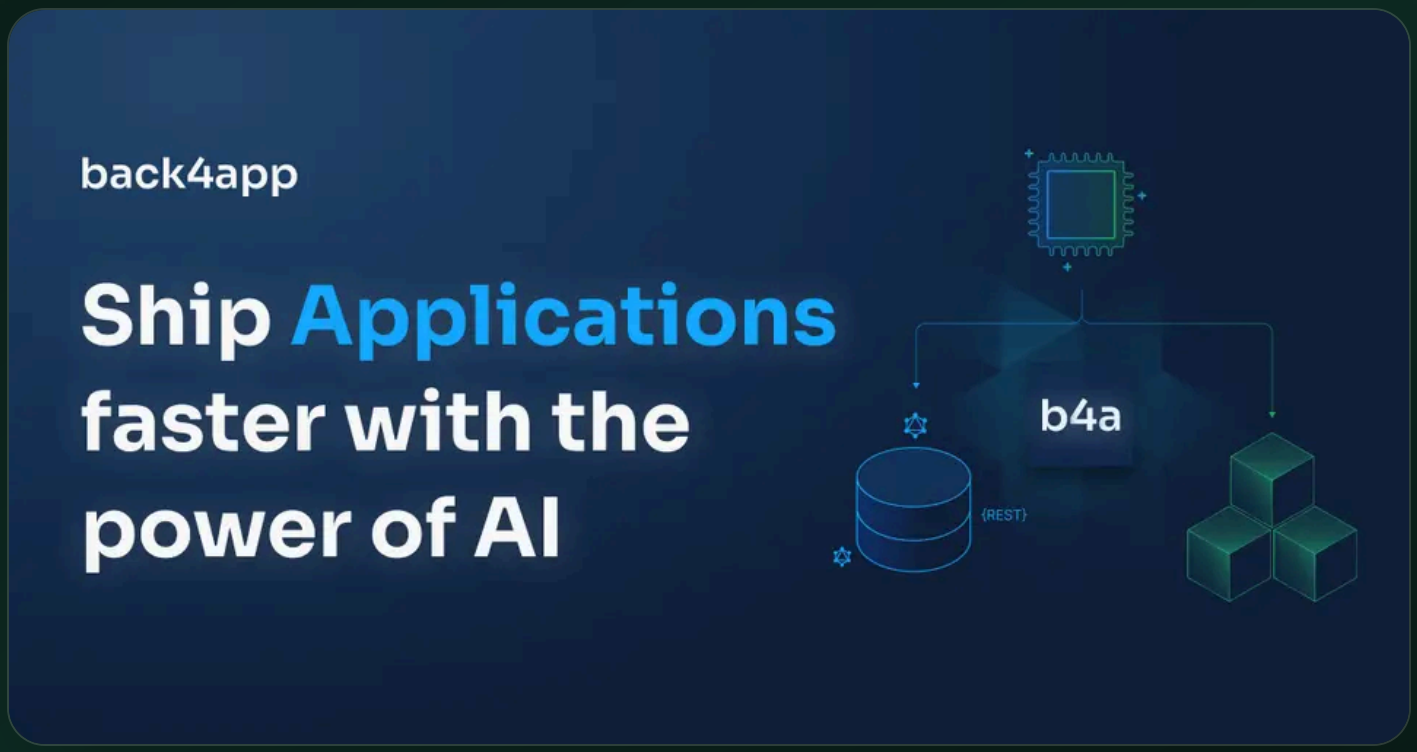
ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Back4app

The Insider's Guide

Managed backend platform built on Parse, billed per app



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among web hosts, read from Back4app's own pages.

Made by Back4app · checked Nov 13, 2026 · toolgpa.com

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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 Back4app's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Back4app'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 99 of the 122 other web hosts we grade

Back4app is a managed backend platform for web and mobile apps, offering a database, authentication, cloud functions, file storage and auto-generated REST and GraphQL APIs. Plans are priced per app by monthly requests and storage, and a separate web deployment product and an AI Agent are also listed.

