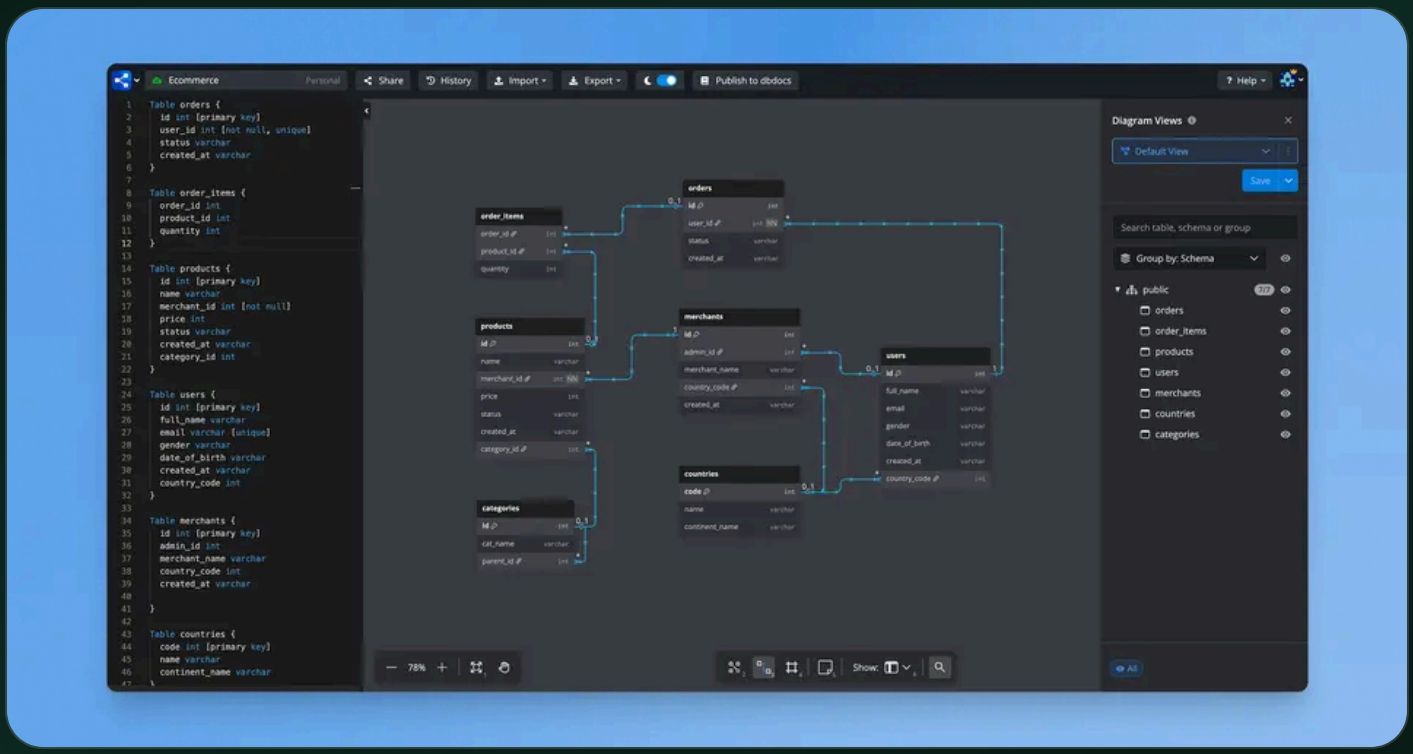
ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

