

AUGUST 2026 · RELEASE NOTES

OpenAI New Features Release Review

GPT-5.6 Sol reasoning controls · GPT-5.6 Luna · Library, Google Drive & Project memory
· Voice with files · Education plugins · Enterprise governance & Codex controls



From Smarter Answers to Governed Work Systems

OpenAI's August releases are not one headline feature. They are four simultaneous shifts, each changing a choice users used to skip past without thinking.

Reasoning became a user choice. GPT-5.6 Sol gained a thought-effort slider for Plus and Pro; Free and Go gained GPT-5.6 Luna, unlimited text chats, and a Think control on a staged rollout.

Context moved closer to the work. Files are easier to reuse from Library, Google Drive is browsable inside Library, Projects can change memory modes after creation, and Voice now works with files and Project context.

Reusable workflows became role-specific packages. Education plugins for students and educators ship with institutional controls and source-grounded course materials.

Enterprise deployment gained operating controls. Model defaults, additive RBAC, audit events, usage visibility, Personal Analytics, and Codex service accounts.

STRATEGIC PATTERN

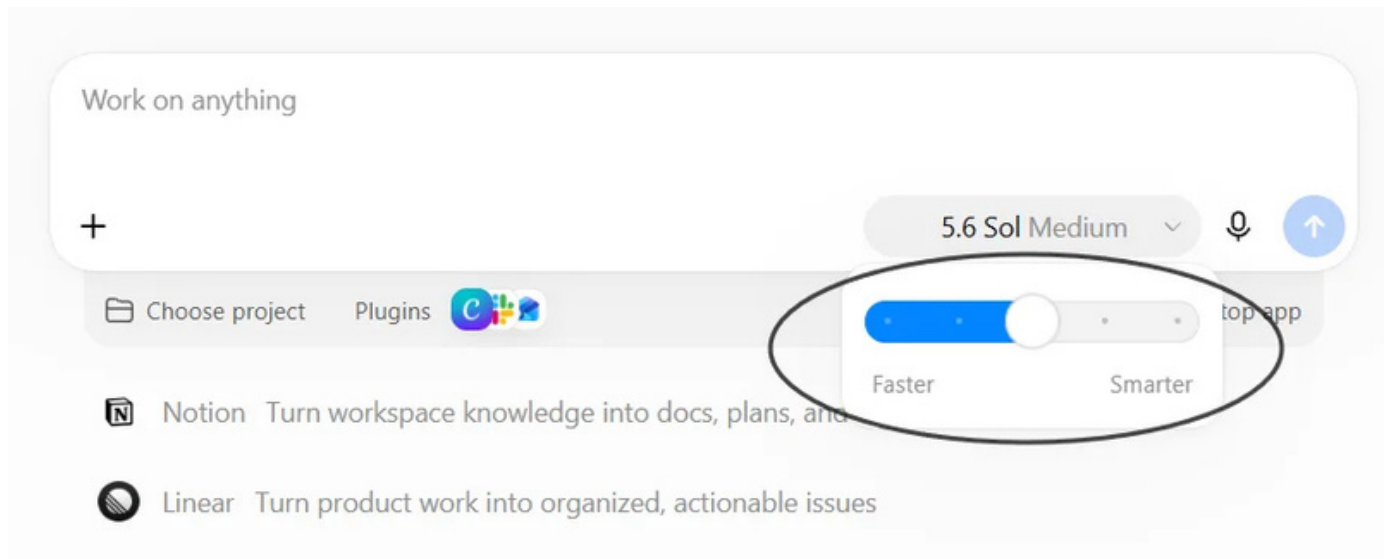
OpenAI is reducing the gap between a question and a governed outcome. The stack now asks users to make four deliberate choices: how much reasoning a task deserves, which sources define truth, which reusable workflow performs the work, and which controls govern identity, access, cost, and review.

Feature Highlights

FEATURE	WHAT'S NEW	AVAILABILITY
GPT-5.6 reasoning controls	Thought-effort slider on Sol; GPT-5.6 Luna default plus unlimited chats and Think	Plus, Pro; Free, Go staged rollout
Files, Library & Drive	Library reuse and multi-select, better grounding, Google Drive browsable inside Library	Plus, Pro, Business, Enterprise, Edu, Healthcare
Project memory modes	Existing eligible Projects can switch memory modes after creation	All plans, eligible unshared Projects
Voice with files & Projects	GPT-Live Voice supports uploads and Projects; Live is now the default Voice experience	Eligible users; Enterprise, Edu, Healthcare
Education plugins & quizzes	College Student, College Educator, K-12 Educator plugins; interactive quizzes in-chat	ChatGPT Edu, Teachers; quizzes on all consumer plans
Enterprise governance & Codex	Model defaults, additive RBAC, audit events, Codex service accounts, Personal Analytics	Enterprise, Edu (coverage varies)
Connected-app sync retirement	Individual-user sync ended; role-based usage limits migrating weekly to monthly	Enterprise, Edu workspaces

Reasoning Becomes a User Choice

GPT-5.6 Sol's thought-effort slider and GPT-5.6 Luna's Think control mean model selection is becoming task selection, users can trade speed for depth instead of treating every request as equally complex.



