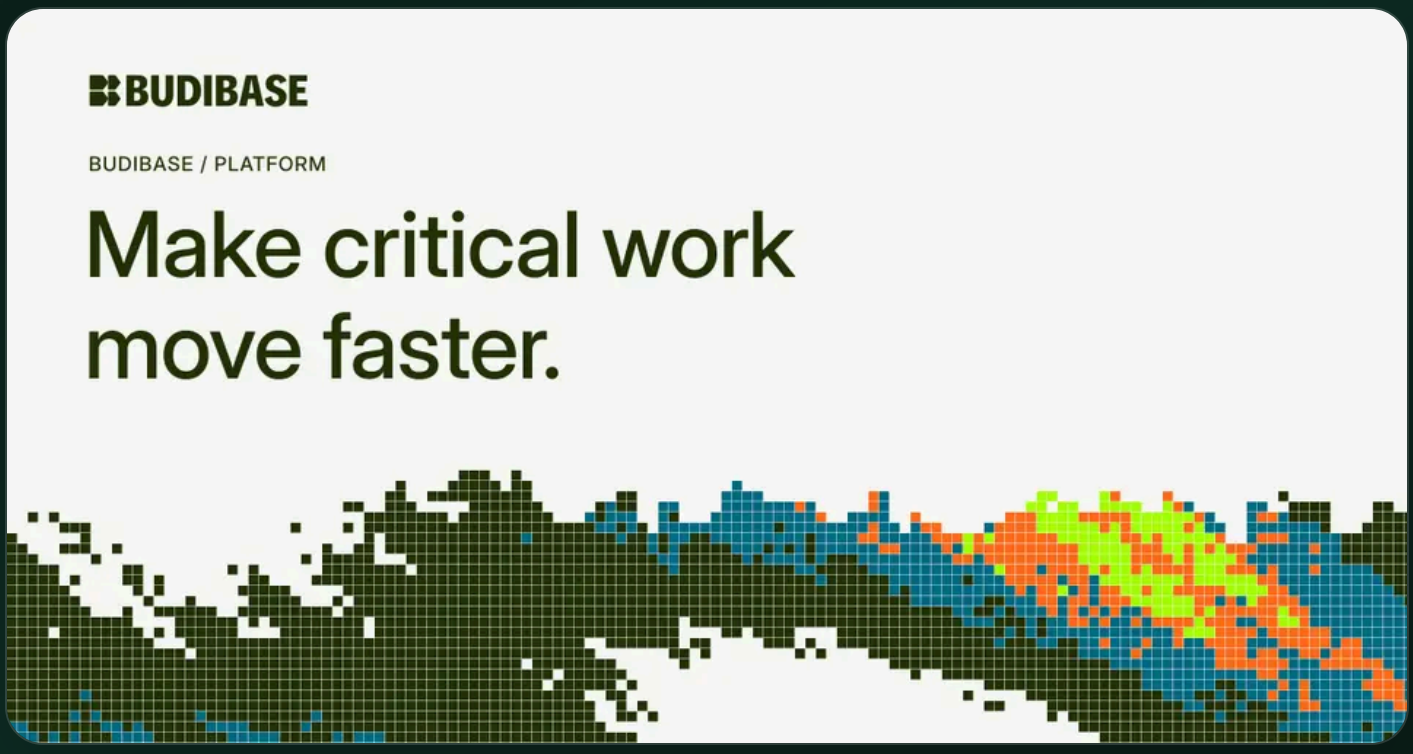
ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Budibase

The Insider's Guide

Open-source platform for internal apps, automations and AI agents



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among AI app builders, read from Budibase's own pages.

