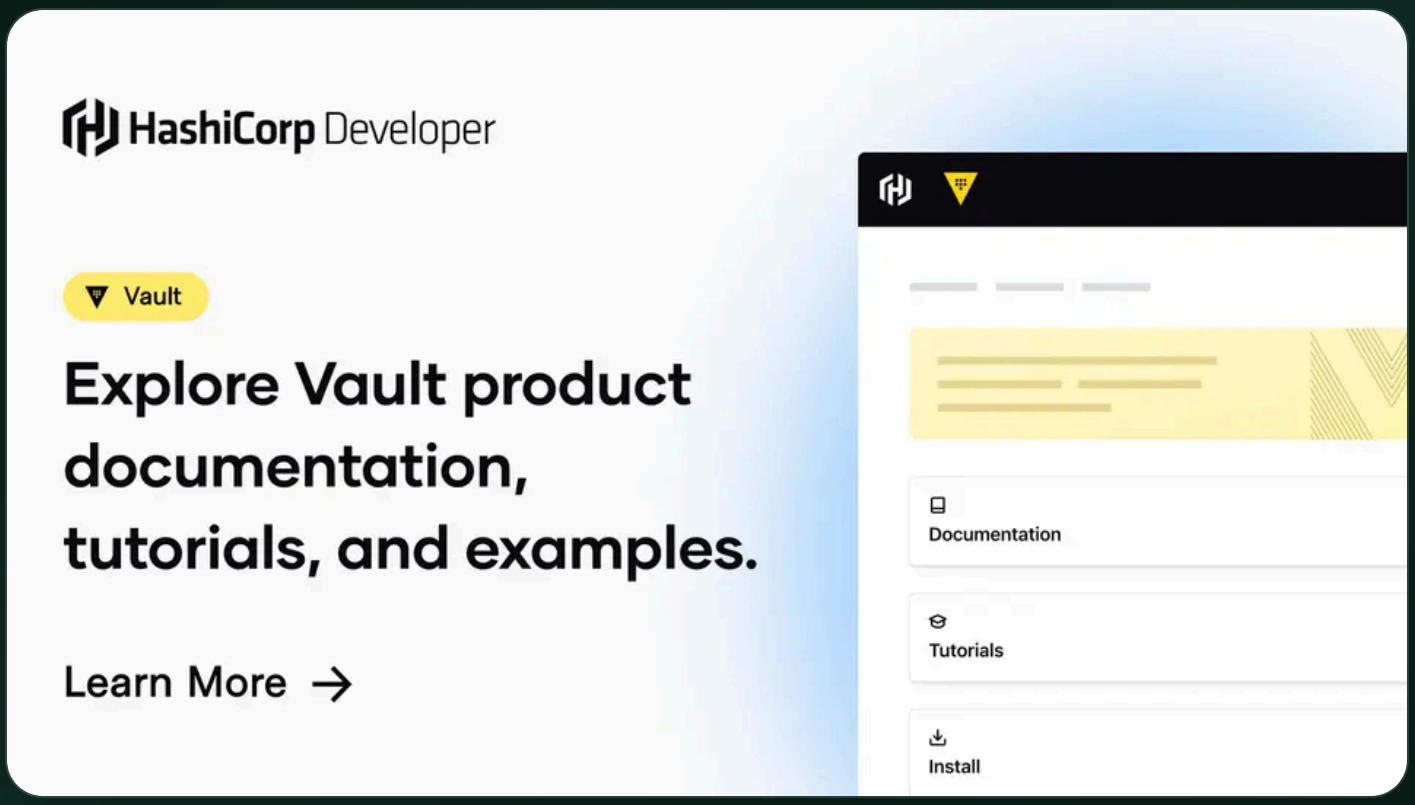
ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

HashiCorp Vault

The Insider's Guide

Secrets and encryption management for infrastructure teams



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among password managers, read from HashiCorp Vault's own pages.