dbdiagram.io

The Insider's Guide

Draw database ER diagrams by writing DBML code

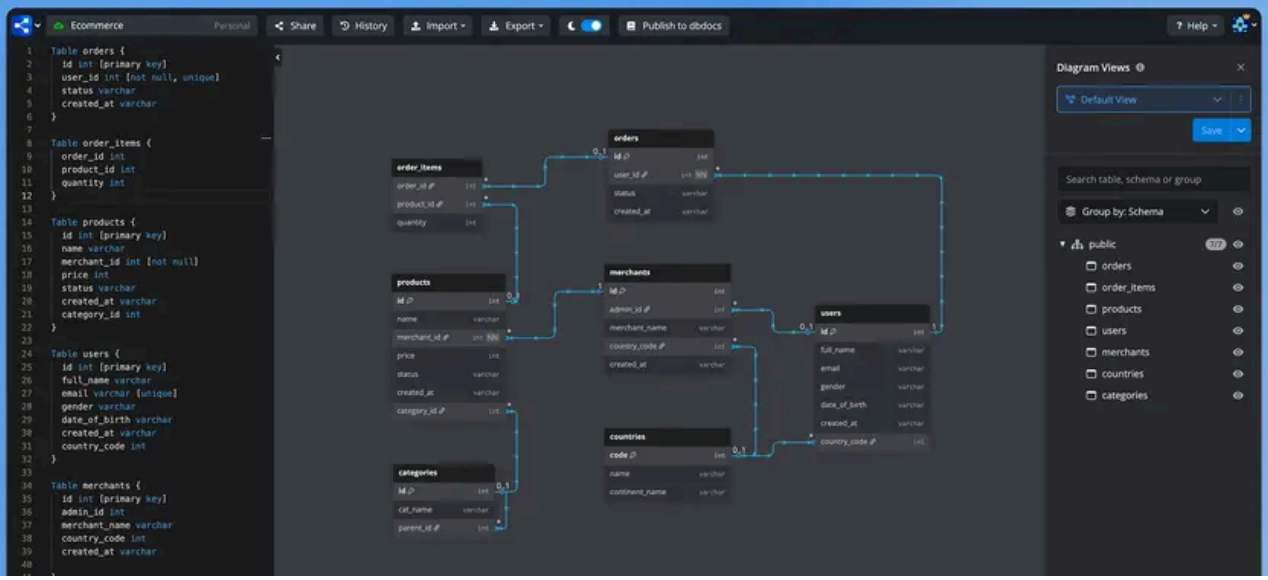


Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among whiteboard and mind map tools, read from dbdiagram.io's own pages.

Made by Holistics Software · checked Nov 13, 2026 · toolgpa.com

2.4

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

2.4

GPA, above 43 of the 98 other whiteboard and mind map tools we grade

dbdiagram.io turns text written in DBML, an open schema language, into entity-relationship diagrams as you type. It can import and export SQL, publish schema documentation through its sister product dbdocs, and map data lineage. It is aimed at developers and data analysts.

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

> "
>
> **It is a web app where you have to learn DBML before you get a diagram.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

1 **Best for database diagrams written as code**

dbdiagram.io draws an ER diagram as you type DBML, a text schema language, and it imports and exports SQL.

2 **Paid plans start at $8 a month**

As its pricing page puts it: $8 per month, billed monthly (annual billing saves up to 42%).

3 **There is a free plan**

Up to 10 diagrams and doc projects, a single editor, SQL import and export, and PDF, PNG and SVG export.

4 **It runs on Web**

Web.

5 **Diagrams from DBML**

Typing DBML produces an ER diagram as you write, so a schema is kept as text that can live in version control.

6 **SQL import and export**

A schema can be imported from a database or SQL script and exported as SQL, PDF, PNG or SVG.

7 **Published documentation**

dbdocs publishes a schema as a browsable web reference, with a schema changelog of 14 days on the free plan.

8 **A 2.4 GPA, above 43 of 98**

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

9 **Keep it**

Nothing dbdiagram.io does is plain enough to make in a weekend. The 3 things listed below take a company.

dbdiagram.io at a glance

PRICING
Free plan, from $8 per month, billed monthly (annual billing saves up to 42%)

FREE PLAN
Yes

FREE TRIAL
7-day free trial of the Team plan

RUNS ON
Web

MADE BY
Holistics Software

CATEGORY
Whiteboards & Mind Maps

OUR GRADE
2.4 GPA, fair

The report card

Best for database diagrams written as code

dbdiagram.io draws an ER diagram as you type DBML, a text schema language, and it imports and exports SQL. The free plan stops at 10 diagrams

and one editor, version history and private sharing need Personal Pro at $8 a month, and it only draws database schemas, so it won't stand in for a general whiteboard.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD	dbdiagram.io	Graded Nov 13, 2026
SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	C	Personal Pro is $8 a month billed monthly, close to the $8.25 middle for whiteboard tools. Team is $75 a month for 3 editors, and extra editors are $5 each.
Free plan and trial	B	Free covers 10 diagrams and doc projects, SQL import and export, and PDF, PNG and SVG export. One editor only, though, and version history is paid.
Features	C	Does the one job of database diagrams fully: DBML, SQL in and out, published docs, a CLI. It is a smaller job than a whiteboard, and the listing says it has no sticky notes or freehand drawing.
Ease of use	C	No store rating on record. It is a web app where you have to learn DBML before you get a diagram.
Platforms and integrations	B	Web only, with dbdocs, a CLI and CI/CD hooks, plus Holistics. No desktop or phone app.
Grade point average		Fair, out of 4.0 **2.4**

