

CHATGPT SPREADSHEET SIDEBAR MAY OBSCURE AI LOGIC

OPERATIONAL SIGNAL

DOMAIN: DATA — Data Handling and Record Integrity | **CONFIDENCE LEVEL:** Preliminary

INSTITUTIONAL DIMENSIONS: Authority | Attribution | Visibility | Escalation | Continuity

Signal ID	Platform	Source	Audience	Status	Date
SIG-DATA-001	ChatGPT	Link	PMO Risk Ops	Pilot	2026-05-13

CAPABILITY SHIFT

OpenAI has made ChatGPT for Excel and Google Sheets available globally as a sidebar integration. Once installed, it can build, update, and understand spreadsheets in place, including formulas, multi-tab files, trackers, budgets, scenario work, and cleanup tasks. Access depends on plan tier and marketplace availability. OpenAI says users should review outputs before relying on formulas or analysis.

ORGANISATIONAL CONSEQUENCE

Spreadsheets often function as decision records, not just working files. Budgets, forecasts, scenario models, and operational trackers usually assume that a person built the logic and can explain it. A sidebar that generates formulas, restructures tabs, or creates analysis may make authorship harder to see after the file is saved. The risk is not only formula error; it is loss of provenance.

WHAT TO WATCH

- Spreadsheet formulas or structures users cannot explain
- Budget or forecast models modified without recording AI assistance
- Scenario models where underlying logic is not reviewed
- Approval workflows treating AI-assisted spreadsheets as human-authored

WHY THIS MATTERS NOW

This is embedded in the spreadsheet itself. AI-generated logic may enter budgets, forecasts, trackers, and planning files through ordinary workflow, reducing separation between human and AI-assisted work.

WHAT TO REVIEW

- Policies for AI-assisted spreadsheets
- Version control for AI-generated formulas or structures
- Awareness across finance, operations, and planning teams
- Review checks for AI-generated logic before reliance
- Marketplace settings limiting who can add the integration

GOVERNANCE CONTEXT

This is an attribution and record integrity issue. If AI-generated formulas or structures are not visible during review, responsibility may sit with the user who accepted the output, even where the logic was generated by the sidebar.

Scope Boundary: This artefact translates observed platform capability changes into operational considerations. It does not constitute policy, legal advice, or enforcement guidance.