ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Datasette

The Insider's Guide

Open-source tool for exploring and publishing data as a website



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among spreadsheet and database tools, read from Datasette's own pages.

Made by Datasette open source project · checked Nov 13, 2026 · toolgpa.com

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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 Datasette's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Datasette'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

2.6

GPA, above 38 of the 63 other spreadsheet and database tools we grade

Datasette is an open-source tool that turns data, including CSV and JSON imports and SQLite databases, into an interactive website with a JSON API. It is aimed at data journalists, researchers, archivists and governments who want to explore or publish data. It is free under the Apache 2.0 license and is extended through a catalog of plugins.

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

1 **Best for publishing a SQLite database as a searchable website**

Datasette is a free, open-source tool that turns SQLite data into a browsable website with a JSON API and search.

2 **It is free**

Datasette has no paid plan at all.

3 **It runs on Web**

Web.

4 **Exploratory data analysis**

Data from CSVs, JSON and database connections can be imported, and Datasette shows patterns in it for sharing with colleagues.

5 **Instant publishing**

The datasette publish command deploys a database to hosting providers such as Google Cloud Run, Heroku or Vercel.

6 **JSON API for any data**

A JSON API is created for data in minutes, which the site suggests using to prototype without building a custom backend.

7 **A 2.6 GPA, above 38 of 63**

That is against the other spreadsheet and database tools we grade, on value, the free plan, features, ease of use and platforms.

8 **Keep it**

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

Datasette at a glance

PRICING Free	FREE PLAN It is free
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON Web
MADE BY Datasette open source project	CATEGORY Spreadsheets & Databases
OUR GRADE 2.6 GPA, good	

The report card

Best for publishing a SQLite database as a searchable website

Datasette is a free, open-source tool that turns SQLite data into a browsable website with a JSON API and search. It is not a spreadsheet editor, you install and run it yourself with Python 3.11 or higher, and the 1.0 release is still in alpha.

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

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	A	Free under the Apache 2.0 licence to install and run on your own machine, with no paid plan listed.
Free plan and trial	A	Free outright. The listing shows no cap and no paid tier.
Features	C	Browsing, faceted search, SQL queries, a JSON API and plugins. It is a data browser and publisher, with no formulas or cell editing, so it is a different job from a spreadsheet.
Ease of use	D	You install it with pip, Homebrew or Docker and need Python 3.11 or higher. No store rating on record.
Platforms and integrations	C	Run by you on your own computer or server, with deploy guides for Cloud Run, Heroku and Vercel. No apps, and the listing names no connectors beyond SQLite.
Grade point average		Good, out of 4.0 **2.6**

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 Datasette is for

- ✓ Fits if you're comfortable with a command line and have data in SQLite
- ✓ Works for people who want to publish a dataset as a page with an API

Who it is not for

- ✗ Skip it if you want to edit cells and write formulas, since it is not a spreadsheet
- ✗ Not for you if you don't want to install Python or run anything yourself
- ✗ Watch out: the 1.0 release is still alpha, with the 0.65 series alongside it
- ✗ Tight if you want vendor support, as none is listed, only office hours and the community

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Data journalists and researchers publishing datasets online
- ✓ Developers who need a quick read-only JSON API over a database
- ✓ People comfortable installing Python tools or using Docker

Worth knowing

- ⓘ It is installed and run by you (for example with pip, Homebrew or Docker), and requires Python 3.11 or higher.
- ⓘ Datasette is built on SQLite; it is a data browser and publisher, not a spreadsheet editor with formulas.
- ⓘ The 1.0 release is still in alpha, with the stable 0.65 series released alongside it.
- ⓘ No hosted service or support plan is listed on the site; help comes through office hours, the newsletter and the community.

What it costs

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

Free

No paid plan at all

Datasette is free to use.

> **The listing shows no cap and no paid tier.**
>
> From our grade for free plan and trial

OPEN SOURCE

$0

Free to install and run yourself under the Apache 2.0 license, with no paid plan listed on the site.

Read from datasette.io 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

Open-source tool for exploring and publishing data as a website. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: open source, self-hostable, public API, AI features, databases.

"

Browsing, faceted search, SQL queries, a JSON API and plugins.

From our grade for features

Exploratory data analysis

Data from CSVs, JSON and database connections can be imported, and Datasette shows patterns in it for sharing with colleagues.

Instant publishing

The datasette publish command deploys a database to hosting providers such as Google Cloud Run, Heroku or Vercel.

JSON API for any data

A JSON API is created for data in minutes, which the site suggests using to prototype without building a custom backend.

