ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Fly.io

The Insider's Guide

Virtual machines and databases in 18 regions, billed per second



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

Made by Fly.io · checked Nov 12, 2026 · toolgpa.com

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

2.2

GPA, above 74 of the 122 other web hosts we grade

Fly.io runs apps on fast-booting virtual machines it calls Fly Machines, placed in 18 regions close to users, and sells Managed Postgres, volumes and sandboxes alongside. New organizations pay as they go with no monthly platform fee, and the smallest always-on Machine costs $2.19 per 30 days.

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

> "
>
> **The flow is built around its command line and a Dockerfile.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

1 **Best for small servers in many regions, billed by the second**

Fly.io runs virtual machines in 18 regions, billed by the second, from $2.19 a month.

2 **Paid plans start at $2.19 a month**

As its pricing page puts it: $2.19 per month for the smallest Machine, pay as you go.

3 **You can try it first**

New accounts get $1 of credit for 7 days, no card required.

4 **It runs on Web**

Web.

5 **Fly Machines**

Fast-booting VMs for production apps, run in 18 regions, billed by the second while running and at a lower rate when stopped.

6 **Launch from GitHub or the CLI**

fly launch deploys an app from a repo or folder and generates a Dockerfile for many popular frameworks when none exists.

7 **Managed Postgres**

A managed database service, or you can run your own datastore on Machines with attached volumes.

8 **A 2.2 GPA, above 74 of 122**

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

9 **Keep it**

To replace Fly.io you would be making an AI agent, with the models and the safeguards behind it. That is not a weekend's work, with an AI app builder or without one.

Fly.io at a glance

PRICING
Free trial, from $2.19 per month for the smallest Machine, pay as you go

FREE PLAN
No

FREE TRIAL
New accounts get $1 of credit for 7 days, no card required.

RUNS ON
Web

MADE BY
Fly.io

CATEGORY
Web Hosting

OUR GRADE
2.2 GPA, fair

The report card

Best for small servers in many regions, billed by the second

Fly.io runs virtual machines in 18 regions, billed by the second, from $2.19 a month. There's no free plan, the trial is $1 for 7 days, and the vendor's own example of a small web app with Postgres comes to about $44 a month.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD — **Fly.io** — Graded Nov 12, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	C	$2.19 a month buys a 256MB machine, but the vendor's own example of a small app with Managed Postgres is about $44 a month, and Postgres starts at $38.
Free plan and trial	C	New accounts get $1 of credit for 7 days with no card. That's a taste, not a plan.
Features	B	Machines in 18 regions, launch from a repo, Managed Postgres, volumes, snapshots and free shared IPv4. The listing names no gap in the core job.
Ease of use	D	No store rating on record. The flow is built around its command line and a Dockerfile.
Platforms and integrations	B	Web only, with GitHub, Slack, Tigris and Upstash and a CLI.

Grade point average — Fair, out of 4.0 **2.2**

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 Fly.io is for

- ✓ Fits if you want machines near users in several regions and are fine on the command line
- ✓ Works for apps that stop when idle and pay by the second

Who it is not for

- ✗ Skip it if you want a free plan, as the trial is $1 for 7 days
- ✗ Not for you if you don't like a command line
- ✗ Pricey if you add a database: Managed Postgres starts at $38 a month
- ✗ Watch out: the prices quoted are for Ashburn and Secaucus, the cheapest regions, and a dedicated IPv4 is $2 a month
- ✗ Watch out: data out costs $0.02 per GB in North America and Europe and $0.12 in Africa and India

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Developers who want VMs placed in several regions
- ✓ Apps that stop when idle and want to pay only while running
- ✓ Teams that prefer a command-line deploy flow

Worth knowing

- ⓘ There is no free plan; the trial is a $1 credit that lasts 7 days or until it is used up.
- ⓘ Machine prices quoted are for Ashburn and Secaucus, the lowest-priced regions, and vary by region.
- ⓘ Outbound data costs $0.02 per GB in North America and Europe and $0.12 per GB in Africa and India.
- ⓘ A dedicated IPv4 address is $2 a month, and a small web app with Managed Postgres is about $44 a month by the vendor's own example.

PART 02 · PRICING

What it costs

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

$2.19

A month to start

Fly.io is a paid product with a free trial, starting at $2.19 per month for the smallest Machine, pay as you go.

PAY AS YOU GO

$2.19

per month for a 256MB Machine, billed by the second

No platform fee. 512MB is $3.69, 1GB is $6.70 and 2GB is $13.39 a month in Ashburn and Secaucus; other regions cost more.

MANAGED POSTGRES

$38

per month for the Basic cluster, plus $0.28/GB storage

Managed database clusters run from $38 a month (Basic) to $1,922 a month (Performance).

STANDARD SUPPORT

$29

per month

Optional paid support. Premium is $199 a month and Enterprise starts at $2,500 a month; community support is free.

