

Third party apps and services

Guide - How to Use Gemini AI Assistant on GrapheneOS

Tryptamine Mar 28, 2024

I've originally left the Google Assistant behind, since the assistant can see and record everything on your screen. There is an alternative, [Dicio](#), the free open-source assistant that runs locally only on your phone! It's simple, but functional too.

Now that Gemini is out, I had to give it a try! It required downloading the "Google" app, as that app is the one that actually runs your Google Assistant, get it in the Play Store. You also require the Assistant app, and the Gemini app, which may not be available in your country. In my country, Gemini was not available however [I got it APKMirror](#). Also, while I haven't yet made any of Gemini Nano's advanced on-device features for the Pixel 8 Pro work yet, if you would like to try, [you need the AICore app](#). Also, go into app settings for AICore, click "additional settings in app" and enable AICore Persistent.

Now, **the Google app needs to be re-set as the Default Assistant App in Settings -> Apps -> Default Apps after every restart/reboot or swiping will not wake it!** Gemini replaces Google Assistant as your assistant, you cannot have both assistant apps at the same time, but you can easily go into Settings in the Gemini or Google apps and switch between them quickly. **The action on GrapheneOS to invoke assistant apps is to swipe from a corner of the screen inwards to the middle.** I haven't been able to make "Hey Google" work, but Gemini does work on the lockscreen. Now this is your very important for your privacy; **You can give or not give permissions to the Google app, and those are the permissions that will determine what Gemini can and will use, so that will determine it's capabilities.** So, if you want to be able to say "call Mom" the Google app will require your Contacts and Phone privileges. Sending texts requires SMS. Using App Ops I have been able to granularity set these, allowing Send SMS but denying (ignoring actually, sends blank data to the app) Read SMS, allowing Make Phone Call, but denying Monitor Phone and Receive Phone Call. Best use for App Ops I've found. Ever! I had a very long conversation with Gemini Advanced about it's use of permissions, what data Google can get from them, and let me tell you, for a Google product, Gemini Advanced *is not* a fan of Google's data-grabbing practices! It gave me most excellent advice on which permissions leak the most data, and how to minimize data leakage. It really likes the App Ops approach. Call Logs can apparently be used for a lot of badness, along with Contacts... SMS is also particularly invasive.

There are 3 levels of LLM, so 3 Gemini Models. Nano is very small, for running on the Pixel 8 Pro and other flagship/future phones locally. Gemini Pro is the middle one, and Gemini Ultra powers Gemini Advanced (what comes from paying the \$20 or \$25 Google plan with 2TB Storage). If you just want the AI chatbot, using Gemini Pro, then that's what you get with the Gemini app. If you want Gemini Advanced, you can sign up for the 2 month free trial that should pop up as an offer if you are signed into a Google account. It should go without saying that using Gemini requires Sandboxed Play Services! Gemini Nano is for the Pixel 8 Pro. It will check your device model, and requires the AICore app to be running persistently.

Today, right before posting this I got a reminder that all of a sudden, Google turned on Gemini in Google Messages! Now, I don't know yet if it is the version that runs completely on your device and works offline, Gemini Nano, or if it is cloud based and therefore Gemini Pro or Gemini Advanced for subscribers (such as I am). I will update this once I learn more. You can use it for ideas for conversation starters, help drafting messages or quick replies. Thing like that!

Then there is the Gemini Apps Activity settling. This is where the privacy vs functionality rubber meets the road. By default, all your conversations with Gemini are saves **for 18 months!** They may during that time be reviewed by human annotators, after being de-anonymized, but if they are, those ones are not deleted when you choose to delete you conversations as they are kept apart from your regular conversations. **Google even says, DO NOT SAY ANYTHING IDENTIFYING OR INCRIMINATING TO GEMINI!** Now, you can change the Gemini Apps Activity to as low as 3 months before being auto-deleted, or you can turn it off. If off, Google will only keep your conversations around for 3 days, for quality of service or something like that, and they won't be pulled for review. The thing is, if you want Gemini to do a lot of fancy things, it has to use "Extensions." This is like setting reminders, interacting with Google Maps, and YouTube.

I have been using Gemini Advanced for about 2 weeks now. It is something that I think will actually get me, someone who hates all apps by default, and has a strict policy of never installing apps if it can be avoided, to keep the *Google* app on my system! With heavily reduced privileges of course.

hemlockiv and de0u replied to this.
hamlet9371 and fxnn like this.

hemlockiv Mar 28, 2024

↩ **Tryptamine** I've originally left the Google Assistant behind, since the assistant can see and record everything on your screen.

Yeah, because it's Google. It's Google's AI assistant app. If you object to using Google Assistant (and you should!) *why in the world* are you using Google Gemini?

↩ **Tryptamine** me, someone who hates all apps by default, and has a strict policy of never installing apps if it can be avoided

This seems like something that *can* be avoided. Am I missing something? Gemini is a chatbot/less-useful Assistant. What possible benefits makes it worth using?