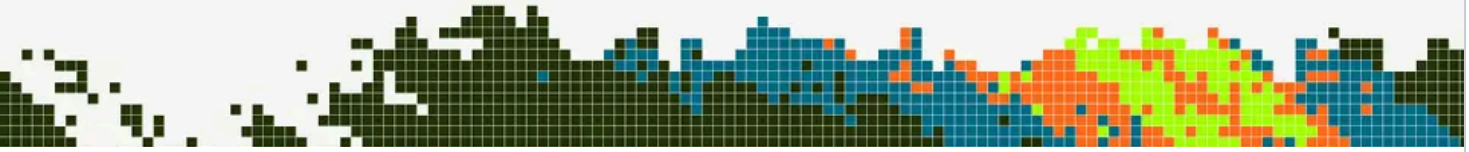
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2.2
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BUDIBASE

BUDIBASE / PLATFORM

Make critical work move faster.



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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 Budibase's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Budibase'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 23 of the 89 other AI app builders we grade

Budibase is an open-source platform for building internal apps, automations and AI agents around business processes. It can be self-hosted for free or run on Budibase Cloud, where the price follows monthly action allowances and the number of creators and end users rather than a per-seat rate alone.

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

> "
>
> **A web builder where the work is building the apps themselves.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

1 **Best for internal apps and automations, self-hosted**

Budibase is an open-source platform for internal apps, automations and AI agents, free to self-host with unlimited users.

2 **Paid plans start at $299 a month**

As its pricing page puts it: $299 per month and up (Budibase Cloud, billing basis not shown).

3 **There is a free plan**

Community edition: free to self-host, with unlimited users, apps, agents and automations.

4 **It runs on Web**

Web.

5 **App builder**

A drag-and-drop designer for end-user web apps that work with workspace data and automations.

6 **Automation builder**

Backend workflows are chained from triggers and action steps, with 20+ triggers and actions and synchronous webhooks on the Enterprise edition.

7 **Agent builder**

AI agents are set up with instructions, tools, models and knowledge sources, with tool calling and evals. The Community edition uses your own AI key.

8 **A 2.2 GPA, above 23 of 89**

That is against the other AI app builders we grade, on value, the free plan, features, ease of use and platforms.

9 **Keep it**

To replace Budibase you would be making a tool that builds and hosts other apps. That is not a weekend's work, with an AI app builder or without one.

Budibase at a glance

PRICING Free plan, from $299 per month and up (Budibase Cloud, billing basis not shown)	FREE PLAN Yes
FREE TRIAL 14-day free trial of Budibase Cloud	RUNS ON Web
MADE BY Budibase, Inc.	CATEGORY AI App Builders
OUR GRADE 2.2 GPA, fair	

The report card

Best for internal apps and automations, self-hosted

Budibase is an open-source platform for internal apps, automations and AI agents, free to self-host with unlimited users. But free means running a server, the hosted Cloud plan starts at $299 a month with a hard monthly action limit, and the free edition has one workspace.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD	Budibase	Graded Nov 13, 2026
SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	D	Cloud starts at $299 a month, about fifteen times the category's middle of $20, for 2 creators and 20 end users. Self-hosting is free, but that needs a server of your own.
Free plan and trial	B	The Community edition is free to self-host with unlimited users, apps and automations, plus a 14-day Cloud trial. You need a server for it, and it has one workspace.
Features	B	App, automation and agent builders, data sources, a service portal and self-hosting. No gap shows in the job, only limits on the free edition.
Ease of use	C	A web builder where the work is building the apps themselves. No store rating on record.
Platforms and integrations	C	Web only, and the listing names no integrations beyond its data sources.
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 Budibase is for

- ✓ Fits if you can run your own server and want internal tools with no per-seat fee
- ✓ Works for teams that want the data to stay on infrastructure they control

Who it is not for

- ✗ Pricey if you want it hosted: Cloud is $299 a month and up, billing basis not shown
- ✗ Skip it if you have no one to run a server, as the free edition is self-managed
- ✗ Tight if you rely on Cloud actions: they are a hard monthly limit with no overage, and more means sales
- ✗ Watch out: extra creators are $50 to $60 a month and extra end users $5 to $6
- ✗ Watch out: the Community edition keeps a 1-day automation log and has no Budibase AI

Good to know

Good for

- Teams that want to host their internal tools on their own infrastructure
- Organizations building approval, case and data-collection workflows
- Developers who want an open-source base they can inspect

Worth knowing

- Budibase Cloud starts at $299 a month; the page does not say whether that figure assumes annual billing.
- Cloud actions are a hard monthly limit with no overage billing, and a larger allowance means contacting sales.
- Extra creators cost $50 a month with annual billing or $60 monthly, and extra end users $5 or $6.
- The free Community edition has one workspace, a 1-day automation log and no synchronous webhooks or Budibase AI.

