ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

CS-Cart

The Insider's Guide

Self-hosted store and multi-vendor marketplace software



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among online store builders, read from CS-Cart's own pages.

Made by CS-Cart · checked Nov 13, 2026 · toolgpa.com

2.0
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 CS-Cart's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on CS-Cart'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 29 of the 80 other online store builders we grade

CS-Cart is self-hosted ecommerce software sold in two products: Store Builder for a single online store and Multi-Vendor for marketplaces with many sellers. Buyers get the full source code and run it on their own or CS-Cart's managed hosting. Store Builder is a one-time purchase, and Multi-Vendor is sold by the year or as a lifetime license.

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

> "
>
> **It runs self-hosted, so you handle server setup unless you buy CS-Cart hosting.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

1 **Best for self-hosted stores and marketplaces with full source**

You get the full code, but updates, hosting and the higher marketplace prices are the catches.

2 **Paid plans start at $60.42 a month when paid by the year**

As its pricing page puts it: $725 per year (Multi-Vendor Standard); Store Builder from $1,490 one-time.

3 **You can try it first**

14-day free demo of Marketplace Builder or Store Builder, hosted by CS-Cart

4 **It runs on Web**

Web.

5 Multi-vendor marketplace

The Multi-Vendor product lets many sellers run storefronts, with vendor plans, commissions and ways to monetize the marketplace.

6 Full source code

Every plan includes full code access, so developers can customize the software and host it where they choose.

7 No-code editor and App Market

A no-code editor adjusts storefront pages, and an App Market adds extra functionality and themes.

8 A 2.0 GPA, above 29 of 80

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

9 Keep it

To replace CS-Cart you would be making checkout, card payments and sales tax handled for you. That is not a weekend's work, with an AI app builder or without one.

CS-Cart at a glance

PRICING
Free trial, from $725 per year (Multi-Vendor Standard); Store Builder from $1,490 one-time

FREE PLAN
No

FREE TRIAL
14-day free demo of Marketplace Builder or Store Builder, hosted by CS-Cart

RUNS ON
Web

MADE BY
CS-Cart

CATEGORY
Online Store Builders

OUR GRADE
2.0 GPA, fair

The report card

Best for self-hosted stores and marketplaces with full source

CS-Cart sells store and marketplace software you host yourself, from a $725-a-year multi-vendor plan to one-time store licences from $1,490. You get the full code, but updates, hosting and the higher marketplace prices are the catches.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD — **CS-Cart** — Graded Nov 13, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	C	Multi-Vendor Standard is $725 a year, about $61 a month, between the category's $29 middle and $89 dearer quarter. Store Builder starts at $1,490 one time.
Free plan and trial	C	A 14-day free demo of either builder, hosted by CS-Cart. The pages we read don't say whether it needs a card.
Features	B	Multi-vendor marketplace, several storefronts, full source code, no-code editor, App Market, B2B and headless options. Nothing in the listing is missing from the core job.
Ease of use	D	No rating on record. It runs self-hosted, so you handle server setup unless you buy CS-Cart hosting.
Platforms and integrations	C	Web only, with an admin REST API on higher plans. No apps and no integration list.

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 CS-Cart is for

- ✓ Fits if you want to own the code of your shop or marketplace
- ✓ Makes sense if you'd rather pay once than monthly and can run a server

Who it is not for

- ✗ Skip it if you don't want to run a server, as hosting is separate and only 1 month is included
- ✗ Tight if you want updates for long: Store Builder Plus includes 1 year
- ✗ Pricey if you need several storefronts or the REST API, which start at $3,590
- ✗ Watch out: we could only read the Standard multi-vendor price, not the higher marketplace tiers or lifetime prices

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Founders launching a multi-vendor marketplace on their own server
- ✓ Developers who want full source code access to an ecommerce platform
- ✓ Merchants who prefer a one-time license over a monthly subscription

Worth knowing

- ⓘ Plans cover the software only; hosting is separate, and the 1 month of free hosting in the plans is short.
- ⓘ Store Builder updates are limited to 1 year on Plus, and longer update periods need higher tiers.
- ⓘ Only the Standard Multi-Vendor price could be read; the Plus and higher marketplace tiers and the lifetime prices are not recorded here.
- ⓘ It runs self-hosted, so you handle server setup unless you buy CS-Cart hosting.

