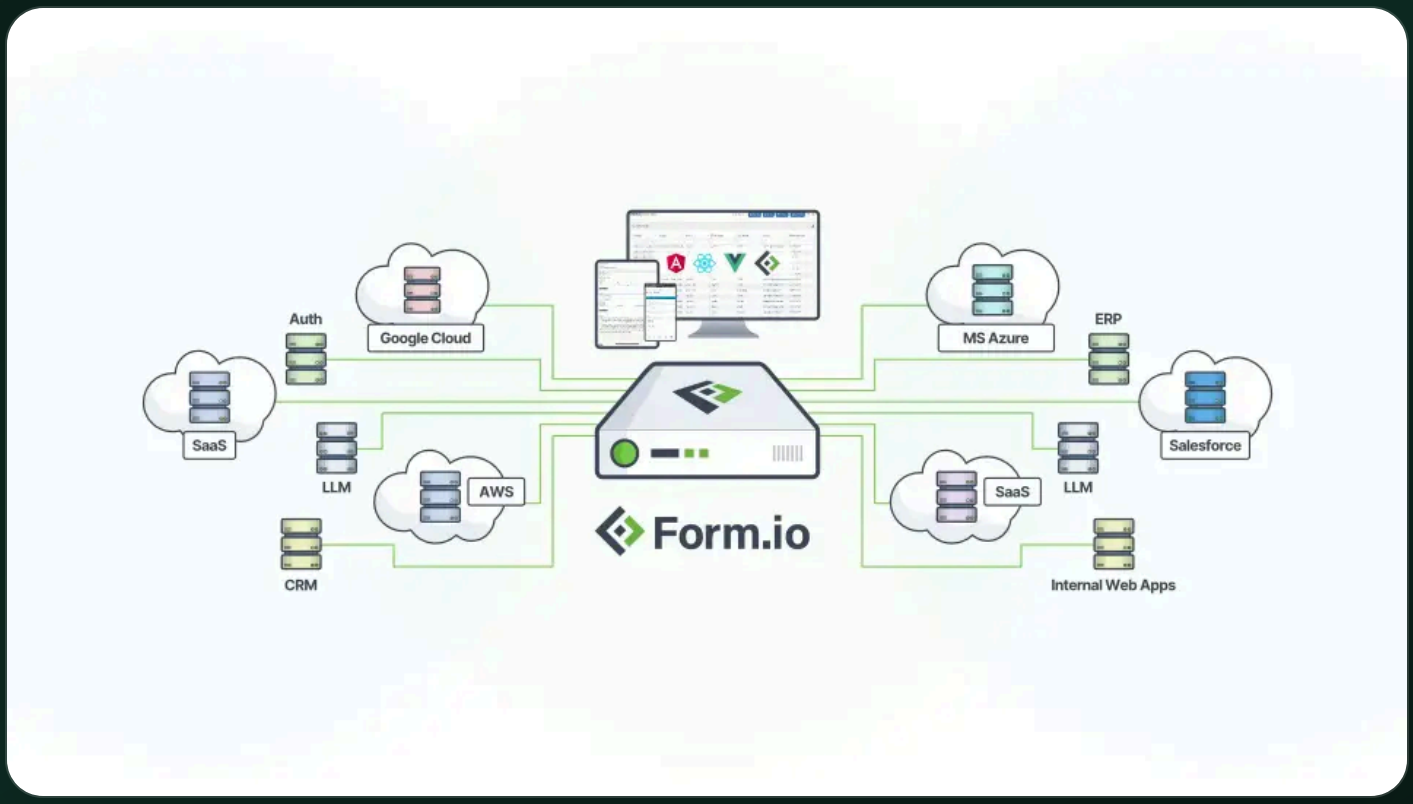
ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Form.io

The Insider's Guide

JSON form and API platform for developers, hosted or self-hosted



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among form and survey tools, read from Form.io's own pages.

Made by Form.io · checked Nov 13, 2026 · toolgpa.com

1.6
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 Form.io's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Form.io'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 0 of the 60 other form and survey tools we grade

Form.io is a platform for building forms and the APIs behind them, driven by JSON form definitions. It is sold as Docker containers that a customer runs in its own environments and databases, plus a hosted SaaS project on portal.form.io. Pricing is by project and environment, not by submissions or users.

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

> **It is priced by project and environment rather than by usage, which puts it far above ordinary form builders.**
>
> From our report card of Form.io

1 **Best for engineering teams embedding forms in their own apps**

Form.io builds forms from JSON and serves them through an API, either hosted on its portal or in Docker containers you run yourself.

2 **Paid plans start at $300 a month**

As its pricing page puts it: $300 per month, hosted SaaS project; self-hosted from $660 per month.

