ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Argo Workflows

The Insider's Guide

Open-source container-native workflow engine for Kubernetes



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

Made by Argo Project Authors · checked Nov 13, 2026 · toolgpa.com

2.4
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 Argo Workflows's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Argo Workflows'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

2.4

GPA, above 90 of the 134 other automation tools we grade

Argo Workflows is an open-source workflow engine that runs parallel jobs on Kubernetes and is implemented as a Kubernetes custom resource. Each step of a workflow is a container, and steps can be arranged as a sequence or as a dependency graph. It is a graduated project of the Cloud Native Computing Foundation.

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

> **It's free, but it needs a cluster, workflows are written as Kubernetes resources, and there's no vendor support.**
>
> From our report card of Argo Workflows

1 **Best for running container jobs as workflows on Kubernetes**

Argo Workflows is an open-source engine that runs each workflow step as a container on Kubernetes, with DAGs, cron workflows and retries.

2 **It is free**

Argo Workflows has no paid plan at all.

3 **It runs on Web**

Web.

4 **Container-per-step workflows**

Every step in a workflow is a container, and the engine runs them as Kubernetes pods on any cluster.

5 **Steps and DAGs**

Multi-step workflows can be written as an ordered sequence of tasks or as a directed acyclic graph that captures dependencies between tasks.

6 **Templates and cron workflows**

The docs list workflow templates, cluster workflow templates and cron workflows as custom resource kinds for reusing and scheduling work.

7 **A 2.4 GPA, above 90 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**

Argo Workflows is free, so making your own would save you nothing.

Argo Workflows at a glance

PRICING Free	FREE PLAN It is free
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON Web
MADE BY Argo Project Authors	CATEGORY Automation
OUR GRADE 2.4 GPA, fair	

The report card

Best for running container jobs as workflows on Kubernetes

Argo Workflows is an open-source engine that runs each workflow step as a container on Kubernetes, with DAGs, cron workflows and retries. It's free, but

it needs a cluster, workflows are written as Kubernetes resources, and there's no vendor support.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD

Argo Workflows

Graded Nov 13, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	C	$0 for the software, but you run it on your own Kubernetes cluster, which isn't free. That puts it in the middle.
Free plan and trial	B	Open source with no paid tier, so you pay only for the cluster.
Features	B	Steps, DAGs, templates, cron workflows, artifacts, retries, loops and access control. The core job is covered.
Ease of use	D	No store rating on record. It needs a Kubernetes cluster and YAML definitions.
Platforms and integrations	B	A web UI, with a Python SDK through Hera and 6 integrations. It runs on Kubernetes.

Grade point average Fair, out of 4.0 **2.4**

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 Argo Workflows is for

- ✓ Fits if you already run Kubernetes and want container pipelines
- ✓ Works for platform teams who write workflows as code in YAML or Python

Who it is not for

- ✗ Skip it if you don't run Kubernetes, because it needs a cluster
- ✗ Not for you if you want vendor support, as help comes from the community
- ✗ Too light on hand-holding for non-engineers, since workflows are written as Kubernetes resources
- ✗ Watch out: the docs page would not load for us, so this card rests on the listing

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Platform and data teams that already run Kubernetes
- ✓ Machine learning, batch processing and CI/CD pipelines made of containers
- ✓ Engineers who want workflows defined as Kubernetes resources

Worth knowing

- ⓘ It needs a Kubernetes cluster; the project describes itself as a Kubernetes-native engine, not a hosted service.
- ⓘ The project pages list no paid plan or vendor support; help comes from the community.
- ⓘ Workflows are written as Kubernetes resource definitions, which assumes comfort with containers and YAML.

What it costs

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

Free

No paid plan at all

Argo Workflows is free to use.

> **Open source with no paid tier, so you pay only for the cluster.**
>
> From our grade for free plan and trial

OPEN SOURCE

$0

Free software you install and run on your own Kubernetes cluster. The project pages list no paid plans.

Read from argo-workflows.readthedocs.io on Nov 13, 2026.

What it does

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

1

Place it runs: Web

Open-source container-native workflow engine for Kubernetes. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: open source, self-hostable, workflow automation, job scheduling.

"

Steps, DAGs, templates, cron workflows, artifacts, retries, loops and access control.

From our grade for features

Container-per-step workflows

Every step in a workflow is a container, and the engine runs them as Kubernetes pods on any cluster.

Steps and DAGs

Multi-step workflows can be written as an ordered sequence of tasks or as a directed acyclic graph that captures dependencies between tasks.

Templates and cron workflows

The docs list workflow templates, cluster workflow templates and cron workflows as custom resource kinds for reusing and scheduling work.

