ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Apache NiFi

The Insider's Guide

Open-source system for routing and processing data flows



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

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

2.2
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 NiFi's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Apache NiFi'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

2.2

GPA, above 54 of the 134 other automation tools we grade

Apache NiFi automates the flow of data between systems, using a visual flow design with queues, back pressure, prioritization and guaranteed delivery. A provenance repository records data lineage, and nodes can be clustered. It is an Apache Software Foundation project published under the Apache License 2.0.

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

> **It's self-hosted only, needs a server you set up and run, and support is community mailing lists, an issue tracker and a wiki.**
>
> From our report card of Apache NiFi

1 **Best for routing data between systems you host yourself**

Apache NiFi routes and transforms data between systems through a visual flow editor and costs nothing to download.

2 **It is free**

Apache NiFi has no paid plan at all.

3 **It runs on 4 platforms**

Web, Windows, macOS and Linux.

4 **Flow-based design**

Data moves between processors as FlowFiles through connections that hold queues, which can be prioritized and given upper limits that apply back pressure.

5 **Guaranteed delivery**

The docs describe persistent FlowFile and content repositories on local disk that support guaranteed delivery.

6 **Data provenance**

The Provenance Repository stores indexed, searchable event data about each piece of data as it moves through a flow.

7 **A 2.2 GPA, above 54 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 NiFi is free, so making your own would save you nothing.

Apache NiFi at a glance

PRICING Free	FREE PLAN It is free
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON Web, macOS, Windows, Linux
MADE BY The Apache Software Foundation	CATEGORY Automation
OUR GRADE 2.2 GPA, fair	

The report card

Best for routing data between systems you host yourself

Apache NiFi routes and transforms data between systems through a visual flow editor and costs nothing to download. It's self-hosted only, needs a

server you set up and run, and support is community mailing lists, an issue tracker and a wiki.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD	Apache NiFi	Graded Nov 13, 2026
SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	C	No licence fee, but it only runs on a server you provide and operate, so it's a C by our rule for self-host software.
Free plan and trial	A	Free outright with no caps; the project sells no plans.
Features	C	Data routing with auditable flows. The project publishes no managed service or support plan.
Ease of use	D	No store rating on record. It needs setup and ongoing operation on a server.
Platforms and integrations	C	Browser interface plus Windows, Linux and macOS start-up, with Apache ZooKeeper as the one named integration.
Grade point average		Fair, out of 4.0 **2.2**

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 NiFi is for

- ✓ Fits if you run your own infrastructure and want auditable data routing
- ✓ Works for organisations that need software with no licence fee

Who it is not for

- ✕ Skip it if you want a hosted service, since the project has none
- ✕ Not for you if nobody can run a server
- ✕ Tight if you need paid support, as help is community only
- ✕ Watch out: upgrades and security are your job

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Teams that run their own infrastructure and need auditable data routing
- ✓ Organizations that need open-source software with no license fee

Worth knowing

- ⓘ Apache NiFi is self-hosted only; the project publishes no managed cloud service or support plan.
- ⓘ It runs on a server and needs setup and operation; the documentation covers Windows, Linux and macOS start-up.
- ⓘ Support comes through the community: mailing lists, an issue tracker and a wiki.

What it costs

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

Free

No paid plan at all

Apache NiFi is free to use.

> **No licence fee, but it only runs on a server you provide and operate, so it's a C by our rule for self-host software.**
>
> From our grade for value for money

APACHE NIFI

$0

Free to download and run under the Apache License 2.0. You host it yourself; the project sells no hosted plan.

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

What it does

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

4

Places it runs: Web, macOS, Windows and Linux

Open-source system for routing and processing data flows. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: open source, self-hostable, AI features, workflow automation.

> **The project publishes no managed service or support plan.**

From our grade for features

Flow-based design

Data moves between processors as FlowFiles through connections that hold queues, which can be prioritized and given upper limits that apply back pressure.

Guaranteed delivery

The docs describe persistent FlowFile and content repositories on local disk that support guaranteed delivery.

