

	Notes:
 Discuss what each 'onion' layer below means in the context of your organization Modify the 'onion', based on organizational specifics (add/remove layers) In respective areas on the right side, provide some examples and details for each layer Discuss and agree where to keep information (e.g. tool, directory, other repository) 	
 Discuss and agree how 'onion' layers will be maintained and updated over time 	
Company Purpose & Mission	
Company Long-Team Vision	
Company Strategy Product Vision & Strategy Product Backlog	
Product Increment	
Note: Since customers buy and users use Products, in agile development, we focus on ProDUCTs, not ProJECTs, not ProGRAMs. We also challenge the term Portfolio, unless it is a portfolio or real Products. Please, be mindful of this, as you add layers to the 'onion'.	

- Understand the 'big picture' (Strategy, Mission, Vision, OKRs).
- Select & discuss a product.
- Define & explore a product with <u>Product Canvas, applying *expanding & constraining* forces</u>.
- Run exercises (e.g. Item mapping, value stream mapping, customer journey, etc., personas.)
- Create an *initial* Product Backlog.
- Create Definition of Done (DoD). Agree on what is "UNDONE".
- Identify functional expertize & technical skillset required (each Team; LeSS Product Group)
- Prototype a team 'blueprint' (*Do NOT create teams, on behalf of teams*)
- Prototype a product group 'blueprint' (beyond Teams; entire LeSS Product Group)
- Identify (all known) organizational design impediments and assign them to executives
- Run team self-design exercise
- Start sprinting

LeSS Mind Map



Note: Remember that the goal of all supplementing exercises and activities is to produce a single Product Backlog, to be prioritized by Product Owner and shared by all teams that will be working on a product.

Gene Gendel, Certified Enterprise & Team Coach (CEC-CTC), Certified LeSS Trainer (CLT)

Top-10 Product Coaching Questions Template

1. What problem are we really trying to solve? Encourages teams to shift focus from solutions to customer needs and problem clarity. **●** 2. How will we know if we're successful? Helps define outcomes, not just outputs (great for OKRs, metrics, and hypothesis testing). **3**. Who is this for, and what job are they trying to get done? Anchors work in the user's world. Inspired by Jobs To Be Done (JTBD) thinking. 2 4. What assumptions are we making—and which ones feel riskiest? Drives discovery and experimentation (especially lean startup-style). **5.** What evidence do we have for this idea or decision? Shifts teams from opinion-based to evidence-based product thinking. **4**個 6. What trade-offs are we making here—and are we okay with them? Helps teams surface and discuss constraints, sacrifices, or tensions. 7. What's the smallest thing we can test or learn next? Encourages iterative delivery and learning, rather than building large features blindly.

8. How does this work align with our product vision or strategy?
 Challenges "feature factory" habits and re-aligns toward long-term outcomes.

Image: 9. Who else needs to be involved in this decision? Supports stakeholder mapping and team autonomy with clarity.

10. What would happen if we didn't do this?
 A powerful challenge to avoid default yeses and overcommitting to low-value work.





Customer Interview Template

Interviewee Profile:	
interviewee Frome.	e.g. Remote developer, 2 yrs experience, B2B SaaS user
Goals:	e.g. "Stay updated without extra meetings"
Pain Points:	e.g. "Slack is noisy; I miss updates"
Workarounds:	e.g. Uses Notion for async notes
Quotes / Signals:	e.g. "I want 1 tool to tell me what I missed today"
Opportunities:	e.g. Build async digest feed







(Peoples' Assessment: "Are You Talking To Right People?")

Use the following questions to validate if appropriate people are involved in defining a product:

20 Qualifying Questions

- 1. What is your current position within an organizational structure (org. chart)? Upward? Downward?
- 2. Historically, what role have you played in traditional project, program, portfolio management? Product management?
- 3. How can you articulate vision, mission and strategic objectives for a product?
- 4. Do you know what competition does a product face today (internally or externally)?
- 5. What ideas do you currently have with respect to sales/marketing/promotion of a product?
- 6. What involvement do you have today in a product's cost management/expense reduction/investments decisions?
- 7. What specific business unit/line of business (LOB) that will be using this product, do you represent?
- 8. In your current role, how closely are you positioned to internal users/external customers'? How well do you understand their needs?
- 9. How would you measure product success/failure? ROI? Cost per effort? Other metrics?
- 10. What control do you have over funding/budgeting/sponsorship decisions of a product?
- 11. In your current role, how closely do you interact with product developers? Do you have any special relationships built with R&D?
- 12. Would you be available/willing to engage directly with developers in a future, to provide *clarifications and details*, if/when requested?
- 13. Are you familiar (practice/theory) with the concept of flexible/rolling-wave budgeting? How is it different from traditional (annual) budgeting?
- 14. Are you familiar (in principle) with the process of estimation/forecasting/ planning in s/w product development (domain of high variability)?
- 15. How well do you understand what *components* (large, small) does a product consist of? Do you manage/work on any of them today?
- 16. Are you familiar with regulatory/legal/compliance/quality controls requirements of a product?
- 17.If presented with a set of features (*business-centric*), would you be able to articulate your own view on their *priority*?
- 18.Do you have any prior experience with product discovery activities (product canvasing, customer journeys, user story mapping?
- 19. Have you ever been involved in discussions of broadening and/or narrowing a product definition?
- 20. Would you be willing to invest time in sharing your personal product knowledge with others, as well as gaining new knowledge from others?



	Р	roduct D	Defini t	tion Canva	as Te	mplate	
Product Name: Date: Contributor (s):	Vision - What is your product's purpose? How do you envision your product will change human lives and experience? Mission – What is your mission? What are you trying to do, specifically, to achieve your goals? Strategic Objectives –What are your OKRs: what are your objectives and what results do you expect to see, over time?						
Funding/Budgeting/Sponsorship - Where does Costs/Expenses/Investments - What costs, Sales/Marketing/Promotion - What strategies/tools/techniques and funding come from? Who will pay for your product? expenses or other financial overhead do you expent going to use to increase your sales and revenue flow? What is you in diagonal to encounter? marketing strategy? What promotion channels will you use?					enue flow? What is your		
Measurements/Metrics - How will you measure your success? Customers/Users/Target Groups - Who is this product for? Who uses it today and who will use it in a future						y and who will use it in a future?	
Partnerships/Benefits - Who are your bring to them? What cost reduction, to market, increased satisfaction should	ime/financial sa	avings, improved tim		Users – humans and that interact with you product		Business Layers – e.g. parameters, necessary to create a business object	Regulatory/Legal/Compliance – requirements, controls, policies, rules
Business: Key Benefits: Technology:		UI/UX/Interfaces – s applications, devices, (upstream and down	,	Service Layers – discrete operations that must be supported (API, orchestration, entity, utility)			
Key Benefits: Other: Key Benefits:		Data -bases/sources – DB, data warehouse, data-feeds, etc.		Components/Applications – "elements" that are included in your product, when seen from a user/customer	Quality Controls – measurements, validations, testable properties & attributes		
Competitors - Who are our direct or indirect competitors? Today, what makes them more or less successful than if you? What are their weak areas that you need to take advantage of?				perspective			





Product Vision Canvas Template

Product Name:	e.g. Team Hub	
Vision Statement:	e.g. "Enable seamless daily collaboration for remote teams."	
Target Users:	e.g. Remote startup teams, PMs, developers	
Problem to Solve:	e.g. Communication chaos, tool fragmentation	
Unique Value Proposition:	e.g. Single hub for async updates + integrations	
Business Goal:	e.g. DAUs, session time, team activation rate	
Success Metrics:	e.g. Improve client retention by 20% in 6 months, reduce client departure by 10%	





Lean UX Canvas Template

· · ·		
Business Problem:	e.g. User drop-off during onboarding	
User Segments:	e.g. First-time users (tech-savvy vs. not)	
User Needs & Pain Points:	e.g. "I don't know what to do next"	
Value Proposition:	e.g. "We guide you through first success"	
Solutions / Features:	e.g. Guided tour, interactive checklist	
Key Metrics:	e.g. Onboarding completion rate, activation rate	
Hypotheses:	e.g. "If we show a checklist, users will finish more"	





Product Management Objectives & Key Results (OKRs)Template



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Product Management Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)Template

Customer-Centric KPIs

Customer Satisfaction Score (CSAT) – percentage (%) Measures how satisfied customers are with the product or a specific experience.

Net Promoter Score (NPS) – score (-100 to +100) Gauges customer loyalty and the likelihood of them recommending the product.



Customer Retention Rate / Churn Rate – percentage (%)

Indicates how many users stay or leave over time — especially critical in SaaS or subscription models.

Customer Lifetime Value (CLTV or LTV) – currency Projects the total revenue a customer will generate over their relationship with the product.

