



# draw.io goes whiteboard

Pushing the boundaries of diagramming  
in Confluence

## draw.io White Papers: Time to get interactive, the draw.io Board

draw.io has and always will be your prime diagramming go-to tool giving you the ability to visualize everything and anything needed for your business.

Use cases such as Process Visualization, Network Architecture, UML, BPMN 2.0, Org charts, Floorplans, and infographics are only a few examples where draw.io is the preferred tool of choice. You see, there's a reason why no other diagramming app in the Atlassian ecosystem has more active installations than draw.io.

But this doesn't keep us from pushing the boundaries of what's possible to provide even more value to your teams. So how do we do that? Easy: you talk, we listen.

This is not just marketing speak. We constantly monitor our feature request [Github repository](#) for feedback and suggestions. Here you can file feature requests and upvote ideas added to our [publicly visible backlog](#), always following the Atlassian core value "Open company, no bulls\*\*\*!". We tell you this because the new whiteboarding feature was your idea, initiated and upvoted by you, our users. So keep in mind that we thrive on feedback and are always listening. You have the power to improve draw.io even further.



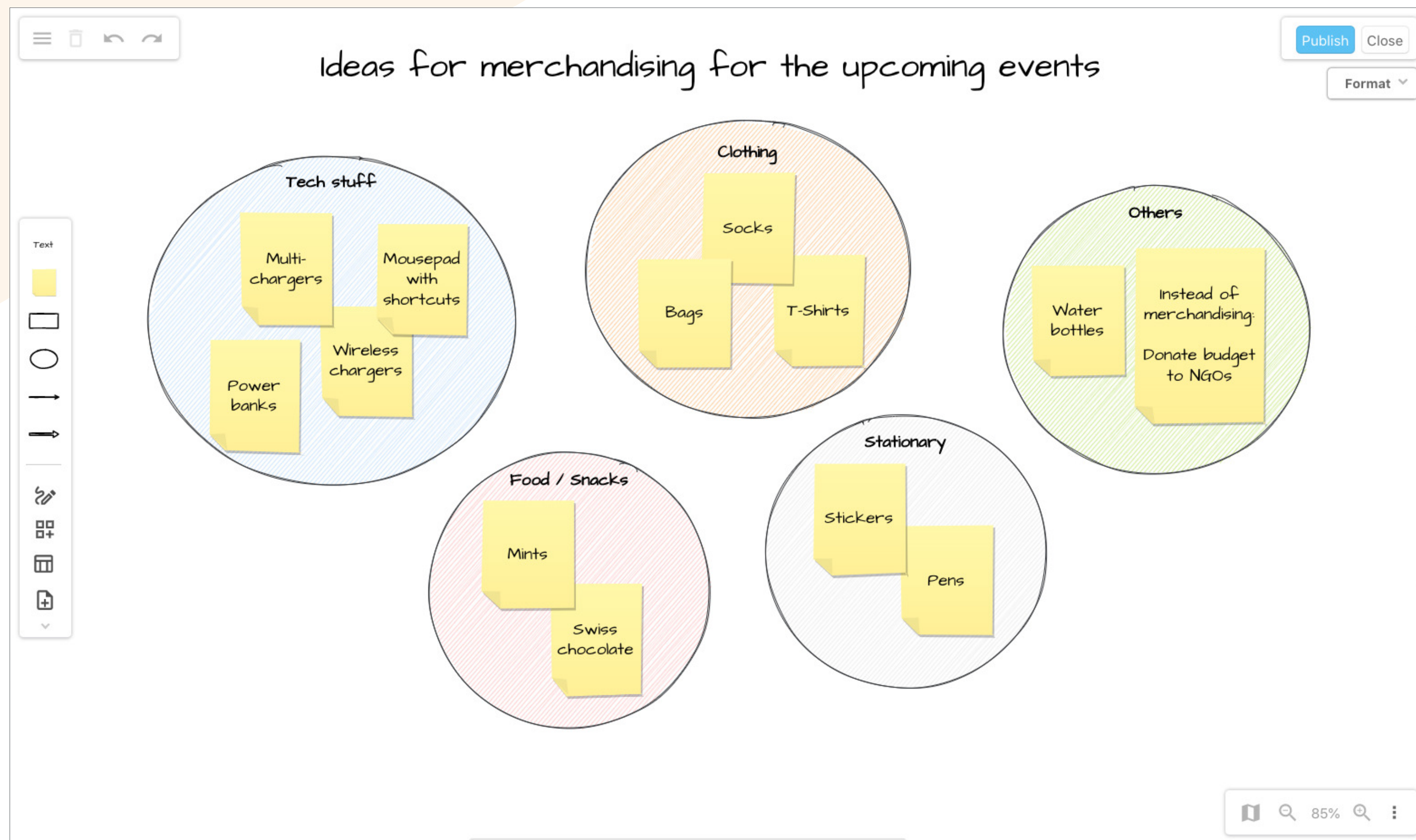


# Interactive whiteboarding

The idea of your teams working distributed is not new, but it was uncommon. The pandemic changed everything. It has really forced many businesses to rethink the concept of work, as events like meetings went from mainly in-person to almost 100% digital overnight.

