

Open source, self-hosting and buying once in 2026

How many of 1555 productivity tools are open source, can run on your own server, encrypt end to end or can be bought once, by category.

20%

of the 1555 tools are open source, according to their own sites.

10%

can be run on a server of your own.

4%

describe themselves as end-to-end encrypted.

19%

can be bought once instead of by subscription.

54%

of the open-source tools have no paid plan at all.

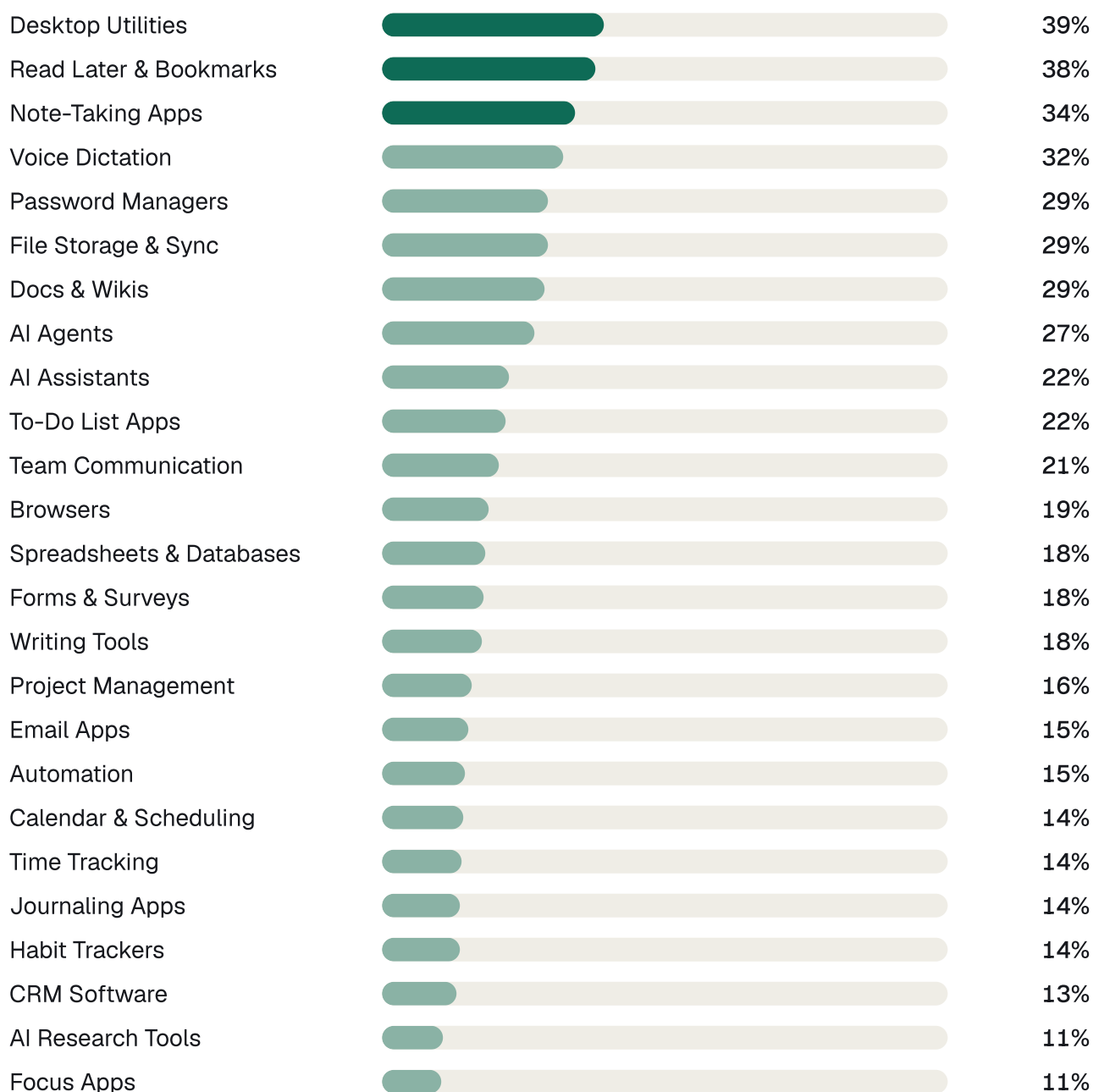
Counted from 1555 listings, each read from the vendor's own pages up to Oct 9, 2026.
toolgpa.com/reports/open-source-and-ownership