Data provenance

The Provenance Repository stores indexed, searchable event data about each piece of data as it moves through a flow.

Clustering

Since NiFi 1.0, clusters use a zero-leader design where every node performs the same tasks on different data, coordinated through Apache ZooKeeper.

Related projects

The site lists MiNiFi, a Registry for flows and a Flow Design System alongside the main project.

Where it runs

Web
macOS
Windows
Linux

What it works with

Apache ZooKeeper

Apache NiFi is made by The Apache Software Foundation.

PART 04 · STANDING

Where it stands

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

54/134

Other automation tools it is graded above

Apache NiFi's GPA of 2.2 is higher than 54 of the 134 other automation tools we grade, and level with 35.

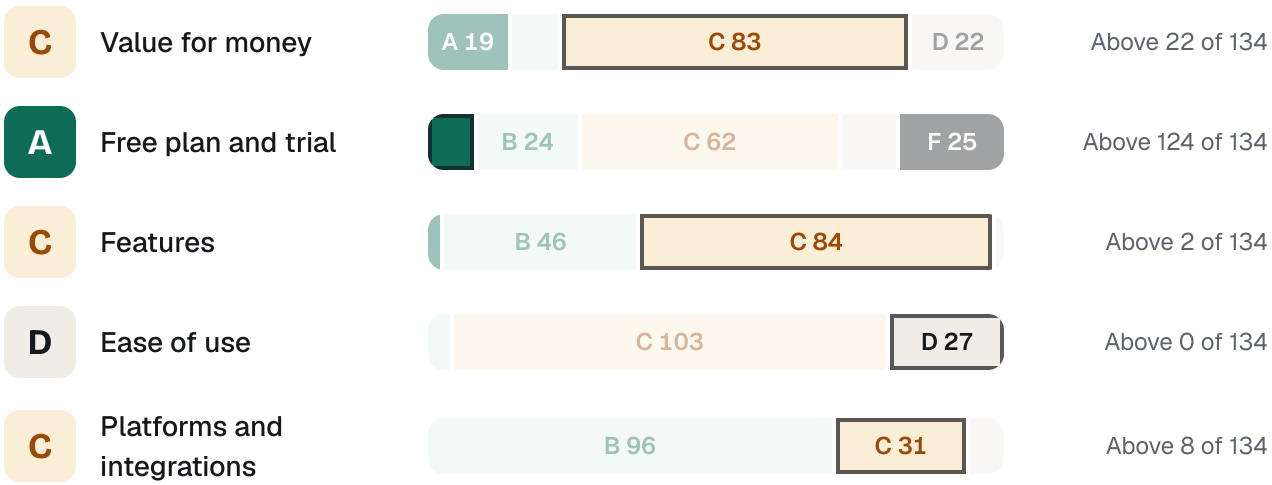
It stands best on free plan and trial (A, above 124 of 134) and worst on ease of use (D, above 0).

Apache NiFi 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.

