ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Hylo

The Insider's Guide

Free open-source platform for community groups and coordination



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among course and community platforms, read from Hylo's own pages.

Made by Terran Collective · checked Nov 13, 2026 · toolgpa.com

3.2
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 Hylo's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Hylo'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

3.2

GPA, above 98 of the 98 other course and community platforms we grade

Hylo is a coordination platform for community groups, networks and place-based organizing. A group gets discussions, chat, events, requests and offers, projects, proposals and a member map in one place. The platform is free and open source under the MIT license, with paid hands-on support from the team.

> "
>
> **You set up groups, subgroups and decision rules.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

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

1 **Best for a free community platform with mobile apps**

Hylo is free for every group, with unlimited members, chat, events, projects, proposals and iOS and Android apps.

2 **It is free**

Hylo has no paid plan at all. The full platform is free for every group, with unlimited members and groups, and 50 MB maximum per attachment.

3 **It runs on 3 platforms**

Web, iOS and Android.

4 **Groups and subgroups**

Nested and peer groups with unlimited members, plus a public commons for discovering other groups.

5 **Discussion and chat**

Threaded conversations with topics and tags, and real-time chat rooms inside any group.

6 **Requests, offers and projects**

Mutual-support requests and offers with completion tracking, and projects with tasks, roles and timelines.

7 **A 3.2 GPA, above 98 of 98**

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

8 **Keep it**

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

Hylo at a glance

PRICING Free	FREE PLAN Yes
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON Web, iOS, Android
MADE BY Terran Collective	CATEGORY Courses & Communities
OUR GRADE 3.2 GPA, very good	

The report card

Best for a free community platform with mobile apps

Hylo is free for every group, with unlimited members, chat, events, projects, proposals and iOS and Android apps. Hylo Pro and Whitelabel are not out yet, and file attachments cap at 50 MB.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD	Hylo	Graded Nov 13, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	A	Free for every group with unlimited members and groups, and no paid plan is on sale yet.
Free plan and trial	A	The full platform is free with no member cap, and the 50 MB attachment limit is one a normal group will rarely hit.
Features	B	Groups, chat, events, projects, proposals, a member map and mobile apps. API access and video streaming are not available yet.
Ease of use	C	No store rating on record. You set up groups, subgroups and decision rules.
Platforms and integrations	B	Web plus iOS and Android apps, but no desktop app and no integrations listed.
Grade point average		Very good, out of 4.0 **3.2**

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 Hylo is for

- ✓ Fits if you run a mutual-aid or place-based group on a zero budget
- ✓ Works for groups that want chat, events and decisions in one place

Who it is not for

- ✗ Skip it if you need an API or video streaming, as Hylo Pro is not out yet
- ✗ Watch out: attachments cap at 50 MB each
- ✗ Watch out: stewardship help costs extra, from $300 for a support call
- ✗ Skip it if you want branding, as Hylo Whitelabel is listed as coming soon

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Mutual-aid groups, bioregional networks and cooperatives
- ✓ Communities that want a free, open-source home for discussion and decisions

Worth knowing

- ⓘ File storage is limited, with a 50 MB maximum per attachment.
- ⓘ Hylo Pro (an estimated $60 per group per month) and Hylo Whitelabel are listed as coming soon, so API access and video streaming are not yet available.
- ⓘ Hands-on stewardship support is sold separately: $300 for a support call, $2,500 for onboarding, $100 per month for ongoing support.

What it costs

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

Free

No paid plan at all

Hylo is free to use.

> **Free for every group with unlimited members and groups, and no paid plan is on sale yet.**
>
> From our grade for value for money

HYLO

$0

Free forever: groups and subgroups, chat, events, projects, proposals, map, member directory and mobile apps.

The free plan

The full platform is free for every group, with unlimited members and groups, and 50 MB maximum per attachment.

Read from hylo.com 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: Web, iOS and Android

Free open-source platform for community groups and coordination. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: open source, calendar, team chat, community.

"

Groups, chat, events, projects, proposals, a member map and mobile apps.

From our grade for features

Groups and subgroups

Nested and peer groups with unlimited members, plus a public commons for discovering other groups.

Discussion and chat

Threaded conversations with topics and tags, and real-time chat rooms inside any group.

Requests, offers and projects

Mutual-support requests and offers with completion tracking, and projects with tasks, roles and timelines.

Proposals and decisions

Polls, proposals and quorum for structured decisions, with shared agreements and roles.

Events and map

In-person and virtual events with RSVPs and calendar sync, and a member map for place-based groups.