Business & Financial KPIs

Revenue / Revenue Growth Rate – *currency* / *percentage* (%) Tracks overall income and its growth over time.



Customer Acquisition Cost (CAC) – currency *Calculates the cost of acquiring a new customer.*



Measures how many users take a desired action (e.g., sign up, purchase, upgrade).

Gross Margin percentage – (%) aoods sold.

Indicates product profitability after accounting for the cost of

Product Usage & Engagement KPIs

Session Duration / Frequency – time / times

Daily / Monthly Active Users (DAU / MAU) – count Tracks how many users engage with the product over time.



Feature Adoption Rate – percentage (%) Measures how often a new feature is used relative to its availability.

Assesses how long and how often users interact with the

User Retention Rate / Bounce rate – percentages (%)

Analyzes user behavior over time (e.g., Day 1, Day 7, Day 30



Delivery & Operational KPIs

product.

retention).

Velocity or Throughput – *number* Measures how much work the team delivers per sprint/iteration.

Lead Time / Cycle Time – *time/time* Tracks how long it takes from idea to delivery..

Escaped Defects / Bug Rate – number / percentage (%) Indicates quality by showing how many issues are found after release.

Roadmap Completion Rate – percentage (%) Percentage of committed features delivered on time.

















What is Product Opportunity Solution Tree?

- Outcome What is the measurable result you want to achieve?
- **Opportunities** What unmet customer needs or pain points relate to that outcome?
- Solutions What ideas or features might address those opportunities?
- Experiments What small tests can validate if a solution will work?

Why use Product Opportunity Solution Tree?

- Helps avoid solution-first thinking
- Makes discovery visible and decision-making traceable
- Encourages divergent thinking at the opportunity level
- Promotes alignment across product, design, and engineering



Persona Identification Template

Attribute	Description	
Picture		
Name		
Age/Gender		
Personality		
Interests		
Title/Organizational Position		
Career Path/Journey		
Technical Skills		
Business Expertize		
Personal Goals		
What is today's solution?		
Reasons to buy/use a product		
Comments		
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Use Case Template				
Attribute	Description			
Name				
ID				
Description				
Actors				
Assumptions				
Benefits				
Pre-Conditions				
Post-Conditions				
Main Path (Steps)	1. step 2. step 3. step 4. step 5. step			
Alternative Path (Steps)	1. step 2. step 3. step 4. step			
Exceptions				
Comments				
Related Use Cases	e.g. < <extend>>, <<include>></include></extend>			
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Customer Journey Map Template

	Customer Goals	Actions/Tasks	Touchpoints	Pain Points	Opportunities/Ideas	Emotions
Awareness	Learn about product	See ad, hear from friend, search online	Website, social media, blog	Confusing value prop, low visibility	Clarify messaging, SEO improvements	Curious
Consideration	Compare solutions	Read reviews, visit site, ask peers	Review sites, demo video, landing page	Overwhelming info, hard to compare	Simple comparison tool, testimonials	Interested
Onboarding	Set up and get started	Create account, set preferences	App, email, in-app guide	Too many steps, unclear next action	Streamline flow, onboarding checklist	Confused → Guided
Usage	Get value from product	Daily logins, feature usage	Web/app interface, help center	Missing features, slow load times	Improve performance, add user tips	Neutral \rightarrow Satisfied
Support	Solve an issue	Contact support, read help articles	Chatbot, support center, FAQ	No reply, hard-to-find answers	Better support routing, AI help	Frustrated \rightarrow Relieved
Retention/Growth	Stay engaged and refer others	Renew, upgrade, invite colleagues	Emails, dashboards, referral program	Lack of reminders, low motivation	Loyalty program, usage-based nudges	Loyal

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Customer Journey Template Legend

Dimensions

	 X-axis dimension – logically sequenced steps/stages/phases a customer goes through, as (s)he makes a journey (travels) through a product (service). All of them, are defined from a standpoint of a customer/user/consumer. steps/stages/phases. They can vary from product-to-product (service), based on purpose/intent. Start & end of a journey could vary. Commonly used: Before → During → After
	 Motivation → Search (of sites) → Browsing (of site) → Evaluation → Selection → Purchase → Product Experience → Feedback Awareness → Research → Choice Reduction → Making Selection → Purchase Consideration → Discovery → Selection → Verification → Purchase → Self-Reflection Research → Evaluation & Comparison → Commitment → Use & Monitoring → Refining & Review
x	 Y-axis dimension – <u>concurrently aligned</u> elements that are required (or expected to be required) at various steps/stages/phases. As a customer makes a journey (travels), (s)he can cross into various elements multiple times Commonly used: Experience Frontstage Backstage Systems & Processes Doing Thinking Touchpoints Opportunities Weaknesses Comments Ideas Improvements Intentions Expectations Ideas Activities Perceptions/Feelings Touchpoints Risks Opportunities PC Browser Wireless Browser Phone application Customer Service Retail Branch

