ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Evolution

The Insider’s Guide

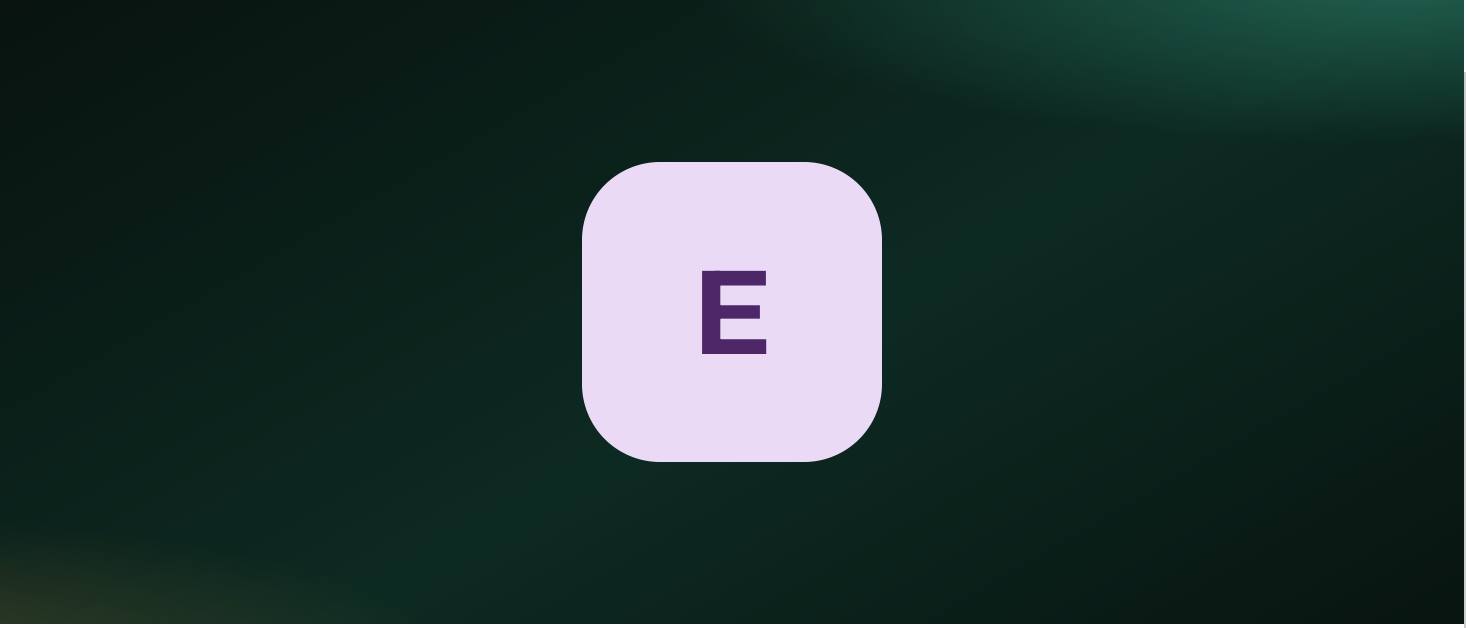
GNOME's free mail, calendar and address book app



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among email apps, read from Evolution’s own pages.

Made by GNOME Project · checked Nov 12, 2026 · toolgpa.com

2.8
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 Evolution's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Evolution's page too, where it is kept up to date. Checked Nov 12, 2026.

Welcome

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

2.8

GPA, above 48 of the 70 other email apps we grade

Evolution is the GNOME project's personal information manager, combining email, a calendar and an address book in one desktop application. It is free and open source, and is usually installed from a Linux distribution's packages or from Flathub. An optional add-on connects it to Microsoft Exchange servers.

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

> "
>
> **It runs on Linux only, and Exchange needs a separate optional package.**
>
> From our report card of Evolution

1 **Best for the GNOME mail, calendar and contacts app**

Evolution is a free, open-source GNOME app that puts mail, calendar and contacts together, with Exchange support.

2 **It is free**

Evolution has no paid plan at all. The whole application is free software with no paid edition.

