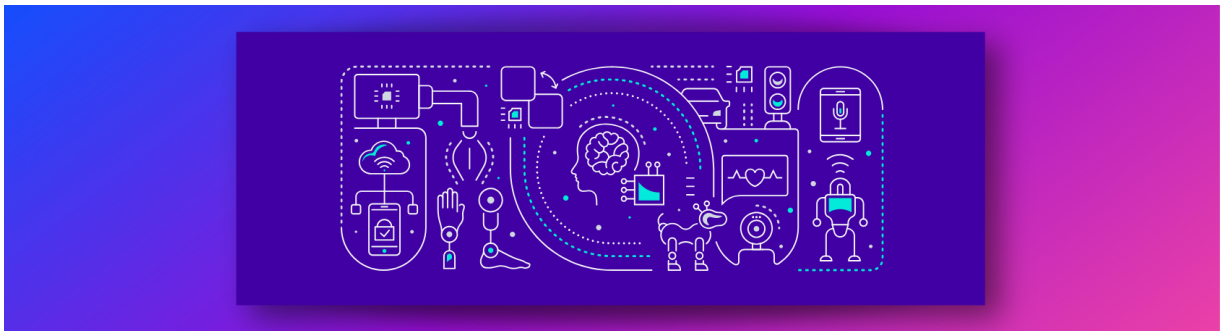
BIGCOMMERCE

Ecommerce GEO: How to Optimize for AI-Powered Search Experiences



AI (artificial intelligence) is changing how people search, shop, and make decisions online. For ecommerce brands, that means visibility is no longer just about climbing traditional rankings.

Today's search experiences are increasingly shaped by AI tools that deliver conversational answers instead of link-based results. Google's AI Overviews and platforms powered by models like ChatGPT pull content directly into summaries, often bypassing familiar SERPs altogether.

While AI-driven search accounted for under 1% of US search ad revenue in 2025, it is projected to reach 14% by 2029. In fact, by 2028, AI search is expected to drive as much US ad revenue as Bing brought in globally in 2024.

And it's not just about ads. Gartner predicts a 25% drop in overall search engine volume by 2026 as users increasingly turn to AI chatbots and virtual agents.

For ecommerce brands that rely on organic traffic and high-intent visibility, this is a wake-up call. Generative engine optimization (GEO) is quickly becoming essential to stay relevant in an AI-powered search landscape.

What GEO is and why ecommerce teams should care

Generative engine optimization, or GEO, is the process of optimizing content and product data to increase the chances it will be selected, summarized, and cited by AI-powered search engines.

Unlike traditional SEO (search engine optimization), which focuses on climbing the rankings in link-based search results, GEO is about earning a spot inside the answers themselves.

Where classic SEO strategies target search engines like Google Search to boost visibility in SERPs, GEO targets AI-driven search engines that generate responses using LLMs. These engines prioritize structured, trustworthy, and relevant content that can be easily interpreted and reused in real time.

GEO also differs from answer engine optimization (AEO), which focuses on securing featured snippets or voice search responses. While AEO aims to own a specific short answer, GEO is about ensuring your brand becomes a cited source across a broader range of complex user queries, particularly in AI-generated responses.

For ecommerce teams, GEO means rethinking how you structure product pages, meta tags, and content strategy to stay discoverable in AI-first experiences.

How generative engines assemble answers.

Generative engines like Google's AI Overviews and ChatGPT's AI Mode pull from multiple sources at once, using algorithms and large language models to synthesize real-time answers that are conversational, context-aware, and informative.

Rather than surfacing a single webpage, these AI systems analyze a broad set of signals to decide which content to cite or summarize. They favor pages with clear structure, helpful context, and visible sourcing.

One critical factor is how well your content is marked up. Structured data, especially schema types related to product pages, FAQs, reviews, and pricing, makes it easier for generative engines to understand your content. Rich snippets, which are often powered by this structured data, serve as a strong indicator of relevance and reliability. Pages that already surface as rich snippets in traditional search are more likely to be referenced in AI-generated summaries as well.