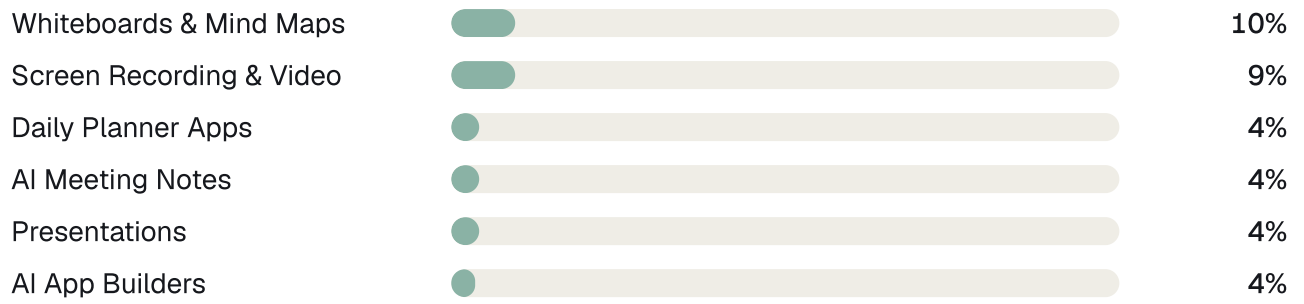
01

Open source is common in a few categories and rare in most

305 of the 1555 tools are open source. The share is highest in Desktop Utilities, Read Later & Bookmarks and Note-Taking Apps and lowest in AI App Builders, Presentations and AI Meeting Notes.

Open source does not mean free of charge: 165 of the 305 have no paid plan, and the rest sell hosting, support or extra features. 127 can be run on a server of your own.