## The kitchen is the new boardroom

You requested a fast, agile solution to create ideas and develop content collaboratively and in real-time inside of draw.io for Confluence. It also had to be as close to a physical whiteboard as possible, allowing and encouraging teams to draw, sketch and doodle. To add post-it notes just as if they were using a real whiteboard.



And here is what we came up with - The draw.io Board editor!

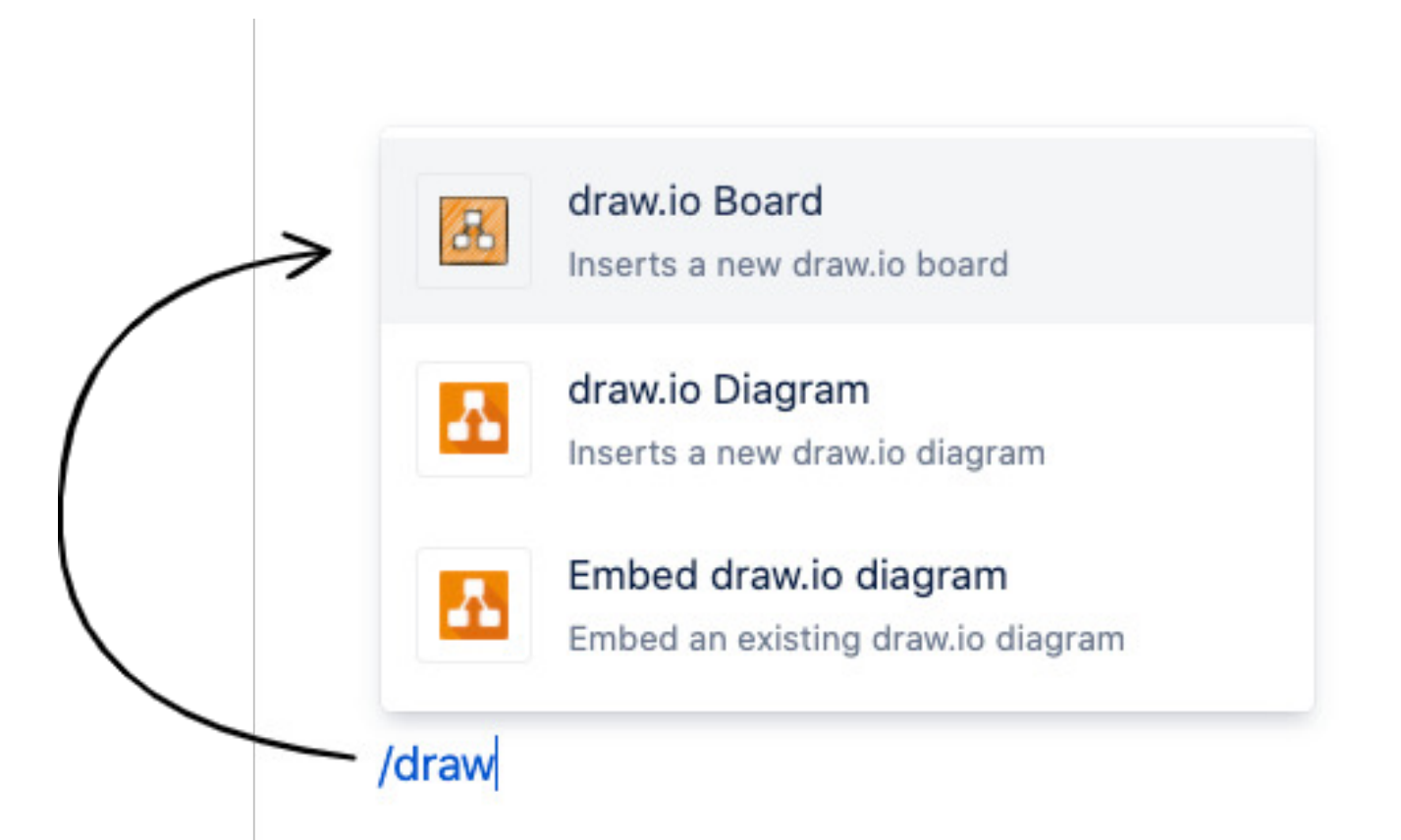




## It's a new feature, not a new app

This new Board editor is an additional macro that now lives in our draw.io Diagrams for Confluence app.

The draw.io Board macro appears alongside the Diagrams editor, just type `/draw` to access it. In Confluence Server and Data Center, use the command `{draw}` instead.



