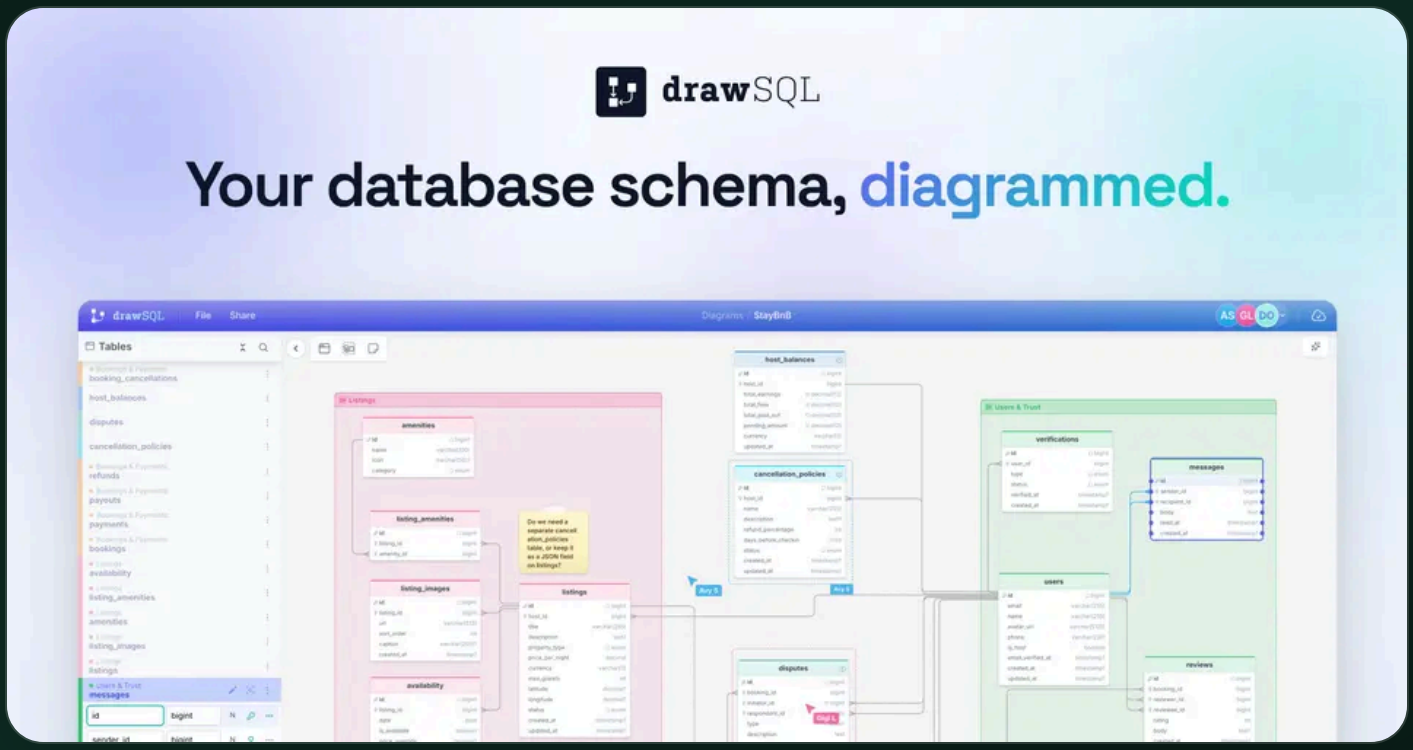
ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