Trying it first

New accounts get $1 of credit for 7 days, no card required.

Read from fly.io 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: Web

Virtual machines and databases in 18 regions, billed per second. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: public API, databases, AI agents.

> "The listing names no gap in the core job.

From our grade for features

Fly Machines

Fast-booting VMs for production apps, run in 18 regions, billed by the second while running and at a lower rate when stopped.

Launch from GitHub or the CLI

fly launch deploys an app from a repo or folder and generates a Dockerfile for many popular frameworks when none exists.

Managed Postgres

A managed database service, or you can run your own datastore on Machines with attached volumes.

Sprites

Hardware-isolated sandboxes that start quickly, stay on and scale to zero when idle, aimed at agents and untrusted code.

Volumes and snapshots

Persistent volumes cost $0.15 per GB a month and snapshots $0.08 per GB, with the first 10GB of snapshots free.

Free shared IPv4 and certificates

Apps get a shared IPv4 address and IPv6 addresses free, and the first 10 single-hostname SSL certificates are free.

Where it runs

Web

What it works with

GitHub

Slack

Tigris

Upstash

Fly.io is made by Fly.io.

PART 04 · STANDING

Where it stands

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

74/122

Other web hosts it is graded above

Fly.io's GPA of 2.2 is higher than 74 of the 122 other web hosts we grade, and level with 24.

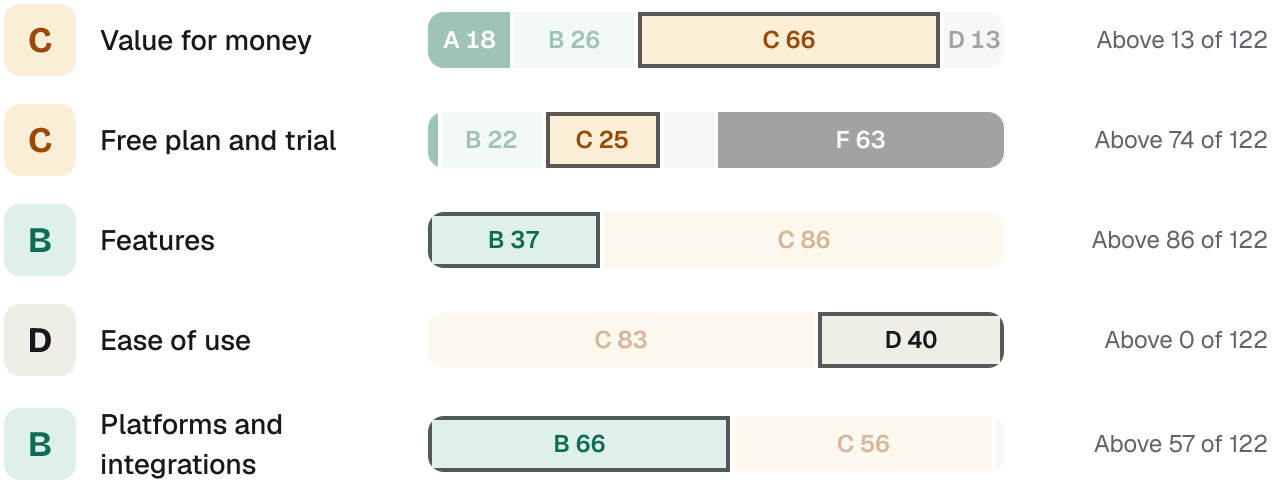
It stands best on features (B, above 86 of 122) and worst on ease of use (D, above 0).

Its paid plans start at $2.19 a month, against a middle price of $9.69 for the category: 8 of the 107 others that charge start lower.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 2.3 out of 4. 1 tool scores higher and costs less.