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 dbdiagram.io is for

- ✓ Fits if you keep your database schema as text in version control
- ✓ Works for developers who want ER diagrams from SQL they already have

Who it is not for

- ✗ Skip it if you want a whiteboard with sticky notes or freehand drawing
- ✗ Tight if you stay free: 10 diagrams, one editor and no version history
- ✗ Pricey if you work in a team: $75 a month for 3 editors, then $5 for each extra one
- ✗ Watch out: the Team trial is 7 days, and annual prices were not shown on the page we read

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Developers who prefer writing a schema as code over dragging boxes
- ✓ Teams documenting a database for new colleagues
- ✓ Students and researchers, who can get Personal Pro free

Worth knowing

- ⓘ This is a database diagramming tool, not a general whiteboard with sticky notes or freehand drawing.
- ⓘ The free plan allows a single editor and 10 diagrams; version history needs a paid plan.
- ⓘ The Team plan includes 3 editors, and each extra editor costs $5 a month.
- ⓘ Annual prices were not shown in the page text; the figures here are the monthly-billing ones.

PART 02 · PRICING

What it costs

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

$8

A month to start. There is a free plan too

dbdiagram.io has a free plan. Paid plans start at $8 per month, billed monthly (annual billing saves up to 42%).

> **One editor only, though, and version history is paid.**
>
> From our grade for free plan and trial

FREE

$0

Up to 10 diagrams and doc projects, unlimited viewers, one editor, public sharing and embeds.

PERSONAL PRO

$8

per month for 1 editor, billed monthly

Unlimited diagrams, version history, private and password-protected sharing, limited collaboration.

TEAM

$75

per month for 3 editors, billed monthly

Everything in Personal Pro plus a collaborative workspace and unified billing; extra editors are $5 a month.

CUSTOM PLAN

Custom

10 editors, SAML SSO, procurement review and custom payment terms; sold through sales.

The free plan

Up to 10 diagrams and doc projects, a single editor, SQL import and export, and PDF, PNG and SVG export.

Trying it first

7-day free trial of the Team plan

Read from dbdiagram.io on Nov 13, 2026.

Ways to pay less

ANNUAL DISCOUNT

Save up to 42% with annual billing

The pricing page has an annual billing toggle labelled as saving up to 42% compared with monthly billing.

Stated on dbdiagram.io

EDUCATION

Free Personal Pro for education

Students, teachers and researchers get Personal Pro free for 12 months, renewable while they are still at an institution.

Stated on dbdiagram.io

What it does

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

1

Place it runs: Web

Draw database ER diagrams by writing DBML code. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: public API, AI features, diagrams.

> **Does the one job of database diagrams fully: DBML, SQL in and out, published docs, a CLI.**
>
> From our grade for features

Diagrams from DBML

Typing DBML produces an ER diagram as you write, so a schema is kept as text that can live in version control.

SQL import and export

A schema can be imported from a database or SQL script and exported as SQL, PDF, PNG or SVG.

Published documentation

dbdocs publishes a schema as a browsable web reference, with a schema changelog of 14 days on the free plan.

Data lineage

Pipelines can be declared in DBML to show how one table is built from another, at table or column level.

AI assistant (beta)

Prompts generate and edit diagrams; usage is capped on Personal Pro and Team, and the plan table shows it as unlimited on Custom.

CLI and CI/CD

A command-line tool lets a diagram or doc project be updated from a CI/CD pipeline.

Where it runs

Web

What it works with

dbdocs

Holistics

dbdiagram.io is made by Holistics Software.

Where it stands

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

43/98

Other whiteboard and mind map tools it is graded above

dbdiagram.io's GPA of 2.4 is higher than 43 of the 98 other whiteboard and mind map tools we grade, and level with 14.