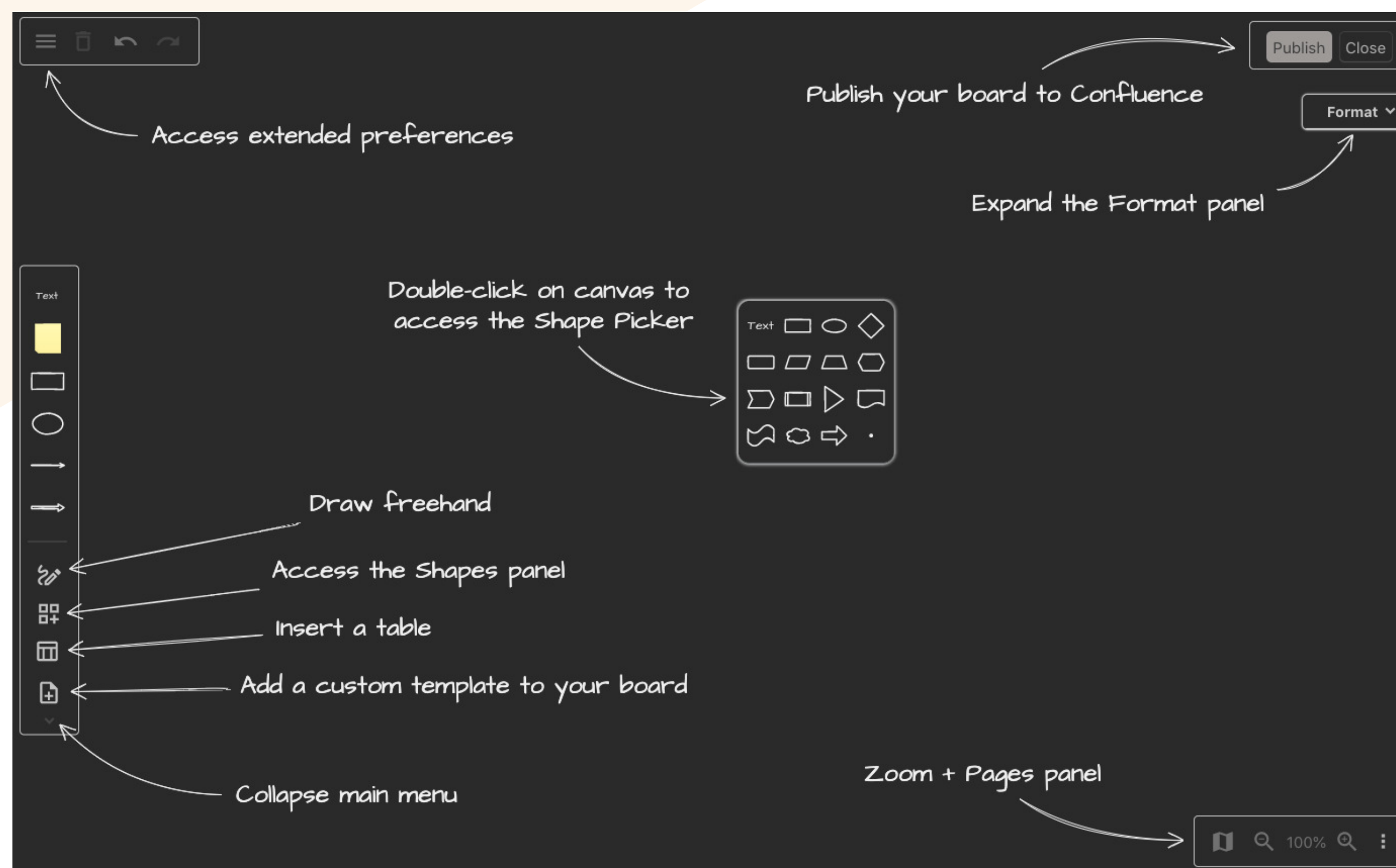
Just select it as you would the Diagram editor, and in a split second, you and your team can be throwing ideas around collaboratively on a digital whiteboard.

When you access the Board editor for the first time, you will see that you have almost the entire screen real estate at your disposal while the menus are significantly reduced.



The heart of the editor is the main menu. Here you will find five standard shapes to start the creation process. You can even collapse this menu to have even more drawing space available (in this case, you simply work with our Shape Picker, which you can call up by double-clicking on the drawing area).

In the second half of the main menu, you find four options to bring your draw.io whiteboard to life. Let's go through them briefly.



**Draw freehand:** As its name suggests you can draw any shape or line.

**Shapes:** This allows you to quickly access the full draw.io Shapes library. Click on the icon and a pop-up window will appear, select the shape you need and close or collapse the panel.

**Table:** Quickly add a table to your whiteboard.

**Templates:** One of the most powerful features in the Board editor. You can quickly add pre-made templates to your whiteboard. We will deal with this feature in detail later on.

