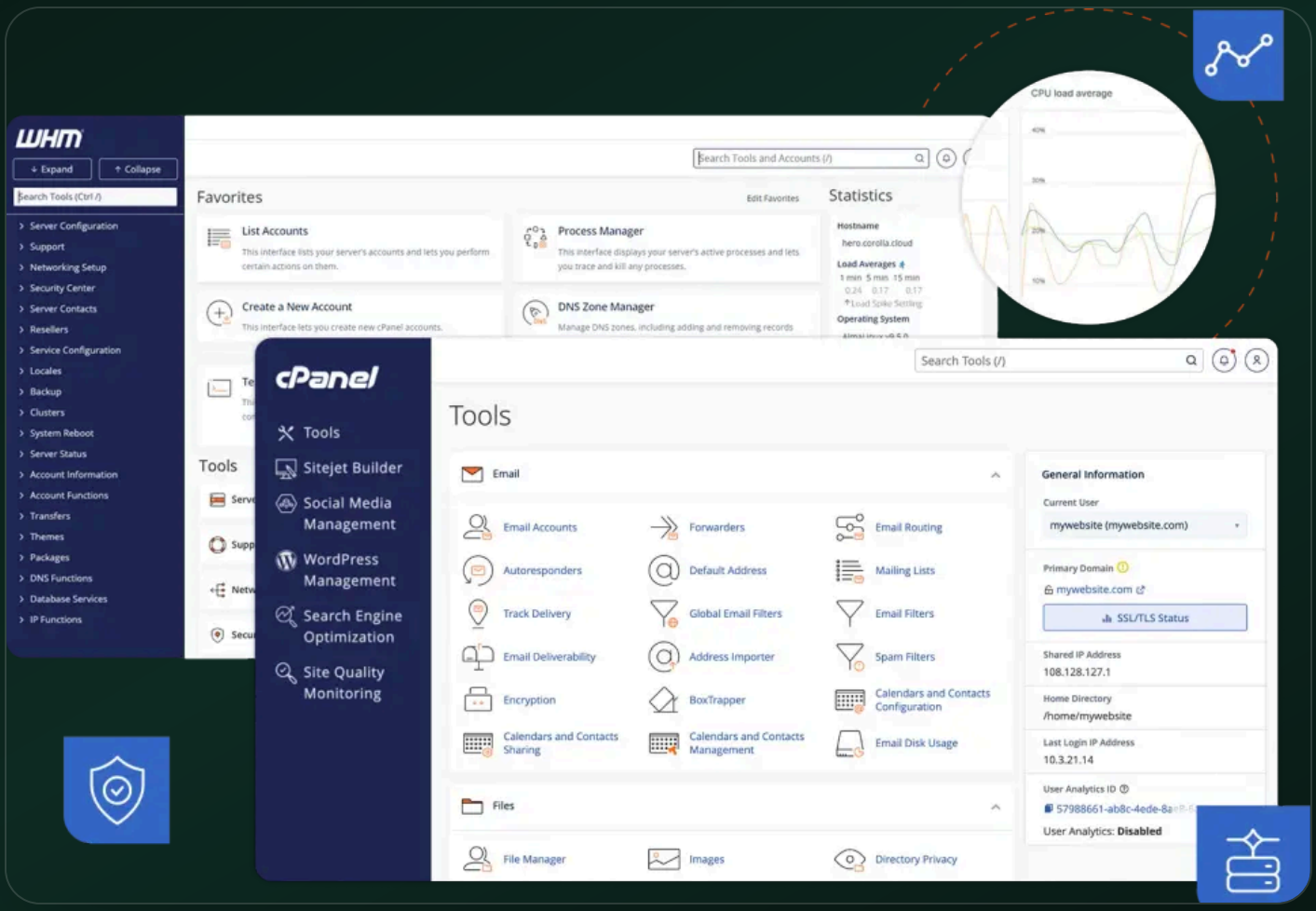
ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