BEHAVIOR CHANGE

Before prompting, classify the task as quick, considered, or high-stakes. Increase reasoning only when the decision, ambiguity, or cost of error justifies it. Verify critical facts even when the model is improved.

TEAMS TO UPDATE

All learners; enablement; managers; support; marketing; sales; analysts.

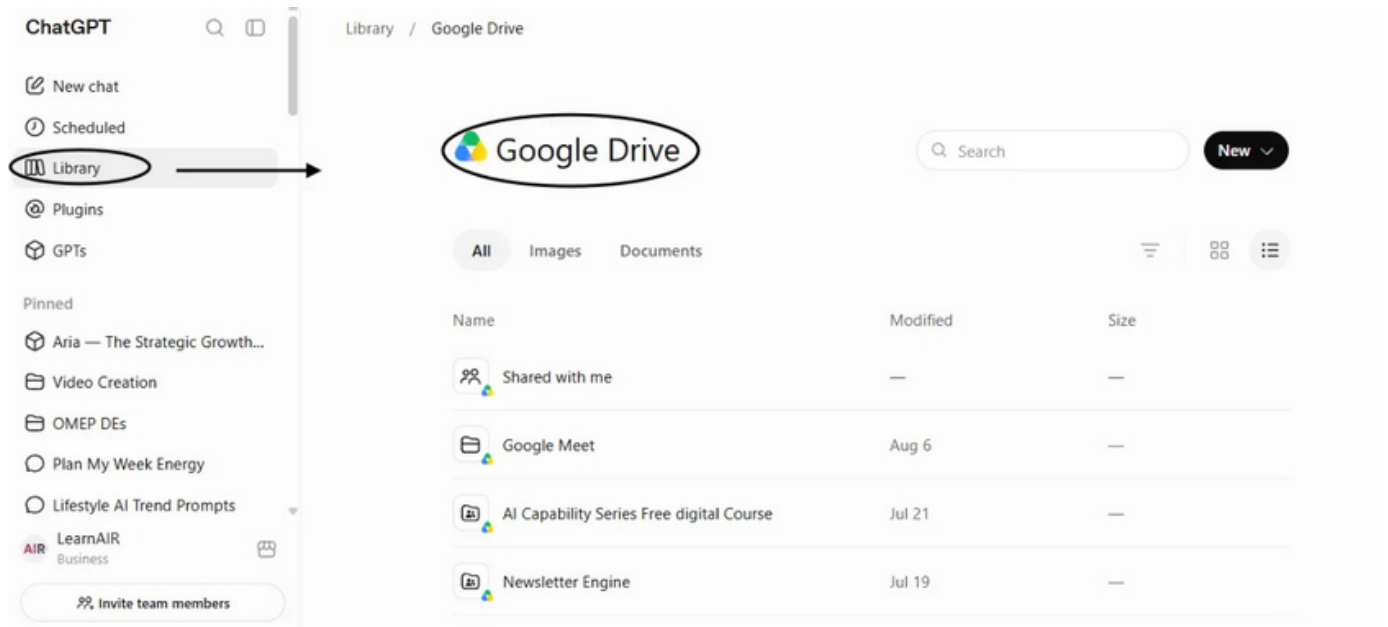
RECOMMENDED USE CASES

Quick drafting at low effort; multi-constraint planning at higher effort.

Source-backed decision briefs with explicit human verification.

Context Moves Closer to the Work

Library reuse, Google Drive inside Library, switchable Project memory, and Voice with files and Projects all point the same direction: the useful unit is shifting from a single chat to a maintained context hub.



BEHAVIOR CHANGE

Create a source hierarchy, label current versus archival files, choose memory boundaries intentionally, and cite the source used for important outputs.