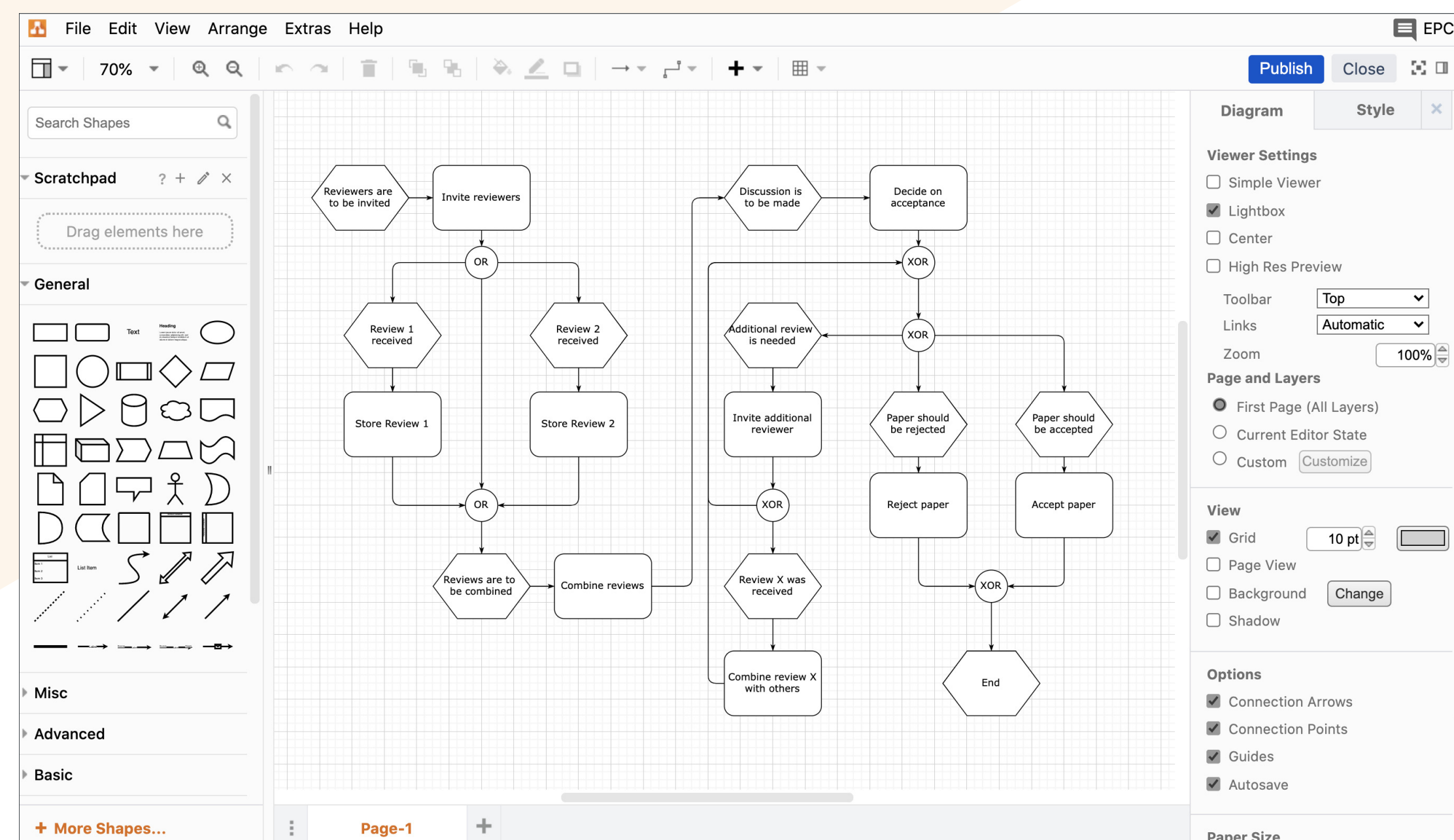
Of course, you can always format your whiteboard; just expand the Format panel to do so. In the Preferences panel, you can access a variety of additional options, from using layers, activating multiple pages per board, and switching to dark mode. It's self-explanatory; the options to import and export your board content are as versatile as the Diagrams editors' ideas.

[› See the Board editor menu in action](#)

