ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

CapRover

The Insider's Guide

Free, self-hosted platform for deploying apps with Docker



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

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

2.0
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ToolGPA put this guide together from CapRover's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on CapRover'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 49 of the 122 other web hosts we grade

CapRover is a free, self-hosted platform for deploying and managing apps on a server you control. It builds on Docker, nginx, Let's Encrypt and Docker Swarm, and apps can be deployed from the dashboard, a command-line tool, a webhook or an existing Git workflow. There is no paid edition or hosted service described on its site; funding comes from community donations.

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

> **You rent and maintain the server, and support is documentation and a community Slack.**
>
> From our report card of CapRover

1 **Best for self-hosting your own app platform**

CapRover is a free app platform you install on your own server, with one-click apps and automatic HTTPS.

2 **It is free**

CapRover has no paid plan at all. The whole platform is free to install on your own server; the site's headline says "free forever".

3 **It runs on Web**

Web.

4 **Apps in any language**

Node.js, Python, PHP, Java, Ruby, .NET or anything that runs in a container can be deployed.

5 **One-click apps**

Databases, WordPress, monitoring tools and other popular services can be launched from a catalog.

6 **Automatic HTTPS**

Let's Encrypt certificates are issued and renewed, with a one-click redirect from HTTP to HTTPS.

7 **A 2.0 GPA, above 49 of 122**

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

8 **Keep it**

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

CapRover at a glance

PRICING Free	FREE PLAN Yes
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON Web
MADE BY CapRover	CATEGORY Web Hosting
OUR GRADE 2.0 GPA, fair	

The report card

Best for self-hosting your own app platform

CapRover is a free app platform you install on your own server, with one-click apps and automatic HTTPS. You rent and maintain the server, and support is documentation and a community Slack.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD **CapRover** Graded Nov 13, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	C	Free software, but only free if you host it yourself, and you pay for the server.
Free plan and trial	B	The whole platform is free to install, with no paid tier. You need your own server.
Features	C	Apps in any language, one-click apps, HTTPS, several deploy methods and Docker Swarm clusters. No hosted version, so updates and backups are yours.
Ease of use	D	Self-hosting with a fresh Ubuntu server, wildcard DNS and open ports 80, 443 and 3000.
Platforms and integrations	C	Web dashboard with one-click apps and no API or apps listed.
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 CapRover is for

- ✓ Fits if you run your own server and want a simple app dashboard
- ✓ Works for developers who know Docker and DNS

Who it is not for

- ✗ Skip it if you want a hosted service, as the site lists none
- ✗ Not for you if you cannot set wildcard DNS or open ports 80, 443 and 3000
- ✗ Tight if you want paid support, as none is listed
- ✗ Watch out: the docs target a fresh Ubuntu 24.04 install

Good to know

Good for

- Developers who want a Heroku-style workflow on their own VPS
- Anyone running several small apps on one server
- Teams that want no per-seat or per-app platform fees

Worth knowing

- CapRover does not supply servers; you rent and maintain your own, and the docs target a fresh Ubuntu 24.04 install.
- Setup needs a domain with wildcard DNS access and public inbound ports 80, 443 and 3000.
- Support comes from documentation and a community Slack group; no paid support is listed.
- The site lists no hosted version, so updates, backups and security fall to you.

What it costs

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

Free

No paid plan at all

CapRover is free to use.

> **Free software, but only free if you host it yourself, and you pay for the server.**
>
> From our grade for value for money

SELF-HOSTED

$0

Install it yourself on Ubuntu 24.04 with at least 1 GiB of RAM and 5 GiB of free disk. Server costs are yours; the project asks for donations via OpenCollective.

The free plan

The whole platform is free to install on your own server; the site's headline says "free forever".

Read from caprover.com 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

Free, self-hosted platform for deploying apps with Docker. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: self-hostable, databases.

> **Apps in any language, one-click apps, HTTPS, several deploy methods and Docker Swarm clusters.**
>
> From our grade for features

Apps in any language

Node.js, Python, PHP, Java, Ruby, .NET or anything that runs in a container can be deployed.

One-click apps

Databases, WordPress, monitoring tools and other popular services can be launched from a catalog.

Automatic HTTPS

Let's Encrypt certificates are issued and renewed, with a one-click redirect from HTTP to HTTPS.