3 **It runs on Linux**

Linux.

4 **Mail, calendar and contacts together**

One application covers email, calendaring and an address book, rather than a mail client alone.

5 **Exchange support**

The optional evolution-ews package connects to Microsoft Exchange servers through Exchange Web Services.

6 **Flatpak builds**

Flathub carries the latest stable version, and Evolution can also be built and run in Flatpak on older distributions.

7 **A 2.8 GPA, above 48 of 70**

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

8 **Keep it**

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

Evolution at a glance

PRICING Free	FREE PLAN Yes
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON Linux
MADE BY GNOME Project	CATEGORY Email Apps
OUR GRADE 2.8 GPA, good	

The report card

Best for the GNOME mail, calendar and contacts app

Evolution is a free, open-source GNOME app that puts mail, calendar and contacts together, with Exchange support. It runs on Linux only, and Exchange needs a separate optional package. Support is by mailing list, Discourse and IRC.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD	Evolution	Graded Nov 12, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	A	Free and open source with no paid edition. A program anyone can download and run counts as free and substantial.
Free plan and trial	A	Free outright: the whole app, with no paid edition and no trial.
Features	B	Mail, calendar and contacts together, Exchange support and Flatpak builds. Nothing on the pages shows a gap in the core email work.
Ease of use	C	No store rating on record. You install from a distro or Flathub and connect your own accounts.
Platforms and integrations	D	The pages list Linux distributions and Flatpak only. No Windows, macOS, phone or web version.
Grade point average		Good, out of 4.0 **2.8**

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 Evolution is for

- ✓ Fits if you use Linux and want mail, calendar and contacts in one app
- ✓ Works for people who need Exchange access from a Linux desktop

Who it is not for

- ✗ Not for you if you use Windows, macOS or a phone, as only Linux is listed
- ✗ Watch out: Exchange access needs the separate, optional evolution-ews package
- ✗ Watch out: support is by mailing list, GNOME Discourse and IRC, not a help desk
- ✗ Skip it if you want an app-store install, as you get it from a distro, Flathub or source

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Linux desktop users who want mail and calendar in one app
- ✓ People who need to reach an Exchange mailbox from Linux

Worth knowing

- ⓘ The pages read list Linux distributions and Flatpak only; no Windows or macOS builds are mentioned.
- ⓘ Support is by mailing list, GNOME Discourse and IRC, not a vendor help desk.
- ⓘ Exchange access needs the separate, optional evolution-ews package.

What it costs

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

Free

No paid plan at all

Evolution is free to use.

> **Free and open source with no paid edition.**
>
> From our grade for value for money

EVOLUTION

$0

Free and open source; install from your distribution, Flathub or the source tarballs.

The free plan

The whole application is free software with no paid edition.

Read from wiki.gnome.org on Nov 12, 2026.

What it does

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

1

Place it runs: Linux

GNOME's free mail, calendar and address book app. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: open source, calendar, email client.

> **Mail, calendar and contacts together, Exchange support and Flatpak builds.**

From our grade for features

Mail, calendar and contacts together

One application covers email, calendaring and an address book, rather than a mail client alone.

Exchange support

The optional evolution-ews package connects to Microsoft Exchange servers through Exchange Web Services.

Flatpak builds

Flathub carries the latest stable version, and Evolution can also be built and run in Flatpak on older distributions.

Source and manual

Source code is published as tarballs and in GNOME's GitLab, and a user manual is available online.

Where it runs

Linux

What it works with

Microsoft Exchange

Evolution is made by GNOME Project.

Where it stands

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

48/70

Other email apps it is graded above

Evolution's GPA of 2.8 is higher than 48 of the 70 other email apps we grade, and level with 6.