Google has stated that AI Overviews prioritize high-quality, clearly attributed content that is easy to parse.

For ecommerce teams, this makes GEO a technical and strategic priority. The more structured, discoverable, and source-friendly your content is, the higher your chances of being cited in the answers that customers actually see.

GEO building blocks for ecommerce

Growing your high-volume or established business?
Start your 15-day free trial, schedule a demo or give us a call at 1-866-581-4549.

BIGCOMMERCE

AI-generated shopping experiences are rapidly becoming the norm. From Google's AI Overviews to chat-based discovery in tools like ChatGPT and Gemini, customers are no longer browsing traditional product listings. They are getting curated answers, brand mentions, and product suggestions directly from generative AI engines.

This shift is transforming how ecommerce content is selected, summarized, and surfaced. To stay visible, ecommerce teams need to build content that AI systems can easily understand, trust, and reuse.

Entity foundations and trust signals.

Generative engines rely heavily on entities, including recognizable people, products, and organizations, to determine what content to cite and which sources to trust. For ecommerce brands, building strong, structured entities is a foundational step in generative engine optimization.

Start by defining your Organization and Product entities using JSON-LD. Include details such as your official name, logo, customer reviews, and social media profiles using the sameAs property. Where relevant, add schema for FAQs or how-to content to make your pages easier for AI models to interpret and summarize accurately.

Credible authorship also matters. Include author bios that highlight credentials, expertise, and firsthand product knowledge. This aligns with E-E-A-T principles and signals real-world authority to search engines and generative systems.

Finally, reviews play a major role. High-quality product reviews that are authentic, descriptive, and recent help reinforce trustworthiness and improve both structured data and user experience. Follow best practices for reviews schema to ensure your content stands out in both traditional search and AI-generated summaries.

Structured data that AI can extract.

Structured data helps generative engines understand and extract product information accurately. Without it, even high-quality content may be overlooked.

Ecommerce teams should ensure core schema types are present and up to date, including:

- Product
- Offer
- AggregateRating

Growing your high-volume or established business?
Start your 15-day free trial, schedule a demo or give us a call at 1-866-581-4549.

BIGCOMMERCE

- FAQPage
- ImageObject

Each of these types supports discoverability in both traditional search results and AI-generated responses. Make sure fields like pricing, availability, GTIN or MPN, product variants, and high-quality images are complete and current across all product pages.

Structured data is not set-and-forget. Keep schema in sync with your catalog to ensure that AI systems pull the most accurate and relevant information when generating shopping summaries.

Content patterns that earn citations.

Generative engines favor content that is easy to understand, clearly sourced, and structured for clarity. For ecommerce brands, that means rethinking how you build category pages, buying guides, and educational content.

Use content formats that support citation, including source-linked statistics, expert quotes with attribution, product comparisons and decision-making frameworks, and clear, verifiable claims with inline or footnoted sources. Strong backlinks also improve source credibility.

To improve usability and citation potential, organize content into scannable sections with clear subheadings. Include Q&A blocks that directly answer high-intent user questions, such as pricing, performance, or use cases. These direct answers are more likely to be lifted into AI-generated responses.

Make sure all content is up to date, well-structured, and written with the goal of helping users make informed decisions. The clearer and more credible your content is, the more likely it is to be selected and cited by AI platforms.

Product feed management as GEO plumbing.

Your product feed is more than a sales tool. It is a core part of how AI engines interpret and represent your brand. Incomplete or inconsistent data can lead to mismatches that reduce trust and visibility across AI-generated experiences.

Up-to-date, enriched product feeds ensure that pricing, availability, and product attributes are consistent across your site, Google Shopping, and omnichannel surfaces. This consistency helps AI systems generate more accurate answers and makes it easier for your content to be selected and cited.

For ecommerce teams using BigCommerce, Feedonomics simplifies this process by syncing product data across key channels like Google Shopping, Meta, and TikTok. These same surfaces

Growing your high-volume or established business?
Start your 15-day free trial, schedule a demo or give us a call at 1-866-581-4549.

BIGCOMMERCE

are increasingly being used as source material for generative answers.