Faceted full-text search

SQLite's built-in full-text search provides faceted search over any correctly configured collection of records.

Plugins and tools

The site describes an ecosystem of 44 tools and 154 plugins, including an AI assistant plugin called Datasette Agent.

SQL queries and apps

Permitted users can run write queries and save stored queries, and Datasette Apps hosts custom HTML applications inside an instance.

Where it runs

Web

What it works with

SQLite
SpatiaLite
Google Cloud Run
Heroku
Vercel
Docker

Datasette is made by Datasette open source project.

Where it stands

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

38/63

Other spreadsheet and database tools it is graded above

Datasette's GPA of 2.6 is higher than 38 of the 63 other spreadsheet and database tools we grade, and level with 8.

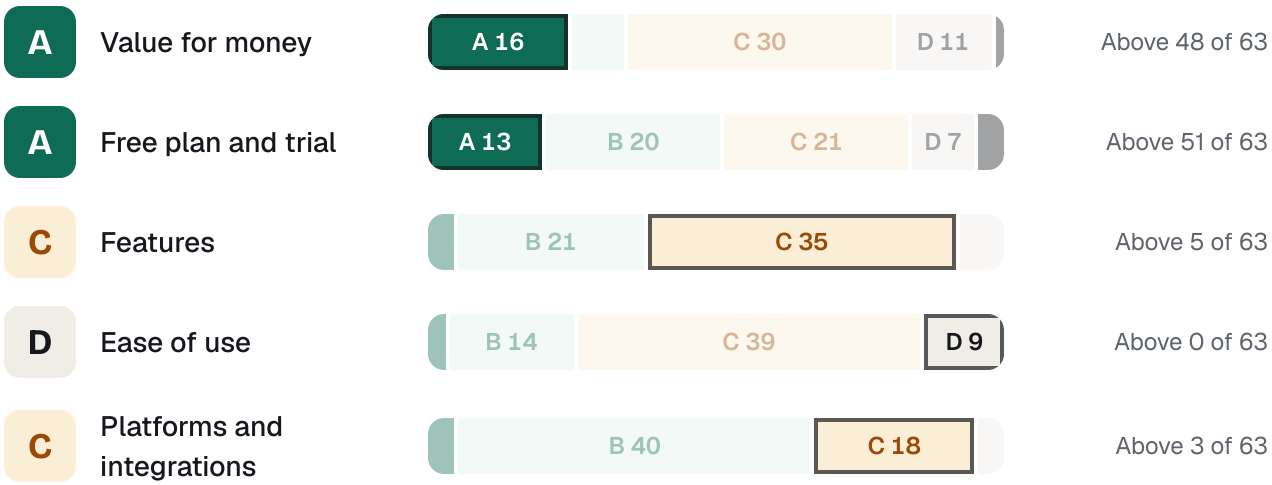
It stands best on free plan and trial (A, above 51 of 63) and worst on ease of use (D, above 0).

Datasette 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.

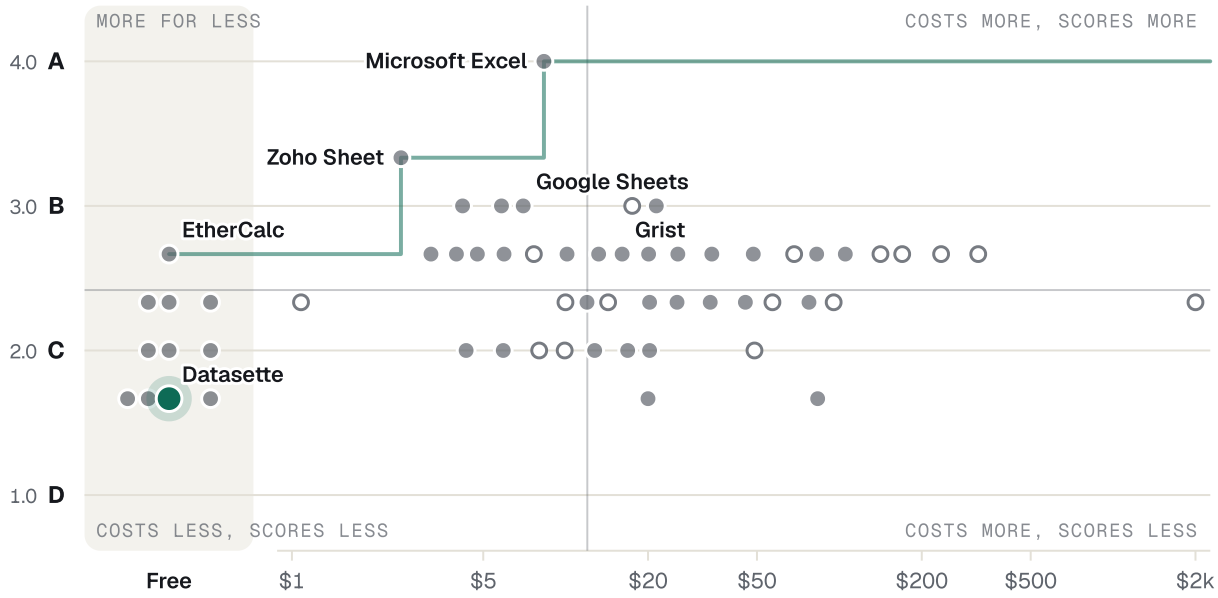
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 64 spreadsheet and database tools we grade, cut by the letter each got. Datasette's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 59 spreadsheet and database tools. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. Datasette 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

