# Google’s AI Overview feature sparks trust concerns after confusing 2024 with 2025



Google has invested heavily in artificial intelligence, particularly in rolling out sophisticated AI models and tools, such as NotebookLM and the recently introduced Google AI Edge Gallery, which enables powerful AI capabilities without the need for internet connectivity. However, amidst this aggressive push, the tech giant faces growing scrutiny over the reliability of its AI features, particularly the AI Overview function. Recently, this feature embarrassingly claimed, with misplaced confidence, that it was still the year 2024, despite being half a year into 2025.

A post on the subreddit r/google highlighted this notable lapse, where the AI Overview misled users by firmly stating it was not yet 2025 while subsequently contradicting itself with a declaration that the current year was indeed 2025. This incident not only sparked amusement among users but also raised serious concerns about the reliability of such AI functionalities. While Google swiftly addressed the issue by updating the responses, it is becoming increasingly clear that the company’s AI aspirations are hindered by fundamental limitations in understanding and generating accurate information.

Google's AI models, including the AI Overview, are designed to pull data from online sources, and although many responses are factual, the inconsistency of answers has elicited criticism. This most recent error echoes previous incidents where erroneous advice was dispensed, such as recommendations to consume inappropriate materials or misinterpretations of language queries. The frequency of these peculiar mistakes serves as a cautionary tale for users, highlighting that even advanced AI still struggles with tasks that require simple logic or contextual understanding.

Compounding issues of inconsistency, experts have also expressed apprehension about potential biases and misinformation embedded within AI-generated content. A scrutiny of the AI's capabilities revealed instances where it fabricated information entirely, raising alarms about the integrity of AI outputs. Melanie Mitchell, an AI researcher, noted that AI models often fail to accurately assess context or validate the sources they cite, resulting in significant misinformation risk. Following these revelations, Google has acknowledged the need for ongoing improvements and announced various technical refinements aimed at bolstering the accuracy of their systems.

The implications of such errors extend beyond the immediate amusement they may generate online, as they impact Google's reputation and the user trust in AI tools. Just recently, Chegg, a US educational technology company, filed a lawsuit against Google, arguing that AI-generated content diminishes the demand for original work and infringes on antitrust laws. The lawsuit illustrates the broader concern that the automated content promulgated by Google's AI systems could undermine the very digital ecosystems they are intended to serve, demonstrating a continuing struggle within the tech giant to balance innovation with responsibility.

While Google's rapid advancements in AI, showcased during events like the recent I/O conference, reflect an ambitious vision for integrating AI into everyday applications such as Gmail, the foundational inaccuracies highlight critical gaps in their approach. As the company continues to roll out updates and enhancements, the juxtaposition of groundbreaking technology with operational missteps presents a complex narrative, emphasising the need for caution in trusting expansive AI capabilities. The narrative reinforces that while AI can assist in various capacities, users must remain discerning and aware of its limitations, particularly when utilising systems that consistently prove prone to error.