DrawSQL

The Insider's Guide

Browser-based database schema diagrams for dev teams



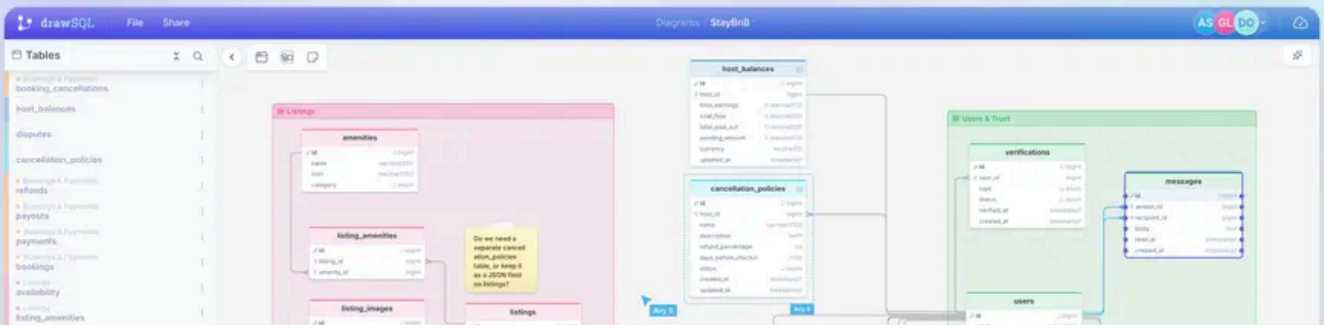
Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among whiteboard and mind map tools, read from DrawSQL's own pages.

Made by DrawSQL · checked Nov 13, 2026 · toolgpa.com

1.8
GPA

drawSQL

Your database schema, diagrammed.



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

1.8

GPA, above 2 of the 98 other whiteboard and mind map tools we grade

DrawSQL is an online editor for database schema diagrams. A schema can be built on the canvas or imported from SQL, then grouped, annotated, versioned and edited together with teammates. It supports MySQL, PostgreSQL, SQL Server and MariaDB and exports SQL, Laravel migrations, JSON and images.

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

> "
>
> **A web app where the work is building the schema itself.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

1 **Best for database schema diagrams for developers**

DrawSQL is a visual editor for database schemas that imports SQL and has an AI review.

2 **Paid plans start at $19 a month**

As its pricing page puts it: $19 per month for 1 user, billed monthly ($171 billed yearly).

3 **There is a free plan**

Unlimited public diagrams of up to 15 tables, with SQL import and the full visual editor.

4 **It runs on Web**

Web.

5 **Import from SQL**

Pasting CREATE TABLE statements renders a diagram with tables, columns and foreign keys.

6 **Export**

Diagrams export as SQL for MySQL, PostgreSQL or SQL Server, as Laravel migrations, as JSON and as images.

7 **Real-time multiplayer**

Several people can edit one live diagram together; this starts on the Growth plan.

8 **A 1.8 GPA, above 2 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**

The plain part of DrawSQL you could make: templates. What surrounds it you could not. The 4 things listed below take a company, not a weekend.

DrawSQL at a glance

PRICING
Free plan, from $19 per month for 1 user, billed monthly ($171 billed yearly)

FREE PLAN
Yes

FREE TRIAL
None stated

RUNS ON
Web

MADE BY
DrawSQL, since 2018

CATEGORY
Whiteboards & Mind Maps

OUR GRADE
1.8 GPA, weak

The report card

Best for database schema diagrams for developers

DrawSQL is a visual editor for database schemas that imports SQL and has an AI review. The free plan only makes public diagrams of up to 15 tables, so

anything private starts at $19 a month, which is well above what other whiteboard tools charge.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD	DrawSQL	Graded Nov 13, 2026
SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	D	Private diagrams start at $19 a month for 1 user, or $171 a year, against $8.25 in the middle for whiteboard tools. Growth is $59 for up to 5 users.
Free plan and trial	C	Free gives unlimited diagrams of up to 15 tables with SQL import and the full editor, but every free diagram is public. There is no trial on record.
Features	C	SQL import, export, notes, groups, version history and an AI review with a diff. The listing names the gaps: MySQL, PostgreSQL, SQL Server and MariaDB only, and nothing beyond database diagrams.
Ease of use	C	No store rating on record. A web app where the work is building the schema itself.
Platforms and integrations	C	Web only, with a Laravel integration and API access on paid plans. No desktop or phone app.
Grade point average		Weak, out of 4.0 **1.8**

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 DrawSQL is for

- ✓ Fits if you design a MySQL or PostgreSQL schema and want it drawn visually
- ✓ Works for a Laravel developer who wants diagrams made from their migrations