To get you started, here are **9 things to know about Back4app**, taken from its own pages and our grades.

> "
>
> **You build the backend and its data model yourself.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

1 **Best for a managed Parse backend for small apps**

Back4app is a managed Parse backend with a database, auth, cloud functions and storage.

2 **Paid plans start at $15 a month**

As its pricing page puts it: $15 per app / month, billed annually (MVP plan).

3 **There is a free plan**

Free plan with 25K requests, 250 MB database, 1 GB data transfer and 1 GB file storage, no credit card required.

4 **It runs on Web**

Web.

5 **Database with auto-generated APIs**

A MongoDB-backed database with REST, GraphQL and SDK access, created automatically for each class, cloud function or job.

6 **Authentication and access control**

User sign-up and login with ACLs and role-based access control, plus email templates for verification and password reset.

7 **Cloud functions and jobs**

Server-side JavaScript functions that connect to the database and auth; the number of Cloud Code jobs rises by plan.

8 **A 2.4 GPA, above 99 of 122**

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

9 **Keep it**

To replace Back4app you would be making an AI agent, with the models and the safeguards behind it. That is not a weekend's work, with an AI app builder or without one.

Back4app at a glance

PRICING Free plan, from $15 per app / month, billed annually (MVP plan)	FREE PLAN Yes
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON Web
MADE BY Back4app	CATEGORY Web Hosting
OUR GRADE 2.4 GPA, fair	

The report card

Best for a managed Parse backend for small apps

Back4app is a managed Parse backend with a database, auth, cloud functions and storage. Each subscription covers one app, the prices shown are annual, and the free plan stops at 25K requests a month.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD	Back4app	Graded Nov 13, 2026
SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	C	The MVP plan is $15 per app a month billed annually, in the middle of web hosting at $10.99 to $20.83. It covers one app, and the next step is $80.
Free plan and trial	B	A free plan with 25K requests, 250 MB database, 1 GB transfer and 1 GB files, no card needed. A prototype can live on it, a real app will not.
Features	C	A database with generated APIs, auth, cloud functions, jobs, real-time and storage. Web deployment and the AI Agent have separate pricing pages that weren't readable for the listing.
Ease of use	C	No store rating on record. You build the backend and its data model yourself.
Platforms and integrations	B	Web only, but it has an API and connects to GitHub, MongoDB Atlas, DigitalOcean and Mailgun.
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 Back4app is for

- ✓ Fits if you want a hosted Parse backend for one prototype or small app
- ✓ Makes sense if you'd rather not run a database server

Who it is not for

- ✗ Skip it if you run several apps, because each app needs its own subscription
- ✗ Tight if you outgrow 25K requests, as the next plan is $15 per app a month billed annually
- ✗ Pricey if you grow, since Pay As You Go is $80 and Dedicated is $400 per app a month
- ✗ Watch out: monthly billing is higher than the annual prices, and the page shows only the saving
- ✗ Watch out: point-in-time backups are an add-on at $100 a month on lower plans

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Developers who want a managed Parse backend without running servers
- ✓ Prototypes that start on the free plan and move to a paid app later

Worth knowing

- ⓘ Each subscription covers one app, so several apps mean several subscriptions.
- ⓘ The listed prices are billed annually; the monthly rate is higher and the page shows only the saving.
- ⓘ Point-in-time backups on Dedicated include an add-on priced at $100 a month on lower plans.
- ⓘ Web deployment and the AI Agent have their own pricing pages, which were not readable for this entry.

PART 02 · PRICING

What it costs

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

$15

A month to start. There is a free plan too

Back4app has a free plan. Paid plans start at $15 per app / month, billed annually (MVP plan).

> **A prototype can live on it, a real app will not.**
>
> From our grade for free plan and trial

FREE

$0

25K requests a month, 250 MB database, 1 GB transfer and 1 GB files, for developing, learning and prototyping.