cPanel

The Insider's Guide

Web hosting control panel licensed per server, by account count

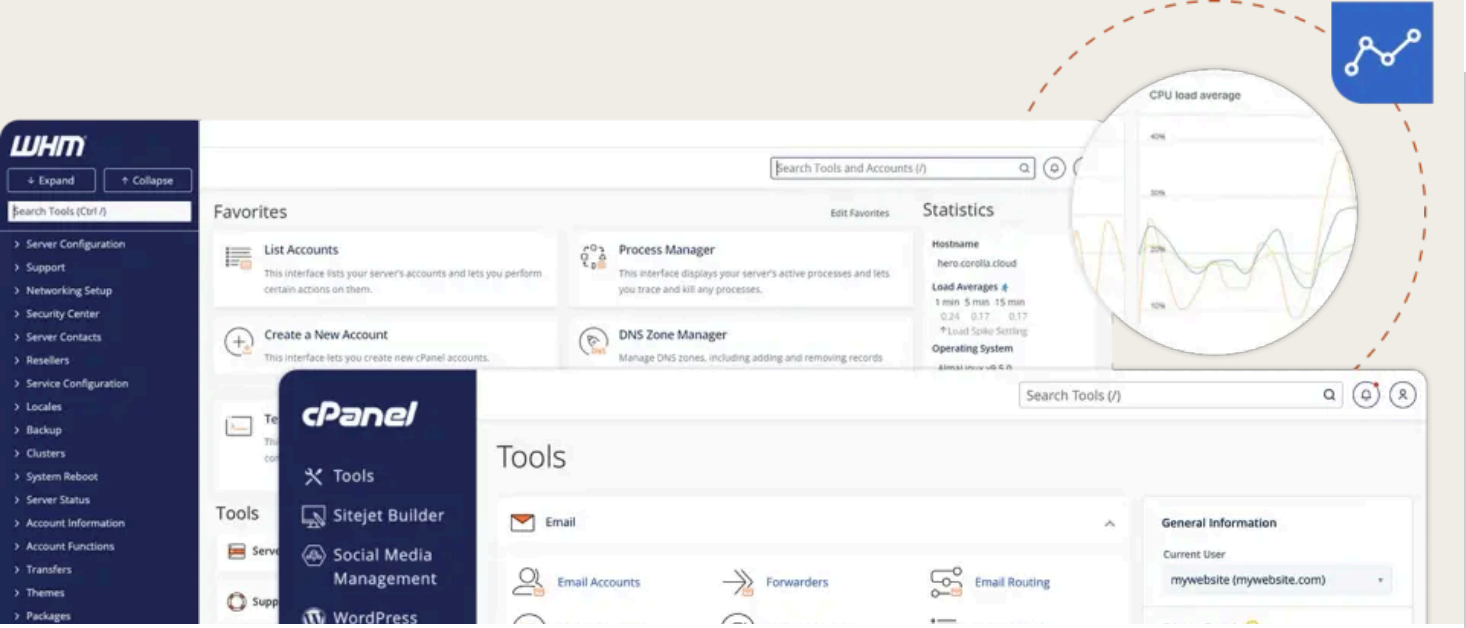


Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among web hosts, read from cPanel's own pages.

Made by WebPros International · 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 cPanel's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on cPanel'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 74 of the 122 other web hosts we grade

cPanel & WHM is a control panel that hosting providers and server owners install on a Cloud/VPS or dedicated server to manage accounts, websites, email, SSL and WordPress. It is licensed per server in four plans that differ by the number of accounts. cPanel does not sell hosting itself.

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

> **It installs on your own Cloud, VPS or dedicated server and has to be administered.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

1 **Best for a licensed control panel for your own server**

cPanel & WHM is a control panel you license per server to manage hosting accounts, email, SSL and WordPress.

2 **Paid plans start at $27.46 a month**

As its pricing page puts it: $27.46 per month, billed annually ($29.99 billed monthly), for Solo.

3 **You can try it first**

15-day free trial of cPanel & WHM with full access.

4 **It runs on Web**

Web.

5 **Accounts and websites**

Hosting providers create and manage cPanel accounts through WHM; every plan allows unlimited websites within the account limit.

6 **WordPress and site tools**

WP Toolkit, a website builder, website monitoring and SSL certificates are included on every plan.

7 **Email and migration**

Email accounts and self-guided migration tools, including the built-in Transfer Tool, come with each plan.

8 **A 2.2 GPA, above 74 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 cPanel you would be making servers kept running, patched and backed up for you. That is not a weekend's work, with an AI app builder or without one.

cPanel at a glance

PRICING
Free trial, from $27.46 per month, billed annually ($29.99 billed monthly), for Solo

FREE PLAN
No

FREE TRIAL
15-day free trial of cPanel & WHM with full access.