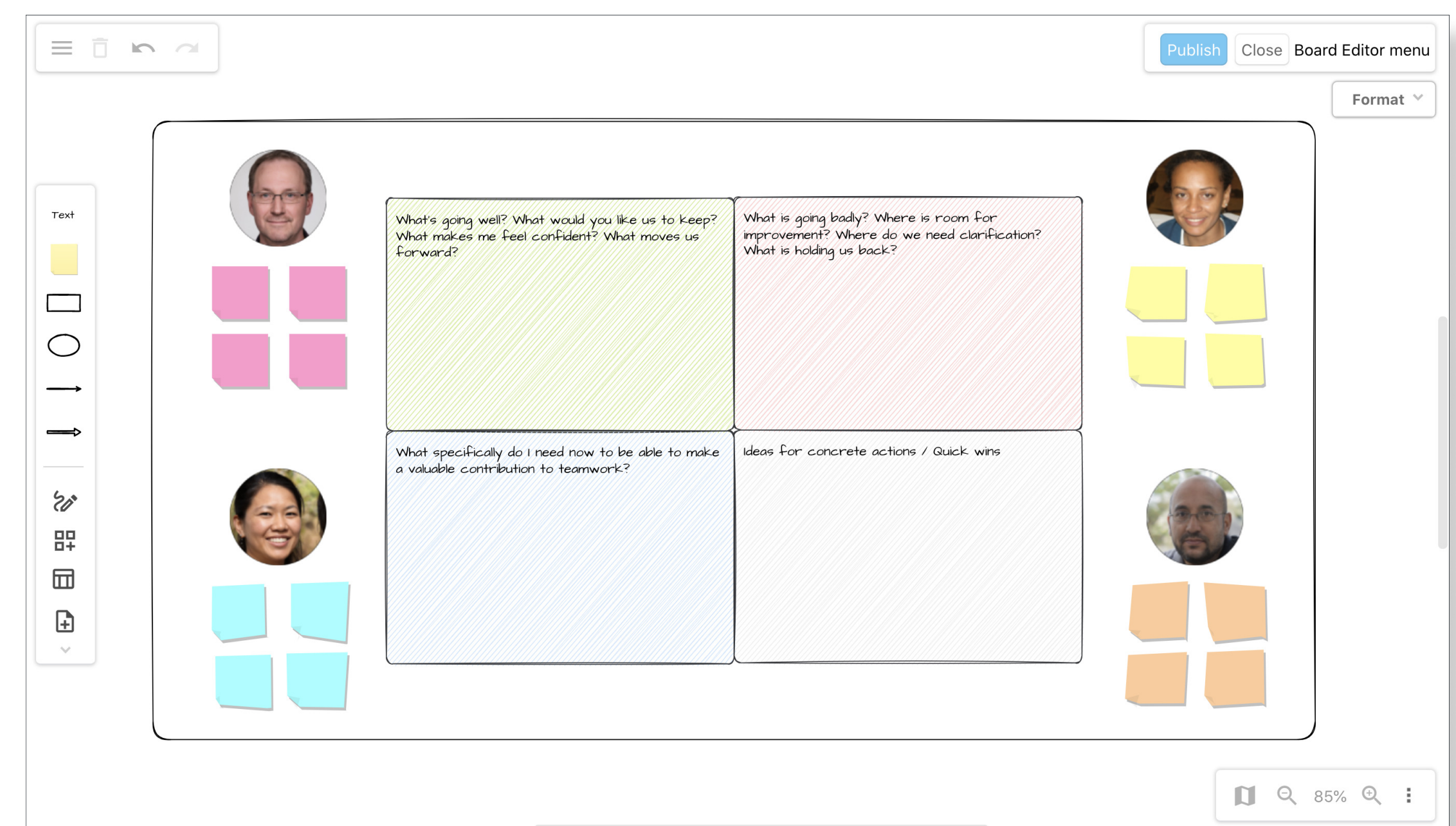


# When to use the diagrams and when to decide for the Board editor

Good question, here is our definition on how we see both editors:



The familiar **Diagrams editor** is a comprehensive engineering solution offering the power and precision needed in professional environments. It's your go-to diagramming tool in Confluence. It's the diagramming tool used from the "laying down of the keel" of a project to the final launching. The focus of the Diagrams editor is more on documenting a project and less on the creation of ideas.



The interface of the **Board editor**, on the other hand, is cleaner and simpler. The focus is on the development of ideas. You can start sketching your thoughts and proposals immediately with the basic shapes, cluster them, and further elaborate. Due to the "Less is more" approach, you can use the editor immediately and without any prior knowledge.



You decide which editor suits you most. The Board editor already contains most of the Diagram editor's features. Just [add a grid to your whiteboard and uncheck the sketch option](#), and your diagrams will be almost identical to those from the Diagram editor.

So that's the Board editor in theory.