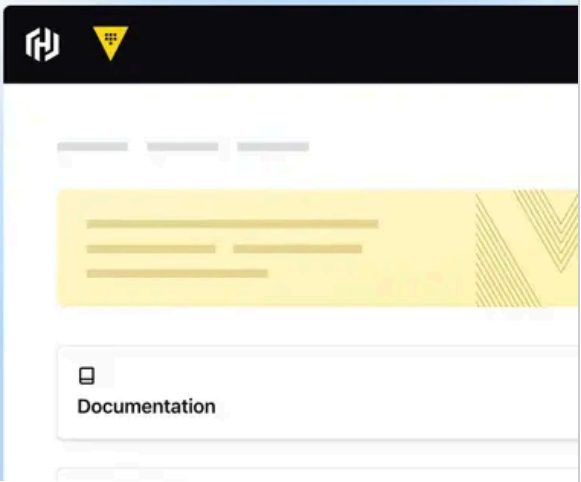
Made by HashiCorp · checked Nov 13, 2026 · toolgpa.com

2.0
GPA

HashiCorp Developer

Vault

Explore Vault product documentation, tutorials, and examples.



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

2.0

GPA, above 2 of the 49 other password managers we grade

Vault stores and controls access to tokens, passwords, certificates and encryption keys through a UI, CLI or HTTP API. It runs self-managed on-premises, in the cloud or in a hybrid setup, and is offered as a managed service called HCP Vault Dedicated. A Community edition and a paid Enterprise edition exist.

To get you started, here are **7 things to know about HashiCorp Vault**, taken from its own pages and our grades.

> **It is infrastructure software run from a command line and config files, with no consumer onboarding.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

1 **Best for machine secrets for platform teams**

Vault stores and hands out secrets, database credentials and certificates to software.

2 **It runs on 4 platforms**

Web, macOS, Windows and Linux.

3 Static secrets

Stores and controls access to credentials, tokens and other sensitive data, reachable through a UI, CLI or HTTP API.

4 Database credentials

A database secrets engine handles the credential lifecycle for database access.

5 Encryption as a service

Encrypts data in transit and at rest so applications need not hold raw keys or handle encryption themselves.

6 A 2.0 GPA, above 2 of 49

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

7 Keep it

To replace HashiCorp Vault you would be making a password vault, the last thing anyone should make for themselves. That is not a weekend's work, with an AI app builder or without one.

HashiCorp Vault at a glance

PRICING Paid	FREE PLAN No
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON Web, macOS, Windows, Linux
MADE BY HashiCorp	CATEGORY Password Managers
OUR GRADE 2.0 GPA, fair	

The report card

Best for machine secrets for platform teams

Vault stores and hands out secrets, database credentials and certificates to software. The community edition runs on macOS, Windows and Linux, but you operate and secure it yourself, Enterprise needs a licence, and it is not a password manager with autofill.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD

HashiCorp Vault

Graded Nov 13, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	C	The community edition is a download, but it is only useful if you host it, so it sits at C. Paid prices could not be read as the pricing pages sit behind a bot check.
Free plan and trial	B	The community edition is free and uncapped, though you run and secure it. The install docs now call it IBM Vault Community Edition.
Features	C	Static secrets, database credentials, encryption as a service, certificates and audit logging. Enterprise features need a licence.
Ease of use	D	It is infrastructure software run from a command line and config files, with no consumer onboarding. No store rating on record.
Platforms and integrations	C	Installs on macOS, Windows and Linux with a web interface. No phone apps and no integrations list on the pages read.

Grade point average Fair, out of 4.0 **2.0**

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 HashiCorp Vault is for

- ✓ Fits if you are a platform or security team handing secrets to software
- ✓ Works for teams that mix on-premises and cloud and can run their own service

Who it is not for

- ✗ Not for you if you want browser autofill for personal logins
- ✗ Skip it if nobody on your team can run and secure a server
- ✗ Watch out: Enterprise features need a licence and no prices could be read
- ✗ Too light for phones, as no mobile apps are listed

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Platform and security teams managing machine secrets at scale
- ✓ Organizations running secrets across on-premises and cloud
- ✓ Teams that want a managed Vault through HCP Vault Dedicated

Worth knowing

- ⓘ No prices could be read: the vendor's pricing pages sit behind a bot check.
- ⓘ It is infrastructure software for operators, not a personal password manager with browser autofill.
- ⓘ Enterprise features need a license; the install docs now call the free edition IBM Vault Community Edition.
- ⓘ A Community edition is installable on macOS, Windows and Linux, but is run and secured by you.