RUNS ON
Web

MADE BY
WebPros International

CATEGORY
Web Hosting

OUR GRADE
2.2 GPA, fair

The report card

Best for a licensed control panel for your own server

cPanel & WHM is a control panel you license per server to manage hosting accounts, email, SSL and WordPress. The cheapest plan covers a single account, the lower three plans are Cloud and VPS only, and the vendor has announced a price change for 16 December 2026.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD	cPanel	Graded Nov 13, 2026
SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	C	Solo is $27.46 a month billed annually for one account, above the $20.83 dearer-quarter line for web hosting. Five accounts is $32.96, and the server is separate.
Free plan and trial	C	A 15-day full-access trial. The listing does not say whether a card is needed. No free plan.
Features	B	Account and website management, email, SSL, WordPress tools, migrations, Node.js app hosting and an AI assistant. The account caps are on the plans, not in the panel's job.
Ease of use	D	No store rating on record. It installs on your own Cloud, VPS or dedicated server and has to be administered.
Platforms and integrations	B	Web only, but it works with WordPress, Sitejet Builder, WP Toolkit, Imunify360, CloudLinux and SocialBee.
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 cPanel is for

- ✓ Fits if you run client sites and want the panel most hosts use
- ✓ Works for small agencies on a VPS who need separate accounts per client

Who it is not for

- ✕ Skip it if you want hosting included, because cPanel is a licence only
- ✕ Pricey if you have one or two sites, as Solo is $27.46 a month for a single account
- ✕ Tight if you need dedicated hardware, since only Premier covers dedicated servers
- ✕ Watch out: licence pricing changes from 16 December 2026, and prices exclude VAT
- ✕ Watch out: custom branding is limited to Premier, which is monthly billing only at $69.99

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Hosting providers and resellers running shared hosting
- ✓ Agencies that host client sites on their own VPS
- ✓ Anyone already familiar with the cPanel interface

Worth knowing

- ⓘ cPanel is licensed per server and does not include hosting; a server's public static IP is needed to buy a monthly license.
- ⓘ Solo covers a single account, and the three lower plans are available only on Cloud/VPS servers.
- ⓘ Prices exclude VAT, and the page says license pricing will be adjusted from December 16, 2026, for new orders and renewals.
- ⓘ Premier is listed monthly only, and custom branding is limited to it.

PART 02 · PRICING

What it costs

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

$27.46

A month to start

cPanel is a paid product with a free trial, starting at $27.46 per month, billed annually ($29.99 billed monthly), for Solo.

> **The listing does not say whether a card is needed.**

From our grade for free plan and trial

SOLO

$27.46

per server / month, billed annually ($29.99 billed monthly)

1 account, for freelancers and small agencies on a single server. Cloud/VPS only.

ADMIN

$32.96

per server / month, billed annually ($35.99 billed monthly)

Up to 5 accounts, for application developers and small dev shops. Cloud/VPS only.

PRO

$49.46

per server / month, billed annually ($53.99 billed monthly)

Up to 30 accounts, for large agencies and growing hosting businesses. Cloud/VPS only.

PREMIER

$69.99

per server / month, billed monthly

Up to 100 accounts, then $0.49 for each additional account, with custom branding. Cloud/VPS and dedicated servers.

Trying it first

15-day free trial of cPanel & WHM with full access.

Read from cpanel.net on Nov 13, 2026.

Ways to pay less

ANNUAL DISCOUNT

Save 8.4% with annual billing

Solo, Admin and Pro list an 8.4% saving when billed annually instead of monthly.

Stated on cpanel.net

What it does

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

1

Place it runs: Web

Web hosting control panel licensed per server, by account count. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: AI features, managed WordPress.

> **Account and website management, email, SSL, WordPress tools, migrations, Node.js app hosting and an AI assistant.**
>
> From our grade for features

Accounts and websites

Hosting providers create and manage cPanel accounts through WHM; every plan allows unlimited websites within the account limit.

WordPress and site tools

WP Toolkit, a website builder, website monitoring and SSL certificates are included on every plan.

Email and migration

Email accounts and self-guided migration tools, including the built-in Transfer Tool, come with each plan.

cPanel AI

An AI assistant for in-panel help and diagnostics, AI-guided onboarding and an MCP connection for your own agent are listed for v138 and higher.

Node.js app hosting

The pricing page lists AI App Hosting for deploying Node.js apps.

WP Squared

A WordPress-focused product, $84.99 a month billed monthly for 10 sites, is sold alongside the panel.

Where it runs

Web

What it works with

WordPress
SocialBee
Sitejet Builder
WP Toolkit
Imunify360
CloudLinux

cPanel is made by WebPros International.

