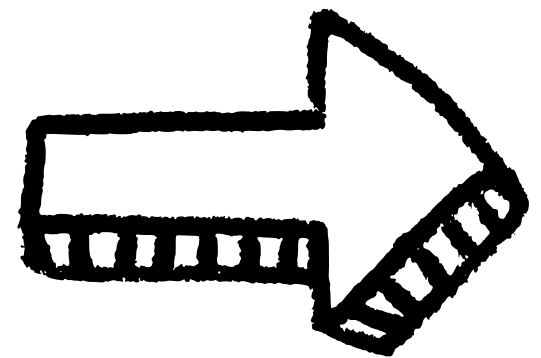


I spent
€2,000+ and 500+ hours
on AI tools this year.

14 learnings.



AI & Finance

December 17, 2025



n8n



Lovable



Claude



Gemini



supabase



superwhisper



Plus



Google AI Studio



Qdrant



NotebookLM



fireflies.ai



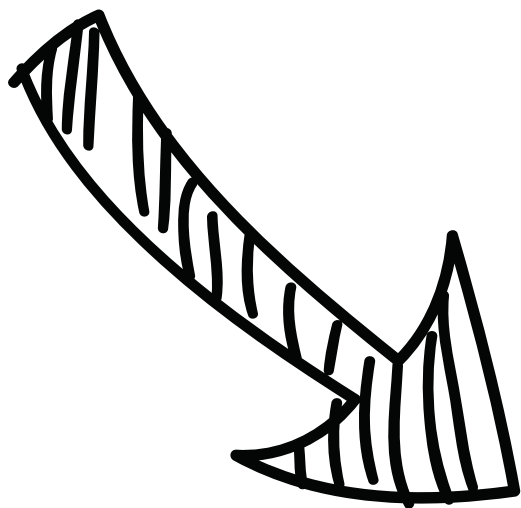
ChatGPT



OpenRouter

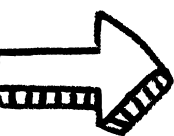
#1 - Why I spent so much money & time on AI

- * I love to understand how things work.
- * I want things done fast and good.
- * I “struggle” with repetitive tasks.



So I went deep on AI tools.

My credit card noticed.



#2 - NotebookLM



(Free with Google Workspace. Bonkers!)

M&A transaction. 250-page SPA.

Old way (3 days):

- Reading dense legal text
- Lawyers at €500+/hour
- Manually drafting plans, timelines

New way (2 hours):

- Upload SPA to NotebookLM
- Voice chat through complex questions
- AI creates project plans, emails

M&A lawyer and corporate finance manager on standby.



#3 - Voice, Voice, Voice!



Voice-to-text tool with mini workflows.

70-80% of my communication with my computer & phone is now voice.

50+ prompts per day.

→ 10x better prompt quality

→ 5x faster getting thoughts out

Emails, Slack, brainstorming – anywhere I used to type, I now speak.

Typing feels like going back to a flip phone.



#4 - Workflow Automation



(20 €/month)

The killer app for automating finance operations & AI agents.

Connects the entire finance tech stack.

Built workflows and custom integrations.

Eliminates the "tool-switching friction" – those 5-minute tasks I do 20x per day.

For a mere €20 per month.

Without developers. Or begging IT.



#5 - Technical Literacy



ChatGPT



YouTube

As a CFO

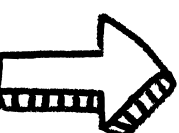
- I don't need to become an engineer.
- I shouldn't spend my day building n8n workflows.

That's not the point.

But understanding key concepts helped me get way more out of AI.

Worth understanding: RAG, MCP / APIs, LLMs, deterministic vs non-deterministic outcomes.

A couple of afternoons with ChatGPT and YouTube got me 80% there.



#6 - The Laziest Productivity Hack



(20 €/month)



(free)

AI meeting note takers – No effort.
Saves 10 minutes of post-meeting work.

3 meetings per day × 200 working days =
600 meetings per year
→ 100 hours (12 days) saved

- + I'm focused in meetings –
no more note taking distraction
- + Tasks are extracted automatically,
pushed via n8n to task manager
(Asana, Jira, Notion); nothing slips
- + Absent team members catch up fast



#7 - AI Assistants

Gemini

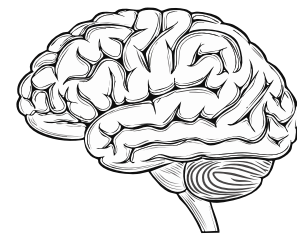


Claude

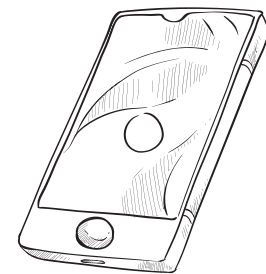


ChatGPT

LLMs like GPT-5.2 and Gemini 3 are “just” the **brains**.



Assistants like ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini are the **app** you use.



Which one to use?

2025 was relentless.

Massive app upgrades on a weekly basis.

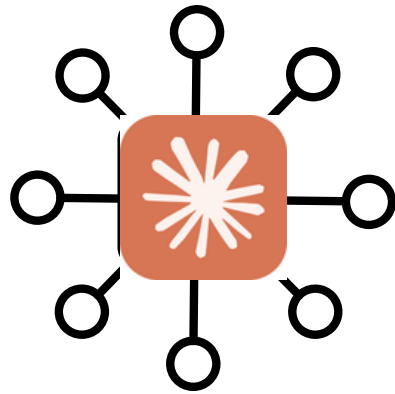
I switched apps and engines constantly.

