ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Explorer++

The Insider's Guide

Small, portable tabbed file manager for Windows



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among desktop utilities, read from Explorer++'s own pages.

Made by David Erceg · checked Nov 13, 2026 · toolgpa.com

3.0
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 Explorer++'s own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Explorer++'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

3.0

GPA, above 154 of the 186 other desktop utilities we grade

Explorer++ is a lightweight file manager for Windows with tabs, bookmarks and a preview pane. It runs without installation and its source code is published on GitHub under the GPL-3.0 license.

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

> "
>
> **It looks like Explorer with tabs, with nothing to set up.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

1 **Best for a small tabbed file manager on Windows**

Releases are infrequent, and the plugin system is still described as planned.

2 **It is free**

Explorer++ has no paid plan at all. Free to download; the source is released under the GPL-3.0 license.

3 **It runs on Windows**

Windows.

4 **Tabbed browsing**

Open several folders in tabs, and bookmark tabs.

5 **Portable**

No install is needed; settings can be saved to the registry or to a configuration file.

6 **Preview pane**

A display window shows a preview of a file as you select it.

7 **A 3.0 GPA, above 154 of 186**

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

8 **Keep it**

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

Explorer++ at a glance

PRICING Free	FREE PLAN Yes
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON Windows
MADE BY David Erceg	CATEGORY Desktop Utilities
OUR GRADE 3.0 GPA, very good	

The report card

Best for a small tabbed file manager on Windows

Explorer++ is a small, portable tabbed file manager for Windows, free under GPL-3.0. Releases are infrequent, and the plugin system is still described as planned.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD — **Explorer++** — Graded Nov 13, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	A	Free under GPL-3.0. Nothing to pay, under every price the category charges.

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Free plan and trial	A	Free with no cap, no trial and no paid tier.
Features	B	Tabbed browsing, preview pane, file operations, search and filter, and a portable build. No gap shown in a file manager's job.
Ease of use	B	No rating on record. It looks like Explorer with tabs, with nothing to set up.
Platforms and integrations	D	Windows only, in 32-bit, 64-bit and ARM64 builds.
Grade point average		Very good, out of 4.0 **3.0**

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 Explorer++ is for

- ✓ Fits if you want tabs in a Windows file manager without much else
- ✓ Works for people who carry tools on a USB stick

Who it is not for

- ✗ Skip it if you want frequent updates, as the home page shows version 1.4.0 and a 2023 copyright
- ✗ Not for you if you want plugins, since that system is only described as planned
- ✗ Watch out: it is Windows only
- ✗ Too light for dual-pane work, as it is a single-pane tabbed manager

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Windows users who want tabs in a small file manager
- ✓ People who want a file manager they can carry without installing

Worth knowing

- ⓘ Windows only, with 32-bit, 64-bit and ARM64 builds.
- ⓘ The home page lists version 1.4.0 and a copyright of 2023, so releases are infrequent.
- ⓘ A plugin system is described only as planned or in development on the site's blog.

What it costs

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

Free

No paid plan at all

Explorer++ is free to use.

> **Nothing to pay, under every price the category charges.**
>
> From our grade for value for money

FREE

$0

Free to download and use; the site accepts donations.

The free plan

Free to download; the source is released under the GPL-3.0 license.

Read from explorerplusplus.com 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: Windows

Small, portable tabbed file manager for Windows. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: open source, file management.

> **Tabbed browsing, preview pane, file operations, search and filter, and a portable build.**
>
> From our grade for features

Tabbed browsing

Open several folders in tabs, and bookmark tabs.

Portable

No install is needed; settings can be saved to the registry or to a configuration file.

Preview pane

A display window shows a preview of a file as you select it.

File operations

Merge and split files, change dates and attributes, and save a directory listing.

Search and filter

Search by name and attributes, filter files, and switch between icon, list, detail, thumbnail and tile views.

Where it runs

Windows

What it works with

Its own pages name no integrations.

Explorer++ is made by David Erceg.

PART 04 · STANDING

Where it stands

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

154/186

Other desktop utilities it is graded above

Explorer++'s GPA of 3.0 is higher than 154 of the 186 other desktop utilities we grade, and level with 27.

