ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Apache Camel

The Insider's Guide

Open-source Java framework for integration routes



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among automation tools, read from Apache Camel's own pages.

Made by The Apache Software Foundation · checked Nov 13, 2026 · toolgpa.com

2.0

GPA



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Who made this guide, what else is on the site, and how to cite it

ToolGPA put this guide together from Apache Camel's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Apache Camel's page too, where it is kept up to date. Checked Nov 13, 2026.

Welcome

What it is, who it suits, its grades and the ten things to know first

2.0

GPA, above 26 of the 134 other automation tools we grade

Apache Camel is an open-source integration framework that connects systems through routes written in Java, YAML or XML. It lists 350+ components and implements the Enterprise Integration Patterns. Routes run on Spring Boot, Quarkus or standalone with the Camel CLI. It is an Apache Software Foundation project under the Apache License 2.0.

> "
>
> **It needs Java, routes written in code and your own deployment.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

To get you started, here are **8 things to know about Apache Camel**, taken from its own pages and our grades.

1 **Best for wiring systems together in Java code**

Apache Camel is free software for routing data between systems in code.

2 **It is free**

Apache Camel has no paid plan at all.

3 **It runs on 3 platforms**

Linux, macOS and Windows.

4 **350+ components**

Components cover systems such as Kafka, REST, JDBC, AWS, Azure, GCP, SAP and Salesforce, according to the project's homepage.

5 **Routes in three syntaxes**

The same route can be written in the Java DSL, YAML or XML, and the syntaxes can be mixed within one project.

6 **Enterprise Integration Patterns**

Routing, transforming, filtering, splitting and aggregating messages follow the EIP catalog, which the project says it has used since 2007.

7 **A 2.0 GPA, above 26 of 134**

That is against the other automation tools we grade, on value, the free plan, features, ease of use and platforms.

8 **Keep it**

Apache Camel is free, so making your own would save you nothing.

Apache Camel at a glance

PRICING Free	FREE PLAN It is free
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON macOS, Windows, Linux
MADE BY The Apache Software Foundation	CATEGORY Automation
OUR GRADE 2.0 GPA, fair	

The report card

Best for wiring systems together in Java code

Apache Camel is free software for routing data between systems in code. But it is a framework for developers, not a service, and the project published 38 security advisories in October 2026, so upgrading matters.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD	Apache Camel	Graded Nov 13, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	C	Free under the Apache licence, but you build, deploy and run it yourself.
Free plan and trial	B	A library and command line tool you can download and run with no limits. The work of hosting is yours.
Features	C	Routes between systems in code. It does that job fully, but it is a framework rather than a finished tool.
Ease of use	D	No store rating on record. It needs Java, routes written in code and your own deployment.
Platforms and integrations	C	Runs on Linux, macOS and Windows, with Kafka, Spring Boot, Quarkus, AWS and Azure listed. No hosted or phone version.
Grade point average		Fair, out of 4.0 **2.0**

An A is worth 4 points, a B 3, a C 2, a D 1 and an F nothing. The GPA is the average of the five.

Who Apache Camel is for

- ✓ Fits if you are a Java developer who needs to connect systems in code
- ✓ Works for teams that already run Spring Boot or Quarkus apps

Who it is not for

- ✗ Skip it if you want a hosted automation service, as the project sells none
- ✗ Not for you if you do not write code
- ✗ Watch out: supported Java versions are 17, 21 and 25, and each release line has an end of support date
- ✗ Watch out: 38 security advisories were published in October 2026, all fixed in the latest releases

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Java teams wiring together messaging, databases and APIs
- ✓ Developers who want integration routes as code with no license fee

Worth knowing

- ⓘ Camel is a framework for developers, not a hosted automation service; you build, deploy and run the routes yourself.
- ⓘ The download page lists supported Java versions (17, 21 and 25) and ends support for each release line on a stated date.
- ⓘ The project published 38 security advisories in October 2026, all fixed in the latest releases, so upgrades matter.

What it costs

Every plan, the free plan, ways to pay less and how prices have moved

Free

No paid plan at all

Apache Camel is free to use.

> **Free under the Apache licence, but you build, deploy and run it yourself.**
>
> From our grade for value for money

APACHE CAMEL

$0

Free under the Apache License 2.0. A library and CLI you run yourself; the project sells no hosted plan.

Read from camel.apache.org on Nov 13, 2026.