Matrix

Coarse-grained matrix Image: String of the s

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X-axis /Y-axis matrix can be **coarse-grained or fine-grained**, depending on how much information needs to be captured. Matrix can be also nested.





Product Discovery Matrix Template









Product Components Discovery Template "Bricks & Snakes"

Component Name:	Component Name:	Component Name:	Component Name:
Component Owner:	Component Owner:	Component Owner:	Component Owner:
Component ID:	Component ID:	Component ID:	Component ID:
Component Developer(s)/Location:	Component Developer(s)/Location:	Component Developer(s)/Location:	Component Developer(s)/Location:
Skill-set/domain knowledge:	Skill-set/domain knowledge:	Skill-set/domain knowledge:	Skill-set/domain knowledge:
"Organizational Ownership":	"Organizational Ownership":	"Organizational Ownership":	"Organizational Ownership":
Component Name:	Component Name:	Component Name:	Component Name:
Component Owner:	Component Owner:	Component Owner:	Component Owner:
Component ID:	Component ID:	Component ID:	Component ID:
Component Developer(s)/Location:	Component Developer(s)/Location:	Component Developer(s)/Location:	Component Developer(s)/Location:
Skill-set/domain knowledge:	Skill-set/domain knowledge:	Skill-set/domain knowledge:	Skill-set/domain knowledge:
"Organizational Ownership":	"Organizational Ownership":	"Organizational Ownership":	"Organizational Ownership":
Component Name: Component Owner: Component ID:	Component Name: Component Owner: Component ID:	Component Name: Component Owner: Component ID:	Component Name: Component Owner:
Component Developer(s)/Location: Skill-set/domain knowledge: "Organizational Ownership":	Component Developer(s)/Location: Skill-set/domain knowledge: "Organizational Ownership":	Component D. Component Developer(s)/Location: Skill-set/domain knowledge: "Organizational Ownership":	Component ID: Component Developer(s)/Location: Skill-set/domain knowledge: "Organizational Ownership":







(Balancing between "Ideal" and "Practical" Product Definition)

Use expanding and narrowing questions, to help deriving product definition that is both: as ideal, and as practical, as possible:





Business Prioritization Matrix Template







Story Mapping Template

			ltem – L1					ltem – L1						ltem – L1							
	ltem– L2		.2 Item– L2 Item– L2]	ltem– L2		ltem	m– L2 Iten		L2		Item	ltem– L2		ltem– L2		ltem– L2			
High	、 と	Item– L3	ltem– L3	Item– L3	ltem– L3	Item– L3	Item– L3		ltem– L3	ltem– L3	Item– L3	ltem– L3	Item– L3	Item– L3		ltem– L3	Item– L3	Item– L3	Item– L3	Item– L3	ltem– L3
	Release	Item– L3	ltem- L3	ltem– L3	ltem– L3	ltem– L3	ltem– L3		ltem– L3	ltem– L3	ltem– L3	ltem- L3	ltem– L3	ltem– L3		ltem– L3	ltem– L3	ltem– L3	ltem- L3	ltem– L3	ltem– L3
ity	Release N	Item– L3	Item– L3	ltem– L3	Item– L3	ltem– L3	ltem– L3		ltem– L3	ltem– L3	ltem– L3	ltem– L3	Item– L3	ltem– L3		ltem– L3	Item– L3	Item– L3	ltem– L3	Item– L3	ltem– L3
Priority	Rele	Item– L3	Item– L3	ltem– L3	Item– L3	ltem– L3	Item– L3]	ltem– L3	Item– L3	ltem– L3	Item-L3	ltem– L3	Item– L3		ltem– L3	Item– L3	ltem– L3	ltem– L3	ltem– L3	ltem– L3
	e N+1	ltem– L3	Item– L3	ltem– L3	ltem– L3	ltem– L3	ltem– L3		ltem– L3	ltem– L3	ltem– L3	ltem– L3	ltem– L3	ltem– L3		ltem– L3	Item– L3	ltem– L3	ltem– L3	Item– L3	ltem– L3
Low	Release	Item– L3	Item– L3	ltem– L3	Item– L3	ltem– L3	Item– L3		ltem– L3	ltem– L3	ltem– L3	Item- L3	ltem– L3	Item– L3		ltem– L3	Item– L3	ltem– L3	ltem– L3	Item– L3	ltem– L3

