AI Automation / Zapier Workflows

Analyze a multi-path Zap and suggest simplifications or performance improvements.
Difficulty: Advanced
Model: GPT-4 / Claude / Gemini
Use Case: Zap Maintenance, Performance Tuning, Cost Reduction
Updated: May 2026
Why This Prompt Exists
Zaps start simple and grow complex — adding paths, filters, and actions over time. Eventually they become slow, expensive, and impossible to debug.

You get:

- Zaps that take 30+ seconds to run (timeout risks)
- redundant actions that could be combined (wasting tasks)
- deeply nested paths that are impossible to understand
- filters that could be merged (reducing complexity)
- search actions that could be replaced with lookups

But optimization opportunities exist:

- parallel actions: independent actions can be separated (but Zapier doesn’t support true parallelism)
- filter merging: multiple filters can often be combined into one
- path reduction: some paths are never taken (remove them)
- search elimination: search actions can sometimes be replaced with direct mapping
- action consolidation: multiple actions in same app can sometimes be combined

Without optimization, Zaps become bloated and fragile.

This prompt analyzes and optimizes existing Zap paths.

The Prompt

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Assume the role of a Zapier optimization engineer who simplifies
complex Zaps.

Your task is to analyze a Zap and recommend simplifications and
performance improvements.

Generate:

1. ZAP STRUCTURE ANALYSIS
   - Current steps: [list]
   - Paths: [number of conditional paths]
   - Filters: [number of filter steps]

2. COMPLEXITY METRICS
   - Total steps: [X]
   - Maximum path depth: [Y]
   - Estimated execution time: [Z seconds]
   - Monthly task consumption: [estimate]

3. OPTIMIZATION OPPORTUNITIES

| Issue | Location | Impact | Suggestion |
|-------|----------|--------|------------|
| [redundant filter] | Step 3 | Slows every run | [merge with step 1]
|
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| [unused path] | Path B | Wasted complexity | [remove] |
| [slow search] | Step 5 | 5 second delay | [replace with direct lookup] |

4. SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS
   - Filter merging: [current filters] → [merged filter]
   - Path pruning: [paths never taken] → [remove]
   - Action consolidation: [separate actions] → [combined action]
   - Search optimization: [current search] → [alternative]

5. REWRITTEN ZAP STRUCTURE
   - Optimized step sequence

6. EXPECTED IMPROVEMENTS
   - Steps reduction: [X] → [Y] ([Z]% reduction)
   - Execution time: [A]s → [B]s ([C]% faster)
   - Task savings: [D] tasks/month saved

7. RISKS OF OPTIMIZATION
   - What could break if changes are made incorrectly

INPUTS:

Current Zap description (steps, paths, filters):
[PASTE OR DESCRIBE THE ZAP]

Monthly run volume:
[LOW (<1K) / MEDIUM (1K-10K) / HIGH (>10K)]

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Recent failures or slowness observed:
[E.G., "Zap times out on large orders"]

Optimization priority:
[SPEED / SIMPLICITY / COST]

RULES:
- Remove paths that are never taken (check Zap history logs)
- Merge filters when they apply to the same condition
- Combine multiple updates to the same app when possible
- Replace search actions with direct field mapping when IDs are known
- Test optimizations on sample data before deploying to production
- Keep a backup of the original Zap before making changes
```

How To Use It

- Run this quarterly on your most-used Zaps — complexity creeps up over time.
- Check Zap history logs to identify paths that are never taken (remove them).
- Merge multiple filters into one when possible (fewer steps = faster runs).
- Test optimizations on sample data before deploying.
- Keep a backup of the original Zap — you may need to revert.

Example Input

Current Zap description:
“Step 1: Filter (if email contains ‘urgent’), Step 2: Filter (if order > $500), Step 3: Create Slack message, Step 4: Send email, Step 5: Filter (if email contains ‘VIP’), Step 6: Send SMS, Step 7: Filter (if order > $1000), Step 8: Create task in Asana”

Monthly run volume:
“HIGH (>10K runs)”

Recent failures or slowness:
“Zap timing out on large orders”

Optimization priority:
“SPEED”

Why It Works
Most Zaps are built iteratively — “add one more filter, add one more action” — without ever revisiting the overall design.

This framework improves outcomes by forcing:

- complexity measurement (how complex is this Zap?)
- optimization opportunity identification (what can be simplified?)
- specific recommendations (exactly what to change)
- expected improvement quantification (how much better will it be?)
- risk assessment (what could break?)

Great Zap optimization doesn’t just simplify — it makes automations faster, cheaper, and more reliable.

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