TEAMS TO UPDATE

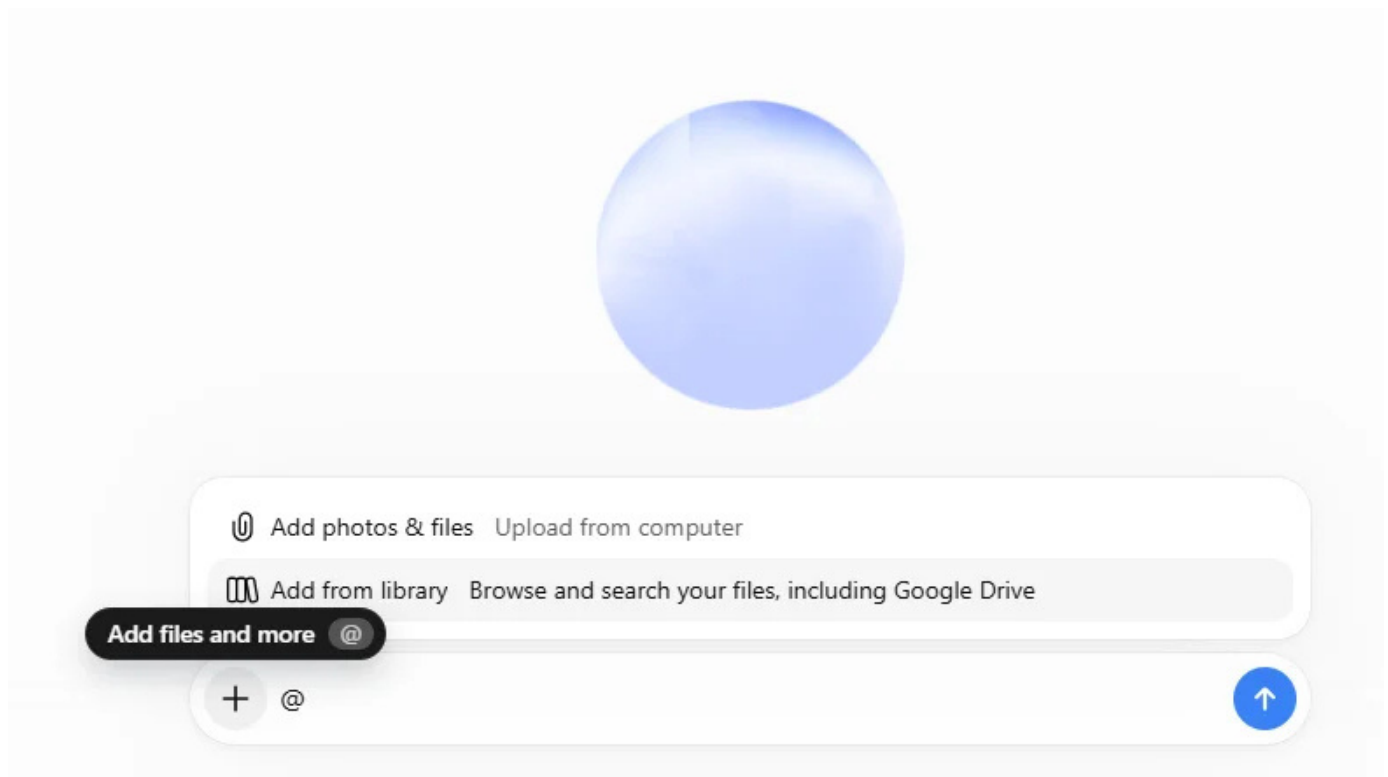
Operations, marketing, sales, HR, educators, founders, knowledge managers, legal/compliance owners.

RECOMMENDED USE CASES

Campaign hubs, sales account rooms, onboarding Projects, weekly operating reviews, course Projects, policy update workflows.

Voice Becomes a Review Interface

GPT-Live Voice now supports file uploads and Projects, and Live is the default Voice experience wherever Voice is enabled. Voice can become an interface for reviewing trusted material, not just a hands-free chat channel.



BEHAVIOR CHANGE

Open the correct Project or attach the correct file before speaking. State the decision needed, ask the model to identify source gaps, and capture the output in writing.

TEAMS TO UPDATE

Managers, field sales, educators, accessibility leads, researchers, support and operations.

RECOMMENDED USE CASES

Commute-safe briefing review, oral rehearsal, document Q&A, meeting-prep practice, accessible study sessions.

Learning Starts From a Structured Workflow

College Student, College Educator, and K-12 Educator plugins, plus interactive in-chat quizzes, move the starting point from an empty prompt to a role-specific workflow grounded in course materials.

[New plugins specifically designed to guide K-12 teachers, college educators, and college students.](#)

BEHAVIOR CHANGE

Educators define outcomes, approved sources, rubrics, and review points. Students use quizzes for retrieval practice and explain reasoning, not merely reveal answers.

TEAMS TO UPDATE

Educators, instructional designers, students, learning leaders, IT, academic integrity teams.

RECOMMENDED USE CASES

Syllabus refreshes, differentiated lesson assets, LMS-ready packages, study plans, flashcards, practice quizzes.

Enterprise Deployment Gets Operating Controls

Model defaults, additive RBAC, audit events, Codex service accounts, and Personal Analytics let AI adoption be managed like an operating system: policy defaults, role-based permissions, traceability, cost visibility, and non-human identities.