What it costs

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

HashiCorp Vault's current pricing could not be confirmed from its own site.

> **The community edition is a download, but it is only useful if you host it, so it sits at C.**
>
> From our grade for value for money

We could not confirm HashiCorp Vault's current prices from its own site, so this guide lists no plans. developer.hashicorp.com has them.

What it does

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

4

Places it runs: Web, macOS, Windows and Linux

Secrets and encryption management for infrastructure teams. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: self-hostable, public API, password manager.

> **Static secrets, database credentials, encryption as a service, certificates and audit logging.**
>
> From our grade for features

Static secrets

Stores and controls access to credentials, tokens and other sensitive data, reachable through a UI, CLI or HTTP API.

Database credentials

A database secrets engine handles the credential lifecycle for database access.

Encryption as a service

Encrypts data in transit and at rest so applications need not hold raw keys or handle encryption themselves.

Certificates and identities

The docs list certificate management and identity and authentication management among the things Vault handles.

Audit logging

Audit logging is part of the platform, supporting the compliance use cases listed in the docs.

Enterprise features

Enterprise adds items such as HSM support, namespaces, Sentinel policies and disaster recovery replication.

Where it runs

Web · macOS · Windows · Linux

What it works with

Its own pages name no integrations.

HashiCorp Vault is made by HashiCorp.

PART 04 · STANDING

Where it stands

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

2/49

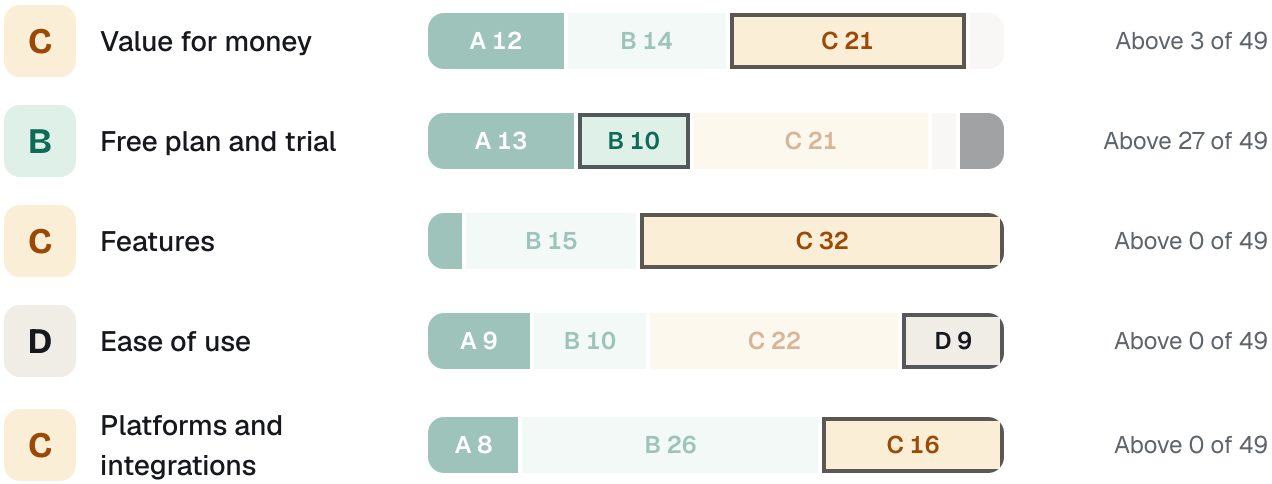
Other password managers it is graded above

HashiCorp Vault's GPA of 2.0 is higher than 2 of the 49 other password managers we grade, and level with 6.

It stands best on free plan and trial (B, above 27 of 49) and worst on ease of use (D, above 0).

Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 50 password managers we grade, cut by the letter each got. HashiCorp Vault's own letter is outlined.



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 HashiCorp Vault you would be making a password vault, the last thing anyone should make for themselves. That is not a weekend's work, with an AI app builder or without one.

That makes this kind of software worth paying for, not this one in particular: 41 of the 49 other password managers grade higher.

What you could not

- ✕ A password vault, the last thing anyone should make for themselves.
- ✕ Apps for macOS, Windows and Linux that stay in step with each other.
- ✕ An API that other software can build on.