Who it is not for

- ✗ Skip it if the schema is private and you won't pay: free diagrams are public
- ✗ Tight if you stay free: 15 tables a diagram
- ✗ Pricey if you are one person: $19 a month for 10 private diagrams and 50 tables each
- ✗ Not for you if you work on a team of more than one, because real-time editing starts at Growth, $59 a month for up to 5 users
- ✗ Watch out: only four databases are listed as supported

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Dev teams reviewing schema changes on a shared live diagram
- ✓ Laravel, Rails or Django projects that want a schema picture
- ✓ Solo developers who need a few private diagrams

Worth knowing

- ⓘ This is a database diagramming tool, not a general whiteboard.
- ⓘ Free diagrams are public and capped at 15 tables; private diagrams need a paid plan.
- ⓘ The Starter plan is for one user; real-time collaboration starts at Growth with up to 5 users.
- ⓘ The pricing FAQ lists MySQL, PostgreSQL, SQL Server and MariaDB as supported databases.

What it costs

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

$19

A month to start. There is a free plan too

DrawSQL has a free plan. Paid plans start at $19 per month for 1 user, billed monthly ($171 billed yearly).

FREE

$0

Unlimited public diagrams, up to 15 tables each; no private diagrams.

STARTER

$19

per month for 1 user, billed monthly ($171 billed yearly)

10 private diagrams, 50 tables per diagram, API access and 500 DrawSQL AI credits a month.

GROWTH

$59

per month for up to 5 users, billed monthly ($531 billed yearly)

Unlimited private diagrams, 100 tables per diagram and real-time multiplayer editing.

LARGE

$179

per month for up to 25 users, billed monthly ($1,790 billed yearly)

Everything in Growth with unlimited tables per diagram.

ENTERPRISE

Custom

Unlimited users, SSO and SAML, audit trail and priority support; sold through sales.

The free plan

Unlimited public diagrams of up to 15 tables, with SQL import and the full visual editor.

Read from drawsql.app on Nov 13, 2026.

Ways to pay less

ANNUAL DISCOUNT

Yearly billing saves 2 to 3 months

Starter and Growth are $171 and $531 a year (3 months free), and Large is $1,790 a year (2 months free).

Stated on drawsql.app

EDUCATION

Discounts for students and educators

The pricing FAQ says discounted plans exist for students and educators, and free access for established open-source projects.

Stated on drawsql.app

What it does

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

1

Place it runs: Web

Browser-based database schema diagrams for dev teams. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: public API, AI features, real-time collaboration, templates, diagrams.

> **SQL import, export, notes, groups, version history and an AI review with a diff.**

From our grade for features

Import from SQL

Pasting CREATE TABLE statements renders a diagram with tables, columns and foreign keys.

Export

Diagrams export as SQL for MySQL, PostgreSQL or SQL Server, as Laravel migrations, as JSON and as images.

Real-time multiplayer

Several people can edit one live diagram together; this starts on the Growth plan.

Groups and notes

Tables can be grouped by domain and annotated with sticky notes to keep large schemas readable.

AI review with a diff

DrawSQL AI reviews, generates and renames parts of a schema; paid plans include 500 credits a month.

Templates and version history

Over 200 schema templates are provided, and paid plans keep earlier versions of a diagram.

Where it runs

Web

What it works with

Laravel

DrawSQL is made by DrawSQL, and has been around since 2018.

Where it stands

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

2/98

Other whiteboard and mind map tools it is graded above

DrawSQL's GPA of 1.8 is higher than 2 of the 98 other whiteboard and mind map tools we grade, and level with 5.