3 You can try it first

30-day free trial of the hosted SaaS project, no credit card; the project turns read-only afterward

4 It runs on Web

Web.

5 JSON-driven forms

Forms are defined in JSON, rendered by the open-source formio.js library and stored through the platform's API.

6 Self-hosted containers

The platform ships as Docker containers that run in the customer's own environments and databases.

7 PDF forms

Optional PDF servers display PDF forms and export submissions to PDF.

8 A 1.6 GPA, above 0 of 60

That is against the other form and survey tools we grade, on value, the free plan, features, ease of use and platforms.

9 You could make this

A form at its plainest is questions, a button and a table of answers.

Form.io at a glance

PRICING
Free trial, from $300 per month, hosted SaaS project; self-hosted from $660 per month

FREE PLAN
No

FREE TRIAL
30-day free trial of the hosted SaaS project, no credit card; the project turns read-only afterward

RUNS ON
Web

MADE BY
Form.io

CATEGORY
Forms & Surveys

OUR GRADE
1.6 GPA, weak

The report card

Best for engineering teams embedding forms in their own apps

Form.io builds forms from JSON and serves them through an API, either hosted on its portal or in Docker containers you run yourself. It is priced by project and environment rather than by usage, which puts it far above ordinary form builders.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD — **Form.io** — Graded Nov 13, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	D	The hosted project is $300 a month and self-hosting starts at $660, against a forms middle of $20 and a dearest tenth from $66.
Free plan and trial	C	A 30-day trial needs no card, but the project turns read-only afterward and it may not hold personal data.
Features	C	Forms, API and PDF output are covered, but reporting, accessibility, multi-tenancy and the embedded builder are paid add-ons.
Ease of use	D	It is built for developers: JSON definitions, and Docker containers and databases for the self-hosted route.
Platforms and integrations	C	Web only, with an API and an open-source JavaScript library, and no integrations list on record.
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 Form.io is for

- ✓ Fits if your developers need forms inside your own application and its data
- ✓ Makes sense if you must host data in your own infrastructure

Who it is not for

- ✕ Skip it if you want a free plan, because none exists
- ✕ Pricey if you only need a few forms: the lowest hosted plan is $300 a month
- ✕ Tight if you need several environments, since each needs its own server license
- ✕ Watch out: the hosted project may not collect personal or sensitive data
- ✕ Not for you if you want a no-code builder without developers

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Engineering teams embedding forms and form building in their own applications
- ✓ Organizations that must host data in their own infrastructure

Worth knowing

- ⓘ There is no free plan; the hosted SaaS project is $300 a month after the 30-day trial, and the self-hosted options start higher.
- ⓘ Self-hosted minimum is one project plus one API server environment, $660 a month; each extra environment needs its own server license.
- ⓘ The SaaS project must not hold personal or sensitive data, per the pricing page, and lacks some security features.
- ⓘ Add-ons per month: Reporting UI $660, accessibility $495, multi-tenancy $330, embedded builder $660. Five developer licenses are $2,640 a year.

PART 02 · PRICING

What it costs

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

$300

A month to start

Form.io is a paid product with a free trial, starting at $300 per month, hosted SaaS project; self-hosted from $660 per month.

SAAS ENTERPRISE PROJECT

$300

per month, hosted on portal.form.io

One project with unlimited forms and developers, 1M submissions a month, 25 PDF-first forms and 1,000 PDF downloads. No PII; some security features missing.

ENTERPRISE LEVEL PROJECT

$330

per month per project; at least one required

Unlimited forms, resources, developers, form builders and submissions, with a self-hosted developer portal.

API SERVER

$330

per month per environment

One server environment with unlimited API calls and submissions. An API Server or API Plus Server is required for each environment.

API PLUS SERVER

$660

per month per environment

Adds audit logging, submission data separation, field-level encryption and container security scanning.

PDF SERVER

$330

per month per environment

Optional. Unlimited PDF submission downloads. The PDF Plus Server is $660 per month and adds uploads and a template designer.

Trying it first

30-day free trial of the hosted SaaS project, no credit card; the project turns read-only afterward

Read from form.io 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: Web

JSON form and API platform for developers, hosted or self-hosted. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: open source, self-hostable, public API, forms.

> **Forms, API and PDF output are covered, but reporting, accessibility, multi-tenancy and the embedded builder are paid add-ons.**
>
> From our grade for features

JSON-driven forms

Forms are defined in JSON, rendered by the open-source formio.js library and stored through the platform's API.

Self-hosted containers

The platform ships as Docker containers that run in the customer's own environments and databases.