PART 02 · PRICING

What it costs

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

$60.42

A month to start, paid by the year

CS-Cart is a paid product with a free trial, starting at $725 per year (Multi-Vendor Standard); Store Builder from $1,490 one-time.

> **The pages we read don't say whether it needs a card.**

From our grade for free plan and trial

MULTI-VENDOR STANDARD

$725

per year (about $61 a month, billed annually)

Marketplace software with customer care, full code access, No-code editor and 1 month of free hosting. Lifetime option exists; its price was not read.

STORE BUILDER PLUS

$1,490

one-time

Single store with full code access, App Market, 30 days of Customer Care Standard and 1 year of free updates.

STORE BUILDER ULTIMATE

$3,590

one-time

Adds multiple storefronts, stock by location, stores and warehouses, an admin REST API and 60 days of Customer Care.

STORE BUILDER UNLIM

$7,990

one-time

Adds 5 years of free updates and 6 months of Customer Care Ultimate with live chat and 7 modifications a month.

Trying it first

14-day free demo of Marketplace Builder or Store Builder, hosted by CS-Cart

Read from cs-cart.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

Self-hosted store and multi-vendor marketplace software. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: self-hostable, public API, inventory, online store.

> **Nothing in the listing is missing from the core job.**
>
> From our grade for features

Multi-vendor marketplace

The Multi-Vendor product lets many sellers run storefronts, with vendor plans, commissions and ways to monetize the marketplace.

Full source code

Every plan includes full code access, so developers can customize the software and host it where they choose.

No-code editor and App Market

A no-code editor adjusts storefront pages, and an App Market adds extra functionality and themes.

Several storefronts

Store Builder Ultimate and above manage multiple storefronts for branches, brands or regions, with stock tracked by location.

B2B and headless options

The site lists B2B shops, headless integration with an existing site, and a mobile marketplace app as use cases.

Managed hosting

CS-Cart sells its own pre-configured hosting for Store Builder and Multi-Vendor as a separate monthly service.

Where it runs

Web

What it works with

Its own pages name no integrations.

CS-Cart is made by CS-Cart.

Where it stands

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

29/80

Other online store builders it is graded above

CS-Cart's GPA of 2.0 is higher than 29 of the 80 other online store builders we grade, and level with 13.

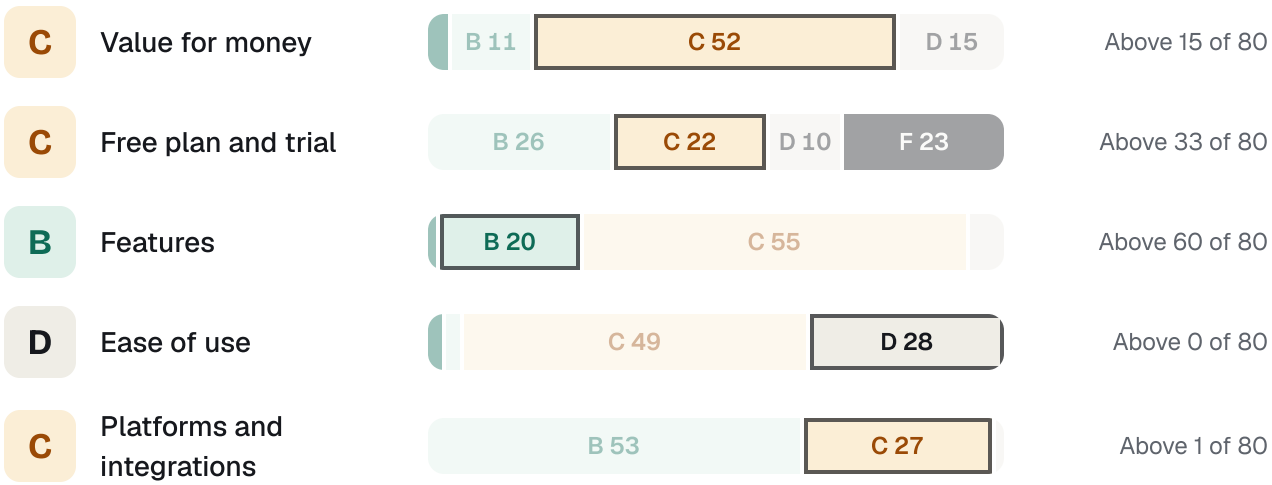
It stands best on features (B, above 60 of 80) and worst on ease of use (D, above 0).