Mobile apps

iOS and Android apps that the vendor describes as full-featured, with email, push, in-app and digest notifications.

Where it runs

Web iOS Android

What it works with

Its own pages name no integrations.

Hylo is made by Terran Collective.

Where it stands

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

98/98

Other course and community platforms it is graded above

Hylo's GPA of 3.2 is higher than 98 of the 98 other course and community platforms we grade.

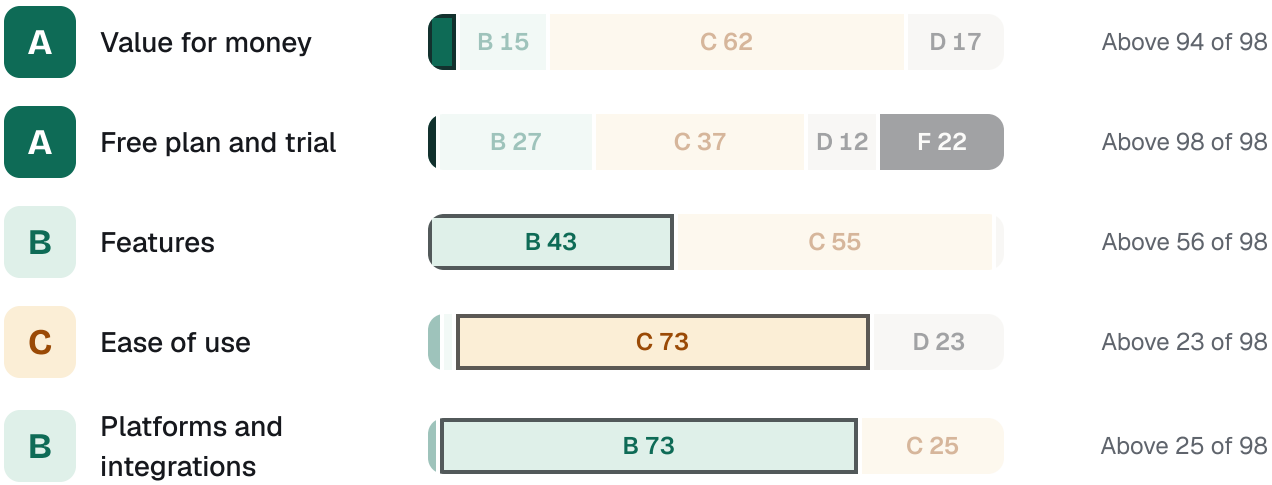
It stands best on free plan and trial (A, above 98 of 98) and worst on ease of use (C, above 23).

Hylo has no paid plan.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 2.7 out of 4, and no tool on the category's chart scores higher without costing more.

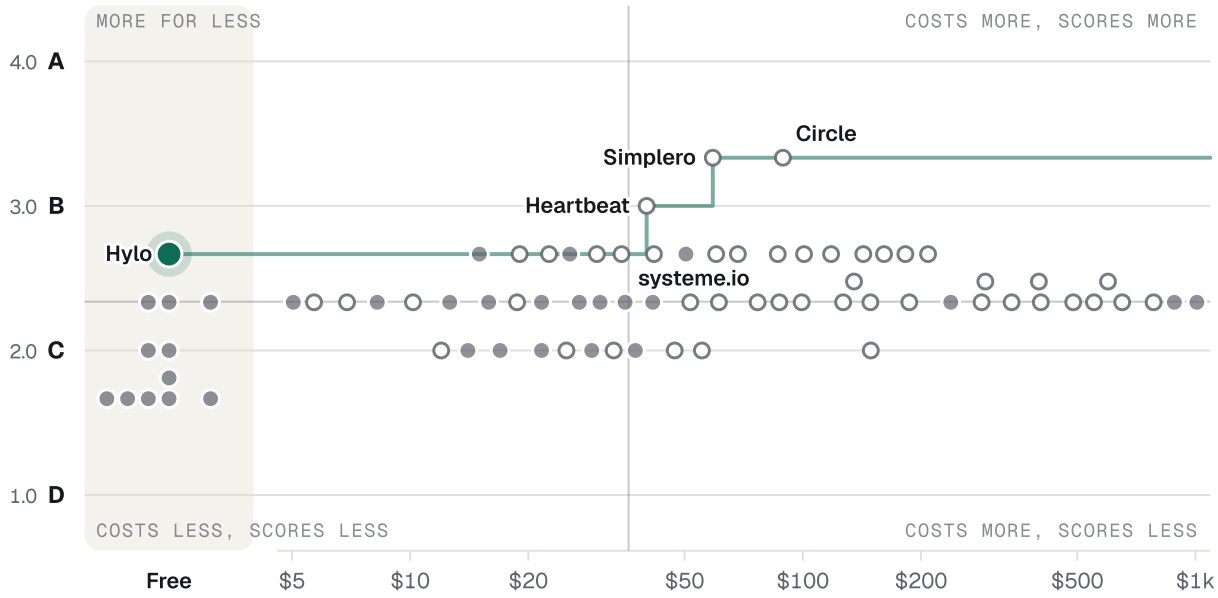
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 99 course and community platforms we grade, cut by the letter each got. Hylo's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 78 course and community platforms. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. Hylo 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