What it does

Its main features, where it runs, what it works with and who makes it

3

Places it runs: macOS, Windows and Linux

Open-source Java framework for integration routes. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: open source, self-hostable, AI features, workflow automation.

> **It does that job fully, but it is a framework rather than a finished tool.**

From our grade for features

350+ components

Components cover systems such as Kafka, REST, JDBC, AWS, Azure, GCP, SAP and Salesforce, according to the project's homepage.

Routes in three syntaxes

The same route can be written in the Java DSL, YAML or XML, and the syntaxes can be mixed within one project.

Enterprise Integration Patterns

Routing, transforming, filtering, splitting and aggregating messages follow the EIP catalog, which the project says it has used since 2007.

Runtimes and tooling

Camel runs on Spring Boot, Quarkus or via the Camel CLI. Camel K targets Kubernetes and Karavan is a visual designer.

AI components

The site lists 20+ AI components for agents, tools, MCP and A2A, and a recent release adds a LangChain4j ingestion component.

Where it runs

macOS · Windows · Linux

What it works with

Kafka · Spring Boot · Quarkus · AWS · Azure · Salesforce · SAP

Apache Camel is made by The Apache Software Foundation.

Where it stands

Its grades against its category, and whether to keep it or make your own

26/134

Other automation tools it is graded above

Apache Camel's GPA of 2.0 is higher than 26 of the 134 other automation tools we grade, and level with 27.

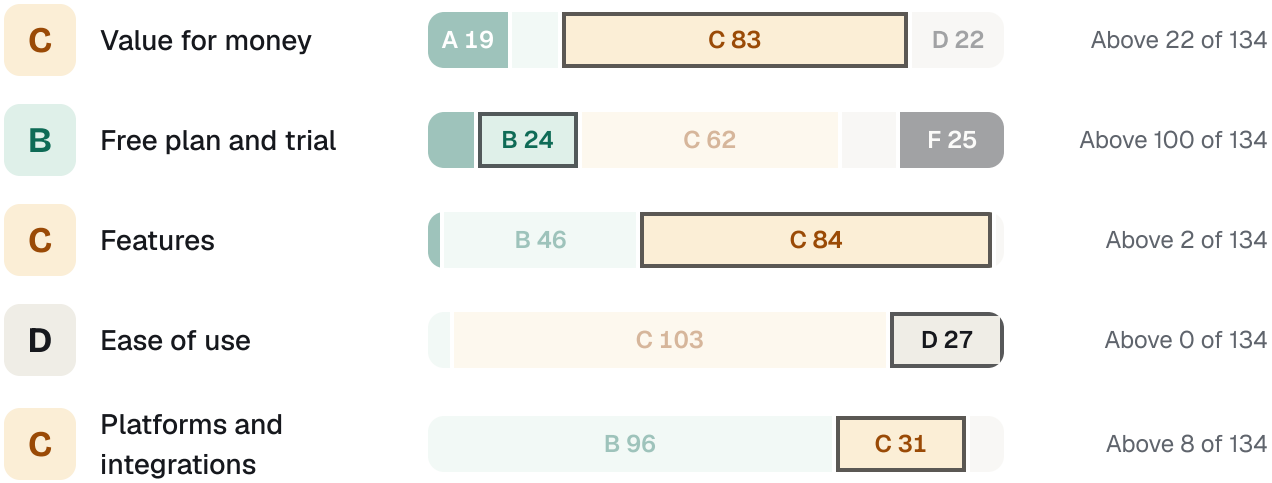
It stands best on free plan and trial (B, above 100 of 134) and worst on ease of use (D, above 0).

Apache Camel has no paid plan.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 1.7 out of 4. Nothing scores higher for less, though at least one tool matches that score at a lower price.

