ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

DirectAdmin

The Insider's Guide

Licensed web hosting control panel for Linux servers



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

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

1.6
GPA



Contents

01 Welcome
What it is, who it suits, its grades and the ten things to know first

02 What it costs
Every plan, the free plan, ways to pay less and how prices have moved

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

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

05 The alternatives
The tools it is most often weighed against, side by side

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

07 About ToolGPA
Who made this guide, what else is on the site, and how to cite it

ToolGPA put this guide together from DirectAdmin's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on DirectAdmin'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

1.6

GPA, above 5 of the 122 other web hosts we grade

DirectAdmin is a web hosting control panel sold as a monthly license that you install on your own cloud, VPS or dedicated Linux server. It has admin, reseller and user access levels for running shared or reseller hosting, and the license price depends on how many accounts and domains the server holds.

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

1 **Best for a cheap control-panel licence for a Linux server**

DirectAdmin is a control panel licence for Linux servers with admin, reseller and user levels.

2 **Paid plans start at $5 a month**

As its pricing page puts it: $5 per month (Personal PLUS license).

3 **It runs on Web**

Web.

4 **Three access levels**

Admin, reseller and user levels, with an optional fourth email level through an official free plugin.

5 **Reseller packages**

Admins and resellers create predefined account packages so each new account inherits its limits instead of being set by hand.

6 **DNS administration and clustering**

Admins manage DNS records server-wide, and several DirectAdmin servers can exchange DNS data and block duplicate domains.

7 **A 1.6 GPA, above 5 of 122**

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

8 **You could make this**

What DirectAdmin does at its core is plain work, and that is the kind of thing an AI app builder makes well.

DirectAdmin at a glance

PRICING Paid, from $5 per month (Personal PLUS license)	FREE PLAN No
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON Web
MADE BY JBMC Software	CATEGORY Web Hosting
OUR GRADE 1.6 GPA, weak	

The report card

Best for a cheap control-panel licence for a Linux server

DirectAdmin is a control panel licence for Linux servers with admin, reseller and user levels. The $5 plan is limited to 2 accounts and installation help only, and there is no free trial listed.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD — **DirectAdmin** — Graded Nov 13, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	B	Personal PLUS is $5 a month per server, at the $5.00 cheaper-quarter line for web hosting. It covers 2 accounts and 20 domains, and the server is separate.

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Free plan and trial	F	No free plan and no trial are listed. A licence has to be bought to try it.
Features	C	Admin, reseller and user levels, reseller packages, DNS clustering, IP management and spam tools. The cheapest plan has installation support only, and unlimited support starts at Lite.
Ease of use	D	No store rating on record. It installs on a Linux server you supply, and the $5 licence is self-installed.
Platforms and integrations	C	Web only, with a short list of add-ons: Acronis, Imunify360 and JetBackup. Linux servers only.
Grade point average		Weak, out of 4.0 **1.6**

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 DirectAdmin is for

- ✓ Fits if you run one or two small sites on a Linux VPS and want the lowest licence price
- ✓ Works for hosting resellers who need admin, reseller and user separation

Who it is not for

- ✗ Skip it if you want to try before paying, as no trial is listed
- ✗ Tight if you need more than 2 accounts or 20 domains, which the $5 licence caps
- ✗ Too light for support on the cheapest plan, where only installation help is included
- ✗ Watch out: bulk discounts of 15% to 40% start at four Standard licences and need prepaid balance
- ✗ Watch out: licences bought through a reseller aren't valid unless the server comes with them

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Hosting companies running shared or reseller servers on Linux
- ✓ Owners of a single VPS who want a panel for a couple of sites

Worth knowing

- ⓘ This is a panel license, not hosting: you supply the cloud, VPS or dedicated server it runs on.
- ⓘ The $5 Personal PLUS license limits you to 2 accounts and 20 domains and has installation help only; other support is via the forum.
- ⓘ Automatic bulk discounts of 15% to 40% start at four Standard licenses and need prepaid balance as the payment method.
- ⓘ The vendor states that licenses bought through a reseller are not valid unless the server comes with the license.

What it costs

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

$5
A month to start

DirectAdmin is a paid product, starting at $5 per month (Personal PLUS license).

PERSONAL PLUS

$5

per month, per server license

2 accounts and 20 domains. Self-installation; installation support only, other support is community-based.

LITE

$15

per month, per server license

10 accounts and 50 domains, with free installation and unlimited technical support.

STANDARD

$29

per month, per server license

Unlimited accounts and domains, free installation and unlimited technical support.

Read from directadmin.com on Nov 13, 2026.