PART 04 · STANDING

Where it stands

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

74/122

Other web hosts it is graded above

cPanel's GPA of 2.2 is higher than 74 of the 122 other web hosts we grade, and level with 24.

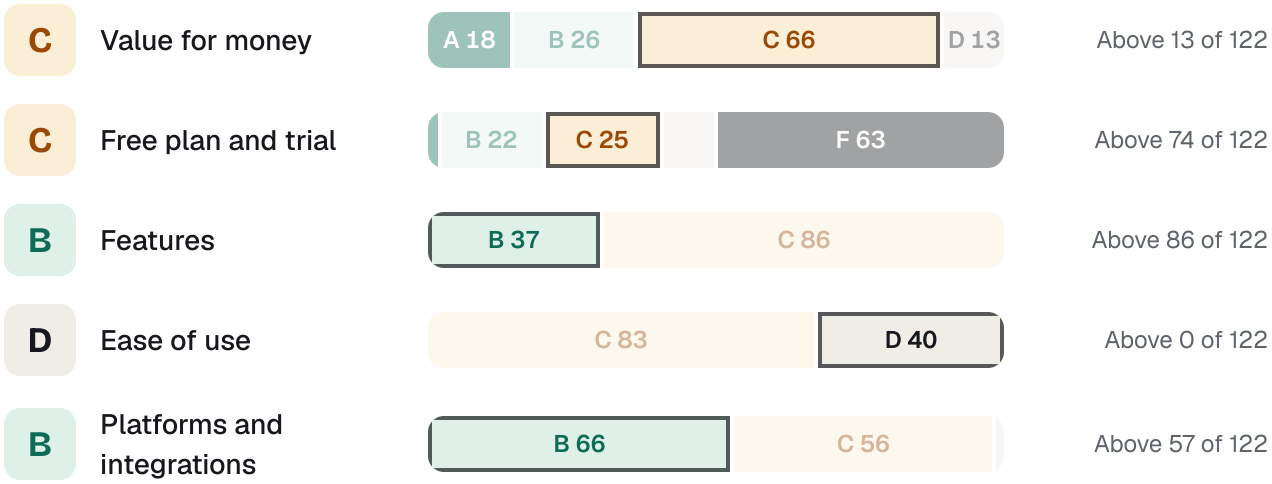
It stands best on features (B, above 86 of 122) and worst on ease of use (D, above 0).

Its paid plans start at $27.46 a month, against a middle price of $9.69 for the category: 92 of the 107 others that charge start lower.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 2.3 out of 4. 10 tools score higher and cost less.

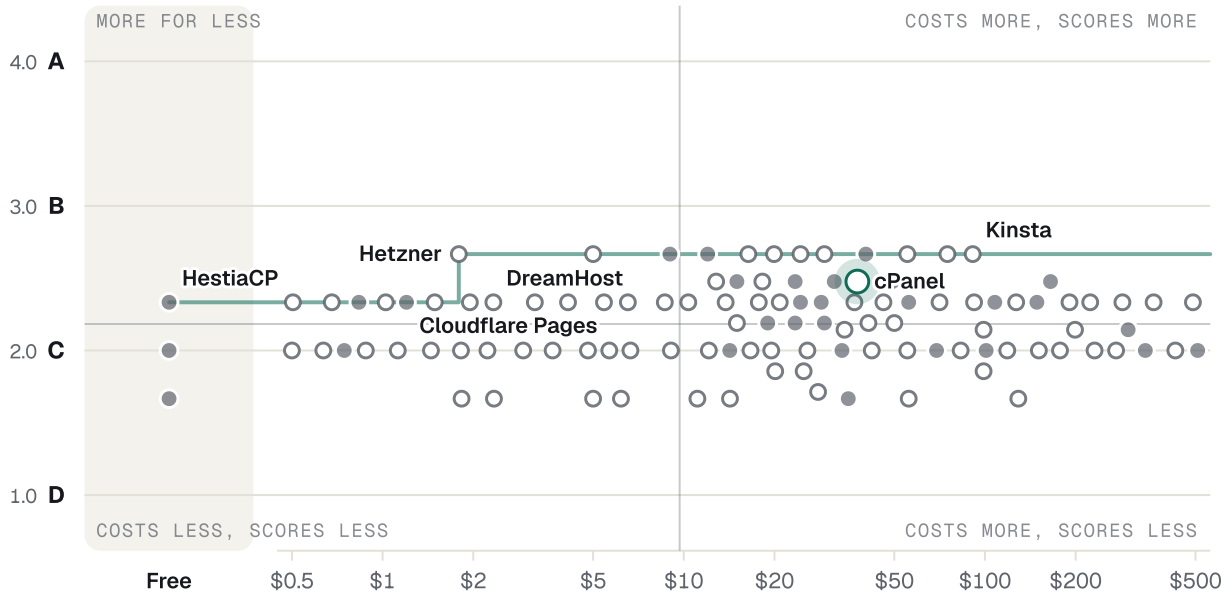
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 123 web hosts we grade, cut by the letter each got. cPanel'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. cPanel 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 cPanel you would be making servers kept running, patched and backed up for you. That is not a weekend's work, with an AI app builder or without one.