Note: Try not to exceed three levels of decomposition







Product Delivery Maturity Model

Customer focus Are delivery efforts tied to validated customer needs?	definitely not	unlikely	not sure	most likely	definitely
Outcome orientation Are we delivering features or solving real problems?	definitely not	unlikely	not sure	most likely	definitely
Discovery & validation Is experimentation built into the delivery lifecycle?	definitely not	unlikely	not sure	most likely	definitely
Team autonomy How empowered are teams to make decisions?	definitely not	unlikely	not sure	most likely	definitely
Collaboration How aligned are product, design, and engineering?	definitely not	unlikely	not sure	most likely	definitely
Feedback loops How quickly do teams learn from usage, data, and users?	definitely not	unlikely	not sure	most likely	definitely
Flow and cadence How smooth, fast, and sustainable is delivery?	definitely not	unlikely	not sure	most likely	definitely
Technical agility Are practices like CI/CD, TDD, and automation in place?	definitely not	unlikely	not sure	most likely	definitely

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"Bricks & Snakes"



As Product Owner, I want the following components to be included in Product Definition, so that I see it as a REAL Product that I can successfully prioritize.

Team 1

Team 2

Technical Skill Set (per Team)

1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			
10.			
11.			
12.			
13.			
14.			
18.			
19.			
20.			

Note: What technical skill set (e.g. technology, language) a team needs to have, in order to perform work in a backlog, to meet Definition of Done?

Functional Domain Expertize (per Team)

	1
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20.	

Note: What domain expertise (e.g. line of business) each team needs to have, in order to perform work in a backlog, to meet Definition of Done?

Team 1

Team 2

Technical Skill Set (each Team)

1.		
2.		
3.	 	
4.	 	
5.	 	
6.	 	
7.	 	
8.	 	
9.	 	
10.	 	

Functional Domain Expertize (each Team)



Note: What technical skill set (e.g. technology, language) a team needs to have, in order to perform work in a backlog, to meet Definition of Done?

Note: What domain expertise (e.g. line of business) each team needs to have, in order to perform work in a backlog, to meet Definition of Done?

Team 1

Team 2

Prototype Product Group 'Blueprint' (beyond Teams)

Prototype Team 'Blueprint'



Note: Team 'blueprint' is a template of what a team may look like, given technical skillset and domain expertise required, in order to perform work in a backlog? **Do not assign individuals to teams**: teams will be created during a self-design workshop.

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
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15.	

Note: Product Group 'blueprint' is a template of what the whole group may look like, including teams, Product Owner and users/customers, in order to function effectively and independently?

The Big Day: Team Self-Formation Workshop

Run Team Self-Design Exercise



Note: Use this sheet to capture names of team members (each team) during Team Self-Formation Workshop. Managers do NOT create teams on behalf of teams.

Initial Product Backlog Refinement (IPBR)

[Initial] Product Backlog High Priority 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. _____ 9. 10. _____ 11. 12. _____ 13. _____ 14. _____ 15. _____ 16. _____ 17. _____ 18. _____ 19. _____ 20. Low Priority

Note: Initial product backlog should provide enough work ("feed" work) for teams during the first few sprints of LeSS adoption. This takes place during Initial Product Backlog Refinement event. **Participation of an entire product group is required**.



Note: A check list of items that must be done, by the end of each sprint, in order deliver a product increment (PI), as per agreement, by all teams, and with Product Owner. In LeSS, all teams share the same Definition of Done. The goal should be to expand Done, over time.

Note: A check list of items that are explicitly known, as 'undoable', due to technical and/or organizational limitations. The goal should be to reduce 'Undone' over time.

Organizational Impediment Backlog



Note: What organizational impediments (e.g. HR policies, reporting structure, career path, location strategies, budgeting, etc.) may potentially hinder healthy dynamics of a product group in LeSS adoption? Who will self-assign this responsibility (e.g. sr. manager, executive)? How do you plan on measuring progress of impediment resolution?