PART 02 · PRICING

What it costs

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

$299

A month to start. There is a free plan too

Budibase has a free plan. Paid plans start at $299 per month and up (Budibase Cloud, billing basis not shown).

"

Self-hosting is free, but that needs a server of your own.

From our grade for value for money

COMMUNITY (SELF-MANAGED)

$0

Open-source edition you host yourself: unlimited users, apps, agents and automations, standard SSO and 1 workspace. No Budibase AI, but you can bring your own AI key.

CLOUD

From $299

per month and up

Hosted by Budibase with 2 creators, 20 end users, 250K monthly actions and 50K monthly AI credits. Actions are a hard monthly limit; larger allowances are priced through sales.

ENTERPRISE (SELF-MANAGED)

Custom

Custom package with unlimited users, creators and workspaces, audit logs, enterprise identity controls, air-gapped deployment options and dedicated support.

The free plan

Community edition: free to self-host, with unlimited users, apps, agents and automations.

Trying it first

14-day free trial of Budibase Cloud

Read from budibase.com on Nov 13, 2026.

Ways to pay less

ANNUAL DISCOUNT

Lower add-on prices with annual billing

Creator and end-user add-ons cost 20% more with monthly billing than with annual billing.

Stated on budibase.com

NONPROFIT

Charity pricing

A flexible pricing package for nonprofit teams, arranged through the contact form.

Stated on budibase.com

What it does

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

1

Place it runs: Web

Open-source platform for internal apps, automations and AI agents. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: open source, self-hostable, public API, workflow automation, AI agents, app builder, no-code.

> **App, automation and agent builders, data sources, a service portal and self-hosting.**

From our grade for features

App builder

A drag-and-drop designer for end-user web apps that work with workspace data and automations.

Automation builder

Backend workflows are chained from triggers and action steps, with 20+ triggers and actions and synchronous webhooks on the Enterprise edition.

Agent builder

AI agents are set up with instructions, tools, models and knowledge sources, with tool calling and evals. The Community edition uses your own AI key.

Data sources

Budibase's own database can be used beside external data sources, which the pricing page lists as unlimited on both self-hosted editions.

Self-hosting

Runs on private cloud, on-premise and air-gapped setups, according to the homepage.

Service portal

Apps, requests and approvals can be gathered into one portal for internal users.

Where it runs

Web

What it works with

Its own pages name no integrations.

Budibase is made by Budibase, Inc.

Where it stands

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

23/89

Other AI app builders it is graded above

Budibase's GPA of 2.2 is higher than 23 of the 89 other AI app builders we grade, and level with 27.