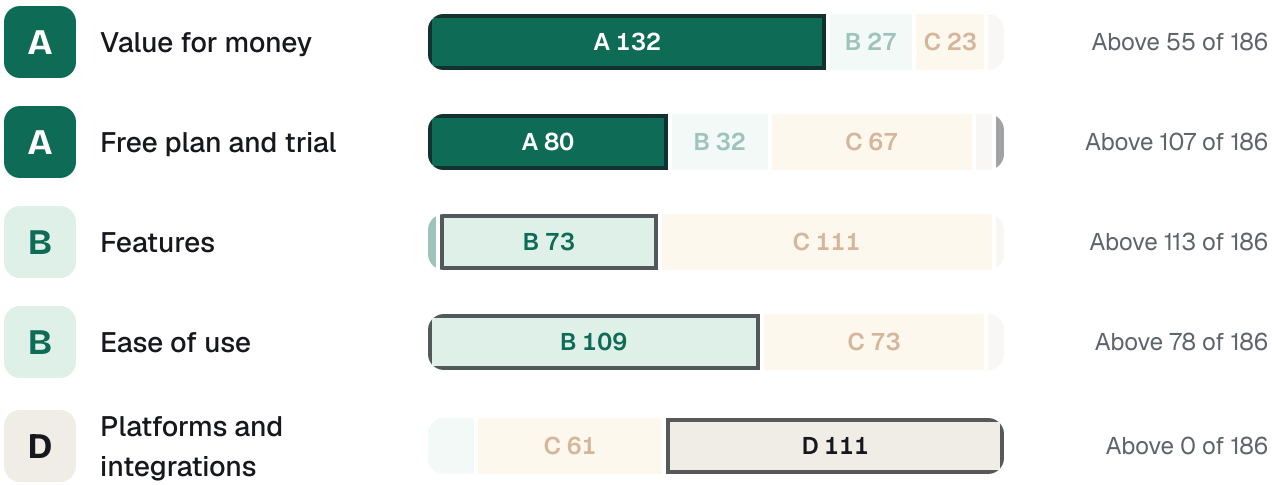
It stands best on free plan and trial (A, above 107 of 186) and worst on platforms and integrations (D, above 0).

Explorer++ has no paid plan.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 2.3 out of 4. Nothing scores higher for less, though at least one tool matches that score at a lower price.

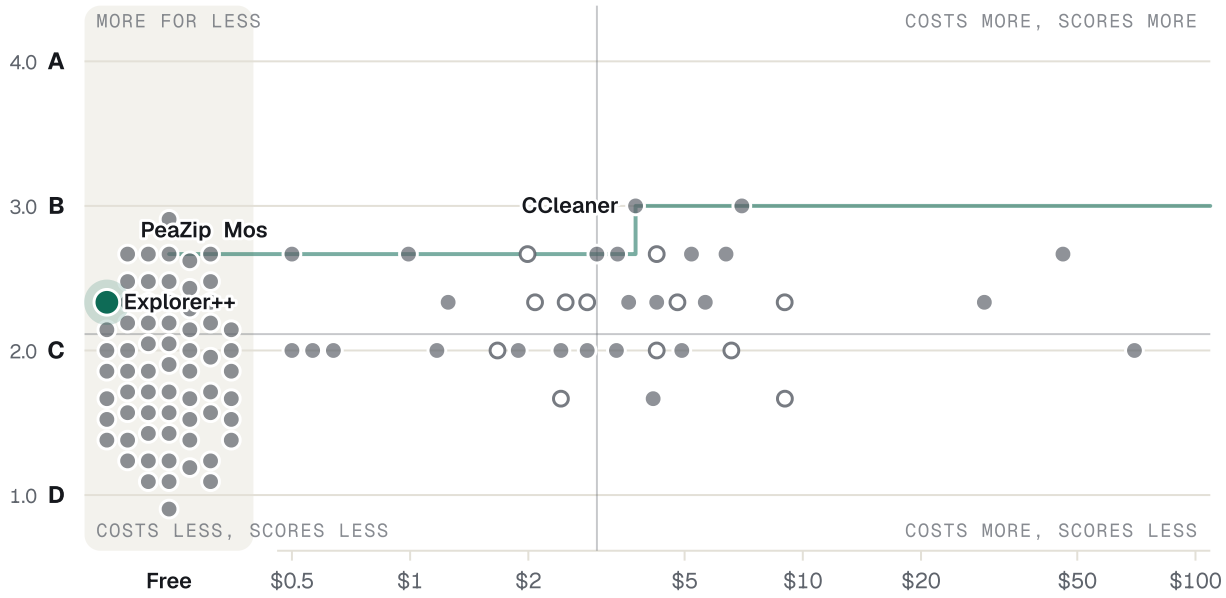
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 187 desktop utilities we grade, cut by the letter each got. Explorer++'s own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 103 desktop utilities. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. Explorer++ 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

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

It is one of the better ones too: its GPA of 3.0 is higher than 154 of the 186 other desktop utilities we grade.