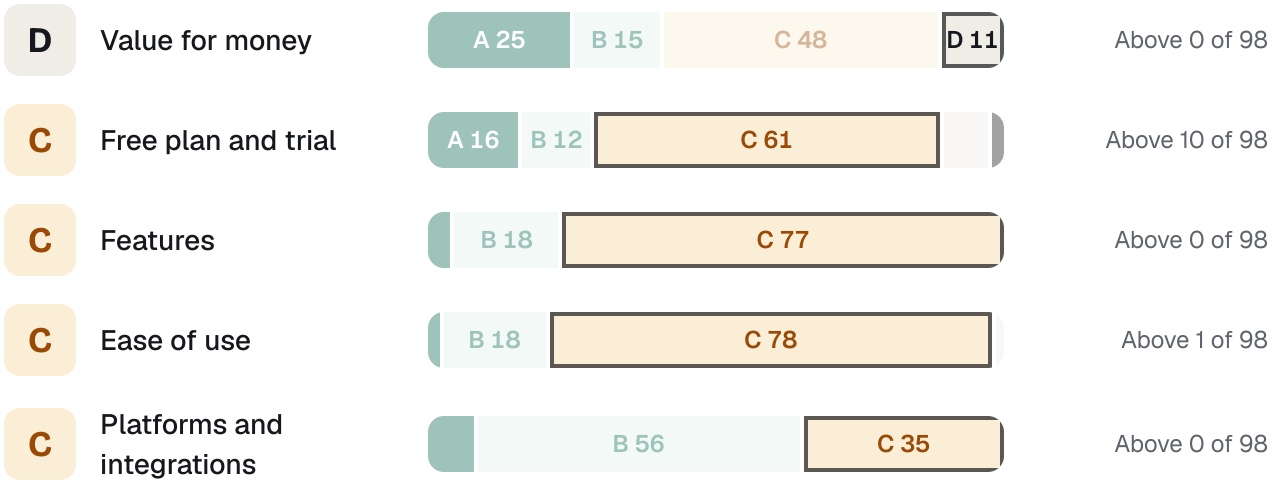
It stands best on free plan and trial (C, above 10 of 98) and worst on value for money (D, above 0).

Its paid plans start at $19 a month, against a middle price of $8 for the category: 59 of the 69 others that charge start lower.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 2.0 out of 4. 59 tools score higher and cost less.

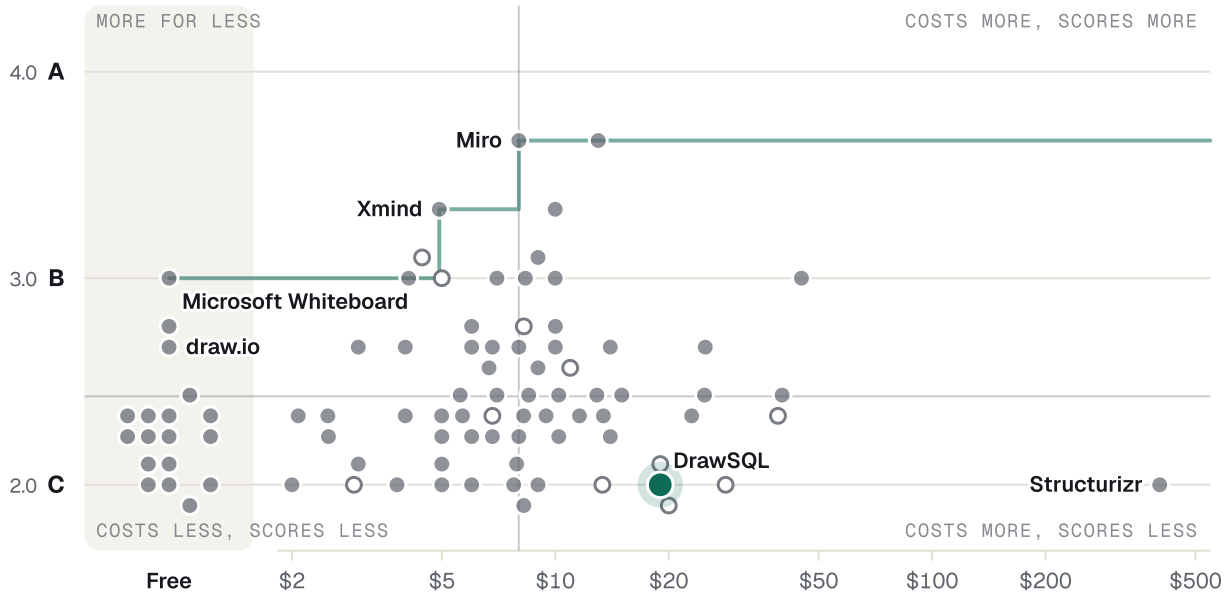
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 99 whiteboard and mind map tools we grade, cut by the letter each got. DrawSQL'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. DrawSQL 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

The plain part of DrawSQL you could make: templates. What surrounds it you could not. The 4 things listed below take a company, not a weekend.

