# Google warned not to over-automate five key apps despite AI advances



As Google prepares for its upcoming I/O conference, anticipation surrounding its evolving AI capabilities continues to grow. Over recent years, the tech giant has steadily integrated artificial intelligence into its suite of services, with visible enhancements across platforms like Photos, Gmail, and Docs. However, not every facet of Google’s expansive portfolio has been subsumed by AI, leaving room for distinctions between tools that benefit from technological evolution and those that might suffer from it.

Five applications, in particular, stand out as candidates for keeping AI interference to a minimum. Google’s Gboard is celebrated for its innovative features, particularly Emoji Kitchen, which offers users a playful way to create unique stickers. While AI has courageously entered many realms of creativity, the spontaneous charm of Emoji Kitchen, which relies on artistic design rather than algorithmic generation, raises concerns about authenticity. An already flawed attempt by competitors to create AI-driven emoji tools reinforces the need to preserve this beloved feature’s originality.

Google Keep, featuring a no-frills interface for note-taking and task management, also invites scrutiny. Despite introducing minor AI touches, such as prompts for creating lists, the app’s straightforward operation is favoured by many who see it as a reliable tool in the chaos of daily tasks. A fully AI-enhanced version risks complicating its simple, effective design, potentially stripping it of the warmth and familiarity users associate with it.

Similarly, the utility of Android Auto shines through its human-centric design, which allows for most driving-related tasks to be managed with minimal distraction. Although enhancements through AI, such as improved voice interaction with Gemini, could be beneficial, unnecessary complexities, like AI-suggested stops along routes, may exacerbate already prevalent issues of distraction while driving. Most users prefer a system where they can issue simple commands without the clutter of extraneous suggestions.

Google Wallet also benefits from its unembellished functionality as a mobile payment solution. While a touch of AI support exists, the app's fundamental value lies in its simplicity: storing cards, tickets, and rewards without complications. As consumers increasingly seek straightforward solutions for financial transactions, the last thing they need is an overbearing AI presence offering unsolicited advice or cluttering the user experience.

Lastly, Google Flights epitomises efficiency in travel planning through its intuitive interface focused on user control. Its current menu-based operation is user-friendly, contrasting sharply with the cumbersome approaches seen in other travel apps that have attempted to implement AI for more natural language interaction. A sudden shift to AI-driven chatbot assistance could detract from its core functionality, which thrives on providing clear, immediate choices for users.

The overarching sentiment reflects a broader apprehension towards the relentless push for AI integration across all facets of life. Not everything necessitates an 'AI upgrade'; sometimes, simplicity and human intuition deliver the most satisfying experience. As companies, including Google, innovatively wade into the complexities of AI, it is essential to recognise which tools genuinely benefit from technological advancements versus those that simply require a well-functioning, unembellished approach to serve their users best.