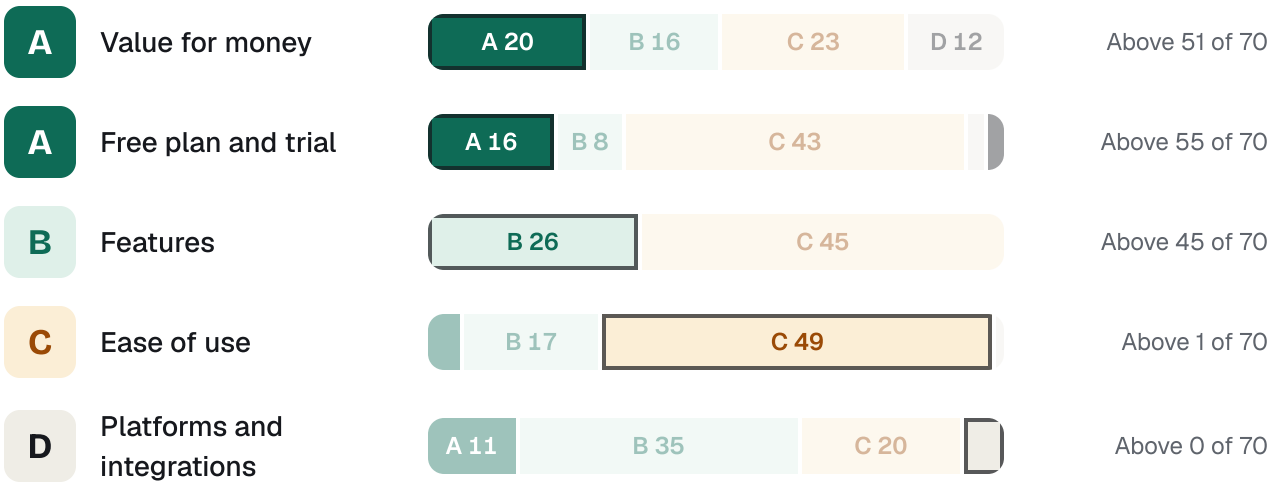
It stands best on free plan and trial (A, above 55 of 70) and worst on platforms and integrations (D, above 0).

Evolution has no paid plan.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 2.0 out of 4. Nothing scores higher for less, though at least one tool matches that score at a lower price.

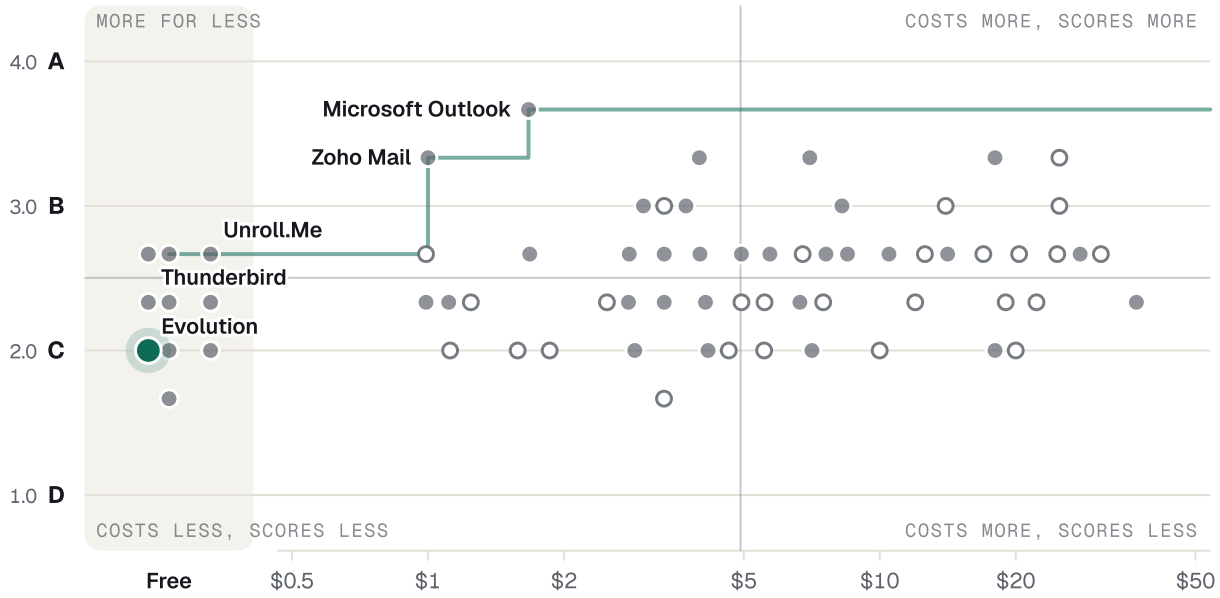
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 71 email apps we grade, cut by the letter each got. Evolution's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 67 email apps. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. Evolution 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

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

And it is not the kind of software a weekend replaces. It is one of the better ones too: its GPA of 2.8 is higher than 48 of the 70 other email apps we grade.