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

And it is not the kind of software a weekend replaces.

What you could not

- ✕ Databases with views, filters and links between them.
- ✕ It plugs into other products, SQLite, SpatiaLite and Google Cloud Run among them, and has an API.
- ✕ AI features, unless you pay a model provider for each request yourself.

- ✕ Sharing with other people, which means accounts and invitations.

What this rests on. Datasette'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



Grist, NocoDB, Baserow, Mathesar and VisiData

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

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Grist

Free plan · from $8/mo

Open-source relational spreadsheet with Python formulas.

- Only Grist lists Windows, macOS and Linux apps.
- Grist also covers spreadsheets.

Datasette and Grist compared in full

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NocoDB

Free plan · from $12/mo

No-code database with a spreadsheet interface, cloud or self-hosted.

- Datasette is open source, according to its own site.
- NocoDB also covers kanban boards, workflow automation, no-code and forms.

Datasette and NocoDB compared in full



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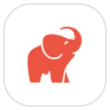
Baserow

Free plan · from $10/mo

Open-source no-code database and application builder.

- Baserow also covers workflow automation, app builder and no-code.

Datasette and Baserow compared in full



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Mathesar

Free

Open-source spreadsheet-like interface for Postgres.

- Mathesar also covers forms and spreadsheets.

Datasette and Mathesar compared in full



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VisiData

Free

Terminal spreadsheet-style tool for exploring tabular data.

- Only Datasette lists a web app.
- Only VisiData lists macOS and Linux apps.
- Datasette is self-hostable, according to its own site.

Datasette and VisiData 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 Datasette free?

Yes. Datasette is free to use.

How much does Datasette cost?

Datasette lists one plan. Open source: $0.

What platforms does Datasette work on?

Datasette is available on Web.

Does Datasette have an Android app?

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

Does Datasette have an iPhone app?

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

Is Datasette open source?

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

Does Datasette have an API?

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

What does Datasette integrate with?

Datasette's listing names SQLite, SpatiaLite, Google Cloud Run, Heroku, Vercel and Docker.

Who makes Datasette?

Datasette is made by Datasette open source project.

What are the alternatives to Datasette?

The closest alternatives to Datasette in our directory are Grist, NocoDB, Baserow, Mathesar and VisiData.

How does Datasette compare with other spreadsheet and database tools?

Datasette's GPA of 2.6 is higher than 38 of the 63 other spreadsheet and database tools we grade, and level with 8.

Is Datasette good value for money?

ToolGPA grades Datasette A for value for money. Datasette has no paid plan.

Could I make my own version of Datasette?

Datasette is free, so making your own would save you nothing. And it is not the kind of software a weekend replaces.

Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from Datasette'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 Datasette open source project'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 Datasette open source project. Prices change, so check datasette.io before you buy.

datasette.io
datasette.io/plugins
datasette.io/for
github.com/simonw/datasette

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

Datasette, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/datasette

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

Know someone choosing between spreadsheet and database tools?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded spreadsheet and database tools after Datasette, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Spreadsheets & Databases Insider's Guide

Every one of the 64 spreadsheet and database tools we grade, compared

Zoho Sheet Insider's Guide

Collaborative online spreadsheet with a free version

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Google Sheets Insider's Guide

Browser-based spreadsheet, free with a Google Account

3.4 GPA

Microsoft Excel Insider's Guide

Spreadsheet app sold with Microsoft 365, free in the browser

3.4 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 Datasette'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. Datasette is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Datasette open source project. Prices and plans change: check datasette.io before you buy.