↩ Tryptamine replied to this.
Dumdum, Eagle_Owl, and Roger like this.

Tryptamine Mar 28, 2024 Edited

↩ **hemlockiv** I just noticed the "less useful assistant", I think that was a typo... it is incredibly useful, it will go and do research projects for you, combing public internet sources and come back in a day or two with results summarized any way you want. It will help you learn to code (one of my main uses), ask it anything, and it will give you facts, retained arguments for and against courses if action or give you ideas.

You can severely limit it's privileges in GrapheneOS, and even more granularly limit it with App Ops (App Manager, Prevent, App Ops). I have it able to call phone, but not answer or monitor phone calls. I have it able to send but not receive it read SMS. No other permissions than network.

I'm trying the 2 month trial of Gemini Advanced. Not caring about the assistant functions so much, and I don't care about the extensions, so I turne off Gemini Apps Activity so my chats don't get saved for more than 72 hours and aren't saved to train the model.

Never thought I would use a Google product like this, but it is quite smart and incredibly useful!

Tryptamine Mar 28, 2024

↩ **de0u** hyYour welcome! That was my on-device assistant for quite a long time!

3 MONTHS LATER

Ashoka74 Jun 15, 2024

There is a parameter related to AICore activate Gemini Nano from developer mode:

<https://beebom.com/how-enable-gemini-nano-pixel-8-8a/>

Would it be possible to add it to Grapheme for the next release on PixelPro8? Offline transcription is not possible on my end even with Gemini and GooglePlay installed!

Thanks for the hard work! If there is a workaround I am listening full ears

↩ de0u replied to this.

de0u Jun 15, 2024

↩ **Ashoka74** I suspect it's not possible to change an AICore developer option on GrapheneOS because, I suspect, AICore isn't part of AOSP (it appears to be [part of the "Google AI Edge SDK"](#)).

Amk Jun 17, 2024

Would be great if someone from the development team could comment on this. I'm really curious about using on-device generative AI, which could actually lead to more private assistants compared to the one made by Google.

↩ Roger replied to this.
fxnn likes this.

14 DAYS LATER

Ashoka74 Jul 1, 2024

<https://github.com/google-gemini/generative-ai-android>
https://ai.google.dev/edge/mediapipe/solutions/setup_android?hl=fr

These links might be helpful !

Roger Jul 3, 2024

↩ **Amk** 15k USD gets you hardware to train your own:

<https://tinygrad.org/#tinygrad>

Anais Jul 7, 2024

You want the grapheneos team to add Gemini when they've just removed vanadium's Google translator?

I'm French, I must have misunderstood, but you want Gemini in grapheneos?

↩ Dumdum and Ashoka74 replied to this.
chinook likes this.

Anais Jul 7, 2024

Personally, the day they integrate this, I'm going to quit GrapheneOS right away.

↩ wqwwrea replied to this.
DeletedUser87 and Eagle_Owl like this.

Dumdum Jul 7, 2024

↩ **Anais** You want the grapheneos team to add Gemini when they've just removed vanadium's Google translator?

I don't think they said anything that even remotely suggested this.

you want Gemini in grapheneos?

Quite a difference between *on* and *in* GrapheneOS. People are free to decide if they want Gemini *on* (their) GrapheneOS.

Personally, the day they integrate this, I'm going to quit GrapheneOS right away.

There's good news then. You won't have to quit as they won't integrate it, for the reasons being detailed [here](#) and [here](#).

↩ Eagle_Owl and Anais like this.

akc3n added the [Third party apps and services](#) tag and removed the [General](#) tag Jul 7, 2024.

10 DAYS LATER

Ashoka74 Jul 17, 2024

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Original Post

1 of 24 posts
March 2024

Now

The idea I guess would be to take advantage of the phone's GPU to run small open-source models locally

(Llama3, Gemma, Mistral..)

👍 Eagle_Owl likes this.

7 DAYS LATER

Ashoka74 Jul 23, 2024

Update:

I managed to get a Gemma-2b model running locally following this tutorial:

https://github.com/google-ai-edge/mediapipe-samples/tree/main/examples/llm_inference/android

The speed is quite good and I am running it in plane mode so no data leaks for sure!

👉 de0u replied to this.

👍 alansp likes this.

de0u Jul 23, 2024

👉 **Ashoka74** Thanks for reporting back! It's great for users who want to experiment with LLMs on Pixels running

GrapheneOS to have a clear starting point.

👍 Eagle_Owl and mmobder like this.

2 MONTHS LATER

L8437 Sep 11, 2024

@**Tryptamine** hi mate, are your original instructions still what you would do?

Is there anything different you would do?

Such as different permissions/settings?

If so, why?

Cheers

👉 Elsewhere3987 replied to this.

A MONTH LATER

spammerofspam Oct 18, 2024

I tried this again recently, and Gemini has started working for me. I followed the same steps as previously, but it didn't work

previously. Guess it was a recent change in the app?

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