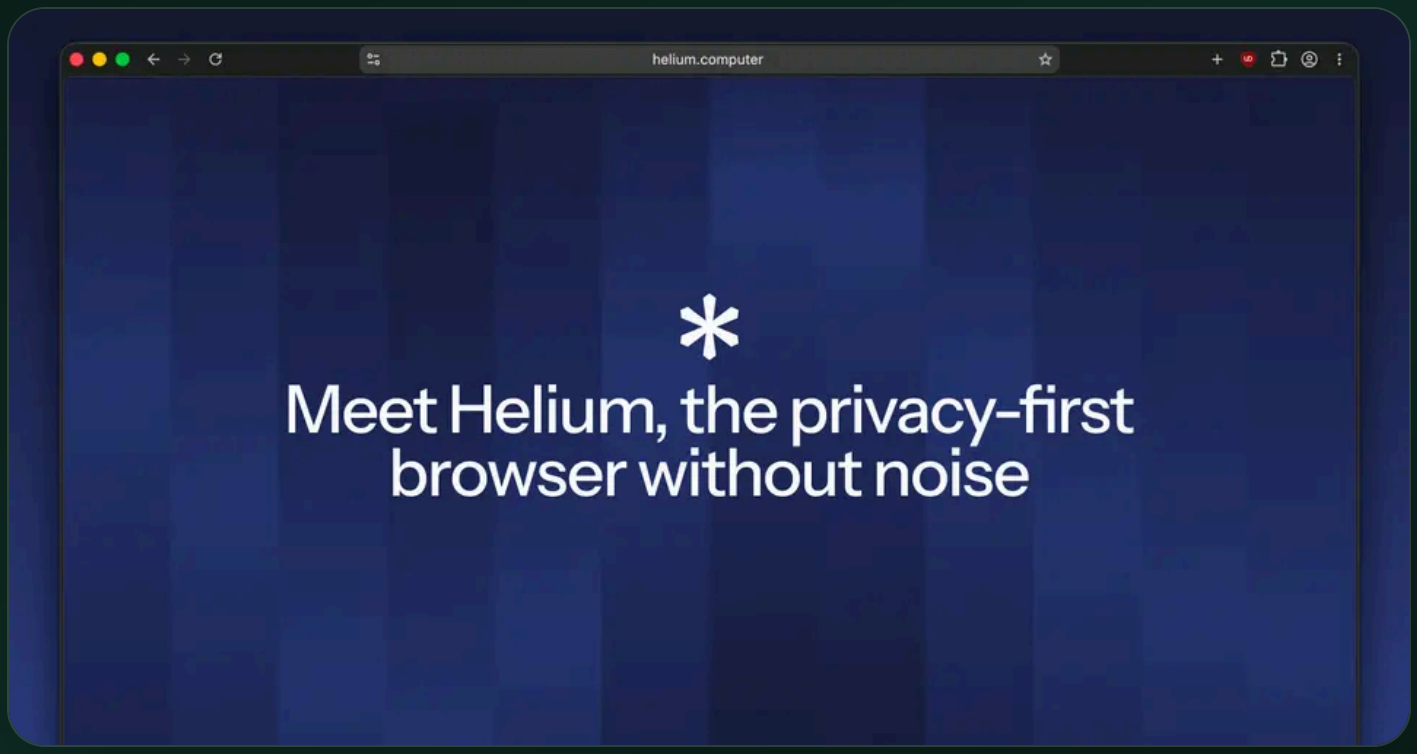
ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Helium Browser