Ways to pay less

OTHER SAVINGS

Automatic bulk discount, 15% to 40%

Retail accounts get 15% off after four Standard licenses (or equivalent), rising to 40% at thirty-five. Prepaid balance is required.

Stated on directadmin.com

What it does

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

1

Place it runs: Web

Licensed web hosting control panel for Linux servers. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: self-hostable, file management.

> **Admin, reseller and user levels, reseller packages, DNS clustering, IP management and spam tools.**
>
> From our grade for features

Three access levels

Admin, reseller and user levels, with an optional fourth email level through an official free plugin.

Reseller packages

Admins and resellers create predefined account packages so each new account inherits its limits instead of being set by hand.

DNS administration and clustering

Admins manage DNS records server-wide, and several DirectAdmin servers can exchange DNS data and block duplicate domains.

Server and IP management

Admins can start and stop services, view usage statistics, work through the mail queue and assign IP addresses to resellers.

Skins and name servers

Resellers can import skins for their customers and set up personalized name servers.

Spam-fighting tools

A set of anti-spam tools ships with the panel; the vendor's help site lists them in full.

Where it runs

Web

What it works with

Acronis

Imunify360

JetBackup

DirectAdmin is made by JBMC Software.

Where it stands

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

5/122

Other web hosts it is graded above

DirectAdmin's GPA of 1.6 is higher than 5 of the 122 other web hosts we grade, and level with 23.

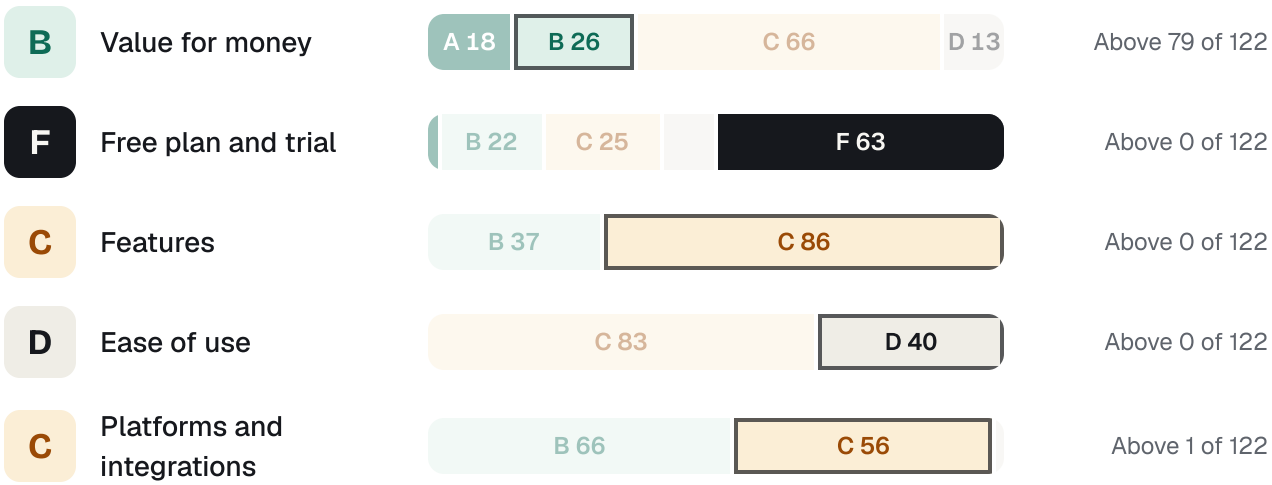
It stands best on value for money (B, above 79 of 122) and worst on free plan and trial (F, above 0).

Its paid plans start at $5 a month, against a middle price of $9.69 for the category: 31 of the 107 others that charge start lower.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 1.7 out of 4. 31 tools score higher and cost less.