Several ways to deploy

Deploy from the dashboard, the command-line tool, a webhook, or an existing Git workflow.

App settings in one place

Ports, persistent directories, environment variables and instance counts are managed from the dashboard.

Docker Swarm clusters

Additional nodes can be added to a Docker Swarm cluster, with load balancing handled by CapRover.

Where it runs

Web

What it works with

Docker · nginx · Let's Encrypt · DigitalOcean · GitHub

CapRover is made by CapRover.

PART 04 · STANDING

Where it stands

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

49/122

Other web hosts it is graded above

CapRover's GPA of 2.0 is higher than 49 of the 122 other web hosts we grade, and level with 24.

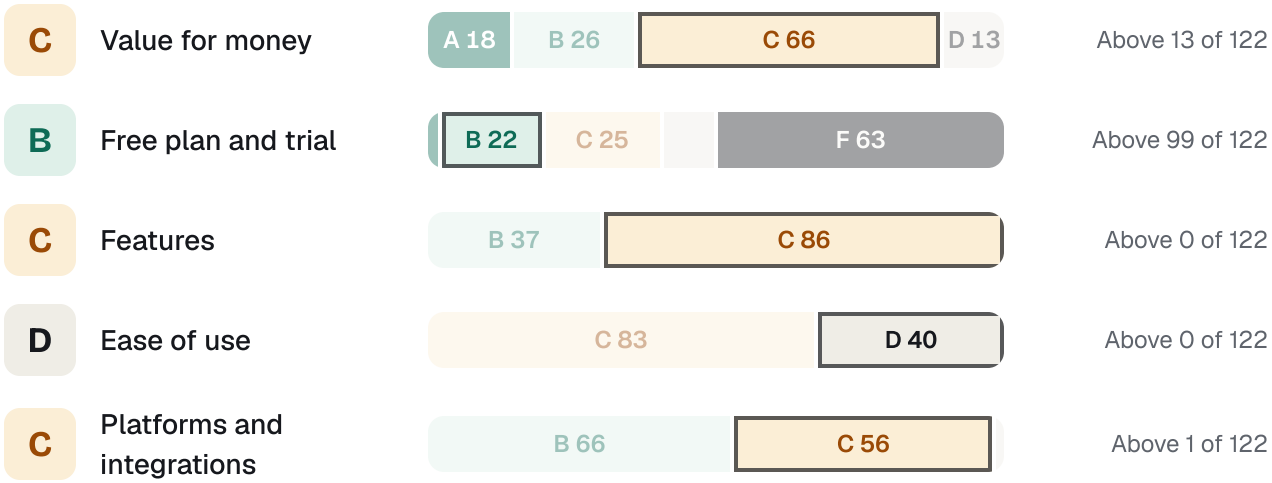
It stands best on free plan and trial (B, above 99 of 122) and worst on ease of use (D, above 0).

CapRover 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.

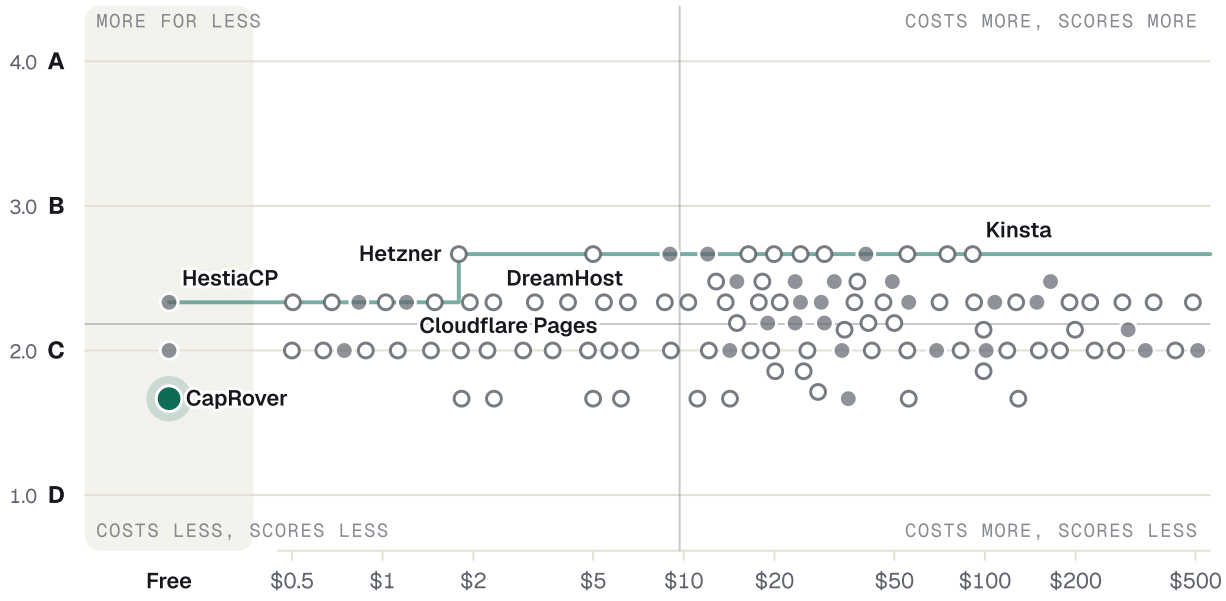
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 123 web hosts we grade, cut by the letter each got. CapRover'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. CapRover 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