The Insider's Guide

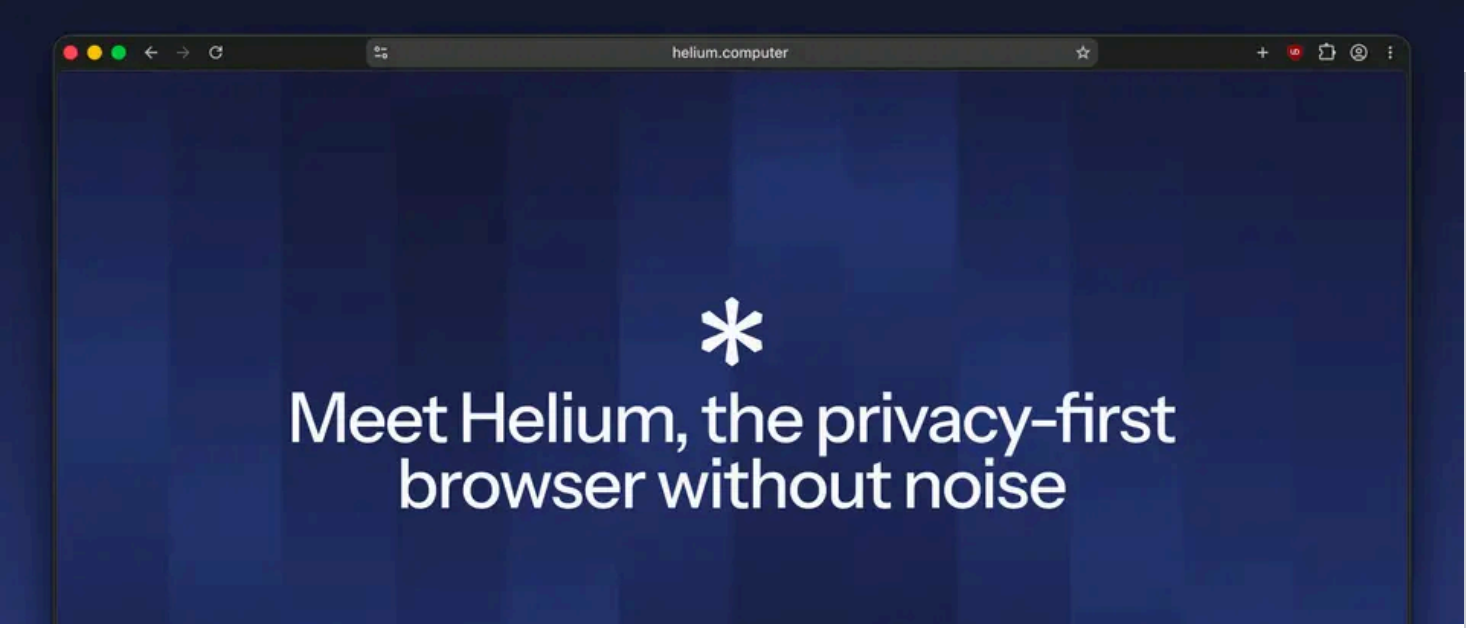
Free open source Chromium browser with privacy defaults and !bangs



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among browsers, read from Helium Browser's own pages.

Made by imput LLC · 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 Helium Browser's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Helium Browser'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 34 of the 60 other browsers we grade

Helium is a Chromium-based desktop browser that blocks ads, trackers and cookie banners by default and says it collects no personal data. It supports Chromium extensions, vertical tabs, split view and tab groups, and has built-in !bangs for jumping straight to sites. It is free, open source and currently in beta.

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

> **It is in beta, has no Widevine DRM, no password manager and no data sync, and has no mobile version yet.**
>
> From our report card of Helium Browser

1 **Best for a private Chromium browser with no tracking**

Helium is a free open source Chromium browser with privacy by default, no data collection and !bangs.

2 **It is free**

Helium Browser has no paid plan at all. The whole browser is free; the FAQ says there is no ad-supported free tier and no paid upgrade.

3 **It runs on 3 platforms**

macOS, Windows and Linux.

4 **Privacy by default**

It blocks ads, trackers, cookie banners and third-party cookies, and adds noise to some web APIs to resist fingerprinting.

5 **No data collection**

The site says it makes no web requests on first launch and has no analytics; requests to Helium services must be approved by you.

6 **Chromium extensions**

All Chromium extensions are supported, and Chrome Web Store requests are anonymized through Helium services.