MVP

$15

per app / month, billed annually

500K requests, 1 GB data storage, 250 GB transfer, 50 GB files and daily backups. The page shows a 40% annual saving.

PAY AS YOU GO

$80

per app / month, billed annually

5M requests, 3 GB data storage, 1 TB transfer, 250 GB files, daily backups, SOC 2 and ISO 27001. Annual saving of 20% shown.

DEDICATED

$400

per app / month, billed annually

Unlimited requests on 10 CPUs and 14 GB RAM, 8 GB data storage, 2 TB transfer, point-in-time backups, HIPAA after a BAA.

ENTERPRISE

Custom

Custom SLAs, on-premises or your own infrastructure, multi-region, professional services and a dedicated engineer.

The free plan

Free plan with 25K requests, 250 MB database, 1 GB data transfer and 1 GB file storage, no credit card required.

Read from back4app.com on Nov 13, 2026.

Ways to pay less

ANNUAL DISCOUNT

Annual billing saves 20% to 40%

The pricing page shows 40% off on MVP and 20% off on Pay As You Go and Dedicated when billed annually.

Stated on back4app.com

What it does

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

1

Place it runs: Web

Managed backend platform built on Parse, billed per app. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: public API, AI agents.

> **A database with generated APIs, auth, cloud functions, jobs, real-time and storage.**

From our grade for features

Database with auto-generated APIs

A MongoDB-backed database with REST, GraphQL and SDK access, created automatically for each class, cloud function or job.

Authentication and access control

User sign-up and login with ACLs and role-based access control, plus email templates for verification and password reset.

Cloud functions and jobs

Server-side JavaScript functions that connect to the database and auth; the number of Cloud Code jobs rises by plan.

Web deployment

Deploy full-stack web apps from GitHub to a b4a.app URL with automatic CI/CD.

Real-time and storage

Live queries for instant data sync, and file storage delivered through a global CDN.

AI Agent

Describe an app and the AI Agent provisions the Back4app backend and deploys a web app, per the vendor's home page.

Where it runs

Web

What it works with

GitHub
MongoDB Atlas
DigitalOcean
Mailgun
Parse

Back4app is made by Back4app.

PART 04 · STANDING

Where it stands

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

99/122

Other web hosts it is graded above

Back4app's GPA of 2.4 is higher than 99 of the 122 other web hosts we grade, and level with 14.

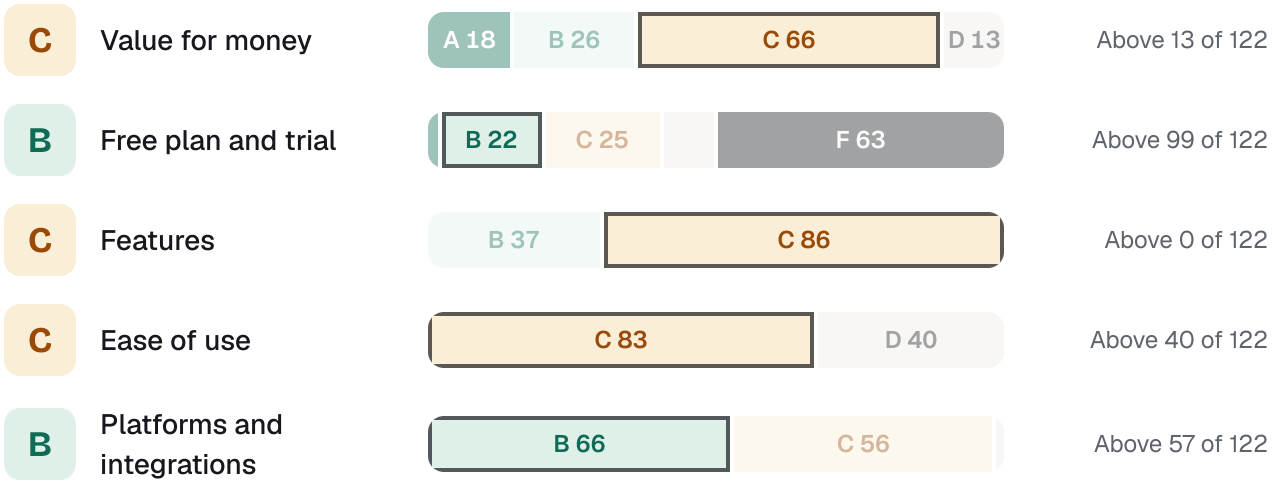
It stands best on free plan and trial (B, above 99 of 122) and worst on features (C, above 0).