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.androidpolice.com/5-apps-google-cannot-be-allowed-to-ruin-with-ai/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.androidcentral.com/apps-software/ai/gemini-live-is-finally-arriving-on-enterprise-google-accounts-for-work-and-school> - Google has announced that Gemini Live, previously available only for personal accounts, is now rolling out to Google Workspace accounts used for work and school. Starting May 9, 2025, Gemini Live will be accessible through the Gemini mobile app for users aged 18 and older. It allows real-time multimodal conversations using voice, camera, or screen. However, administrators cannot disable Gemini Live independently once the Gemini app is enabled, and users can't manually delete their activity, which is retained for 18 months. Gemini Apps Activity is automatically enabled when Gemini access is granted, and collected data is used to improve Google services and machine-learning technologies. These changes come just ahead of the Google I/O 2025 developer conference, where AI and Workspace features are expected to be key topics. The rollout may take up to 15 days across all compatible Google Workspace plans and add-ons. ([androidcentral.com](https://www.androidcentral.com/apps-software/ai/gemini-live-is-finally-arriving-on-enterprise-google-accounts-for-work-and-school?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.techradar.com/pro/the-gloves-are-off-when-it-comes-to-innovation-google-workspace-head-tells-us-why-ai-really-can-revolutionize-the-way-you-work> - At the Google Cloud Next 25 event, Kristina Behr, VP of Product Management for Google Workspace, discussed how AI is poised to revolutionize productivity and work efficiency. With over three billion users globally, Google Workspace aims to deeply integrate AI into its core tools like Docs and Sheets. Recent innovations include audio features for Google Docs and enhanced data analysis in Sheets. Behr emphasized Google's strategy of leveraging its AI-accelerated hardware and proprietary large language models, such as DeepMind, to optimize both speed and quality of service. Rather than adopting traditional enterprise software approaches, Google focuses on innovation and personalization, aiming to modernize workflows and make AI tools contextually aware and authentically human-like. Behr also highlighted the importance of keeping humans in the decision-making loop, using AI to enhance rather than distract from tasks. Ultimately, Behr envisions a future where AI becomes a "game-changer," allowing users to work more effectively while maintaining a personal touch in their outputs. ([techradar.com](https://www.techradar.com/pro/the-gloves-are-off-when-it-comes-to-innovation-google-workspace-head-tells-us-why-ai-really-can-revolutionize-the-way-you-work?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.tomsguide.com/ai/these-are-the-5-gemini-features-youre-not-using-but-should-be> - Google’s Gemini AI offers a suite of powerful yet underutilized features designed to enhance productivity, creativity, and research. A major upgrade from Bard, Gemini integrates seamlessly within the Google ecosystem, with many features accessible for free. Key tools include: 1. Audio Overviews in Google Docs, allowing users to listen to document summaries narrated by realistic AI voices—ideal for multitasking and deep learning. 2. Real-time interaction through Gemini Live, offering a conversational AI assistant similar to ChatGPT Voice and providing localized, up-to-date responses via mobile apps. 3. Data assistance in Google Sheets, enabling users to generate formulas, analyze trends, and create visualizations without needing advanced data skills. 4. Custom AI within Google Workspace, where users can design personalized assistants to automate tasks and ensure consistency across projects. 5. Gemini Advanced for researchers and developers, offering in-depth processing and summarization of large datasets and complex information. These tools, particularly when combined with other AI platforms like ChatGPT and Perplexity, can significantly boost workflow and information management. As Gemini advances, it becomes an increasingly essential AI assistant for both personal and professional use. ([tomsguide.com](https://www.tomsguide.com/ai/these-are-the-5-gemini-features-youre-not-using-but-should-be?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://apnews.com/article/bceb1ea762b3ac4a7a5a950fc4924756> - Google Maps has announced the integration of advanced artificial intelligence features, designed to enhance users' navigation and exploration experiences. The new additions, powered by Google's Gemini technology, will transform the service into an interactive entertainment guide. U.S. users can now ask Google Maps for recommendations on nearby activities, restaurants, bars, and attractions, accompanied by compiled reviews. These features also offer detailed parking information and walking directions post-parking. The revamped service aims to provide clearer road imagery, which helps users determine appropriate lanes for turns. Additionally, external developers will be able to utilize the underlying language models to answer queries about specific destinations. Google's Waze maps will also leverage AI to facilitate user reports on road conditions and hazards. This move underscores Google's confidence in its AI capabilities, despite incidents of erroneous information, known as "hallucinations," generated by the AI. ([apnews.com](https://apnews.com/article/bceb1ea762b3ac4a7a5a950fc4924756?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.reuters.com/technology/artificial-intelligence/google-brings-ai-answers-map-applications-2024-10-31/> - Google announced the integration of its AI chatbot, Gemini, into its mapping applications, including Google Maps, Google Earth, and Waze. This enhancement enables more tailored responses to open-ended queries, accounting for context such as time of day or season, and aims to provide more accurate and relevant results like specific locations open at certain times. The updates are designed to improve user experiences by displaying AI-generated summaries above or below existing location listings rather than replacing them. Additionally, Gemini can answer queries about specific places by analyzing user reviews. To prevent inaccuracies, the AI responses are cross-referenced with real-world data collected by Google. These innovations extend to tools for developers and urban planners for more efficient data analysis and a new voice reporting feature in Waze. The AI advancements come as Google strives to regain its position in the AI space, showcasing significant investments and developments. ([reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com/technology/artificial-intelligence/google-brings-ai-answers-map-applications-2024-10-31/?utm_source=openai))