

The life and death of a spreadsheet

The process of pushing a spreadsheet beyond its limits can sneak up on you in ways most of us are all too familiar with. Below, we lay out seven humorous but daunting steps that spreadsheets go through to exceed their use.

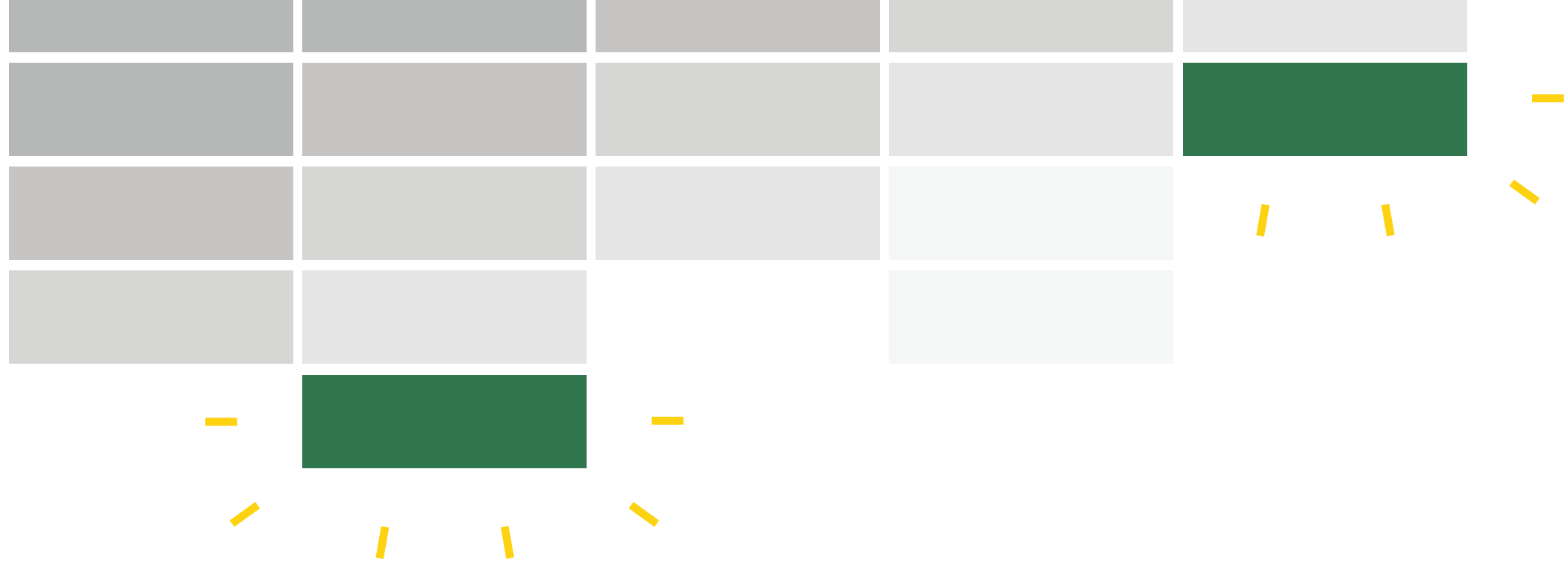
1 A good idea is conceived

Using simple and trustworthy data, a new spreadsheet is born.



2 Cells multiply

A reliable source of information, into which line items, tabs, and formulas are soon added.



3 A vibrant life begins

The spreadsheet is shared with the team and numerous stakeholders get involved.