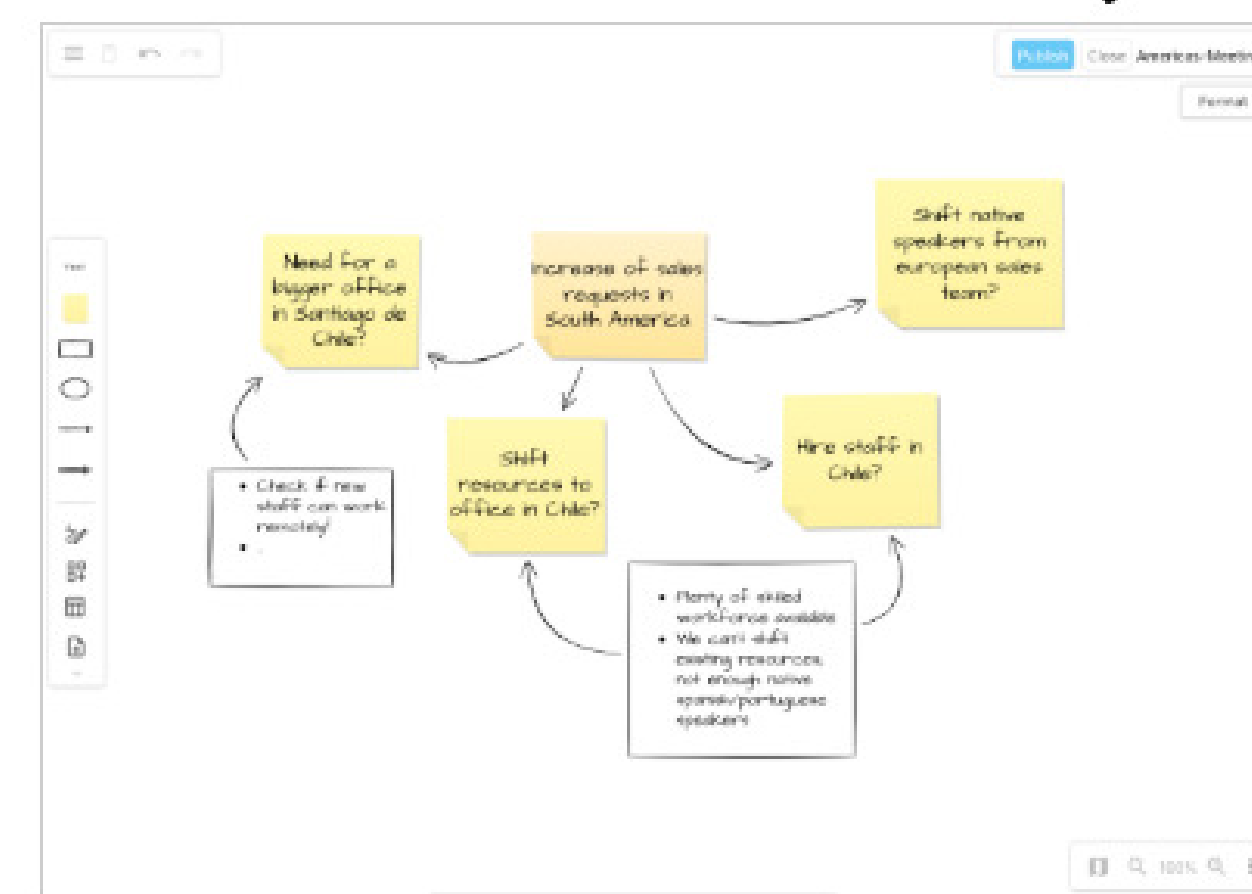
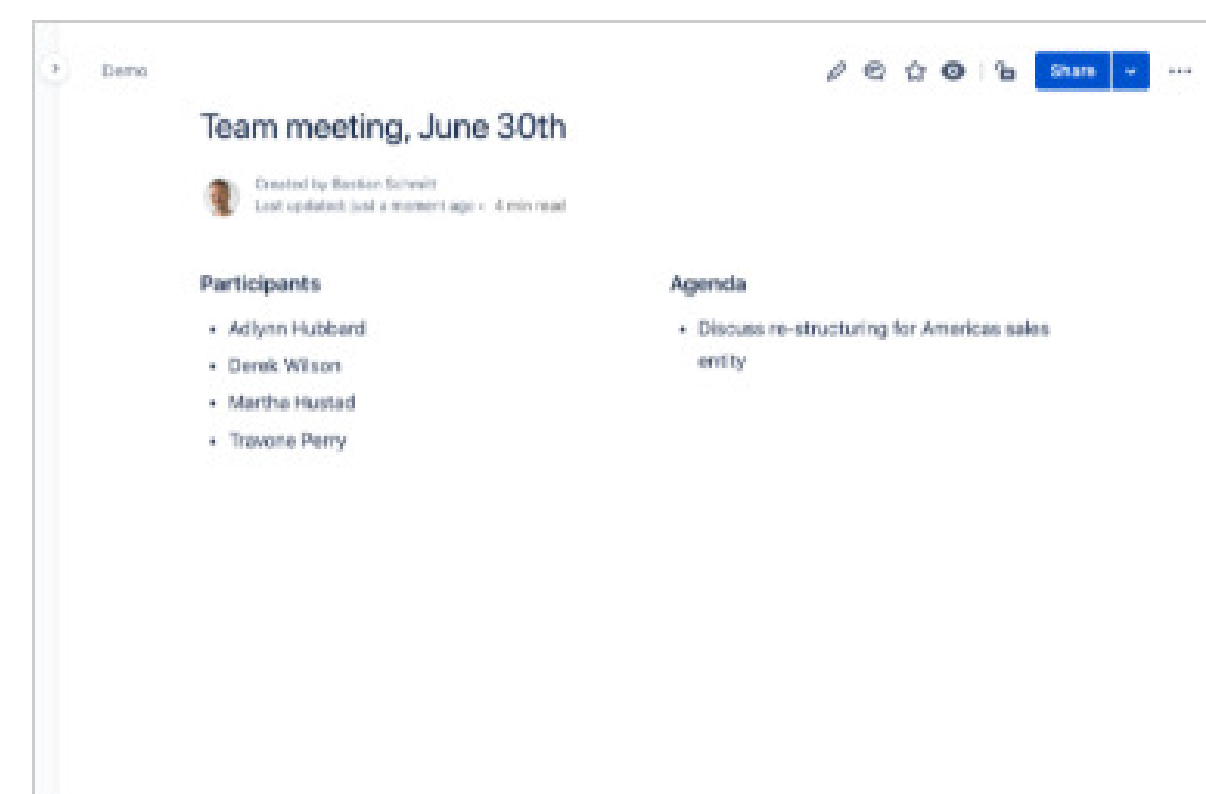


## How about some use-cases?

Draw.io Boards is your weapon of choice for all situations where you work together to develop and advance ideas. The editor is incredibly intuitive, requiring little or no training. And it can be accessed in Confluence in just a few seconds, making it even more attractive to Confluence users. This makes us the only natively integrated diagramming app that allows you to collaboratively visualize content and automatically save the results in Confluence.