7 **A 3.0 GPA, above 34 of 60**

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

8 **Keep it**

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

Helium Browser at a glance

PRICING Free	FREE PLAN Yes
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON macOS, Windows, Linux
MADE BY imput LLC	CATEGORY Browsers
OUR GRADE 3.0 GPA, very good	

The report card

Best for a private Chromium browser with no tracking

Helium is a free open source Chromium browser with privacy by default, no data collection and !bangs. It is in beta, has no Widevine DRM, no password

manager and no data sync, and has no mobile version yet. Updates on macOS and Windows depend on Helium services being enabled.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD

Helium Browser

Graded Nov 13, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	A	Free, with no paid upgrade, and the FAQ says there is no ad-supported tier.
Free plan and trial	A	The whole browser is free, with no paid tier or ad-supported tier.
Features	C	Privacy defaults, Chromium extensions, tab tools and !bangs. The listing shows no password manager, no sync and no DRM, and it is still beta.
Ease of use	B	No store rating on record. Install and browse, with nothing to set up.
Platforms and integrations	C	Desktop only: macOS, Windows and Linux. No mobile version yet.

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 Helium Browser is for

- ✓ Fits if you want a Chromium browser that collects nothing and you do not need sync
- ✓ Works for people who like !bangs and Chromium extensions

Who it is not for

- ✗ Skip it if you stream protected video, as there is no Widevine DRM
- ✗ Not for you if you want a password manager or sync across devices, as it has neither
- ✗ Watch out: the download page warns that unexpected issues may occur in beta
- ✗ Skip it if you want a phone browser, as there is no mobile version yet

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ People who want an ad-blocking Chromium browser with no account
- ✓ Users of Chromium extensions who want fewer Google dependencies
- ✓ Those who want to inspect or self-host the browser's services

Worth knowing

- ⓘ It is in beta, and the download page warns that unexpected issues may occur.
- ⓘ There is no Widevine DRM support, so some streaming services and protected media may not play.
- ⓘ There is no built-in password manager and no data sync, and no mobile version yet.
- ⓘ Automatic updates on macOS and Windows depend on Helium services being enabled.

What it costs

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

Free

No paid plan at all

Helium Browser is free to use.

> **Free, with no paid upgrade, and the FAQ says there is no ad-supported tier.**
>
> From our grade for value for money

FREE

$0

The full browser. Development is crowdfunded through user sponsorships, which the FAQ says are temporarily disabled.

The free plan

The whole browser is free; the FAQ says there is no ad-supported free tier and no paid upgrade.

Read from helium.computer on Nov 13, 2026.

What it does

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

3

Places it runs: macOS, Windows and Linux

Free open source Chromium browser with privacy defaults and !bangs. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: open source, self-hostable, keyboard-first, passkeys, web browser, ad and tracker blocking.

"

Privacy defaults, Chromium extensions, tab tools and !bangs.

From our grade for features

Privacy by default

It blocks ads, trackers, cookie banners and third-party cookies, and adds noise to some web APIs to resist fingerprinting.

No data collection

The site says it makes no web requests on first launch and has no analytics; requests to Helium services must be approved by you.

Chromium extensions

All Chromium extensions are supported, and Chrome Web Store requests are anonymized through Helium services.

Layout and tab tools

Four layout options, a frameless mode, vertical tabs, split view, tab groups, MRU tabbing and tab hibernation.

!bangs

More than 13,000 bangs are processed locally and send you directly to a site, skipping the results page.

Open source services

Browser components and online services are open source on GitHub, and Helium services can be self-hosted.

Where it runs

macOS · Windows · Linux

What it works with

Its own pages name no integrations.

Helium Browser is made by imput LLC.

PART 04 · STANDING

Where it stands

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

34/60

Other browsers it is graded above

Helium Browser's GPA of 3.0 is higher than 34 of the 60 other browsers we grade, and level with 9.