Artifacts, retries and loops

The user guide covers artifacts, parameters, loops, conditionals, retries, timeouts, exit handlers and suspending a running workflow.

Access control

Documentation covers service accounts and role-based access control for workflows.

Python SDK through Hera

The project points Python users to the Hera Python SDK for defining Argo workflows.

Where it runs

Web

What it works with

Argo Events
Hera
Kubeflow Pipelines
Katib
Kedro
Metaflow

Argo Workflows is made by Argo Project Authors.

Where it stands

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

90/134

Other automation tools it is graded above

Argo Workflows's GPA of 2.4 is higher than 90 of the 134 other automation tools we grade, and level with 23.

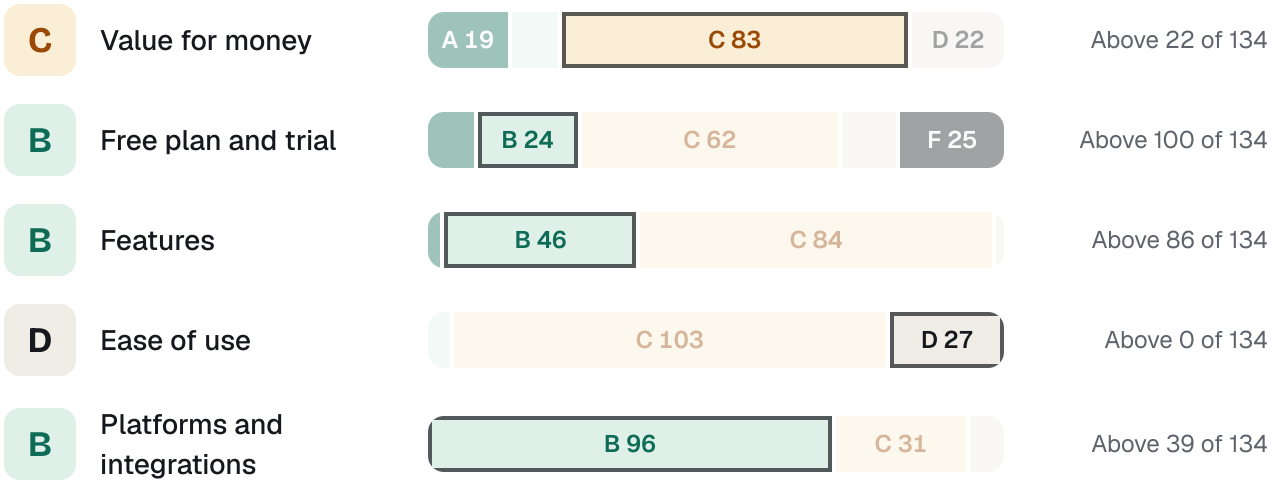
It stands best on free plan and trial (B, above 100 of 134) and worst on ease of use (D, above 0).

Argo Workflows has no paid plan.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 2.3 out of 4, and no tool on the category's chart scores higher without costing more.

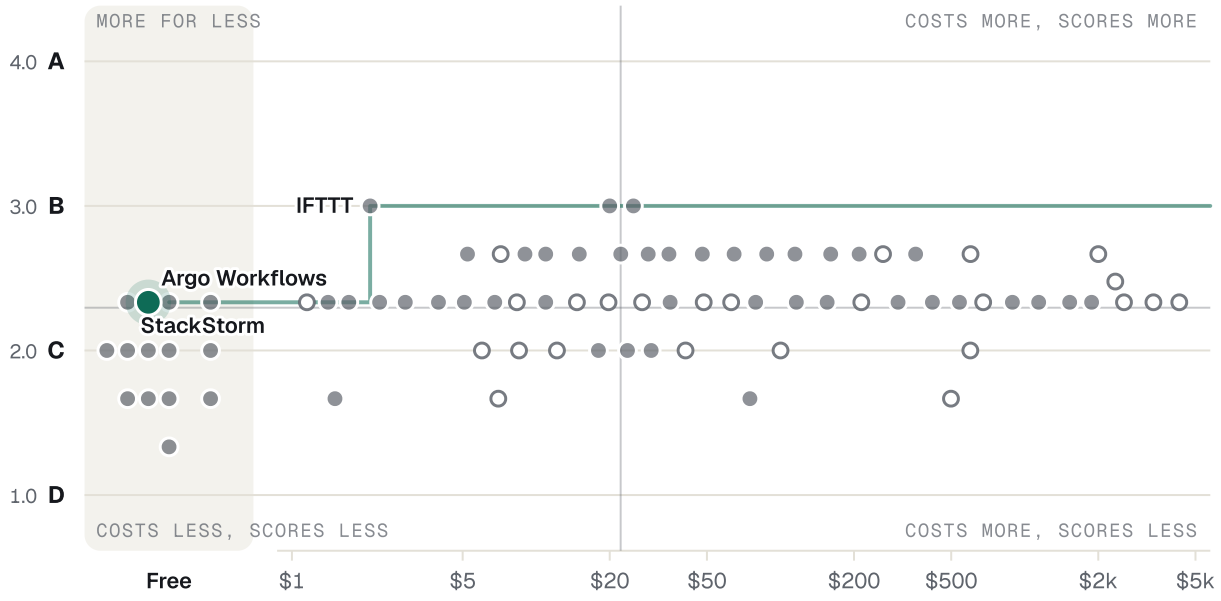
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 135 automation tools we grade, cut by the letter each got. Argo Workflows'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. Argo Workflows 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