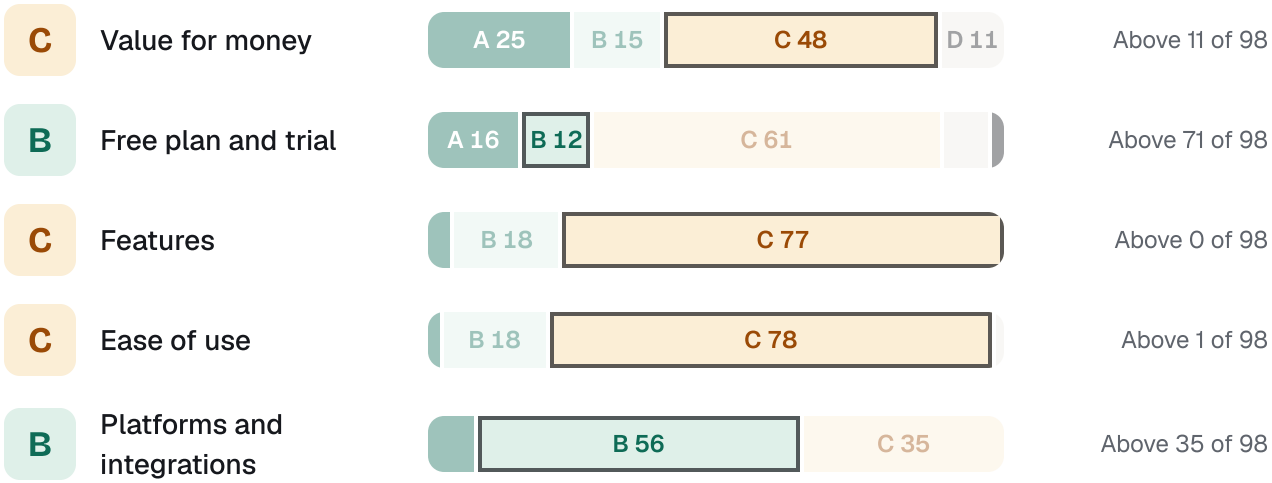
It stands best on free plan and trial (B, above 71 of 98) and worst on features (C, above 0).

Its paid plans start at $8 a month, against a middle price of $8 for the category: 34 of the 69 others that charge start lower.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 2.3 out of 4. 14 tools score higher and cost less.

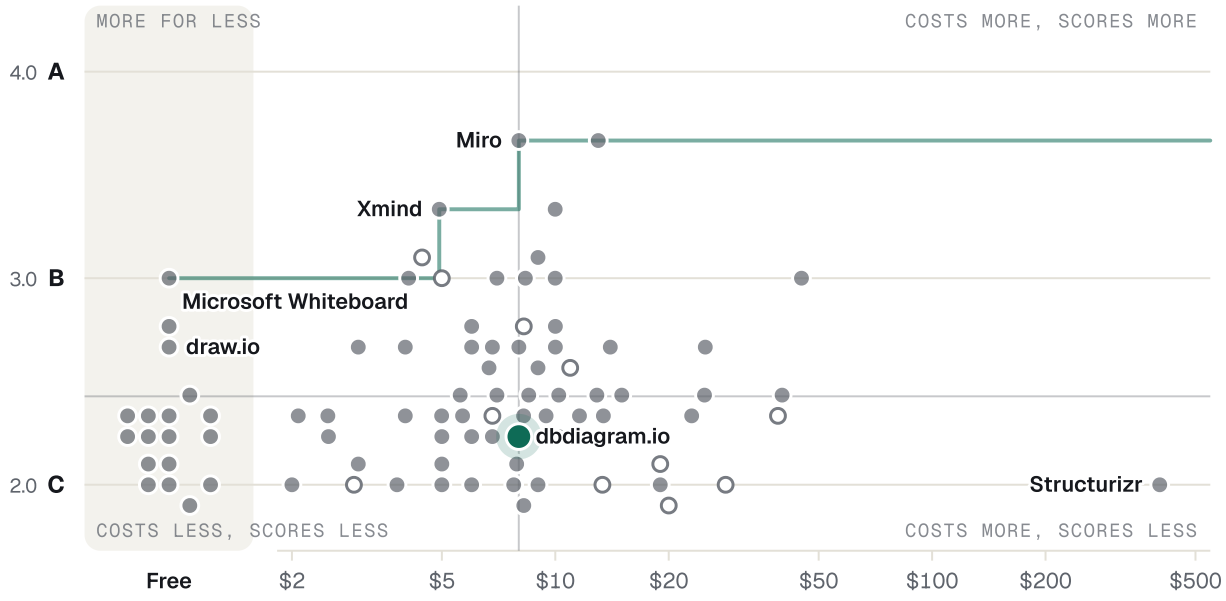
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 99 whiteboard and mind map tools we grade, cut by the letter each got. dbdiagram.io's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 88 whiteboard and mind map tools. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. dbdiagram.io 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

Nothing dbdiagram.io does is plain enough to make in a weekend. The 3 things listed below take a company.

It costs $96 a year.