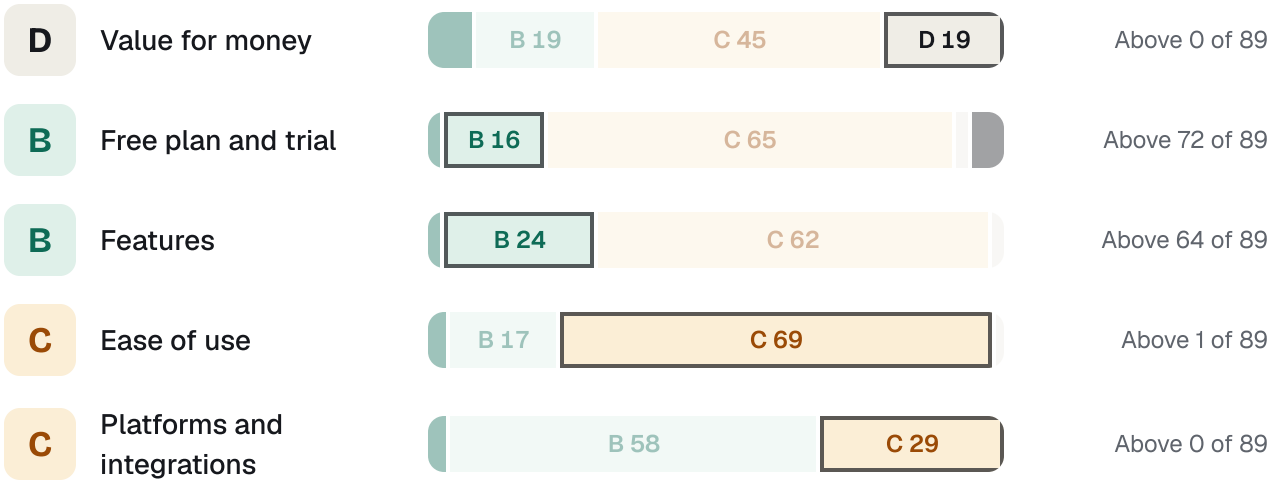
It stands best on free plan and trial (B, above 72 of 89) and worst on value for money (D, above 0).

Its paid plans start at $299 a month, against a middle price of $20 for the category: 81 of the 82 others that charge start lower.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 2.3 out of 4. 29 tools score higher and cost less.

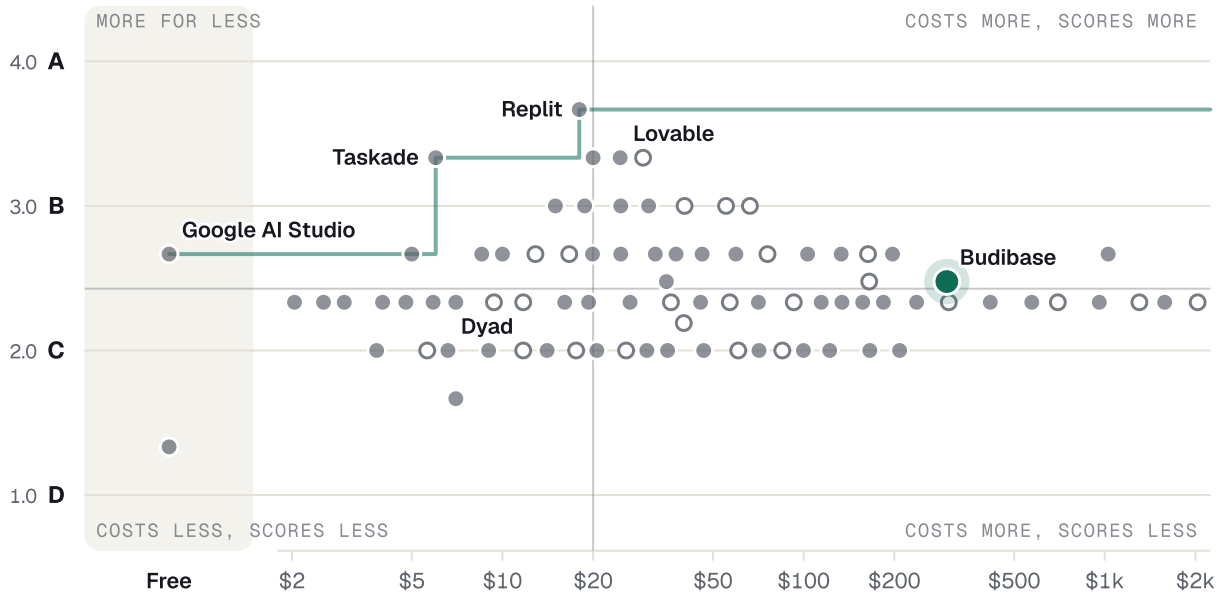
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 90 AI app builders we grade, cut by the letter each got. Budibase's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 85 AI app builders. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. Budibase 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 Budibase you would be making a tool that builds and hosts other apps. That is not a weekend's work, with an AI app builder or without one.