PDF forms

Optional PDF servers display PDF forms and export submissions to PDF.

Multi-tenancy and embedded builder

Paid add-ons support tenant-separated forms and data, and an embedded form builder inside your own application.

Security options

API Plus adds audit logging, field-level encryption and data separation for compliance needs.

Where it runs

Web

What it works with

Its own pages name no integrations.

Form.io is made by Form.io.

Where it stands

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

0/60

Other form and survey tools it is graded above

Form.io's GPA of 1.6 is higher than 0 of the 60 other form and survey tools we grade.

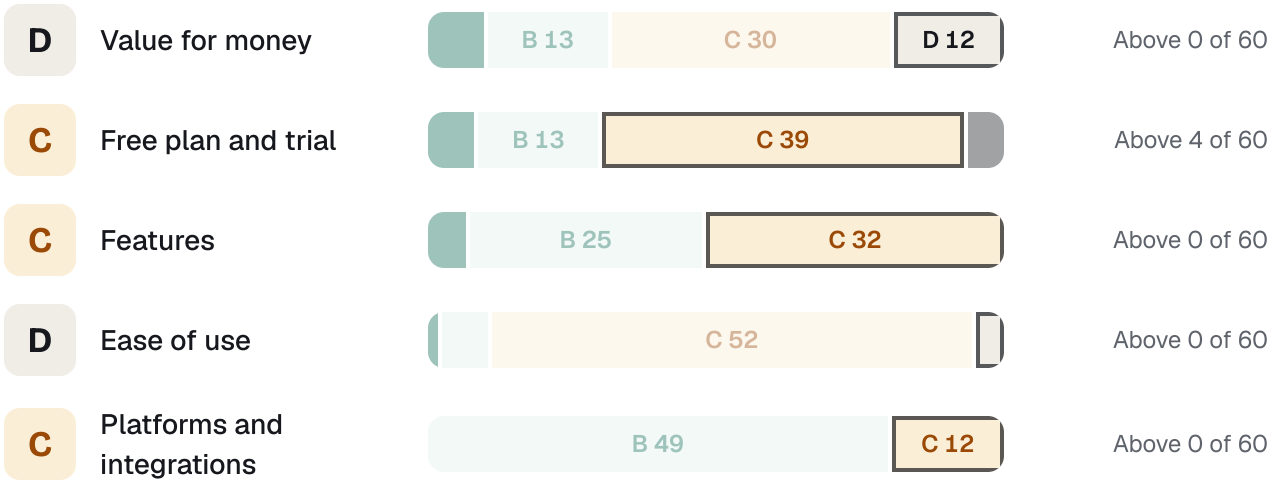
It stands best on free plan and trial (C, above 4 of 60) and worst on value for money (D, above 0).

Its paid plans start at $300 a month, against a middle price of $19.50 for the category: 50 of the 51 others that charge start lower.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 1.7 out of 4. 50 tools score higher and cost less.

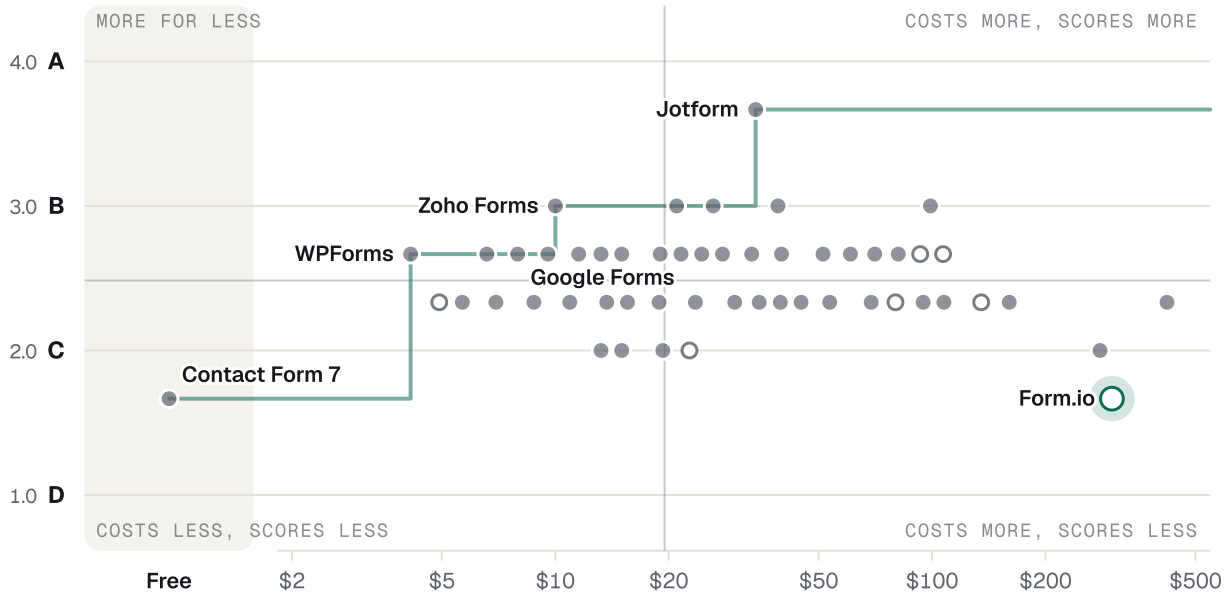
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 61 form and survey tools we grade, cut by the letter each got. Form.io's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 53 form and survey tools. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. Form.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.

