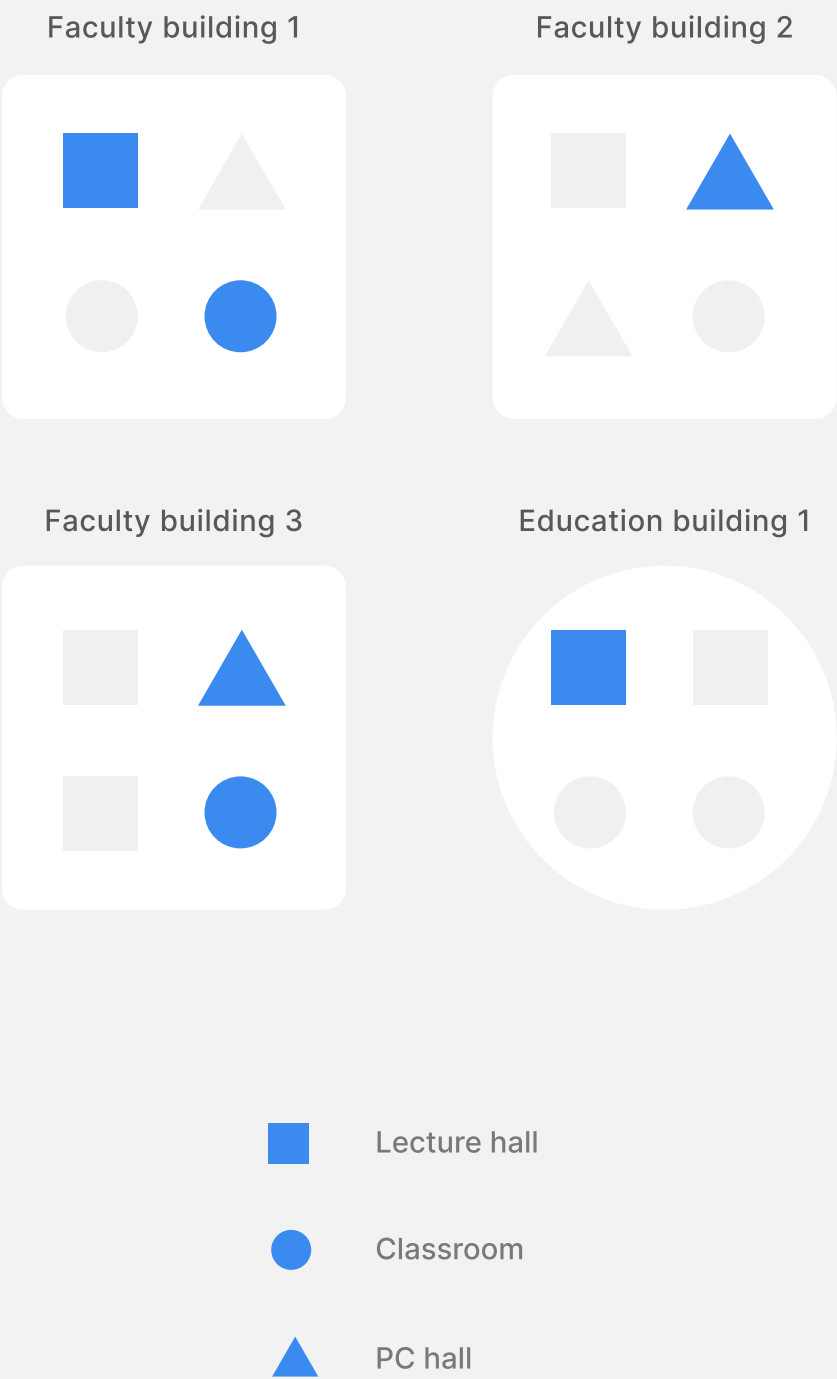
Education building 1



-  Lecture hall
-  Classroom
-  PC hall

Pilot sensor testing

selection of rooms



Pilot sensor testing

We often see that the goal of the pilot is to test the accuracy of the sensors and the technical aspects involved in implementation. In order to test the accuracy, we recommend testing the sensor in different types of teaching spaces. This enables you to see the accuracy in large and small rooms, or in rooms with one or multiple entrances.

The characteristics of a building are also a relevant factor. The height of the ceiling and presence of electricity nearby the sensor matter for the installation and configuration of the sensor. Large steel and concrete constructions can also influence the connection between sensors and gateways. By testing in different buildings, you will get insight into the influence of these kinds of technical aspects in a larger rollout.

The goal of a sensor pilot is to test the technical implementation and the accuracy of the sensors. We recommend testing different room types in different buildings.

Extracting value from your pilot

At Pleq, we believe it's important to maximize the value of your pilot project. The added value of portfolio management and scheduling pilots is more tangible than that of sensors. With portfolio management, you gain insight into potential savings for a portion of your portfolio (e.g., lecture halls). By linking the pilot to a current issue within the organization, such as a request for more lecture halls, a pilot can already deliver significant added value by demonstrating that there's still sufficient space within the existing halls. For scheduling, the pilot provides experience with how the system can support the scheduling process, both for the scheduler and the user. This can be very valuable for the next steps.

By cleverly linking your pilot to a concrete business case, you can ensure that your pilot already delivers a return on investment.



With the sensor pilot, the immediate added value is less obvious. However, testing the sensors' accuracy and gaining experience with installation in different buildings and room types can significantly accelerate the next phase. Experiments could also be linked to this pilot to create added value. For example, by experimenting with adjusting cleaning and climate control in large rooms, savings can already be achieved, and these use cases can be tested for a viable business case.

Towards more efficient space use together

This concludes our white paper series. In it, we've mapped out a journey that will help you move from real-time frequency and occupancy measurements to increasingly efficient space use.

In the coming period, we hope to continue building and sharing our knowledge with our partners, working together on increasingly efficient space usage!



Do you have questions about your project scope?

Schedule an appointment



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