Clean, structured data is essential GEO infrastructure. The more complete and accurate your product feed is, the more likely your content is to show up in AI-powered shopping results, especially as automation and data-driven decision-making become standard.

A practical GEO checklist for your store

Generative AI is not just reshaping how users search, it is changing where they look and who gets cited. Today's customers are increasingly turning to AI systems to help them make purchasing decisions, bypassing traditional search engines altogether.

Recent trends underscore the urgency:

- One in three US shoppers used generative AI tools to research unfamiliar products in 2025
- Over half of AI Mode users now rely on it regularly, and 84% say Google's AI Overviews improve their overall search experience
- Brands with clean structured data and high-quality product content are significantly more likely to be featured in AI-generated responses across search and shopping platforms

"Generative AI (GenAI) solutions are becoming substitute answer engines, replacing user queries that previously may have been executed in traditional search engines. This will force companies to rethink their marketing channels strategy as GenAI becomes more embedded across all aspects of the enterprise," shared Alan Antin, Vice President Analyst at Gartner.

To help your ecommerce store stay competitive, use this GEO checklist to align content, data, and presentation for generative visibility:

Schema:

- Validate your structured data using Google's Rich Results Test
- Apply FAQPage schema to relevant sections to increase eligibility for AI Overviews
- Review product schema for completeness, including price, availability, and identifiers

Feeds:

- Audit your product feed for accuracy: check that prices and availability reflect current inventory
- Ensure product titles are clear and consistent

Growing your high-volume or established business?
Start your 15-day free trial, schedule a demo or give us a call at 1-866-581-4549.

BIGCOMMERCE

- Confirm GTINs are included where applicable
- Resolve any feed disapprovals across your channels
- Use Feedonomics to sync and enrich feed data across Google, Meta, TikTok, and more

Media:

- Use high-resolution product images with descriptive filenames and alt text
- Add short explainer videos for complex products, and include transcripts for accessibility and crawlability

Policy and safety:

- Avoid keyword stuffing, AI-spun content, or bulk paraphrasing
- Substantiate any product-related health, financial, or safety claims with authoritative sources
- Clearly link to your return policy and warranty information where relevant

Callout:

- Add FAQPage schema to your top 5 landing pages
- Run a Rich Results Test on your best-selling product page
- Upload missing GTINs for your top 10 products
- Add descriptive alt text to your primary product image
- Resolve any feed disapprovals in Google Merchant Center using Feedonomics

A strong GEO strategy is not just about visibility, it's about online visibility, brand authority, and making your digital presence AI-ready.

Measuring GEO: KPIs and instrumentation

Generative engine optimization does not replace SEO. It builds on it. While traditional

Continue tracking core SEO metrics like rankings, impressions, and organic conversions. But also look for new indicators of GEO performance:

- Appearances in AI Overviews, chat answers, and product summaries

Growing your high-volume or established business?
Start your 15-day free trial, schedule a demo or give us a call at 1-866-581-4549.

BIGCOMMERCE

- Mentions of your brand, product names, or URLs in generative responses
- Changes in branded search volume or navigational queries
- Referral traffic from AI-enabled platforms like Google, ChatGPT, or Perplexity
- Structured data coverage and feed health reports

Since many AI tools do not provide detailed click data, indirect metrics such as user behavior, time on site, and assisted conversions can signal GEO impact.

GEO helps extend your reach into emerging search environments while reinforcing your brand across the full customer journey.

Inclusion and citation metrics.

Tracking GEO impact means looking beyond traditional rankings. Ecommerce teams should monitor where and how their content appears in AI-generated results.

Start by:

- Logging citations in Google AI Overviews
- Tracking mentions in Perplexity, Copilot, and other generative tools
- Comparing your brand's presence to competitors for high-priority queries

This helps measure share of source — the percentage of times your domain is referenced versus others.

Note that AI-generated results often pull from different sources than traditional top-ten rankings. Your page may not rank first but could still be cited in an AI response. Adjust expectations accordingly and focus on visibility across both classic and generative surfaces.