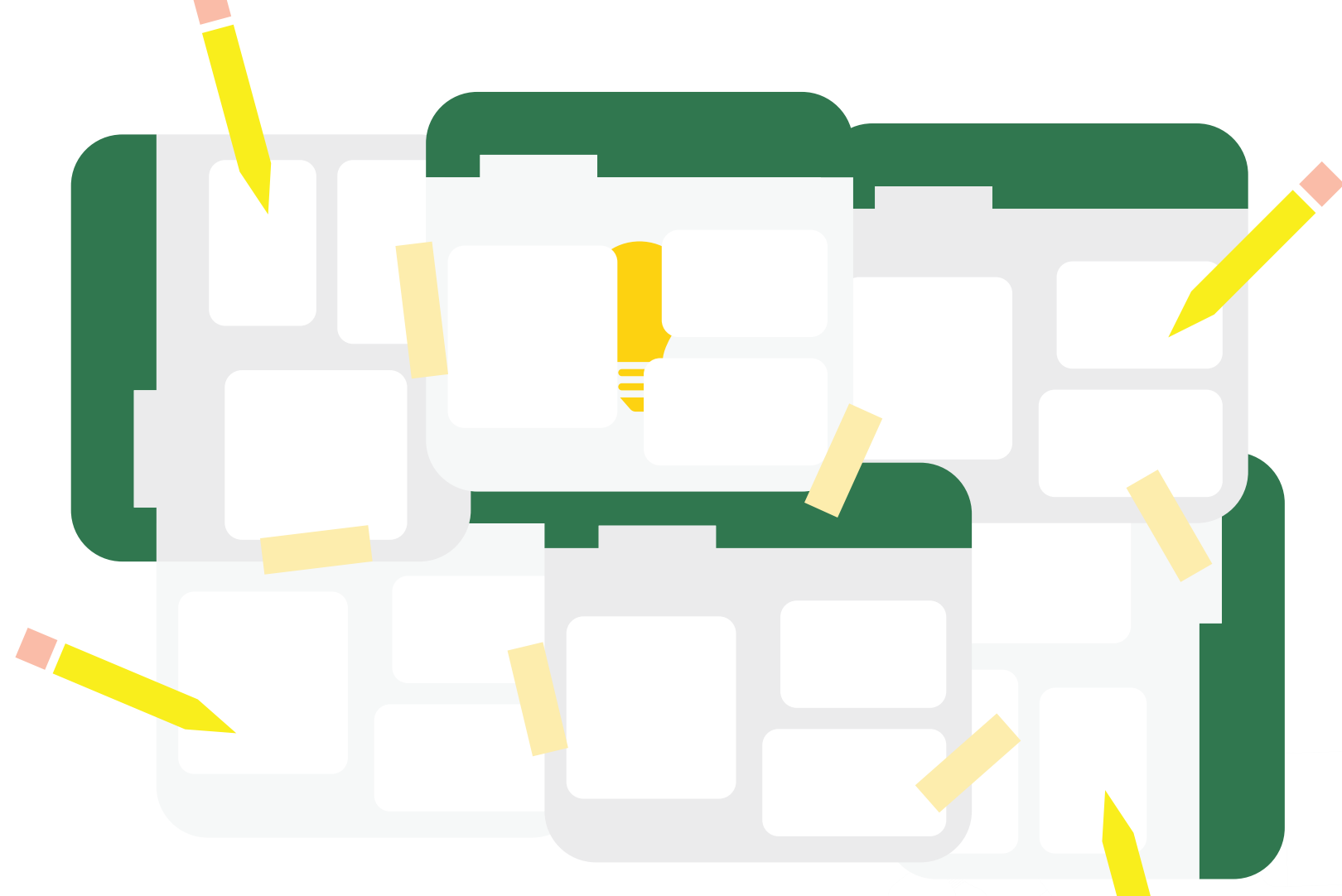
4 Environmental side-effects

As macros and external data are incorporated, version control issues grow, and the understanding of the solution fades.



5 The growth spurt

The spreadsheet gets bigger, extended scrolling is required, and tabs multiply. You begin relying on manual calculations and errors arise.