You could make this

A form at its plainest is questions, a button and a table of answers.

What Form.io does at its core is forms, 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 $3,600 a year. An AI app builder starts at about $20 a month on our listings, and you only need it while you build. Form.io is open source, so there is a third way: take its code and run it yourself.

What you could make

- Forms: an app builder makes this well.

What you could not

- An API that other software can build on.

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

What this rests on. Form.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



Formstack, FormAssembly, Jotform, Formaloo and Feathery

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

2.2 GPA

Formstack

Free trial · from $83/mo

No-code forms with document generation and eSignatures.

- Form.io is open source and self-hostable, according to its own site.
- Formstack also covers templates, workflow automation and no-code.

Form.io and Formstack compared in full

2.0 GPA

FormAssembly

Paid

Form and workflow platform for regulated and Salesforce teams.

- Only FormAssembly lists iOS and Android apps.
- Form.io is open source and self-hostable, according to its own site.
- FormAssembly also covers workflow automation and documents.

Form.io and FormAssembly compared in full

3.0 GPA

Jotform

Free plan · from $34/mo

No-code form builder with payments, e-signatures and workflows.

- Jotform has a free plan. Form.io does not, though it has a free trial.
- Only Jotform lists iOS and Android apps.
- Form.io is open source and self-hostable, according to its own site.

Form.io and Jotform compared in full

2.6 GPA

Formaloo

Free plan · from $19/mo

Form, survey and portal builder with workflows and PDFs.

- Formaloo has a free plan. Form.io does not, though it has a free trial.
- Form.io is open source and self-hostable, according to its own site.
- Formaloo also covers databases, workflow automation, no-code and surveys.

Form.io and Formaloo compared in full

1.8 GPA

Feathery

Paid

Workflow and document automation built on forms for finance.

- Form.io is open source and self-hostable, according to its own site.
- Feathery also covers workflow automation and documents.

Form.io and Feathery compared in full

PART 06 · QUESTIONS

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 Form.io free?

No, Form.io is a paid product, but you can try it first. 30-day free trial of the hosted SaaS project, no credit card; the project turns read-only afterward.

How much does Form.io cost?

Form.io lists 5 plans. SaaS Enterprise Project: $300 per month, hosted on portal.form.io.

What platforms does Form.io work on?

Form.io is available on Web.

Does Form.io have an Android app?

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

Does Form.io have an iPhone app?

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

Is Form.io open source?

Yes. Form.io is open source, according to its own site.

Does Form.io have an API?

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

Who makes Form.io?

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

What are the alternatives to Form.io?

The closest alternatives to Form.io in our directory are Formstack, FormAssembly, Jotform, Formaloo and Feathery.

How does Form.io compare with other form and survey tools?

Form.io's GPA of 1.6 is higher than 0 of the 60 other form and survey tools we grade.

Is Form.io good value for money?

ToolGPA grades Form.io D for value for money. Its paid plans start at $300 a month, against a middle price of $19.50 for the category: 50 of the 51 others that charge start lower.

Could I make my own version of Form.io?

A form at its plainest is questions, a button and a table of answers. What Form.io does at its core is forms, 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 Form.io'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 Form.io'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 Form.io. Prices change, so check form.io before you buy.

form.io/configuration-based-pricing/ form.io

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

Form.io, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/form-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, "Form.io: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 13, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/form-io
```

Know someone choosing between form and survey tools?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded form and survey tools after Form.io, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Forms & Surveys Insider's Guide

Every one of the 61 form and survey tools we grade, compared

Google Forms Insider's Guide

Form, survey and quiz builder that comes with a Google Account

3.2 GPA

Jotform Insider's Guide

No-code form builder with payments, e-signatures and workflows

3.0 GPA

Fillout Insider's Guide

Form builder with unlimited seats, payments and scheduling

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 Form.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. Form.io is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Form.io. Prices and plans change: check form.io before you buy.