# From Brainstorming to Project Planning and everything in between

A whiteboard can be created in mere seconds, and ideas collected, clustered, and evaluated by the entire team. It's really that fast, and the results now live in Confluence, accessible anytime by anyone. You're familiar with old-school brainstorming with post-it notes and marker pens. Well, this takes it to a new level with an infinite whiteboard.



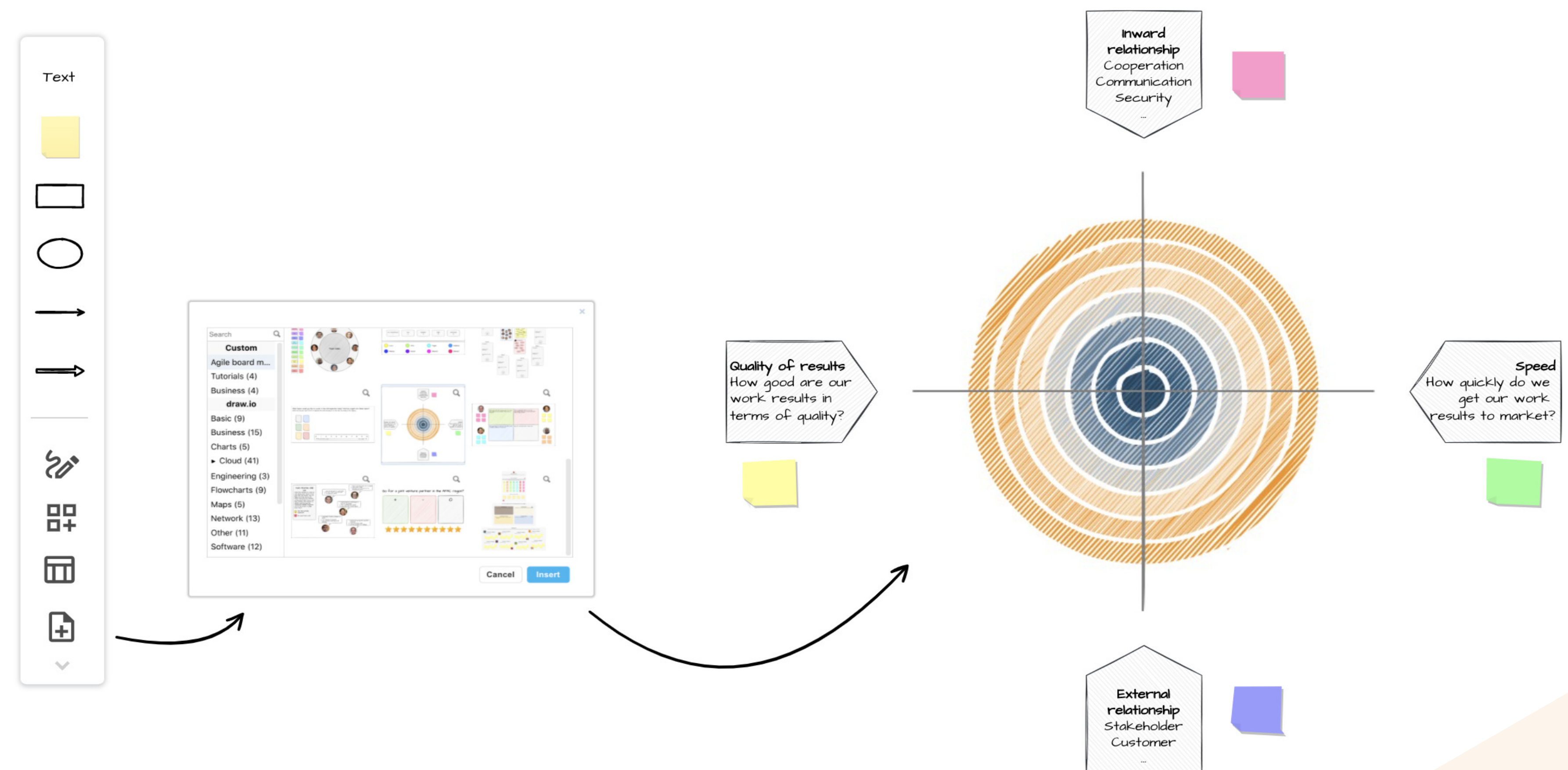


# Structured meetings

Meetings aren't always open sessions, some follow a specific framework and therefore require a predefined structure to work with. This is where the template library comes into its own.

You only need to visualize the agenda once and [save it as a custom template](#). Then it can always be accessed from the template manager inside the draw.io Board. From recurring quarterly meetings to team retrospectives, there is a wide range of situations where templates save you a lot of time and effort.

Check out [our blog series on using the Board editor in an agile environment](#) to learn more about this topic.