Engagement and revenue impact.

To understand the business value of GEO, ecommerce teams need to track how AI-assisted discovery influences engagement and conversions.

Look for signals such as assisted conversions from AI-driven journeys, especially where "as cited in AI" sections or widgets appear. Monitor scroll depth and click-through rates on AI-referenced content blocks. Track demo requests, trial signups, or add-to-cart actions from visitors engaging with cited content.

Growing your high-volume or established business?
Start your 15-day free trial, schedule a demo or give us a call at 1-866-581-4549.

BIGCOMMERCE

Segment performance by content type to identify where GEO delivers the most impact. For example, compare guides, FAQs, and PDPs to see which formats drive the highest engagement and revenue lift. Use these insights to fuel future content marketing and keyword research strategies.

GEO is not just about visibility. It helps turn high-intent AI discovery moments into measurable business outcomes.

How BigCommerce helps you operationalize GEO

Built-in SEO controls and clean markup.

Strong SEO foundations are essential to support GEO. Canonical tags help prevent duplicate content issues and ensure the right version of a page is indexed. Robots.txt files and meta directives guide crawlers on what to index or ignore, while XML sitemaps ensure your content is discoverable and kept current in search systems.

Customizable URLs, titles, and meta descriptions improve clarity and targeting. Clean HTML with consistent heading structure and semantic markup further helps generative engines interpret your content accurately.

These elements not only support traditional SEO but also improve your chances of being cited and correctly represented in AI-powered search results.

Feedonomics for product data quality.

Feedonomics plays a central role in maintaining the product data accuracy that generative engines depend on. It centralizes data from across your ecommerce stack, standardizes attributes, and ensures consistent pricing and availability across every sales channel.

This consistency reduces mismatches between your site and what AI systems surface in responses. Feedonomics also enriches your data with structured attributes, making it more readable and reliable for AI-powered platforms.

By syndicating product data to Google Shopping, Meta, TikTok, and other discovery channels, Feedonomics helps ensure your products appear where generative engines are pulling source material. For ecommerce teams investing in GEO, a clean, synchronized feed is a powerful asset.

Apps and integrations for schema and reviews.

To scale GEO across your ecommerce store, consider using marketplace apps that support structured data and user-generated content. Apps that expose JSON-LD for product and review

Growing your high-volume or established business?
Start your 15-day free trial, schedule a demo or give us a call at 1-866-581-4549.

BIGCOMMERCE

markup help ensure your pages are eligible for rich results and citation in generative engines.

Look for integrations that support Product, Review, and AggregateRating schema while syncing customer feedback directly into your product pages. These tools improve trust signals and help AI systems understand and summarize product quality at a glance.

It is also important to confirm that your ratings meet the criteria for extraction in Google's product review systems. Verified reviews, fresh content, and proper markup increase your chances of being featured in both traditional search and AI-generated summaries.

Composable content delivery.

Composable and headless builds offer a powerful foundation for GEO. By separating content from presentation, ecommerce teams can deliver fast, structured, and flexible experiences across all channels.

Structured content blocks such as product specs, reviews, FAQs, and how-to content are easier for AI systems to parse and reuse when delivered through a composable architecture. Reusable entities like product information, pricing, and availability stay consistent across surfaces, reducing fragmentation and improving trust signals.

Composable delivery also supports better performance, which improves crawlability and customer experience alike. For GEO, this architecture makes it easier to surface accurate, high quality content in AI powered search experiences and supports efficient content creation at scale.

The final word

Generative engine optimization does not replace SEO. It builds on it. As AI powered search becomes the norm, ecommerce brands must evolve to meet new expectations for structure, trust, and accuracy.

The brands that win in this environment will be the ones that pair high quality, provable content with clean, complete product data. By investing in GEO now, you not only stay visible across emerging AI surfaces, you set your business up for long term growth in an increasingly competitive digital landscape.

FAQs about ecommerce generative engine optimization

What is generative engine optimization and how is it different from SEO?

Growing your high-volume or established business?
Start your 15-day free trial, schedule a demo or give us a call at 1-866-581-4549.