[Check out RBAC for ChatGPT Enterprise for setup](#)

BEHAVIOR CHANGE

Move from blanket access to role design.
Assign owners, least privilege, approval paths, usage review, token rotation, and incident handling before automating production work.

TEAMS TO UPDATE

IT, security, finance, engineering platform teams, AI governance, procurement, business owners.

RECOMMENDED USE CASES

Controlled plugin rollout, CI-based Codex tasks, scheduled documentation checks, usage reviews, model-default experiments.

Connected-App Sync Retirement

New individual-user sync connections ended, existing ones were disabled with data deletion underway, and role-based usage limits are migrating from weekly to monthly. This is the only MTD change with a direct workflow-break risk.

Failure mode to avoid: assuming synced knowledge still flows in unchanged. Admin-managed sync is unaffected, but individual-user sync is gone.

BEHAVIOR CHANGE

Inventory affected users and connectors, assign a migration owner, test replacement access, communicate gaps, and revise usage dashboards to monthly cadence.

TEAMS TO UPDATE

IT, operations, data owners, security, enablement, finance, and every function relying on synced knowledge.

RECOMMENDED USE CASES

Admin-managed Drive/SharePoint sync, non-synced GitHub plugin, temporary manual source workflows, monthly capacity reviews.

Role Overlays

ROLE	WHAT TO TEST	RELEVANT UPDATES	MEASURES & OWNER
Sales	Account Projects with approved collateral; higher reasoning for account strategy; Voice rehearsal	Drive/Library grounding, project memory, Voice, Premium capacity	Proposal accuracy, prep time, follow-up cycle time — Sales enablement + RevOps
Operations	Weekly operating Project; connector migration register; usage and anomaly reviews	Projects, Library, sync retirement, usage analytics, service accounts	Reporting time, exception rate, source freshness — COO/Ops + IT
Marketing	Campaign evidence hub; role-specific plugin workflows; monitor ads expansion	Drive/Library, reasoning slider, Business seats, ads	Brief-to-launch time, revision rate, claim accuracy — Marketing Ops + Brand
HR / People	Policy and onboarding Projects; quiz-based knowledge checks; role-based access onboarding	Projects, quizzes, RBAC, plugins	Onboarding completion, comprehension, rework — People Ops + IT
Founders / Managers	Decision briefs with explicit reasoning effort; capacity allocation; Voice briefings	GPT-5.6 controls, Premium seats, Projects, usage analytics	Decision cycle time, usage value by role — Executive sponsor
Engineers	Stable-model API evals; Fast benchmarking; Codex service accounts	API changelog, Fast/Ultrafast, service accounts	p95 latency, cost per task, defect escape — Eng platform + Security
Educators	Source-grounded course Projects; role plugins; interactive quizzes with human grading	Education plugins, quizzes, Projects, Voice	Learner practice, alignment, accessibility — Instructional lead + IT

Role-Specific Behavior Changes

Sales	Move from drafting individual follow-ups to using account Projects with grounded, approved collateral for every deal.
Operations	Treat source freshness, connector health, and usage review as operating controls, not optional admin work.
Marketing	Separate research evidence, creative interpretation, and approved claims inside campaign workflows.
HR	Pair personalization with privacy boundaries, approved policy sources, and a human decision owner.
Founders / Managers	Choose reasoning effort based on consequence, then review assumptions rather than asking only for more detail.
Engineers	Evaluate stable models and service tiers on real workloads. Build non-human identities with least privilege and ownership.
Educators	Use AI to create practice and options while retaining control of pedagogy, grading, and learner support.

From Better Answers to Better Work Systems

ChatGPT is becoming less like a blank box for one-off questions and more like a work layer where people choose the right depth, bring trusted context, reuse proven workflows, and apply stronger controls. The advantage is no longer just knowing how to write a prompt; it's knowing when deeper reasoning is worth it, which sources define the answer, how to turn a task into a reusable workflow, and where a person must review or approve the result.

"The next phase of AI adoption will not be defined by who writes the most impressive prompt. It will be defined by who can turn reliable workflows into responsible, measurable results."

— LEARNAIR™ EDUCATE TEAM

WHAT TO TEST THIS WEEK

Choose one recurring task and compare quick versus higher reasoning.

Create one source-grounded Project with clear memory and review rules.

Audit any workflow that depended on individual-user connected-app sync.

SOURCES

ChatGPT release notes · ChatGPT Enterprise/Edu release notes · ChatGPT Business release notes · OpenAI API changelog · Fast mode · OpenAI API pricing · Projects, Voice & Plugins in ChatGPT · Role-Based Access Controls for ChatGPT Enterprise · Codex service accounts.