Its paid plans start at $60.42 a month when paid by the year, against a middle price of $29.25 for the category: 30 of the 44 others that charge start lower.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 2.0 out of 4. 24 tools score higher and cost less.

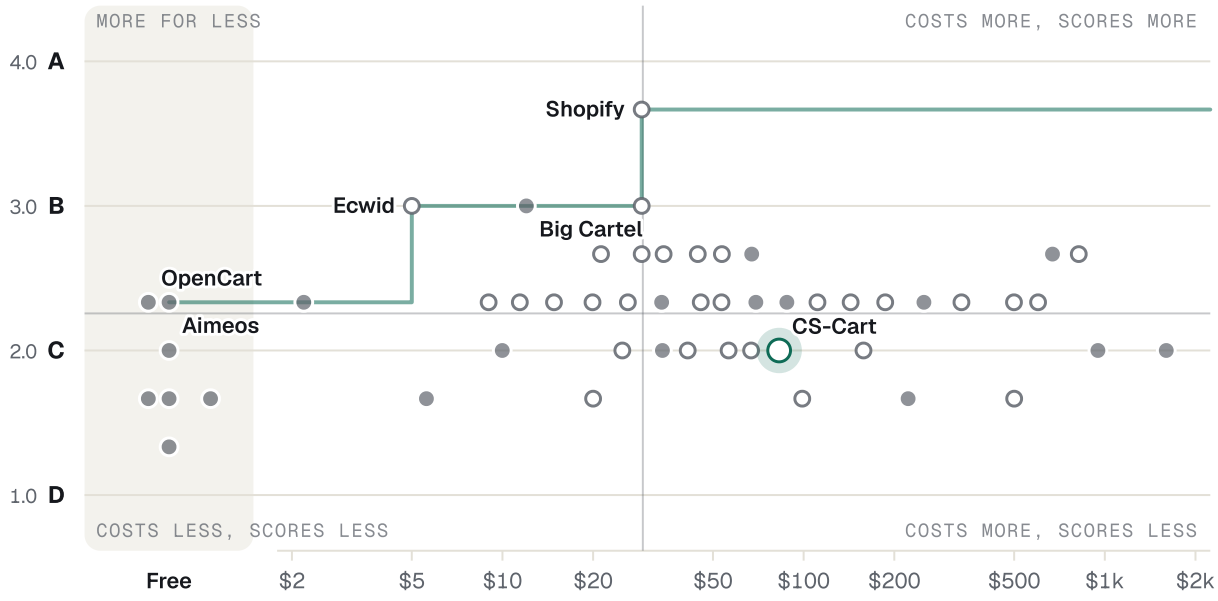
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 81 online store builders we grade, cut by the letter each got. CS-Cart's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 52 online store builders. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. CS-Cart 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 CS-Cart you would be making checkout, card payments and sales tax handled for you. That is not a weekend's work, with an AI app builder or without one.

It costs $725 a year.

What you could make

- Inventory: an app builder makes this well.

What you could not

- Checkout, card payments and sales tax handled for you.

- An API that other software can build on.
- The depth: we grade its features B, which means it covers the whole job.