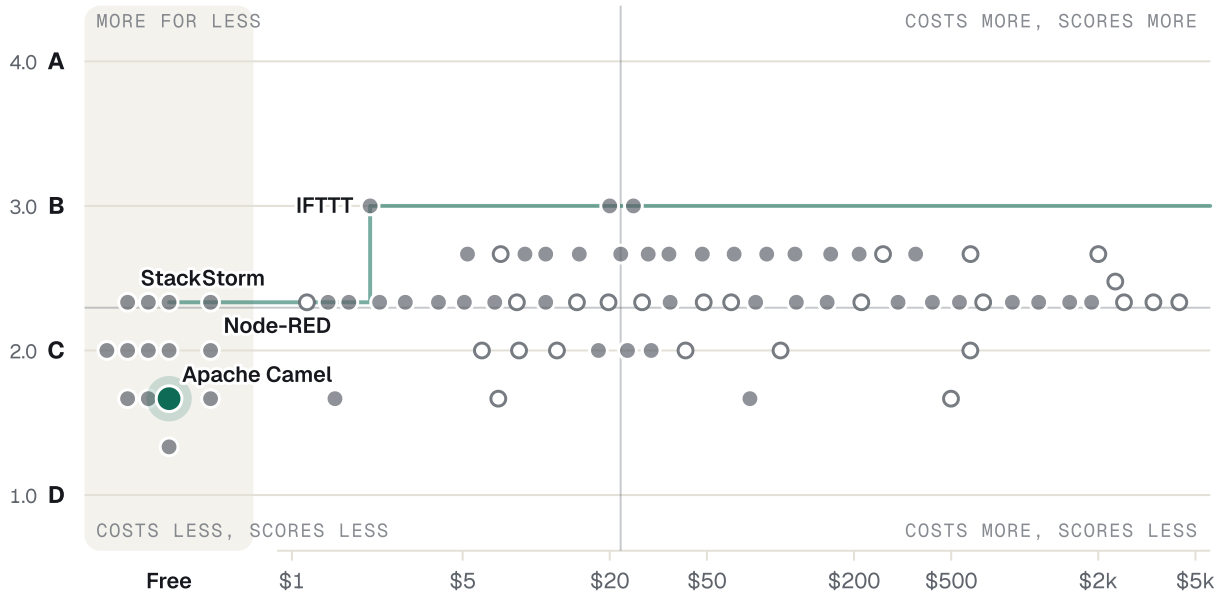
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 135 automation tools we grade, cut by the letter each got. Apache Camel's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 80 automation tools. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. Apache Camel is the marked dot.



What paid plans start at, a month (each step along is roughly double)

Keep it, or make your own?

Whether this is something you could build for yourself with an AI app builder, and what you would give up.

Keep it

Apache Camel is free, so making your own would save you nothing.

And it is not the kind of software a weekend replaces. That makes this kind of software worth paying for, not this one in particular: 81 of the 134 other automation tools grade higher.

What you could not

- ✕ Connections to other products, each kept working as those products change.
- ✕ Apps for macOS, Windows and Linux that stay in step with each other.
- ✕ AI features, unless you pay a model provider for each request yourself.

What this rests on. Apache Camel's listing: what it does, where it runs, what it plugs into and what it costs. It is a judgement about the kind of software this is. We have not built a replacement for it, and making your own means looking after it too. How we decide, and every tool's verdict.

The alternatives

The tools it is most often weighed against, side by side



Apache NiFi, MuleSoft, Boomi, Node-RED and Apache Airflow

The 5 tools Apache Camel is most often weighed against, with where each one differs from it.

2.2 GPA

Apache NiFi

Free

Open-source system for routing and processing data flows.

- Only Apache NiFi lists a web app.

Apache Camel and Apache NiFi compared in full

2.4 GPA

MuleSoft

Free trial

Integration, API and AI agent management from Salesforce.

- Apache Camel has a free plan. MuleSoft does not, though it has a free trial.
- Only Apache Camel lists Linux, macOS and Windows apps.
- Only MuleSoft lists a web app.

Apache Camel and MuleSoft compared in full



2.2
GPA

Boomi

Free trial · from $99/mo

Integration, API management and AI agent platform.

- Apache Camel has a free plan. Boomi does not, though it has a free trial.
- Only Apache Camel lists Linux, macOS and Windows apps.
- Only Boomi lists a web app.

Apache Camel and Boomi compared in full



3.0
GPA

Node-RED

Free

Open-source, flow-based programming tool for event-driven apps.

- Only Apache Camel lists a macOS app.
- Only Node-RED lists a web app.

Apache Camel and Node-RED compared in full



2.4
GPA

Apache Airflow

Free

Open-source platform for authoring and scheduling workflows in Python.

- Only Apache Camel lists Linux, macOS and Windows apps.
- Only Apache Airflow lists a web app.

Apache Camel and Apache Airflow compared in full

Quick answers

The questions people ask about it, each answered in a line or two

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Questions, each answered in a line or two

The short version of everything above, for when you only need the answer. Each one is told in full in its part of the guide.

Is Apache Camel free?

Yes. Apache Camel is free to use.

How much does Apache Camel cost?