That makes this kind of software worth paying for, not this one in particular: 39 of the 89 other AI app builders grade higher. It costs $3,588 a year. Budibase is open source, so there is a third way: take its code and run it yourself.

What you could not

- ✕ A tool that builds and hosts other apps.

- ✕ A builder that other people can use without writing code.
- ✕ Connections to other products, each kept working as those products change.
- ✕ An AI agent, with the models and the safeguards behind it.
- ✕ The depth: we grade its features B, which means it covers the whole job.

What this rests on. Budibase'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



Appsmith, Retool, Superblocks, UI Bakery and ToolJet

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

Appsmith

2.8 GPA

Free plan · from $15/mo

Open-source low-code platform for internal apps.

- Budibase also covers workflow automation, AI agents and no-code.

Budibase and Appsmith compared in full

Retool

2.8 GPA

Free plan · from $10/mo

Platform for building internal apps, workflows and AI agents.

- Budibase is open source, according to its own site.

Budibase and Retool compared in full



2.2
GPA

Superblocks

Free trial · from $100/mo

Governed platform for AI-built internal apps and agents.

- Budibase has a free plan. Superblocks does not, though it has a free trial.
- Budibase is open source and self-hostable, according to its own site.
- Budibase also covers workflow automation and no-code.

Budibase and Superblocks compared in full



2.6
GPA

UI Bakery

Free plan · from $20/mo

Low-code and AI builder for internal tools.

- Budibase is open source, according to its own site.
- Budibase also covers AI agents and no-code.

Budibase and UI Bakery compared in full



2.6
GPA

ToolJet

Free plan · from $23/mo

Low-code platform for internal tools, workflows and AI agents.

- ToolJet also covers databases.

Budibase and ToolJet 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 Budibase free?

Budibase has a free plan. Community edition: free to self-host, with unlimited users, apps, agents and automations.

How much does Budibase cost?

Budibase lists 3 plans. Community (self-managed): $0.

What platforms does Budibase work on?

Budibase is available on Web.

Does Budibase offer any discounts?

Budibase publicly lists the following: Lower add-on prices with annual billing; Charity pricing.

Does Budibase have an Android app?

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

Does Budibase have an iPhone app?

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

Is Budibase open source?

Yes. Budibase is open source, according to its own site.

Does Budibase have an API?

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

Does Budibase have a free trial?

Yes. 14-day free trial of Budibase Cloud.

Who makes Budibase?

Budibase is made by Budibase, Inc.

What are the alternatives to Budibase?

The closest alternatives to Budibase in our directory are Appsmith, Retool, Superblocks, UI Bakery and ToolJet.

How does Budibase compare with other AI app builders?

Budibase's GPA of 2.2 is higher than 23 of the 89 other AI app builders we grade, and level with 27.

Is Budibase good value for money?

ToolGPA grades Budibase D for value for money. Its paid plans start at $299 a month, against a middle price of $20 for the category: 81 of the 82 others that charge start lower.

Could I make my own version of Budibase?

To replace Budibase you would be making a tool that builds and hosts other apps.

Where this guide comes from

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

budibase.com/pricing/
budibase.com/about/
budibase.com/

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

Budibase, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/budibase

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, "Budibase: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 13, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/budibase
```

Know someone choosing between AI app builders?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded AI app builders after Budibase, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

AI App Builders Insider's Guide

Every one of the 90 AI app builders we grade, compared

Taskade Insider's Guide

Workspace that builds apps, AI agents and automations from prompts

3.2 GPA

Google AI Studio Insider's Guide

Google's workspace for building apps and prototypes with Gemini

3.0 GPA

Replit Insider's Guide

Cloud platform where an AI agent builds, hosts and publishes 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 Budibase'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. Budibase is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Budibase, Inc. Prices and plans change: check budibase.com before you buy.