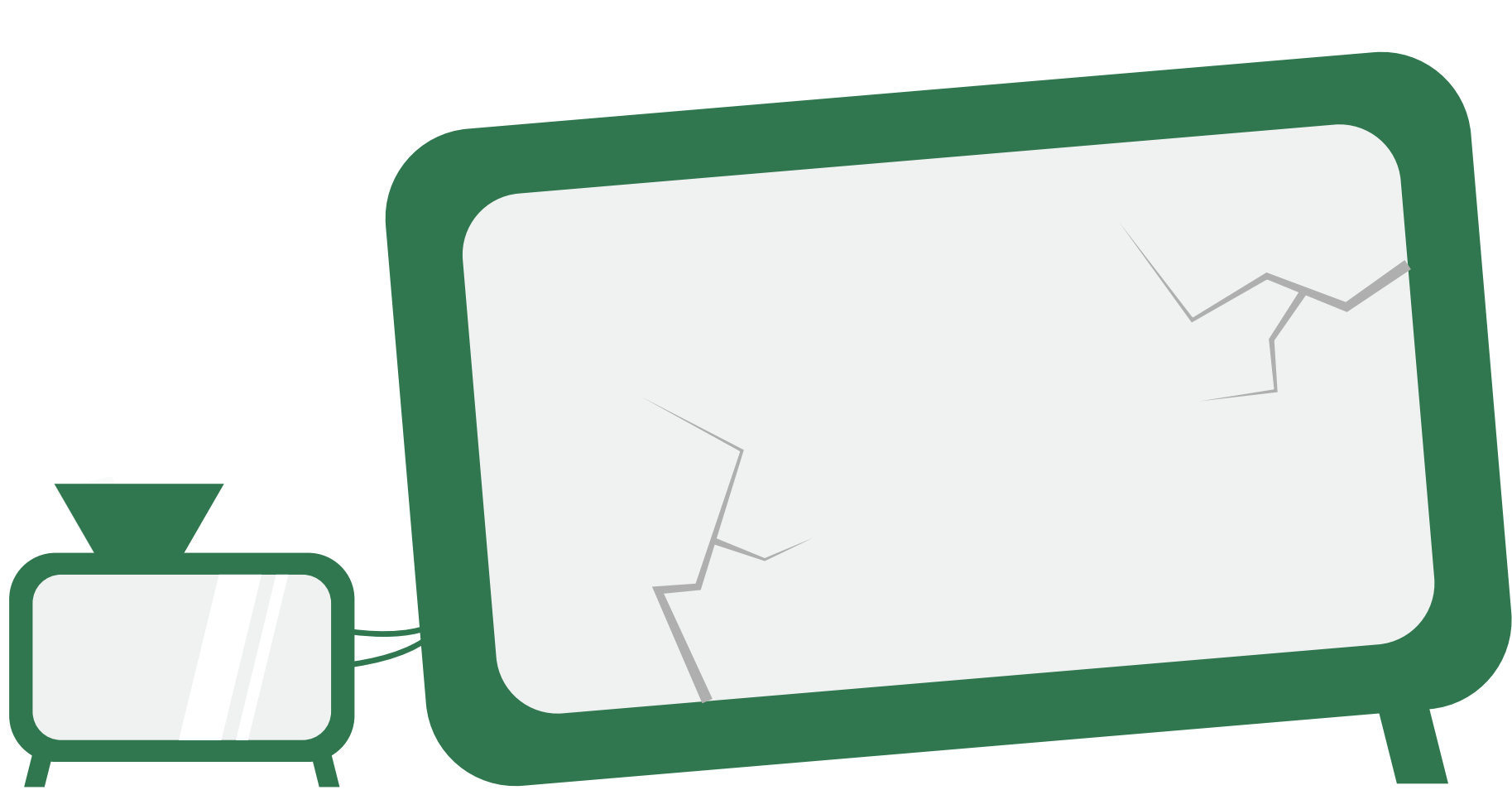
6 Mid-life crisis

The spreadsheet isn't nearly good enough. As dirty data and version control issues escalate, a database is added to the mix.