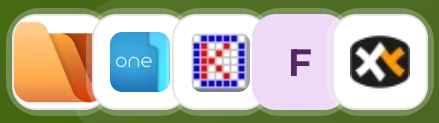
What you could not

- ✕ A file manager working directly on your disk.
- ✕ A real app for Windows. 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. Explorer++'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



Files, One Commander, Q-Dir, FreeCommander and XYplorer

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

Files

2.8 GPA

Free plan · from $12.99 one-time

Open-source file manager for Windows with tabs and dual pane.

- Files also covers file compression.

Explorer++ and Files compared in full

One Commander

2.6 GPA

Free plan · from $30 one-time

Dual-pane Windows file manager with Miller columns, free for home use.

- Explorer++ is open source, according to its own site.
- One Commander can be bought with a one-time purchase.

Explorer++ and One Commander compared in full



2.8 GPA

Q-Dir

Free

Four-pane Windows file explorer, free for home and business use.

- Explorer++ is open source, according to its own site.

Explorer++ and Q-Dir compared in full

F

2.6 GPA

FreeCommander

Free plan · from €10 one-time

Dual-pane Windows file manager, free 32-bit and paid 64-bit.

- Explorer++ is open source, according to its own site.
- FreeCommander can be bought with a one-time purchase.
- FreeCommander also covers file compression.

Explorer++ and FreeCommander compared in full



2.4 GPA

XYplorer

Free trial · from $34.95 one-time

Portable tabbed file manager for Windows with scripting.

- Explorer++ has a free plan. XYplorer does not, though it has a free trial.
- Explorer++ is open source, according to its own site.
- XYplorer can be bought with a one-time purchase.

Explorer++ and XYplorer compared in full

Quick answers

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

11

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 Explorer++ free?

Yes. Explorer++ is free to use.

How much does Explorer++ cost?

Explorer++ lists one plan. Free: $0.

What platforms does Explorer++ work on?

Explorer++ is available on Windows.

Does Explorer++ have an Android app?

No Android app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. Explorer++ is listed for Windows.

Does Explorer++ have an iPhone app?

No iPhone app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. Explorer++ is listed for Windows.

Is Explorer++ open source?

Yes. Explorer++ is open source, according to its own site.

Who makes Explorer++?

Explorer++ is made by David Erceg.

What are the alternatives to Explorer++?

The closest alternatives to Explorer++ in our directory are Files, One Commander, Q-Dir, FreeCommander and XYplorer.

How does Explorer++ compare with other desktop utilities?

Explorer++'s GPA of 3.0 is higher than 154 of the 186 other desktop utilities we grade, and level with 27.

Is Explorer++ good value for money?

ToolGPA grades Explorer++ A for value for money. Explorer++ has no paid plan.

Could I make my own version of Explorer++?

Explorer++ is free, so making your own would save you nothing. It is one of the better ones too: its GPA of 3.0 is higher than 154 of the 186 other desktop utilities we grade.

Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from Explorer++'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 David Erceg'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 David Erceg. Prices change, so check explorerplusplus.com before you buy.

explorerplusplus.com/

explorerplusplus.com/download

github.com/derceg/explorerplusplus

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

Explorer++, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/explorer

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, "Explorer++: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 13, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/explorer
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Know someone choosing between desktop utilities?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded desktop utilities after Explorer++, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Desktop Utilities Insider's Guide

Every one of the 187 desktop utilities we grade, compared

Just Color Picker Insider's Guide

Free portable color picker and editor for Windows and macOS

3.2 GPA

LocalSend Insider's Guide

Open-source file sharing between nearby devices, no cloud

3.2 GPA

Mos Insider's Guide

Free Mac menu bar utility for smooth mouse wheel scrolling

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 Explorer++'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. Explorer++ is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by David Erceg. Prices and plans change: check explorerplusplus.com before you buy.