Conclusion:

There isn't one best app for *all* tasks.



#8 - Claude Desktop



Claude Desktop is like an AI operating system for me.

- Connectors to Gmail, Drive, Calendar, n8n, Canva.
- Strong brains (Sonnet 4.5, Opus 4.5)
- Great at financial data, CSV and Excel
- High-quality JS and Python code snippets for n8n workflows

One gap: No doc editing yet.



#9 - Vibe Coding



(usage based)

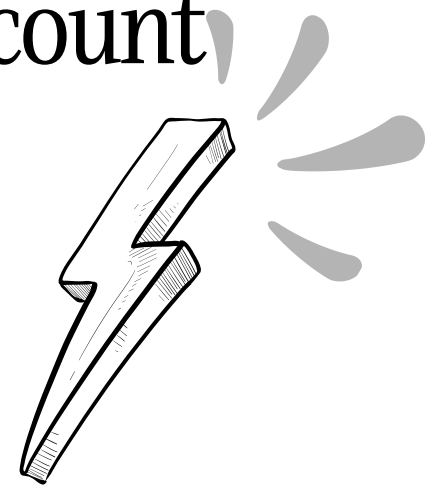
Google AI Studio

(free)

Describe what you want in plain language. AI creates the software. No coding skills required.

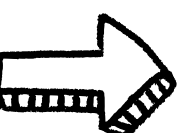
I needed a tool to translate 3,000 account descriptions English / German.

60 minutes in Lovable, done.



Works great for simple tools. Breaks on complex logic.

I had spent €700 on Lovable credits when I realized this thing about complex logic...

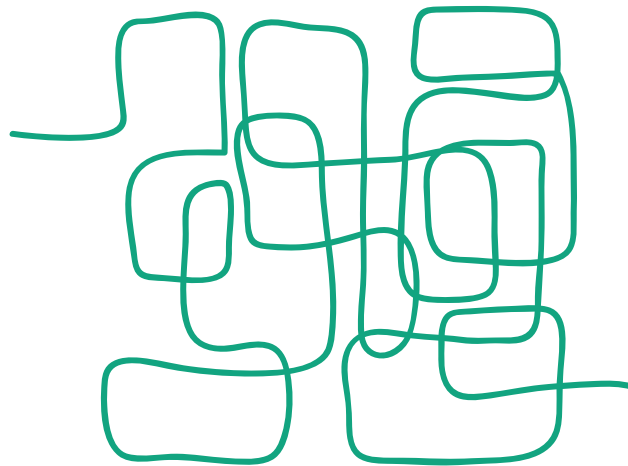


#10 - n8n vs. Lovable

I built an app with Lovable to ingest DATEV BWA numbers into a SQL Database for Power BI analysis.

Worked great – until workflows got complex.

FX conversion,
multi GAAP,
periodicity, etc.



Switched to n8n. Visual workflow shows every node. When something fails, I see exactly where.

My recommendation for CFOs:

- Start with n8n for automation
- Add Lovable only, if a frontend UI is needed



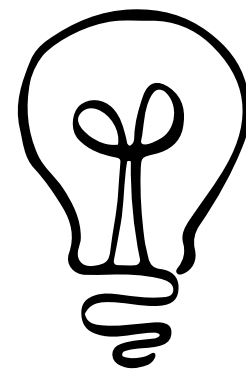
#11 – Finance Engineers

Finance automation has one bottleneck.

The gap between knowing what to build and building it.

Finance experts lack tech skills.
Engineers lack finance knowledge.

Finance Engineers have both.
One brain. Two skillsets.



Why not hiring a finance engineer instead of A/P specialist #5?!



#12 - AI Swiss Army Knife?



AI-native ERPs like Rillet and Light?

Not ready yet for European scale-ups.

They'll be central to the finance stack in the future. But they won't replace the treasury tool, email, BI, task managers, wiki,...

Forget the Swiss Army Knife fairytale.

I look for WD-40 grease— AI tools that make the existing tool stack work better.

e.g. is exactly that.

One small workflow. Then another.



#13 – My AI Tool Essentials

What am I using daily?



Claude Desktop – my all-purpose AI hub



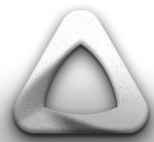
n8n – workflow automations & AI agents



Fireflies.ai – AI meeting notes



NotebookLM – analyzing documents



SuperWhisper – voice for all apps



#14 - Was It Worth It?

€2,000+ and 500+ hours later:

- ✓ I work faster & better.
- ✓ I eliminated tasks that used to annoy me.

So, the answer is: absolutely yes.



You don't have 500 hours. I get it.

Encouraging your team doesn't cost 500 hours.

Have your team pick a *small*, annoying task.

Automate it. Start.

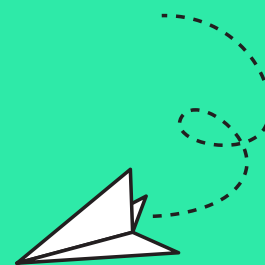


What would you love to automate in Finance?

What are your favorite AI tools?



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