Argo Workflows is free, so making your own would save you nothing.

And it is not the kind of software a weekend replaces. It is one of the better ones too: its GPA of 2.4 is higher than 90 of the 134 other automation tools we grade.

What you could make

- Job scheduling: an app builder makes this well.

What you could not

- Connections to other products, each kept working as those products change.

- What a company asks for before it lets staff use something: roles and permissions.
- The depth: we grade its features B, which means it covers the whole job.

What this rests on. Argo Workflows'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, Kestra, Prefect, Dagster and Apache DolphinScheduler

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



2.4 GPA

Apache Airflow

Free

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

- Argo Workflows also covers job scheduling.

Argo Workflows and Apache Airflow compared in full



2.4 GPA

Kestra

Free plan

Open-source workflow orchestration platform defined in YAML.

- Argo Workflows also covers job scheduling.

Argo Workflows and Kestra compared in full



2.4 GPA

Prefect

Free plan · from $100/mo

Python workflow orchestration with an open-source core and a cloud.

- Argo Workflows also covers job scheduling.
- Prefect also covers AI agents.

Argo Workflows and Prefect compared in full



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Dagster

Free trial · from $10/mo

Asset-based data orchestration platform, now part of Prefect.

- Argo Workflows has a free plan. Dagster does not, though it has a free trial.
- Argo Workflows also covers job scheduling.
- Dagster also covers dashboards.

Argo Workflows and Dagster compared in full

A

2.4
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Apache DolphinScheduler

Free

Open-source workflow scheduler for data pipelines.

Argo Workflows and Apache DolphinScheduler compared in full

PART 06 · QUESTIONS

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 Argo Workflows free?

Yes. Argo Workflows is free to use.

How much does Argo Workflows cost?

Argo Workflows lists one plan. Open source: $0.

What platforms does Argo Workflows work on?

Argo Workflows is available on Web.

Does Argo Workflows have an Android app?

No Android app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. Argo Workflows is listed for Web.

Does Argo Workflows have an iPhone app?

No iPhone app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. Argo Workflows is listed for Web.

Is Argo Workflows open source?

Yes. Argo Workflows is open source, according to its own site.

What does Argo Workflows integrate with?

Argo Workflows's listing names Argo Events, Hera, Kubeflow Pipelines, Katib, Kedro and Metaflow.

Who makes Argo Workflows?

Argo Workflows is made by Argo Project Authors.

What are the alternatives to Argo Workflows?

The closest alternatives to Argo Workflows in our directory are Apache Airflow, Kestra, Prefect, Dagster and Apache DolphinScheduler.

How does Argo Workflows compare with other automation tools?

Argo Workflows's GPA of 2.4 is higher than 90 of the 134 other automation tools we grade, and level with 23.

Is Argo Workflows good value for money?

ToolGPA grades Argo Workflows C for value for money. Argo Workflows has no paid plan.

Could I make my own version of Argo Workflows?

Argo Workflows 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 Argo Workflows'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 the Argo Workflows project's own pages on 13 November 2026. Not based on using the product, and shorter than our full reviews. The pricing page could not be read in full when we checked, so some grades rest on the listing alone.

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 Argo Project Authors. Prices change, so check argoproj.github.io before you buy.

argo-workflows.readthedocs.io/en/latest/

argoproj.github.io/workflows/

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

Argo Workflows, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/argo-workflows

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, "Argo Workflows: The Insider's
Guide", checked Nov 13, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/argo-workflows
```

Know someone choosing between automation tools?

Send them this guide:
toolgpa.com/tools/argo-workflows/guide

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded automation tools after Argo Workflows, 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 Argo Workflows'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. Argo Workflows is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Argo Project Authors. Prices and plans change: check argoproj.github.io before you buy.