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

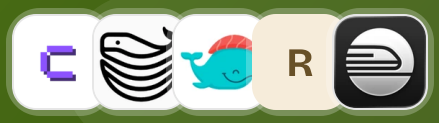
What you could not

- ✕ Databases with views, filters and links between them.
- ✕ It plugs into other products, Docker, nginx and Let's Encrypt among them.

What this rests on. CapRover'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



Coolify, Dokploy, Dokku, Render and Railway

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

Coolify

2.4 GPA

Free plan · from $5/mo

Open-source platform to deploy apps and databases to your own servers.

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

CapRover and Coolify compared in full

Dokploy

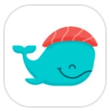
2.2 GPA

Free trial · from $4.50/mo

Open-source platform to deploy apps and databases on your own servers.

- CapRover has a free plan. Dokploy does not, though it has a free trial.
- Dokploy is open source, according to its own site.

CapRover and Dokploy compared in full



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Dokku

Free plan · from $849 one-time

Open-source, single-server platform as a service you run yourself.

- Only CapRover lists a web app.
- Only Dokku lists a Linux app.
- Dokku is open source, according to its own site.

CapRover and Dokku compared in full

R

2.4
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Render

Free plan · from $25/mo

Cloud hosting for web services, databases and workers.

- CapRover is self-hostable, according to its own site.
- Render also covers workflow automation.

CapRover and Render compared in full



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Railway

Free trial · from $5/mo

App and database hosting billed by the second for usage.

- CapRover has a free plan. Railway does not, though it has a free trial.
- Only Railway lists iOS and Android apps.
- CapRover is self-hostable, according to its own site.

CapRover and Railway compared in full

PART 06 · QUESTIONS

Quick answers

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

13

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 CapRover free?

Yes. CapRover is free to use.

How much does CapRover cost?

CapRover lists one plan. Self-hosted: $0.

What platforms does CapRover work on?

CapRover is available on Web.

Does CapRover have an Android app?

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

Does CapRover have an iPhone app?

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

Is CapRover open source?

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

Can CapRover be self-hosted?

Yes. CapRover's own site says it can be run on a server of your own.

What does CapRover integrate with?

CapRover's listing names Docker, nginx, Let's Encrypt, DigitalOcean and GitHub.

Who makes CapRover?

CapRover is made by a company of the same name.

What are the alternatives to CapRover?

The closest alternatives to CapRover in our directory are Coolify, Dokploy, Dokku, Render and Railway.

How does CapRover compare with other web hosts?

CapRover's GPA of 2.0 is higher than 49 of the 122 other web hosts we grade, and level with 24.

Is CapRover good value for money?

ToolGPA grades CapRover C for value for money. CapRover has no paid plan.

Could I make my own version of CapRover?

CapRover is free, so making your own would save you nothing. What you could not make: Databases with views, filters and links between them.

Where this guide comes from

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

caprover.com

caprover.com/docs/get-started.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

CapRover, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/caprover

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

Know someone choosing between web hosts?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded web hosts after CapRover, 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 CapRover'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. CapRover is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by CapRover. Prices and plans change: check caprover.com before you buy.