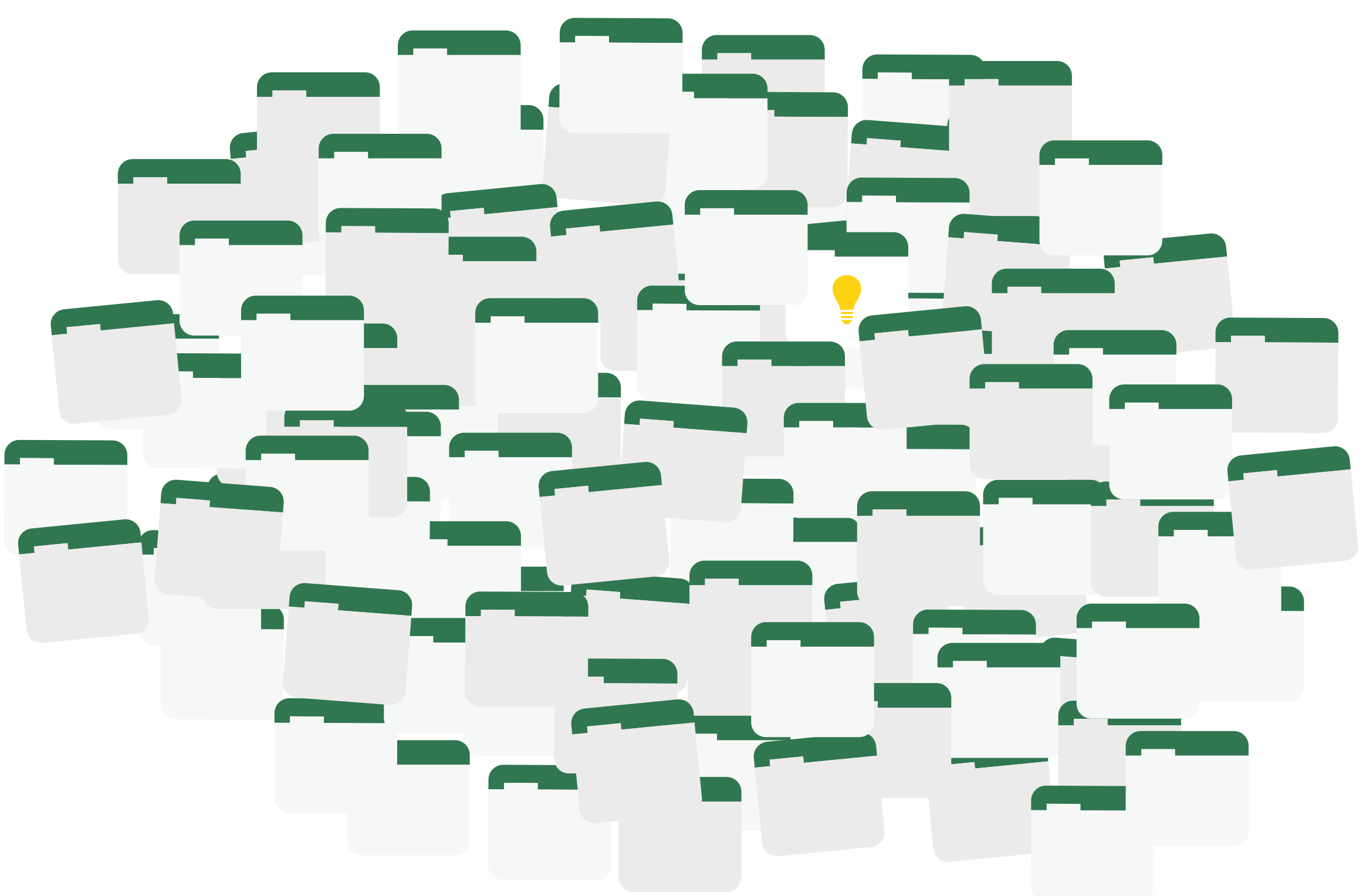
7 Bones begin to cripple

The database's size and user limits are met too quickly, so a higher-end database fills the gap—except its bones are poorly designed.



8 Death by numbers

The spreadsheet and database have reached their limits; few understand the spreadsheet's life story, trust its data, or bother to resuscitate it.



To learn more, go to anaplan.com