Its paid plans start at $15 a month, against a middle price of $9.69 for the category: 73 of the 107 others that charge start lower.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 2.3 out of 4. 5 tools score higher and cost less.

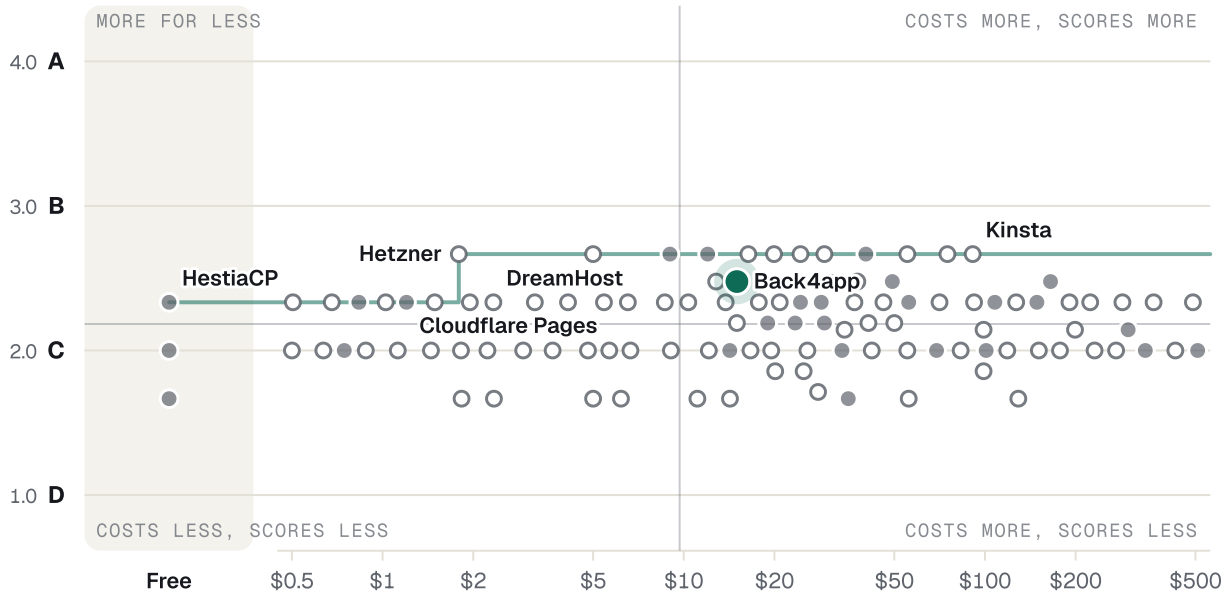
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 123 web hosts we grade, cut by the letter each got. Back4app's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 111 web hosts. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. Back4app 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

To replace Back4app you would be making an AI agent, with the models and the safeguards behind it. That is not a weekend's work, with an AI app builder or without one.

It is one of the better ones too: its GPA of 2.4 is higher than 99 of the 122 other web hosts we grade. It costs $180 a year.

What you could not

- ✕ An AI agent, with the models and the safeguards behind it.

- ✕ It plugs into other products, GitHub, MongoDB Atlas and DigitalOcean among them, and has an API.
- ✕ What a company asks for before it lets staff use something: roles and permissions.