BIGCOMMERCE

Generative engine optimization, or GEO, is the practice of making your content and product data more likely to be selected, summarized, and cited by AI-powered search engines. Unlike traditional search engine optimization, which focuses on improving search rankings in link-based results, GEO is about earning visibility within AI-generated answers.

While SEO targets how pages rank in classic search, GEO targets how content is interpreted and included in real-time, conversational responses. Both are important, but GEO ensures your ecommerce business stays visible as search continues to shift toward AI-driven search engines.

How do AI Overviews and other AI answer engines choose sources?

AI Overviews and generative answer engines choose sources based on a mix of content quality, structure, and trust signals. They prioritize pages that are well organized, clearly attributed, and easy to parse using structured data like schema markup.

Engines like Google's AI Overviews synthesize responses from multiple sources at once, favoring content that directly answers user intent, includes expert insights, and reflects real-world authority. Structured product data, FAQs, and high-quality reviews can all improve your chances of being cited. Pages with optimized product descriptions, clean metadata, and consistent use of natural language are more likely to be cited effectively.

Which schema and on-page elements help inclusion in AI results?

Schema types like Product, Offer, AggregateRating, FAQPage, and ImageObject help AI systems understand and extract your content more accurately. These structured data elements improve your eligibility for inclusion in AI Overviews and other generative responses.

On the page, elements that support inclusion include clear product titles, accurate pricing and availability, high resolution images with alt text, and source-linked content. Content that directly answers common user questions or includes expert commentary is also more likely to be cited. Pages with strong backlinks, clean meta tags, and excellent readability tend to perform best.

How should ecommerce teams measure GEO impact on revenue?

To measure GEO's impact on revenue, ecommerce businesses should track assisted conversions from AI-driven journeys, especially where AI citations or summaries lead to product interactions. Monitor click-through rates, scroll depth, and engagement on sections referenced by AI tools like Google's AI Overviews or Perplexity.

Segment performance by content type, such as guides versus product detail pages, to identify which formats drive the most value. Since direct attribution may be limited, combine user behavior insights with conversion data to evaluate GEO's contribution across the full customer

Growing your high-volume or established business?
Start your 15-day free trial, schedule a demo or give us a call at 1-866-581-4549.

BIGCOMMERCE

journey. You can also tie GEO performance back to specific digital marketing goals, content marketing campaigns, or educational efforts like webinars that support awareness and adoption.

What role does product feed quality (e.g., GTINs, attributes) play in GEO?

High-quality product feeds are essential for GEO. Attributes like GTINs, accurate pricing, availability, and complete product details help AI systems understand, trust, and reference your listings. Incomplete or inconsistent data can lead to mismatches, missed citations, or reduced visibility in generative search results.

Well-structured feeds also support syndication to surfaces like Google Shopping, Amazon, and other platforms that increasingly influence AI-powered answers. The more complete and accurate your feed, the more likely your products are to be cited in AI-driven shopping experiences. Using tools that support automation, structured content, and consistent formatting, such as Feedonomics, can simplify this process significantly.

How can ecommerce teams improve GEO performance across platforms?

To improve performance, teams should evaluate and refine their ecommerce strategy regularly. Start by auditing your ecommerce platform for gaps in schema support, page speed, and functionality that may impact crawlability or content parsing.

Ensure your site integrates with modern APIs, supports dynamic feeds, and enables customization across templates and components. Prioritize long-tail keywords that reflect high-intent searches and enhance your content with conversational natural language. Review conversion rates, customer retention data, and platform-specific visibility for insights.

Monitor how you perform not only on Google, but also on Shopify, Amazon, and other key discovery surfaces where AI systems collect source data. Strong GEO performance relies on clear, structured, and consistently high-quality content across all touchpoints for retailers and shoppers alike. Incorporating bots for on-site engagement and aligning with data-informed marketing strategies can also support long-term visibility and performance.

Growing your high-volume or established business?
Start your 15-day free trial, schedule a demo or give us a call at 1-866-581-4549.

BIGCOMMERCE