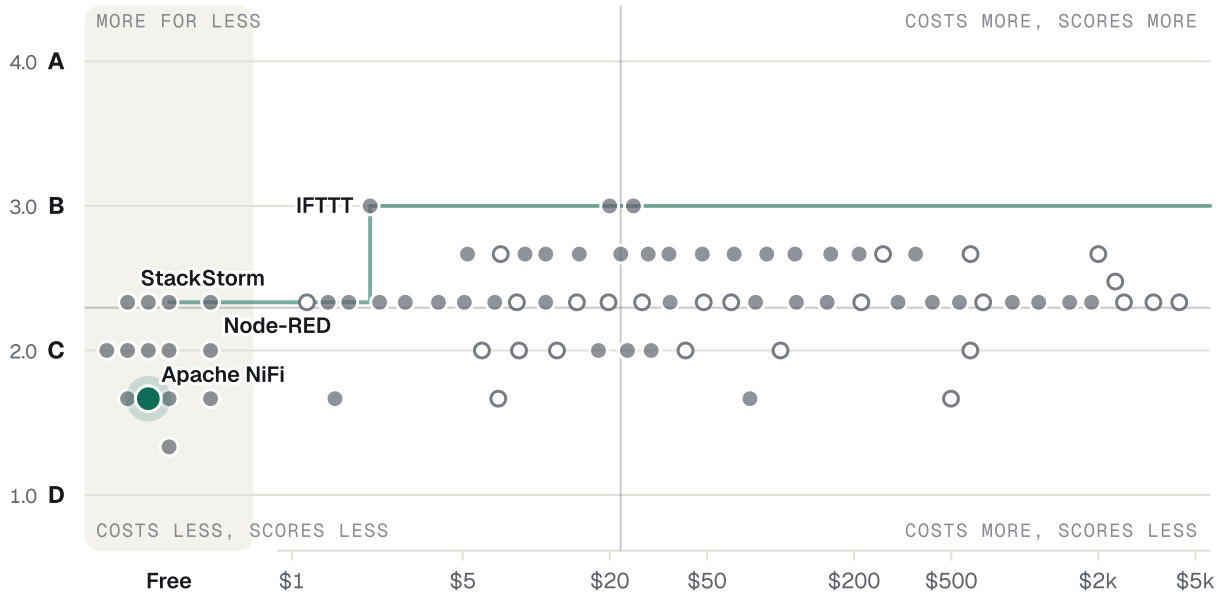
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 135 automation tools we grade, cut by the letter each got. Apache NiFi'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 NiFi 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 NiFi is free, so making your own would save you nothing.

And it is not the kind of software a weekend replaces.

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 NiFi'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 Airflow, Apache Camel, Airbyte, Node-RED and Knime

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

Apache Airflow

2.4 GPA

Free

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

- Only Apache NiFi lists Windows, macOS and Linux apps.

Apache NiFi and Apache Airflow compared in full

Apache Camel

2.0 GPA

Free

Open-source Java framework for integration routes.

- Only Apache NiFi lists a web app.

Apache NiFi and Apache Camel compared in full

Airbyte

2.2 GPA

Free plan · from $20/mo

Data integration with a free self-hosted core and a managed cloud.

- Only Apache NiFi lists Windows, macOS and Linux apps.

Apache NiFi and Airbyte compared in full



3.0
GPA

Node-RED

Free

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

- Only Apache NiFi lists a macOS app.

Apache NiFi and Node-RED compared in full



3.2
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Knime

Free plan · from €99/mo

Open-source visual workflows for data analysis and automation.

- Apache NiFi is self-hostable, according to its own site.
- Knime also covers no-code.

Apache NiFi and Knime compared in full

Quick answers

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

12

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 NiFi free?

Yes. Apache NiFi is free to use.

How much does Apache NiFi cost?

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

What platforms does Apache NiFi work on?

Apache NiFi is available on Web, Windows, macOS and Linux.

Does Apache NiFi have an Android app?

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

Does Apache NiFi have an iPhone app?

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

Is Apache NiFi open source?

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

What does Apache NiFi integrate with?

Apache NiFi's listing names Apache ZooKeeper. A listing names up to eight integrations, so it may connect to more.

Who makes Apache NiFi?

Apache NiFi is made by The Apache Software Foundation.

What are the alternatives to Apache NiFi?

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

How does Apache NiFi compare with other automation tools?

Apache NiFi's GPA of 2.2 is higher than 54 of the 134 other automation tools we grade, and level with 35.

Is Apache NiFi good value for money?

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

Could I make my own version of Apache NiFi?

Apache NiFi 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 NiFi'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 NiFi'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 nifi.apache.org before you buy.

nifi.apache.org/
nifi.apache.org/nifi-docs/getting-started.html
nifi.apache.org/nifi-docs/overview.html

PART 07 · ABOUT

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 NiFi, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/apache-nifi

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 NiFi: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 13, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/apache-nifi
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Know someone choosing between automation tools?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded automation tools after Apache NiFi, 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

ToolGPA

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 NiFi'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 NiFi 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 nifi.apache.org before you buy.