What this rests on. Back4app'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



Firebase Hosting, Nhost, Render, Railway and Heroku

The 5 tools Back4app is most often weighed against, with where each one differs from it.

2.4 GPA

Firebase Hosting

Free plan · from $0.026

Google's CDN hosting for static and single-page web apps.

- Back4app also covers AI agents.
- Firebase Hosting also covers page speed.

Back4app and Firebase Hosting compared in full

1.8 GPA

Nhost

Free plan · from $25/mo

Managed Postgres backend with GraphQL, auth, storage and functions.

- Back4app also covers AI agents.
- Nhost also covers databases.

Back4app and Nhost compared in full

R

2.4
GPA

Render

Free plan · from $25/mo

Cloud hosting for web services, databases and workers.

- Back4app also covers AI agents.
- Render also covers databases and workflow automation.

Back4app and Render compared in full



2.6
GPA

Railway

Free trial · from $5/mo

App and database hosting billed by the second for usage.

- Back4app has a free plan. Railway does not, though it has a free trial.
- Only Railway lists iOS and Android apps.
- Railway also covers databases.

Back4app and Railway compared in full



1.8
GPA

Heroku

From $5/mo

Platform for deploying apps in containers called dynos.

- Back4app has a free plan. Heroku does not.
- Back4app also covers AI agents.
- Heroku also covers databases.

Back4app and Heroku compared in full

PART 06 · QUESTIONS

Quick answers

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

14

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 Back4app free?

Back4app has a free plan. Free plan with 25K requests, 250 MB database, 1 GB data transfer and 1 GB file storage, no credit card required.

How much does Back4app cost?

Back4app lists 5 plans. Free: $0.

What platforms does Back4app work on?

Back4app is available on Web.

Does Back4app offer any discounts?

Back4app publicly lists the following: Annual billing saves 20% to 40%.

Does Back4app have an Android app?

No Android app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. Back4app is listed for Web.

Does Back4app have an iPhone app?

No iPhone app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. Back4app is listed for Web.

Is Back4app open source?

Back4app is not described as open source on its own site, as read on Nov 13, 2026.

Does Back4app have an API?

Yes. Back4app offers a public API, according to its own site.

What does Back4app integrate with?

Back4app's listing names GitHub, MongoDB Atlas, DigitalOcean, Mailgun and Parse.

Who makes Back4app?

Back4app is made by a company of the same name.

What are the alternatives to Back4app?

The closest alternatives to Back4app in our directory are Firebase Hosting, Nhost, Render, Railway and Heroku.

How does Back4app compare with other web hosts?

Back4app's GPA of 2.4 is higher than 99 of the 122 other web hosts we grade, and level with 14.

Is Back4app good value for money?

ToolGPA grades Back4app C for value for money. Its paid plans start at $15 a month, against a middle price of $9.69 for the category: 73 of the 107 others that charge start lower.

Could I make my own version of Back4app?

To replace Back4app you would be making an AI agent, with the models and the safeguards behind it.

Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from Back4app'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 Back4app'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 Back4app. Prices change, so check back4app.com before you buy.

back4app.com/pricing/backend-as-a-service

back4app.com/pricing

back4app.com

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

Back4app, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/back4app

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:

```
ToolGPA, "Back4app: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 13, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/back4app
```

Know someone choosing between web hosts?

Send them this guide:
toolgpa.com/tools/back4app/guide

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded web hosts after Back4app, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Web Hosting Insider's Guide

Every one of the 123 web hosts we grade, compared

Cloudflare Pages Insider's Guide

Git-based hosting for static sites and full-stack apps

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GitHub Pages Insider's Guide

Static site hosting built into GitHub repositories

2.8 GPA

Netlify Insider's Guide

Git-based hosting for sites and web apps, priced by monthly credits

2.8 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 Back4app'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. Back4app is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Back4app. Prices and plans change: check back4app.com before you buy.