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

And it is not the kind of software a weekend replaces. It is one of the better ones too: its GPA of 3.2 is higher than 98 of the 98 other course and community platforms we grade.

What you could make

- Calendar: an app builder makes this well.

What you could not

- Chat that a whole team counts on staying up.

- A members' space with posts, chat and events that people keep coming back to.
- A real app for iOS and Android. 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. Hylo'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



Loomio, Discourse, Bettermode, Groups.io and Circle

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

Loomio

2.0 GPA

Free trial · from $33/mo

Group decision-making software for organizations and co-ops.

- Hylo has a free plan. Loomio does not, though it has a free trial.
- Only Hylo lists iOS and Android apps.
- Hylo also covers calendar and team chat.

Hylo and Loomio compared in full

Discourse

2.6 GPA

Free plan · from $100/mo

Open-source discussion forum software with hosted plans.

- Hylo also covers calendar.

Hylo and Discourse compared in full



1.8
GPA

Bettermode

Free trial · from $149/mo

Branded community platform with Q&A, events and AI search.

- Hylo has a free plan. Bettermode does not, though it has a free trial.
- Only Hylo lists iOS and Android apps.
- Hylo is open source, according to its own site.

Hylo and Bettermode compared in full



2.6
GPA

Groups.io

Free plan · from $20/mo

Email discussion groups with files, calendar and wiki.

- Only Hylo lists iOS and Android apps.
- Hylo is open source, according to its own site.
- Groups.io also covers wiki.

Hylo and Groups.io compared in full



2.8
GPA

Circle

Free trial · from $89/mo

Community platform with courses, events, payments and branded apps.

- Hylo has a free plan. Circle does not, though it has a free trial.
- Hylo is open source, according to its own site.
- Hylo also covers calendar and team chat.

Hylo and Circle compared in full

PART 06 · QUESTIONS

Quick answers

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

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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 Hylo free?

Yes. Hylo is free to use.

How much does Hylo cost?

Hylo lists one plan. Hylo: $0.

What platforms does Hylo work on?

Hylo is available on Web, iOS and Android.

Does Hylo have a Windows app?

No Windows app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. Hylo is listed for Web, iOS and Android.

Does Hylo have a macOS app?

No macOS app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. Hylo is listed for Web, iOS and Android.

Is Hylo open source?

Yes. Hylo is open source, according to its own site.

Who makes Hylo?

Hylo is made by Terran Collective.

What are the alternatives to Hylo?

The closest alternatives to Hylo in our directory are Loomio, Discourse, Bettermode, Groups.io and Circle.

How does Hylo compare with other course and community platforms?

Hylo's GPA of 3.2 is higher than 98 of the 98 other course and community platforms we grade.

Is Hylo good value for money?

ToolGPA grades Hylo A for value for money. Hylo has no paid plan.

Could I make my own version of Hylo?

Hylo 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 Hylo'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 Hylo'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 Terran Collective. Prices change, so check hylo.com before you buy.

hylo.com/

hylo.com/pricing

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

Hylo, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/hylo

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, "Hylo: The Insider's Guide", checked
Nov 13, 2026. https://toolgpa.com/tools/hylo
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Know someone choosing between course and community platforms?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded course and community platforms after Hylo, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Courses & Communities Insider's Guide

Every one of the 99 course and community platforms we grade, compared

Academy LMS Insider's Guide

WordPress LMS plugin with a free core and Pro licenses by site count

2.8 GPA

Circle Insider's Guide

Community platform with courses, events, payments and branded apps

2.8 GPA

FluentCommunity Insider's Guide

WordPress community and course plugin, free with paid Pro licenses

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 Hylo'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. Hylo is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Terran Collective. Prices and plans change: check hylo.com before you buy.