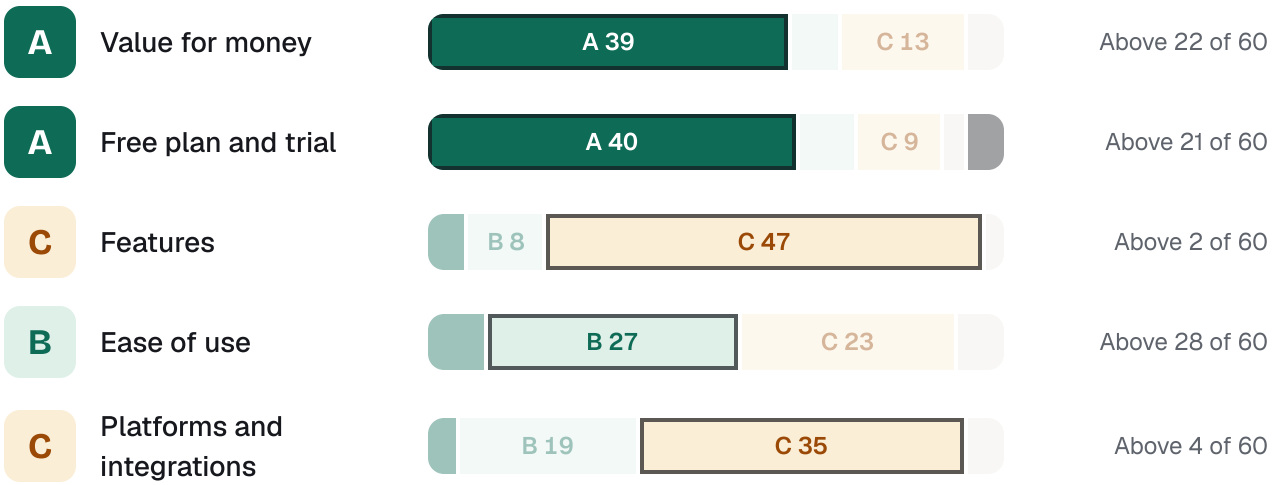
It stands best on value for money (A, above 22 of 60) and worst on features (C, above 2).

Helium Browser 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.

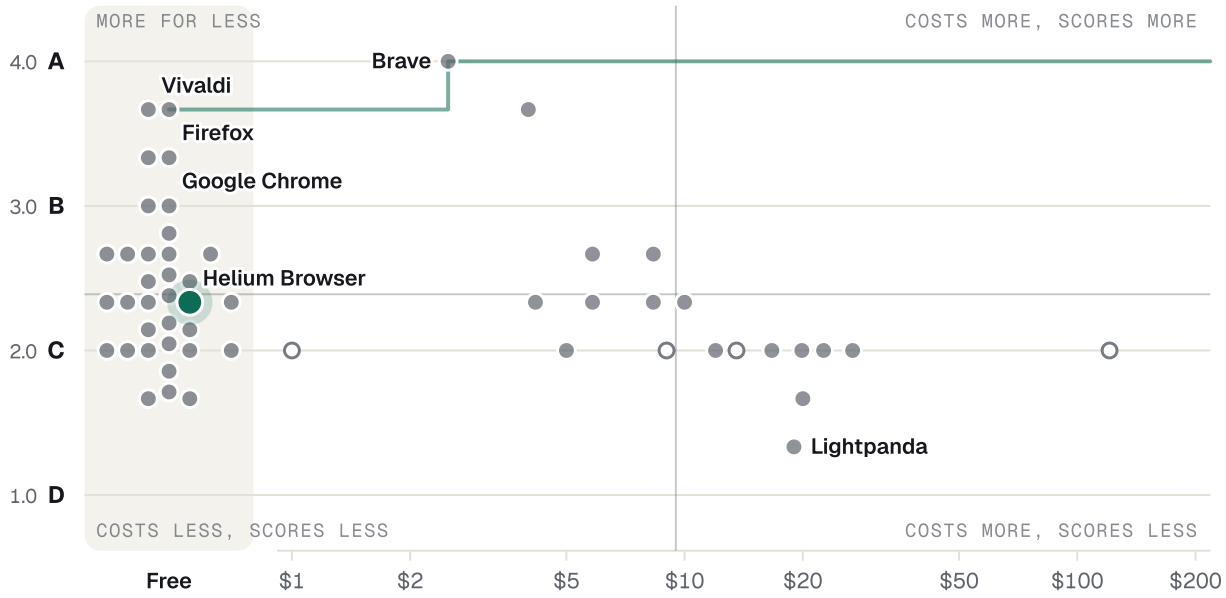
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 61 browsers we grade, cut by the letter each got. Helium Browser's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 54 browsers. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. Helium Browser 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

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

And it is not the kind of software a weekend replaces.