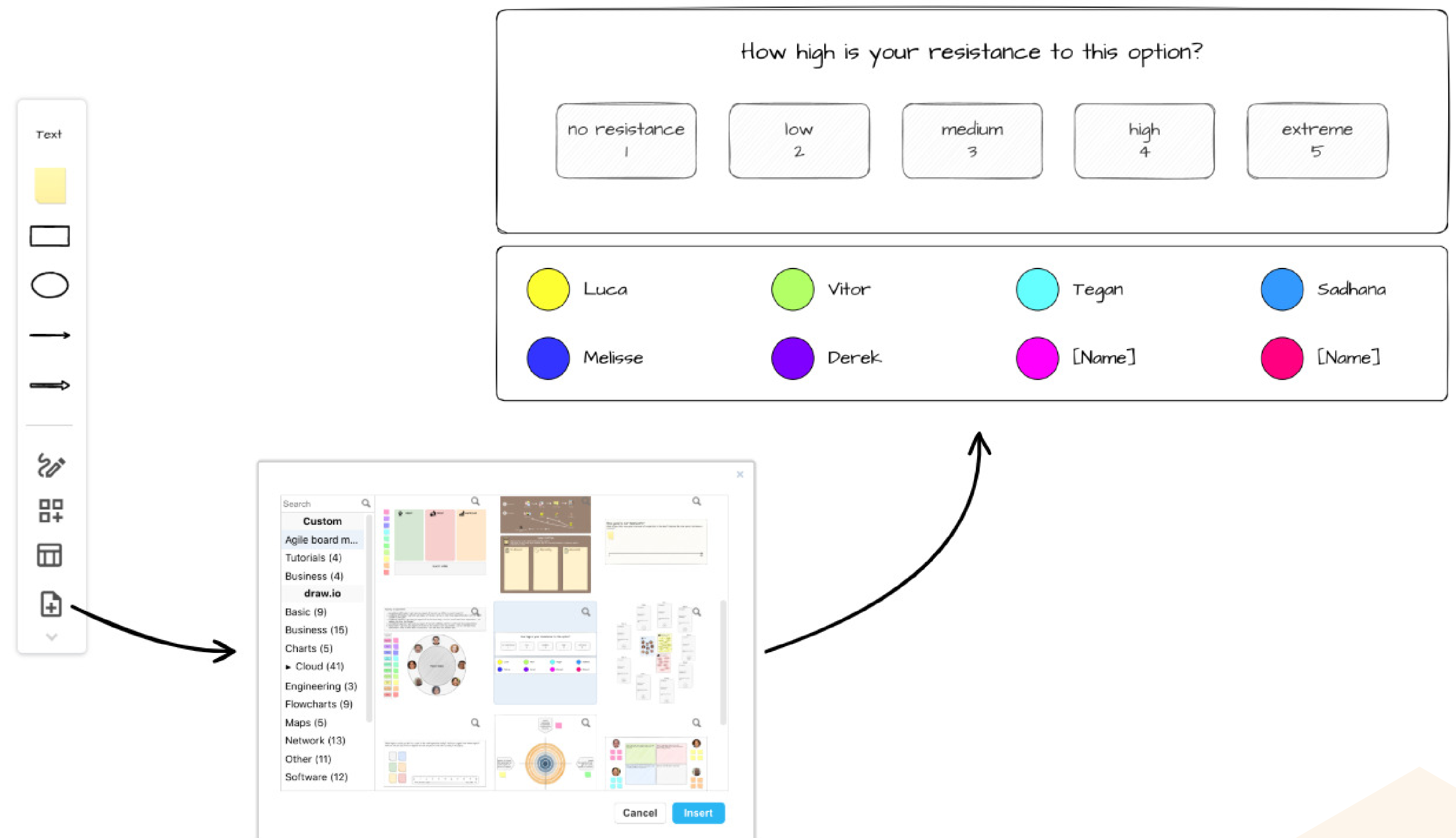


# Focus drift

Templates also offer another powerful advantage. Depending on your team's style of meeting, open or planned, focus drift can be a major time-waster, leading to spurious tangential discussions.

Using smaller custom templates, you can refocus the meeting. E.g., with one click, you can quickly insert a resistance poll, visually flagging just how relevant the current discussion is, bringing the debate back on track.

Meetings run more timely, efficiently, and smoothly.





## Let's wrap up

So, to sum up, the new Board feature is fast and simple to use yet powerful, and when combined with Confluence, it takes the sharing of ideas and internal communications to a whole new level.

Now it is your chance to impress your friends and colleagues, spread the word and start creating and communicating using the Board editor. As the communication of ideas and solutions improves, you will wonder how you ever managed without it.

If you are new to draw.io, [visit the Atlassian Marketplace and start your 30-day trial today](#). 10 users or less? Confluence Cloud and draw.io are permanently free of charge. So it's a no-brainer. Dive into the world of whiteboards today.

And why not stay up to date on the latest cool draw.io features, follow us on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), or [Facebook](#)? Whatever you do, may the force always draw with you ;)



### Security and privacy in whiteboards

The standards of our Diagrams editor also apply to the draw.io Board editor: [No compromises regarding security and privacy of your data.](#)

**Support:** [support@draw.io](mailto:support@draw.io)

**Start your free trial now!**

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