That makes this kind of software worth paying for, not this one in particular: 91 of the 98 other whiteboard and mind map tools grade higher. It costs $228 a year.

What you could make

- Templates: an app builder makes this well.

What you could not

- A diagram editor.

- ✕ Several people working in it at the same moment.
- ✕ It plugs into other products, Laravel among them, and has an API.
- ✕ AI features, unless you pay a model provider for each request yourself.

What this rests on. DrawSQL'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



dbdiagram.io, Eraser, PlantUML, Visual Paradigm and Lucidchart

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

2.4 GPA

dbdiagram.io

Free plan · from $8/mo

Draw database ER diagrams by writing DBML code.

- DrawSQL also covers templates.

DrawSQL and dbdiagram.io compared in full

2.4 GPA

Eraser

Free plan · from $45/mo

AI diagramming and docs canvas for engineering teams.

- DrawSQL also covers templates.
- Eraser also covers Markdown and documents.

DrawSQL and Eraser 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.
- DrawSQL also covers templates.

DrawSQL and PlantUML compared in full

2.6
GPA

Visual Paradigm

Free plan · from $6/mo

Desktop and online modeling suite for UML, BPMN and architecture.

- Only Visual Paradigm lists macOS, Windows and Linux apps.
- Visual Paradigm can be bought with a one-time purchase.
- DrawSQL also covers templates.

DrawSQL and Visual Paradigm compared in full

2.6
GPA

Lucidchart

Free plan · from $9/mo

Browser-based diagramming for flowcharts, org charts and systems.

- Only Lucidchart lists iOS and Android apps.
- Lucidchart also covers mind mapping.

DrawSQL and Lucidchart compared in full

Quick answers

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

15

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 DrawSQL free?

DrawSQL has a free plan. Unlimited public diagrams of up to 15 tables, with SQL import and the full visual editor.

How much does DrawSQL cost?

DrawSQL lists 5 plans. Free: $0.

What platforms does DrawSQL work on?

DrawSQL is available on Web.

Does DrawSQL offer any discounts?

DrawSQL publicly lists the following: Yearly billing saves 2 to 3 months; Discounts for students and educators.

Does DrawSQL have an Android app?

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

Does DrawSQL have an iPhone app?

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

Is DrawSQL open source?

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

Does DrawSQL have an API?

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

What does DrawSQL integrate with?

DrawSQL's listing names Laravel. A listing names up to eight integrations, so it may connect to more.

Does DrawSQL have a student discount?

Discounts for students and educators. The pricing FAQ says discounted plans exist for students and educators, and free access for established open-source projects.

Who makes DrawSQL?

DrawSQL is made by a company of the same name. It dates from 2018.

What are the alternatives to DrawSQL?

The closest alternatives to DrawSQL in our directory are dbdiagram.io, Eraser, PlantUML, Visual Paradigm and Lucidchart.

How does DrawSQL compare with other whiteboard and mind map tools?

DrawSQL's GPA of 1.8 is higher than 2 of the 98 other whiteboard and mind map tools we grade, and level with 5.

Is DrawSQL good value for money?

ToolGPA grades DrawSQL D for value for money. Its paid plans start at $19 a month, against a middle price of $8 for the category: 59 of the 69 others that charge start lower.

Could I make my own version of DrawSQL?

The plain part of DrawSQL you could make: templates. What surrounds it you could not.

Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from DrawSQL'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 DrawSQL'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 DrawSQL. Prices change, so check drawsql.app before you buy.

drawsql.app/pricing
drawsql.app/
drawsql.app/about

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

DrawSQL, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/drawsql

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

Know someone choosing between whiteboard and mind map tools?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded whiteboard and mind map tools after DrawSQL, 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 DrawSQL'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. DrawSQL is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by DrawSQL. Prices and plans change: check drawsql.app before you buy.