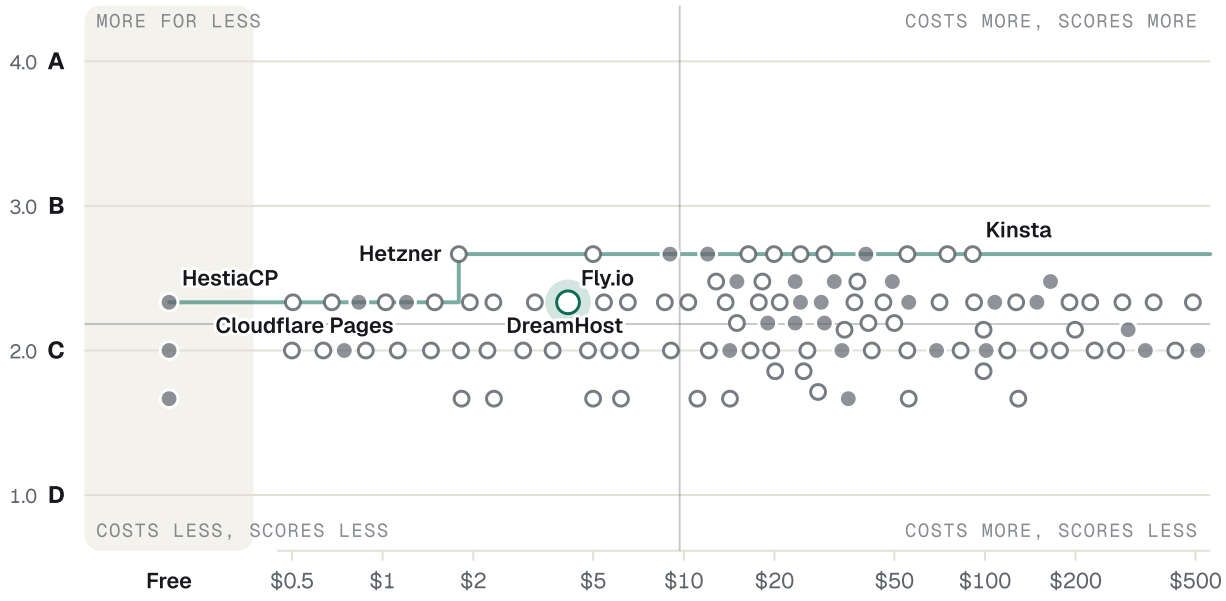
Each grade against the category

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

To replace Fly.io you would be making an AI agent, with the models and the safeguards behind it. That is not a weekend's work, with an AI app builder or without one.

It costs $26.28 a year.

What you could not

- ✕ An AI agent, with the models and the safeguards behind it.
- ✕ Databases with views, filters and links between them.

- It plugs into other products, GitHub, Slack and Tigris among them, and has an API.
- The depth: we grade its features B, which means it covers the whole job.

What this rests on. Fly.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



Render, Railway, Koyeb, DigitalOcean and Northflank

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

R

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Render

Free plan · from $25/mo

Cloud hosting for web services, databases and workers.

- Render has a free plan. Fly.io does not, though it has a free trial.
- Fly.io also covers AI agents.
- Render also covers workflow automation.

Fly.io and Render compared in full



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Railway

Free trial · from $5/mo

App and database hosting billed by the second for usage.

- Only Railway lists iOS and Android apps.

Fly.io and Railway compared in full



1.8
GPA

Koyeb

From $29/mo

Serverless platform for apps, APIs and GPU workloads.

- Fly.io also covers databases and AI agents.

Fly.io and Koyeb compared in full



2.2
GPA

DigitalOcean

Free plan · from $4/mo

Cloud servers, app hosting and managed databases for developers.

- DigitalOcean has a free plan. Fly.io does not, though it has a free trial.
- Fly.io also covers AI agents.

Fly.io and DigitalOcean compared in full



2.6
GPA

Northflank

Free plan · from $12/mo

Container platform for services, jobs, databases and GPUs.

- Northflank has a free plan. Fly.io does not, though it has a free trial.
- Fly.io also covers databases and AI agents.

Fly.io and Northflank compared in full

Quick answers

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

13

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 Fly.io free?

No, Fly.io is a paid product, but you can try it first. New accounts get $1 of credit for 7 days, no card required.

How much does Fly.io cost?

Fly.io lists 3 plans. Pay As You Go: $2.19 per month for a 256MB Machine, billed by the second.

What platforms does Fly.io work on?

Fly.io is available on Web.

Does Fly.io have an Android app?

No Android app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 12, 2026. Fly.io is listed for Web.

Does Fly.io have an iPhone app?

No iPhone app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 12, 2026. Fly.io is listed for Web.

Is Fly.io open source?

Fly.io is not described as open source on its own site, as read on Nov 12, 2026.

Does Fly.io have an API?

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

What does Fly.io integrate with?

Fly.io's listing names GitHub, Slack, Tigris and Upstash. A listing names up to eight integrations, so it may connect to more.

Who makes Fly.io?

Fly.io is made by a company of the same name.

What are the alternatives to Fly.io?

The closest alternatives to Fly.io in our directory are Render, Railway, Koyeb, DigitalOcean and Northflank.

How does Fly.io compare with other web hosts?

Fly.io's GPA of 2.2 is higher than 74 of the 122 other web hosts we grade, and level with 24.

Is Fly.io good value for money?

ToolGPA grades Fly.io C for value for money. Its paid plans start at $2.19 a month, against a middle price of $9.69 for the category: 8 of the 107 others that charge start lower.

Could I make my own version of Fly.io?

To replace Fly.io you would be making an AI agent, with the models and the safeguards behind it.

Where this guide comes from

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

fly.io/docs/about/pricing/
fly.io/docs/about/free-trial/
fly.io
fly.io/docs/about/billing/

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

Fly.io, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/fly-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:

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ToolGPA, "Fly.io: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 12, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/fly-io
```

Know someone choosing between web hosts?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded web hosts after Fly.io, 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 Fly.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. Fly.io is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Fly.io. Prices and plans change: check fly.io before you buy.