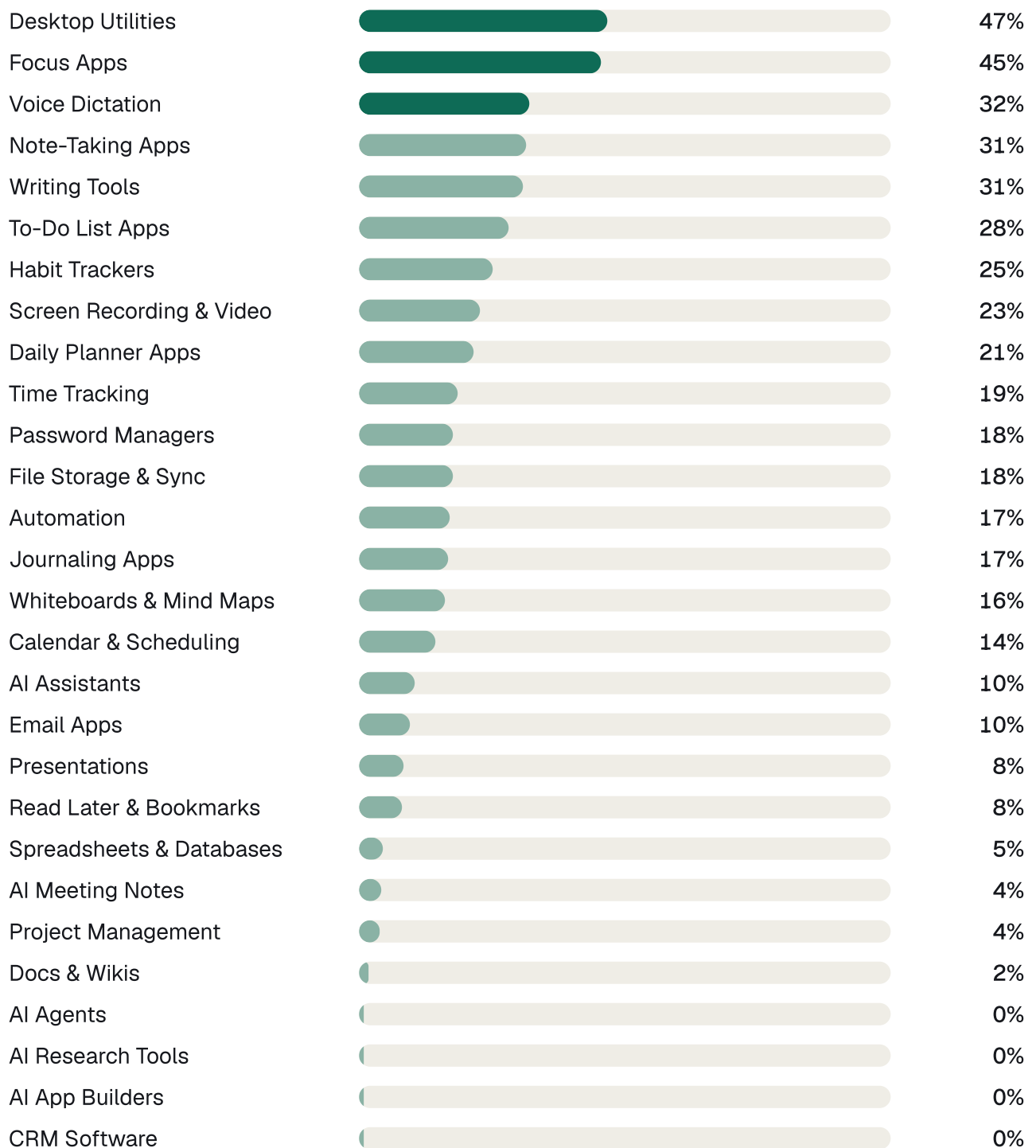


Source: ToolGPA, October 2026. 1555 tools.

02

Where you can still buy once

19% of the tools can be bought with a single payment. The share is highest in Desktop Utilities, Focus Apps and Voice Dictation, which are mostly apps for one person on one device, and lowest in Browsers, Forms & Surveys and Team Communication.



Team Communication		0%
Forms & Surveys		0%
Browsers		0%

Source: ToolGPA, October 2026. 1555 tools.

Every category

Category	Tools	Open source	Self-hostable	End-to-end encrypted	One-time purchase
AI Meeting Notes	48	4%	2%	2%	4%
AI Assistants	58	22%	12%	5%	10%
AI Agents	52	27%	27%	0%	0%
AI Research Tools	28	11%	11%	0%	0%
AI App Builders	27	4%	0%	0%	0%
Voice Dictation	28	32%	0%	0%	32%
Note-Taking Apps	147	34%	14%	8%	31%
Writing Tools	68	18%	4%	0%	31%
Docs & Wikis	52	29%	31%	4%	2%
Whiteboards & Mind Maps	31	10%	13%	6%	16%
Spreadsheets & Databases	22	18%	32%	5%	5%
Presentations	24	4%	0%	0%	8%
To-Do List Apps	124	22%	6%	5%	28%
Daily Planner Apps	70	4%	3%	1%	21%
Calendar & Scheduling	76	14%	5%	4%	14%
Email Apps	52	15%	2%	15%	10%
Project Management	76	16%	24%	1%	4%
CRM Software	46	13%	15%	2%	0%
Team Communication	34	21%	24%	15%	0%
Automation	41	15%	24%	0%	17%
Forms & Surveys	28	18%	18%	0%	0%
Focus Apps	66	11%	0%	0%	45%
Time Tracking	43	14%	14%	0%	19%
Habit Trackers	44	14%	7%	2%	25%
Journaling Apps	36	14%	3%	11%	17%
Read Later & Bookmarks	37	38%	24%	0%	8%
Screen Recording & Video	53	9%	2%	0%	23%
Desktop Utilities	94	39%	0%	1%	47%
Browsers	16	19%	0%	19%	0%
Password Managers	17	29%	12%	41%	18%
File Storage & Sync	17	29%	6%	41%	18%
All categories	1555	20%	10%	4%	19%

How this was counted

- Each of these is counted only when the vendor states it outright on its own site, so a tool without the mark is a fair no.
- Open source means the vendor publishes the source code under an open licence. It does not mean every feature is free.
- End-to-end encrypted is the vendor's own description. Nobody here has audited it.

These figures describe the 1555 tools listed on ToolGPA, not every product on the market. They are counted again whenever a listing changes; this is the October 2026 edition. You may quote them with a link to this report.