As Google evolves its AI offerings, it serves as an ongoing reminder that while the future of AI holds immense potential, the road ahead is fraught with challenges that demand urgent attention and rectification.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.androidpolice.com/google-ai-overview-blunder-proves-ai-needs-reality-check/), [[3]](https://www.laptopmag.com/ai/googles-ai-push-overshadowed-awkward-date-error)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.androidpolice.com/google-ai-overview-blunder-proves-ai-needs-reality-check/), [[2]](https://www.techradar.com/computing/search-engines/google-ai-overview-thinks-its-still-2024-sometimes), [[3]](https://www.laptopmag.com/ai/googles-ai-push-overshadowed-awkward-date-error)
* Paragraph 3 – [[5]](https://apnews.com/article/c4061a38b5e186f7abc41ee011da329f), [[6]](https://www.euronews.com/next/2024/05/27/googles-new-ai-summaries-tool-causes-concern-after-producing-misleading-responses)
* Paragraph 4 – [[4]](https://www.reuters.com/legal/googles-ai-previews-erode-internet-edtech-company-says-lawsuit-2025-02-24/), [[6]](https://www.euronews.com/next/2024/05/27/googles-new-ai-summaries-tool-causes-concern-after-producing-misleading-responses)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.androidpolice.com/google-ai-overview-blunder-proves-ai-needs-reality-check/), [[7]](https://arstechnica.com/information-technology/2024/05/googles-ai-overview-can-give-false-misleading-and-dangerous-answers/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.androidpolice.com/google-ai-overview-blunder-proves-ai-needs-reality-check/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.techradar.com/computing/search-engines/google-ai-overview-thinks-its-still-2024-sometimes> - A recent issue highlights that Google's AI Overview occasionally provides incorrect information about the current year. A Reddit post revealed the AI stating it was still 2024 when asked if it was 2025. Google claimed to have fixed the problem, but inconsistencies remain, with the AI sometimes asserting contradictory statements like 'It is not 2025. The current year is 2025.' This glitch underscores the limitations of generative AI systems, which often act as advanced autocomplete tools lacking true understanding. Although most responses from AI Overview are accurate, these rare but peculiar mistakes raise concerns about reliability in a tool meant to deliver trustworthy information from credible sources.
3. <https://www.laptopmag.com/ai/googles-ai-push-overshadowed-awkward-date-error> - At its recent annual I/O event, Google emphasized expanding its Gemini AI model across devices and services, including Gmail. The company plans to introduce AI-generated email summaries in Gmail, which will provide bullet points summarizing emails and their responses. This feature, enabled by default but optional, will initially support only English-language emails. However, Google's AI rollout faced criticism due to a notable error involving date recognition. A viral Reddit post highlighted a Google Search response where the AI incorrectly stated the current year as 2024 instead of 2025. Testing by Wired confirmed the inconsistency, including contradictions within a single summary. Google's spokesperson acknowledged the issue and stated that improvements are ongoing to ensure accuracy in AI-generated content. The AI has since been corrected to reflect the current year accurately, though concerns remain about potential future errors.
4. <https://www.reuters.com/legal/googles-ai-previews-erode-internet-edtech-company-says-lawsuit-2025-02-24/> - Chegg, a US-based educational technology company, has filed a lawsuit against Google, claiming that the tech giant's AI-generated content is undermining the digital publishing industry by reducing demand for original work and driving users away from publishers' websites. As a result, Chegg has experienced a significant drop in visitors and subscribers, which has led the company to consider a sale or privatization. Google spokesperson Jose Castaneda dismissed the claims, arguing that AI overviews help users and drive traffic to various sites. Additionally, Chegg accuses Google of profiting from its content without proper compensation and argues that this practice violates antitrust laws. This lawsuit marks the first instance of a company alleging antitrust violations by Google through the use of AI overviews.
5. <https://apnews.com/article/c4061a38b5e186f7abc41ee011da329f> - Google said Friday it has made 'more than a dozen technical improvements' to its artificial intelligence systems after its retooled search engine was found spitting out erroneous information. The tech company unleashed a makeover of its search engine in mid-May that frequently provides AI-generated summaries on top of search results. Soon after, social media users began sharing screenshots of its most outlandish answers. Google has largely defended its AI overviews feature, saying it is typically accurate and was tested extensively beforehand.
6. <https://www.euronews.com/next/2024/05/27/googles-new-ai-summaries-tool-causes-concern-after-producing-misleading-responses> - Experts are concerned about bias and misinformation after Google's new AI overviews produced some misleading responses. Google unveiled a new feature this month in the US that includes artificial intelligence (AI) generated summaries at the top of its search engine. But already, some have pointed out errors in the information included in the new 'AI Overviews'. For example, Google's search engine responded to a query about astronauts meeting cats on the moon with fabricated information. Similar errors have been shared on social media since the makeover of Google's search page. Experts alarmed by AI summaries include Melanie Mitchell, an AI researcher at the Santa Fe Institute in New Mexico, who noted that the AI system is not smart enough to figure out that certain citations are not actually backing up false claims. Google said in a statement on Friday that it is taking 'swift action' to fix errors that violate its content policies. However, in most cases, Google claims the system is working the way it should thanks to extensive testing before its public release.
7. <https://arstechnica.com/information-technology/2024/05/googles-ai-overview-can-give-false-misleading-and-dangerous-answers/> - If you use Google regularly, you may have noticed the company's new AI Overviews providing summarized answers to some of your questions in recent days. If you use social media regularly, you may have come across many examples of those AI Overviews being hilariously or even dangerously wrong. Factual errors can pop up in existing LLM chatbots as well. But the potential damage that can be caused by AI inaccuracy gets multiplied when those errors appear atop the ultra-valuable web real estate of the Google search results page. The examples we've seen are generally very uncommon queries and aren't representative of most people's experiences, a Google spokesperson told Ars. The vast majority of AI Overviews provide high quality information, with links to dig deeper on the web. After looking through dozens of examples of Google AI Overview mistakes (and replicating many ourselves for the galleries below), we've noticed a few broad categories of errors that seemed to show up again and again. Consider this a crash course in some of the current weak points of Google's AI Overviews and a look at areas of concern for the company to improve as the system continues to roll out.