What this rests on. HashiCorp Vault'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

Infisical, Akeyless, Delinea Secret Server, Passbolt and ManageEngine Password Manager Pro

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

2.0 GPA

Infisical

Free plan · from $20/mo

Secrets, certificate and privileged access platform for developers.

- Infisical has a free plan. HashiCorp Vault does not.
- Infisical is open source, according to its own site.
- Infisical also covers reports.

HashiCorp Vault and Infisical compared in full

2.2 GPA

Akeyless

Free plan

Workforce password manager inside a secrets platform.

- Akeyless has a free plan. HashiCorp Vault does not.
- Only HashiCorp Vault lists macOS, Windows and Linux apps.
- Only Akeyless lists a browser extension.

HashiCorp Vault and Akeyless compared in full



2.0
GPA

Delinea Secret Server

Free trial

Enterprise vault for privileged accounts and secrets.

- Only HashiCorp Vault lists macOS, Windows and Linux apps.
- HashiCorp Vault is self-hostable, according to its own site.
- Delinea Secret Server also covers reports.

HashiCorp Vault and Delinea Secret Server compared in full



2.2
GPA

Passbolt

Free plan · from $4.90/mo

Open-source password manager for teams, self-hosted or cloud.

- Passbolt has a free plan. HashiCorp Vault does not.
- Only HashiCorp Vault lists macOS and Linux apps.
- Only Passbolt lists iOS and Android apps.

HashiCorp Vault and Passbolt compared in full



2.0
GPA

ManageEngine Password Manager Pro

Free trial

On-premises privileged password vault from ManageEngine.

- Only HashiCorp Vault lists a macOS app.
- Only ManageEngine Password Manager Pro lists iOS and Android apps.
- Only ManageEngine Password Manager Pro lists a browser extension.

HashiCorp Vault and ManageEngine Password Manager Pro compared in full

PART 06 · QUESTIONS

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 HashiCorp Vault free?

No. HashiCorp Vault is a paid product.

What platforms does HashiCorp Vault work on?

HashiCorp Vault is available on Web, macOS, Windows and Linux.

Does HashiCorp Vault have an Android app?

No Android app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. HashiCorp Vault is listed for Web, macOS, Windows and Linux.

Does HashiCorp Vault have an iPhone app?

No iPhone app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. HashiCorp Vault is listed for Web, macOS, Windows and Linux.

Is HashiCorp Vault open source?

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

Can HashiCorp Vault be self-hosted?

Yes. HashiCorp Vault's own site says it can be run on a server of your own.

Does HashiCorp Vault have an API?

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

Who makes HashiCorp Vault?

HashiCorp Vault is made by HashiCorp.

What are the alternatives to HashiCorp Vault?

The closest alternatives to HashiCorp Vault in our directory are Infisical, Akeyless, Delinea Secret Server, Passbolt and ManageEngine Password Manager Pro.

How does HashiCorp Vault compare with other password managers?

HashiCorp Vault's GPA of 2.0 is higher than 2 of the 49 other password managers we grade, and level with 6.

Could I make my own version of HashiCorp Vault?

To replace HashiCorp Vault you would be making a password vault, the last thing anyone should make for themselves.

Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from HashiCorp Vault'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 HashiCorp'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 HashiCorp. Prices change, so check developer.hashicorp.com before you buy.

developer.hashicorp.com/vault

developer.hashicorp.com/vault/install

developer.hashicorp.com/vault/docs/about-vault/...

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

HashiCorp Vault, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/hashicorp-vault

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, "HashiCorp Vault: The Insider's
Guide", checked Nov 13, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/hashicorp-vault
```

Know someone choosing between password managers?

Send them this guide: toolgpa.com/tools/hashicorp-vault/guide

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded password managers after HashiCorp Vault, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Password Managers Insider's Guide

Every one of the 51 password managers we grade, compared

Bitwarden Insider's Guide

Open-source password manager with a free plan and self-hosting

3.8 GPA

Apple Passwords Insider's Guide

Apple's free password and passkey app for iPhone, iPad and Mac

3.4 GPA

RoboForm Insider's Guide

Password manager and form filler with a single-device free plan

3.4 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 HashiCorp Vault'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. HashiCorp Vault is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by HashiCorp. Prices and plans change: check developer.hashicorp.com before you buy.