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# Google Search Team Does Not Endorse LLMs.txt Files

Jan 20, 2026 - 7:31 am [Comment 3](#) — by Barry SchwartzFiled Under [Google Search Engine Optimization](#)

Yep, back on comments from Google on the LLMs.txt file. Another question came up on Bluesky asking if the fact that [some Google properties](#) still have the LLMs.txt files up, if that is some sort of endorsement from Google. John Mueller from Google said, simply, "no," it is not an endorsement.

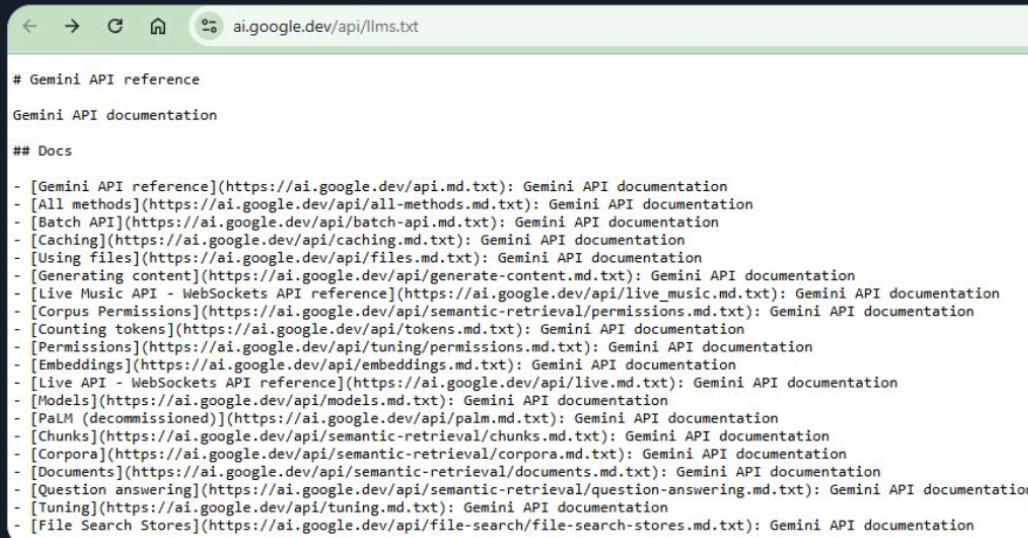
John was asked by Esben Rasmussen, "Sorry for being late to the party, but I just spotted this [@johnmu.com](https://ai.google.dev/api/llms.txt) Is this an endorsement from Google?"

John wrote on [Bluesky](#), "I'm tempted to say something snarky since this has come up so often, but to be direct, no."

Here is a screenshot of that conversation:

**Esben Rasmussen** @esbenrasmussen.bsky.social · 3h  
Sorry for being late to the party, but I just spotted this [@johnmu.com](https://ai.google.dev/api/llms.txt) Is this an endorsement from Google?  
If not, would it be fair to assume that if the Gemini team tests this there

are serious considerations of supporting it?



```
# Gemini API reference
Gemini API documentation
## Docs
- [Gemini API reference](https://ai.google.dev/api.md.txt): Gemini API documentation
- [All methods](https://ai.google.dev/api/all-methods.md.txt): Gemini API documentation
- [Batch API](https://ai.google.dev/api/batch-api.md.txt): Gemini API documentation
- [Caching](https://ai.google.dev/api/caching.md.txt): Gemini API documentation
- [Using files](https://ai.google.dev/api/files.md.txt): Gemini API documentation
- [Generating content](https://ai.google.dev/api/generate-content.md.txt): Gemini API documentation
- [Live Music API - WebSockets API reference](https://ai.google.dev/api/live_music.md.txt): Gemini API documentation
- [Corpus Permissions](https://ai.google.dev/api/semantic-retrieval/permissions.md.txt): Gemini API documentation
- [Counting tokens](https://ai.google.dev/api/tokens.md.txt): Gemini API documentation
- [Permissions](https://ai.google.dev/api/tuning/permissions.md.txt): Gemini API documentation
- [Embeddings](https://ai.google.dev/api/embeddings.md.txt): Gemini API documentation
- [Live API](https://ai.google.dev/api/live.md.txt): Gemini API documentation
- [Models](https://ai.google.dev/api/models.md.txt): Gemini API documentation
- [PaLM (decommissioned)](https://ai.google.dev/api/palm.md.txt): Gemini API documentation
- [Chunks](https://ai.google.dev/api/semantic-retrieval/chunks.md.txt): Gemini API documentation
- [Corpora](https://ai.google.dev/api/semantic-retrieval/corpora.md.txt): Gemini API documentation
- [Documents](https://ai.google.dev/api/semantic-retrieval/documents.md.txt): Gemini API documentation
- [Question answering](https://ai.google.dev/api/semantic-retrieval/question-answering.md.txt): Gemini API documentation
- [Tuning](https://ai.google.dev/api/tuning.md.txt): Gemini API documentation
- [File Search Stores](https://ai.google.dev/api/file-search/file-search-stores.md.txt): Gemini API documentation
```

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**John Mueller**  
@johnmu.com

I'm tempted to say something snarky since this has come up so often, but to be direct, no.

3:22 AM · Jan 20, 2026

As a reminder, several weeks ago, the CMS platform Google uses began supporting LLMs.txt files and it was added to a lot of Google's various developer docs. This includes the **Google Search dev docs** but shortly after it was added, the search team removed it from its specific developer docs. Other teams didn't care or didn't notice and left it up. John said it was **added for other reasons**, not for what you might think.

Google has been saying that **no one uses** the LLMs.txt file, that **Google won't use it**, that it **can be useless**, and you probably **should noindex** it if you do use it.

So here it is again, Google's Search team is not a fan of the LLMs.txt file. Although I doubt it hurts to have one...

Forum discussion at **Bluesky**.

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a month ago

They don't endorse but they'll have them files in case anyone that does obey visits the site.

1 0 Reply Share &gt;

**Nicole Grodesky**

a month ago

How about SEOs? Does anyone have any insight on this?

0 0 Reply Share &gt;

**Ben Pfeiffer**

→ Nicole Grodesky

a month ago edited

I have tested it on a limited basis on client sites in a variety of setups and think it causes some AI citation issues for Google specifically. Mainly only for sites that carry a lot of authority though, the rest its a waste of time. John's comment and Google's stance is very self-serving in this instance. They can't even provide a reason why. They want people to use it less because it causes problems or don't want people to see it as some avenue to game the system. When in reality it's causing problems that they don't know how to fix.

It's like asking Gemini if they use eBay listings as sources for it's answers on historical topics. They say no. But some searches show answers that are almost word for word from some eBay listing, that is an subjective opinion and not fact. It likes to make stuff up. So LLM content is just another source, the AI will use when it can't find a sufficient answer.

So have one, Barry is right. It likely doesn't hurt to have one.

1 0 Reply Share &gt;

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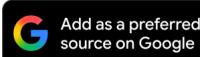
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