What you could make

- Ad and tracker blocking: an app builder makes this well.

What you could not

- A web browser.
- Passkeys, which rest on security you cannot improvise.
- Apps for macOS, Windows and Linux that stay in step with each other.

What this rests on. Helium Browser'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



Brave, Thorium Browser, LibreWolf and Vivaldi

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

3.8 GPA

Brave

Free plan · from $3.00/mo

Open-source browser that blocks ads and trackers by default.

- Only Brave lists Android and iOS apps.
- Helium Browser is self-hostable, according to its own site.
- Helium Browser also covers passkeys and ad and tracker blocking.

Helium Browser and Brave compared in full

3.0 GPA

Thorium Browser

Free

Chromium fork tuned with compiler optimizations.

- Only Thorium Browser lists an Android app.
- Helium Browser is self-hostable, according to its own site.
- Helium Browser also covers passkeys and ad and tracker blocking.

Helium Browser and Thorium Browser compared in full



2.8
GPA

LibreWolf

Free

Free, privacy-hardened browser built on Firefox.

- Helium Browser is self-hostable, according to its own site.
- Helium Browser also covers passkeys.

Helium Browser and LibreWolf compared in full



3.8
GPA

Vivaldi

Free

Customizable browser with built-in mail, calendar and feed reader.

- Only Vivaldi lists Android and iOS apps.
- Helium Browser is open source and self-hostable, according to its own site.
- Vivaldi is end-to-end encrypted, according to its own site.

Helium Browser and Vivaldi 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 Helium Browser free?

Yes. Helium Browser is free to use.

How much does Helium Browser cost?

Helium Browser lists one plan. Free: $0.

What platforms does Helium Browser work on?

Helium Browser is available on macOS, Windows and Linux.

Does Helium Browser have an Android app?

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

Does Helium Browser have an iPhone app?

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

Is Helium Browser open source?

Yes. Helium Browser is open source, according to its own site.

Who makes Helium Browser?

Helium Browser is made by imput LLC.

What are the alternatives to Helium Browser?

The closest alternatives to Helium Browser in our directory are Brave, Thorium Browser, LibreWolf and Vivaldi.

How does Helium Browser compare with other browsers?

Helium Browser's GPA of 3.0 is higher than 34 of the 60 other browsers we grade, and level with 9.

Is Helium Browser good value for money?

ToolGPA grades Helium Browser A for value for money. Helium Browser has no paid plan.

Could I make my own version of Helium Browser?

Helium Browser 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 Helium Browser'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 Helium'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 imput LLC. Prices change, so check helium.computer before you buy.

helium.computer/
helium.computer/terms

helium.computer/download

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

Helium Browser, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/helium-browser

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:

```
ToolGPA, "Helium Browser: The Insider's
Guide", checked Nov 13, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/helium-browser
```

Know someone choosing between browsers?

Send them this guide:
toolgpa.com/tools/helium-browser/guide

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded browsers after Helium Browser, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Browsers Insider's Guide

Every one of the 61 browsers we grade, compared

Brave Insider's Guide

Open-source browser that blocks ads and trackers by default

3.8 GPA

Firefox Insider's Guide

Free, open-source browser from Mozilla with tracker blocking built in

3.8 GPA

Vivaldi Insider's Guide

Customizable browser with built-in mail, calendar and feed reader

3.8 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 Helium Browser'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. Helium Browser is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by imput LLC. Prices and plans change: check helium.computer before you buy.