

CHATGPT MAY DRAW ON WIDER PRIOR CONTEXT

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-002	ChatGPT	Link	PMO Risk Ops	Pilot	2026-05-13

CAPABILITY SHIFT

OpenAI replaced GPT-5.3 Instant with GPT-5.5 Instant as the default ChatGPT model on 5 May 2026. Separately, OpenAI is rolling out memory improvements that let ChatGPT use past chats, saved memories, and, where available, files and connected Gmail. Memory sources may show users which prior context helped shape a response. Availability varies by plan, platform, source type, and region.

ORGANISATIONAL CONSEQUENCE

Staff may not expect prior chats, saved memories, files, or connected Gmail to shape a response unless they re-enter that information in the current session. Where these sources are available, ChatGPT may draw on context created or connected at different times and for different purposes. This weakens the assumption that each response reflects only the prompt, files, or instructions visible in the current chat.

WHAT TO WATCH

- Responses that reference prior chats not mentioned in the current session
- Answers that cite files or Gmail sources the user did not re-enter
- Memory source indicators appearing inconsistently
- Staff confusion about what context shaped an answer

WHY THIS MATTERS NOW

GPT-5.5 Instant is replacing the previous default model as enhanced personalisation and memory sources roll out. The issue is not only better responses. It is a wider context surface.

WHAT TO REVIEW

- Use of connected Gmail, files, and saved memories
- Guidance on prior chats shaping responses
- Data handling assumptions based on session-only use
- Controls for connectors, memory, and personalisation
- Review expectations where outputs cite prior context

GOVERNANCE CONTEXT

This is a visibility and data-boundary issue. Memory sources may show what shaped a response, but not what was searched, excluded, or available but unused.

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