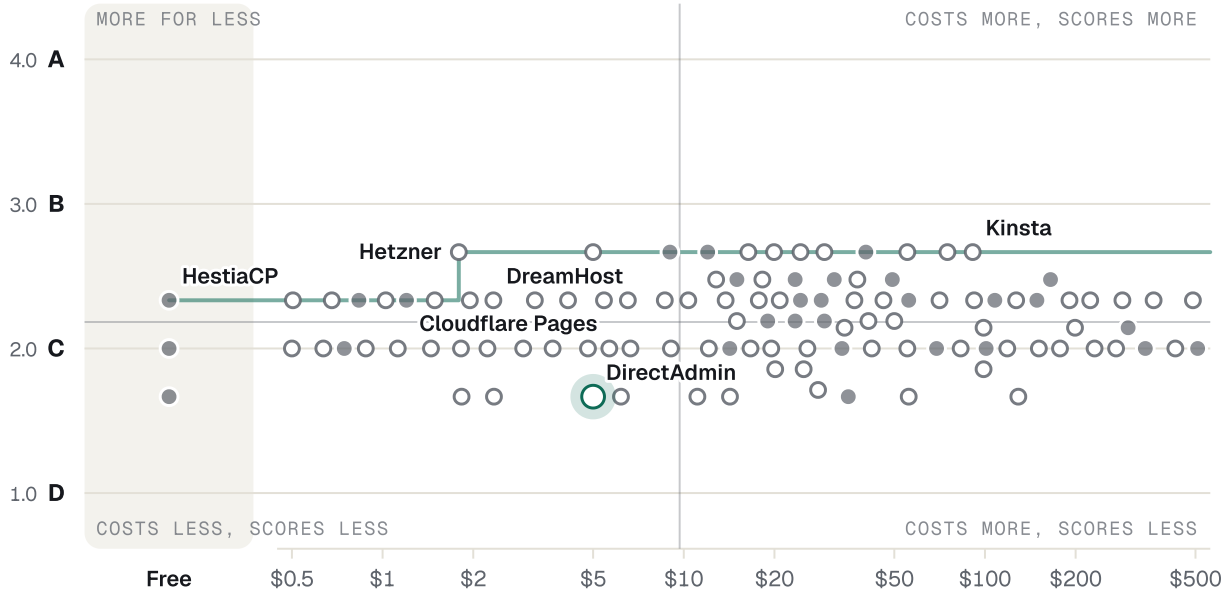
Each grade against the category

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

You could make this

What DirectAdmin does at its core is plain work, and that is the kind of thing an AI app builder makes well.

You would give up one thing, listed below, and little else. It costs $60 a year. An AI app builder starts at about $20 a month on our listings, and you only need it while you build.

What you could make

- It runs in a browser, which is where something home-made would run too.

What you could not

- A file manager working directly on your disk.

What this rests on. DirectAdmin'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



cPanel, Plesk, Webuzo, Virtualmin and CyberPanel

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

cPanel

2.2 GPA

Free trial · from $27.46/mo

Web hosting control panel licensed per server, by account count.

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

DirectAdmin and cPanel compared in full

Plesk

2.2 GPA

Free trial · from $15.57/mo

Web hosting and server control panel licensed per server.

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

DirectAdmin and Plesk compared in full



2.4 GPA

Webuzo

Free trial · from $2.5/mo

Multi-user hosting control panel licensed per server.

- DirectAdmin also covers file management.

DirectAdmin and Webuzo 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. DirectAdmin does not.
- Virtualmin is open source, according to its own site.

DirectAdmin and Virtualmin 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. DirectAdmin does not.
- CyberPanel is open source, according to its own site.

DirectAdmin and CyberPanel compared in full

Quick answers

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

14

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 DirectAdmin free?

No. DirectAdmin is a paid product, starting at $5 per month (Personal PLUS license).

How much does DirectAdmin cost?

DirectAdmin lists 3 plans. Personal PLUS: $5 per month, per server license.

What platforms does DirectAdmin work on?

DirectAdmin is available on Web.

Does DirectAdmin offer any discounts?

DirectAdmin publicly lists the following: Automatic bulk discount, 15% to 40%.

Does DirectAdmin have an Android app?

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

Does DirectAdmin have an iPhone app?

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

Is DirectAdmin open source?

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

Can DirectAdmin be self-hosted?

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

What does DirectAdmin integrate with?

DirectAdmin's listing names Acronis, Imunify360 and JetBackup. A listing names up to eight integrations, so it may connect to more.

Who makes DirectAdmin?

DirectAdmin is made by JBMC Software.

What are the alternatives to DirectAdmin?

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

How does DirectAdmin compare with other web hosts?

DirectAdmin's GPA of 1.6 is higher than 5 of the 122 other web hosts we grade, and level with 23.

Is DirectAdmin good value for money?

ToolGPA grades DirectAdmin B for value for money. Its paid plans start at $5 a month, against a middle price of $9.69 for the category: 31 of the 107 others that charge start lower.

Could I make my own version of DirectAdmin?

What DirectAdmin does at its core is plain work, and that is the kind of thing an AI app builder makes well.

Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from DirectAdmin'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 DirectAdmin'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 JBMC Software. Prices change, so check directadmin.com before you buy.

directadmin.com/pricing.php
directadmin.com/features_list.php
directadmin.com

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

DirectAdmin, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/directadmin

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

Know someone choosing between web hosts?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

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