Apache Camel lists one plan. Apache Camel: $0.

What platforms does Apache Camel work on?

Apache Camel is available on Linux, macOS and Windows.

Does Apache Camel have an Android app?

No Android app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. Apache Camel is listed for Linux, macOS and Windows.

Does Apache Camel have an iPhone app?

No iPhone app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. Apache Camel is listed for Linux, macOS and Windows.

Is Apache Camel open source?

Yes. Apache Camel is open source, according to its own site.

What does Apache Camel integrate with?

Apache Camel's listing names Kafka, Spring Boot, Quarkus, AWS, Azure, Salesforce and SAP.

Who makes Apache Camel?

Apache Camel is made by The Apache Software Foundation.

What are the alternatives to Apache Camel?

The closest alternatives to Apache Camel in our directory are Apache NiFi, MuleSoft, Boomi, Node-RED and Apache Airflow.

How does Apache Camel compare with other automation tools?

Apache Camel's GPA of 2.0 is higher than 26 of the 134 other automation tools we grade, and level with 27.

Is Apache Camel good value for money?

ToolGPA grades Apache Camel C for value for money. Apache Camel has no paid plan.

Could I make my own version of Apache Camel?

Apache Camel is free, so making your own would save you nothing. And it is not the kind of software a weekend replaces.

Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from Apache Camel's own pages on Nov 13, 2026, and the grades were given on Nov 13, 2026. Graded from this listing, whose facts were read from Apache Camel's own pages on 13 November 2026. Not based on using the product, and shorter than our full reviews.

Every tool we list gets five grades, A to F, each with its reason, and a GPA that averages them. How each is decided is at toolgpa.com/grades. This guide is ToolGPA's own work; it is not made, paid for or approved by The Apache Software Foundation. Prices change, so check camel.apache.org before you buy.

camel.apache.org/

camel.apache.org/download/

About ToolGPA

Who made this guide, what else is on the site, and how to cite it

7,721

Tools graded, in 95 categories

ToolGPA grades software the way a school report grades a pupil: five subjects, a letter for each with the reason written beside it, and a GPA that averages them. Prices, plans and platforms are read from each maker's own pages and dated, so you always know how fresh a figure is.

Every grade, review and ranking on ToolGPA is our own judgement. No company can pay for a grade or change one. Every tool on the site has a guide like this one, free to download and pass on. It all lives at **toolgpa.com**.

7,721	95	739	579
tools graded	categories	price changes on record	apps priced in 12 countries

What else is on toolgpa.com

Apache Camel, kept up to date

Everything in this guide, with prices and grades as they are today

toolgpa.com/tools/apache-camel

How grades are given

The rules behind every letter and every GPA

toolgpa.com/grades

Value charts

What each tool costs against what it scores, for every category

toolgpa.com/charts

Compare

Any two tools side by side, plan by plan

toolgpa.com/compare

Price changes

Every price rise and cut on record, each with its source

toolgpa.com/price-changes

Prices by country

What apps cost on the App Store in 12 countries

toolgpa.com/prices-by-country

Pay less

Every public discount: yearly billing, students, nonprofits

toolgpa.com/save

Keep or make

Which tools are worth paying for, and which you could build yourself

toolgpa.com/keep-or-make

Scan for the live page

Prices and grades as they are today

Quoting this guide?

Please name ToolGPA and link to the live page, so readers can check the figures for themselves:

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ToolGPA, "Apache Camel: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 13, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/apache-camel
```

Know someone choosing between automation tools?

Send them this guide: toolgpa.com/tools/apache-camel/guide

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded automation tools after Apache Camel, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Automation Insider's Guide

Every one of the 135 automation tools we grade, compared

Knime Insider's Guide

Open-source visual workflows for data analysis and automation

3.2 GPA

IFTTT Insider's Guide

Simple trigger-and-action automations for apps and smart devices

3.0 GPA

Node-RED Insider's Guide

Open-source, flow-based programming tool for event-driven apps

3.0 GPA

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Choosing software? Every tool graded, every price dated.

Compare tools at toolgpa.com ›

Everything in this guide is ToolGPA's own summary of what Apache Camel's pages, its app-store listings and public reviews said on the dates shown. Grades are our judgement under the rules at toolgpa.com/grades. Every grade, review and ranking on ToolGPA is our own judgement. No company can pay for a grade or change one. Apache Camel is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by The Apache Software Foundation. Prices and plans change: check camel.apache.org before you buy.