What you could not

- ✕ A diagram editor.
- ✕ It plugs into other products, dbdocs and Holistics among them, and has an API.
- ✕ AI features, unless you pay a model provider for each request yourself.

What this rests on. dbdiagram.io'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



DrawSQL, PlantUML, Eraser, Mermaid and Structurizr

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

1.8 GPA

DrawSQL

Free plan · from $19/mo

Browser-based database schema diagrams for dev teams.

- DrawSQL also covers templates.

dbdiagram.io and DrawSQL compared in full

P

3.0 GPA

PlantUML

Free

Draw UML and other diagrams from plain-text descriptions.

- Only PlantUML lists a browser extension.
- PlantUML is open source, according to its own site.
- PlantUML also covers Gantt & timelines and mind mapping.

dbdiagram.io and PlantUML compared in full



2.4
GPA

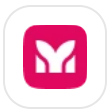
Eraser

Free plan · from $45/mo

AI diagramming and docs canvas for engineering teams.

- Eraser also covers Markdown and documents.

dbdiagram.io and Eraser compared in full



2.4
GPA

Mermaid

Free plan · from $10/mo

Text-based diagramming platform with AI and a visual editor.

- Mermaid also covers presentations.

dbdiagram.io and Mermaid compared in full



2.6
GPA

Structurizr

Free plan · from £300/mo

Open-source models-as-code tool for C4 architecture diagrams.

- Structurizr is open source and self-hostable, according to its own site.

dbdiagram.io and Structurizr compared in full

PART 06 · QUESTIONS

Quick answers

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

16

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 dbdiagram.io free?

dbdiagram.io has a free plan. Up to 10 diagrams and doc projects, a single editor, SQL import and export, and PDF, PNG and SVG export.

How much does dbdiagram.io cost?

dbdiagram.io lists 4 plans. Free: $0.

What platforms does dbdiagram.io work on?

dbdiagram.io is available on Web.

Does dbdiagram.io offer any discounts?

dbdiagram.io publicly lists the following: Save up to 42% with annual billing; Free Personal Pro for education.

Does dbdiagram.io have an Android app?

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

Does dbdiagram.io have an iPhone app?

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

Is dbdiagram.io open source?

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

Does dbdiagram.io have an API?

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

What does dbdiagram.io integrate with?

dbdiagram.io's listing names dbdocs and Holistics. A listing names up to eight integrations, so it may connect to more.

Does dbdiagram.io have a student discount?

Free Personal Pro for education. Students, teachers and researchers get Personal Pro free for 12 months, renewable while they are still at an institution.

Does dbdiagram.io have a free trial?

Yes. 7-day free trial of the Team plan.

Who makes dbdiagram.io?

dbdiagram.io is made by Holistics Software.

What are the alternatives to dbdiagram.io?

The closest alternatives to dbdiagram.io in our directory are DrawSQL, PlantUML, Eraser, Mermaid and Structurizr.

How does dbdiagram.io compare with other whiteboard and mind map tools?

dbdiagram.io's GPA of 2.4 is higher than 43 of the 98 other whiteboard and mind map tools we grade, and level with 14.

Is dbdiagram.io good value for money?

ToolGPA grades dbdiagram.io C for value for money. Its paid plans start at $8 a month, against a middle price of $8 for the category: 34 of the 69 others that charge start lower.

Could I make my own version of dbdiagram.io?

Nothing dbdiagram.io does is plain enough to make in a weekend. The 3 things listed below take a company.

Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from dbdiagram.io'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 dbdiagram.io'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 Holistics Software. Prices change, so check dbdiagram.io before you buy.

dbdiagram.io/pricing

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

dbdiagram.io, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/dbdiagram-io

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, "dbdiagram.io: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 13, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/dbdiagram-io
```

Know someone choosing between whiteboard and mind map tools?

Send them this guide: toolgpa.com/tools/dbdiagram-io/guide

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded whiteboard and mind map tools after dbdiagram.io, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Whiteboards & Mind Maps Insider's Guide

Every one of the 99 whiteboard and mind map tools we grade, compared

Microsoft Whiteboard Insider's Guide

Free collaborative canvas built into Microsoft 365 and Teams

3.4 GPA

draw.io Insider's Guide

Free diagram editor that saves files to storage you choose

3.2 GPA

tldraw Insider's Guide

Free online whiteboard with a local desktop app

3.2 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 dbdiagram.io'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. dbdiagram.io is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Holistics Software. Prices and plans change: check dbdiagram.io before you buy.