It costs $329.52 a year.

What you could not

- ✕ Servers kept running, patched and backed up for you.
- ✕ It plugs into other products, WordPress, SocialBee and Sitejet Builder among them.

- ✕ AI features, unless you pay a model provider for each request yourself.
- ✕ The depth: we grade its features B, which means it covers the whole job.

What this rests on. cPanel'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



Plesk, DirectAdmin, CyberPanel, CloudPanel and Virtualmin

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

2.2 GPA

Plesk

Free trial · from $15.57/mo

Web hosting and server control panel licensed per server.

- Plesk also covers dMARC.

cPanel and Plesk compared in full

1.6 GPA

DirectAdmin

From $5/mo

Licensed web hosting control panel for Linux servers.

- DirectAdmin is self-hostable, according to its own site.
- cPanel also covers managed WordPress.
- DirectAdmin also covers file management.

cPanel and DirectAdmin compared in full



2.2 GPA

CyberPanel

Free plan · from $7.99/mo

Free OpenLiteSpeed control panel with paid add-ons.

- CyberPanel has a free plan. cPanel does not, though it has a free trial.
- CyberPanel is open source and self-hostable, according to its own site.
- cPanel also covers managed WordPress.

cPanel and CyberPanel compared in full



2.4 GPA

CloudPanel

Free

Free server control panel for PHP, Node.js and Python sites.

- CloudPanel has a free plan. cPanel does not, though it has a free trial.
- CloudPanel is self-hostable, according to its own site.

cPanel and CloudPanel compared in full



2.2 GPA

Virtualmin

Free plan · from $7.50/mo

Open-source hosting control panel with a paid Pro edition.

- Virtualmin has a free plan. cPanel does not, though it has a free trial.
- Virtualmin is open source and self-hostable, according to its own site.
- cPanel also covers managed WordPress.

cPanel and Virtualmin compared in full

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 cPanel free?

No, cPanel is a paid product, but you can try it first. 15-day free trial of cPanel & WHM with full access.

How much does cPanel cost?

cPanel lists 4 plans. Solo: $27.46 per server / month, billed annually ($29.99 billed monthly).

What platforms does cPanel work on?

cPanel is available on Web.

Does cPanel offer any discounts?

cPanel publicly lists the following: Save 8.4% with annual billing.

Does cPanel have an Android app?

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

Does cPanel have an iPhone app?

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

Is cPanel open source?

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

What does cPanel integrate with?

cPanel's listing names WordPress, SocialBee, Sitejet Builder, WP Toolkit, Imunify360 and CloudLinux.

Who makes cPanel?

cPanel is made by WebPros International.

What are the alternatives to cPanel?

The closest alternatives to cPanel in our directory are Plesk, DirectAdmin, CyberPanel, CloudPanel and Virtualmin.

How does cPanel compare with other web hosts?

cPanel's GPA of 2.2 is higher than 74 of the 122 other web hosts we grade, and level with 24.

Is cPanel good value for money?

ToolGPA grades cPanel C for value for money. Its paid plans start at $27.46 a month, against a middle price of $9.69 for the category: 92 of the 107 others that charge start lower.

Could I make my own version of cPanel?

To replace cPanel you would be making servers kept running, patched and backed up for you.

Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from cPanel'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 cPanel'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 WebPros International. Prices change, so check cpanel.net before you buy.

cpanel.net/pricing/
cpanel.net/products/trial/

cpanel.net

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

cPanel, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/cpanel

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

Know someone choosing between web hosts?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded web hosts after cPanel, 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

2.8 GPA

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 cPanel'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. cPanel is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by WebPros International. Prices and plans change: check cpanel.net before you buy.