What this rests on. CS-Cart'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



OpenCart, PrestaShop, Bagisto, nopCommerce and WooCommerce

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

OpenCart

2.4 GPA

Free

Free open-source shopping cart you host yourself.

- OpenCart has a free plan. CS-Cart does not, though it has a free trial.
- OpenCart is open source, according to its own site.
- CS-Cart also covers inventory.

CS-Cart and OpenCart compared in full

PrestaShop

2.4 GPA

Free plan · from €24/mo

Open-source ecommerce software, free to self-host or sold hosted.

- PrestaShop has a free plan. CS-Cart does not, though it has a free trial.
- PrestaShop is open source, according to its own site.
- CS-Cart also covers inventory.

CS-Cart and PrestaShop compared in full



2.0 GPA

Bagisto

Free plan · from $0

Open-source Laravel ecommerce for B2B, marketplaces and headless.

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

CS-Cart and Bagisto compared in full



2.2 GPA

nopCommerce

Free

Free open-source ASP.NET Core shopping cart.

- nopCommerce has a free plan. CS-Cart does not, though it has a free trial.
- nopCommerce is open source, according to its own site.
- CS-Cart also covers inventory.

CS-Cart and nopCommerce compared in full



2.2 GPA

WooCommerce

Free plan

Free, open-source store plugin for WordPress that you host yourself.

- WooCommerce has a free plan. CS-Cart does not, though it has a free trial.
- Only WooCommerce lists iOS and Android apps.
- WooCommerce is open source, according to its own site.

CS-Cart and WooCommerce 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 CS-Cart free?

No, CS-Cart is a paid product, but you can try it first. 14-day free demo of Marketplace Builder or Store Builder, hosted by CS-Cart.

How much does CS-Cart cost?

CS-Cart lists 4 plans. Multi-Vendor Standard: $725 per year (about $61 a month, billed annually).

What platforms does CS-Cart work on?

CS-Cart is available on Web.

Does CS-Cart have an Android app?

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

Does CS-Cart have an iPhone app?

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

Is CS-Cart open source?

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

Can CS-Cart be self-hosted?

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

Does CS-Cart have an API?

Yes. CS-Cart offers a public API, according to its own site.

Who makes CS-Cart?

CS-Cart is made by a company of the same name.

What are the alternatives to CS-Cart?

The closest alternatives to CS-Cart in our directory are OpenCart, PrestaShop, Bagisto, nopCommerce and WooCommerce.

How does CS-Cart compare with other online store builders?

CS-Cart's GPA of 2.0 is higher than 29 of the 80 other online store builders we grade, and level with 13.

Is CS-Cart good value for money?

ToolGPA grades CS-Cart C for value for money. Its paid plans start at $60.42 a month when paid by the year, against a middle price of $29.25 for the category: 30 of the 44 others that charge start lower.

Could I make my own version of CS-Cart?

To replace CS-Cart you would be making checkout, card payments and sales tax handled for you.

Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from CS-Cart'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 CS-Cart'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 CS-Cart. Prices change, so check cs-cart.com before you buy.

cs-cart.com/store-builder
cs-cart.com/

cs-cart.com/multi-vendor

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

CS-Cart, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/cs-cart

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, "CS-Cart: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 13, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/cs-cart
```

Know someone choosing between online store builders?

Send them this guide: toolgpa.com/tools/cs-cart/guide

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded online store builders after CS-Cart, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Online Store Builders Insider's Guide

Every one of the 84 online store builders we grade, compared

Big Cartel Insider's Guide

Simple online store for artists, makers and independent sellers

2.8 GPA

Shopify Insider's Guide

Hosted commerce platform for online, in-person and social selling

2.8 GPA

BigCommerce Insider's Guide

Hosted ecommerce platform with plans set by yearly sales

2.6 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 CS-Cart'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. CS-Cart is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by CS-Cart. Prices and plans change: check cs-cart.com before you buy.