What you could make

- Calendar: an app builder makes this well.

What you could not

- An email client: sending, receiving, threading and searching years of mail.
- A real app for Linux. Something home-made would be a web page.

- The depth: we grade its features B, which means it covers the whole job.

What this rests on. Evolution'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



Thunderbird, Claws Mail, Betterbird and Mailspring

The 4 tools Evolution is most often weighed against, with where each one differs from it.

3.2 GPA

Thunderbird

Free

Free, open-source email app for Windows, macOS, Linux and Android.

- Only Thunderbird lists Windows, macOS and Android apps.
- Thunderbird also covers tasks.

Evolution and Thunderbird compared in full

C

2.8 GPA

Claws Mail

Free

Lightweight GTK email and news client, free under the GPL.

- Only Claws Mail lists a Windows app.
- Evolution also covers calendar.
- Claws Mail also covers inbox filtering.

Evolution and Claws Mail compared in full



3.0
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Betterbird

Free

A fork of Thunderbird with extra features and bug fixes.

- Only Betterbird lists Windows and macOS apps.

Evolution and Betterbird compared in full

M

2.4
GPA

Mailspring

Free plan · from $8/mo

Open-source desktop email client for Mac, Windows and Linux.

- Only Mailspring lists macOS and Windows apps.
- Evolution also covers calendar.
- Mailspring also covers templates.

Evolution and Mailspring compared in full

Quick answers

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

12

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 Evolution free?

Yes. Evolution is free to use.

How much does Evolution cost?

Evolution lists one plan. Evolution: $0.

What platforms does Evolution work on?

Evolution is available on Linux.

Does Evolution have an Android app?

No Android app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 12, 2026. Evolution is listed for Linux.

Does Evolution have an iPhone app?

No iPhone app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 12, 2026. Evolution is listed for Linux.

Is Evolution open source?

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

What does Evolution integrate with?

Evolution's listing names Microsoft Exchange. A listing names up to eight integrations, so it may connect to more.

Who makes Evolution?

Evolution is made by GNOME Project.

What are the alternatives to Evolution?

The closest alternatives to Evolution in our directory are Thunderbird, Claws Mail, Betterbird and Mailspring.

How does Evolution compare with other email apps?

Evolution's GPA of 2.8 is higher than 48 of the 70 other email apps we grade, and level with 6.

Is Evolution good value for money?

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

Could I make my own version of Evolution?

Evolution 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 Evolution's own pages on Nov 12, 2026, and the grades were given on Nov 12, 2026. Graded from this listing, whose facts were read from Evolution's own pages on 12 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 GNOME Project. Prices change, so check wiki.gnome.org before you buy.

wiki.gnome.org/Apps/Evolution

gitlab.gnome.org/GNOME/evolution

PART 07 · ABOUT

About ToolGPA

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

5,038

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**.

5,038	95	739	579
tools graded	categories	price changes on record	apps priced in 12 countries

What else is on toolgpa.com

Evolution, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/evolution

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, "Evolution: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 12, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/evolution
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Know someone choosing between email apps?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded email apps after Evolution, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Email Apps Insider's Guide

Every one of the 74 email apps we grade, compared

Microsoft Outlook Insider's Guide

Microsoft's email and calendar app for desktop, mobile and web

3.6 GPA

BlueMail Insider's Guide

Cross-platform email client with a unified inbox and built-in AI

3.2 GPA

GMX Mail Insider's Guide

Free webmail with 65GB storage, aliases and a mail collector

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 Evolution'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. Evolution is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by GNOME Project. Prices and plans change: check wiki.gnome.org before you buy.