ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Kudos

The Insider's Guide

Employee recognition and rewards platform from Calgary



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among HR software, read from Kudos's own pages.

Made by Kudos, Inc. · checked Nov 13, 2026 · toolgpa.com

1.8
GPA

The Next Generation of Recognition Software



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

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GPA, above 22 of the 101 other HR software we grade

Kudos is a cloud employee recognition platform with a mobile application, covering recognition messages, rewards, awards and nominations, milestones, celebrations and announcements. It publishes no prices and sells through demos. The company says it is based in Calgary, Alberta.

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

> **It also splits 'classic' and 'upgraded' versions with separate help sites, and it's recognition only, with no HR records or payroll.**
>
> From our report card of Kudos

1 **Best for recognition and rewards**

Kudos is an employee recognition and rewards platform from Calgary.

2 **It runs on Web**

Web.

3 **Employee recognition**

Recognition messages tied to company values, sendable through Teams and Slack.

4 **Rewards and incentives**

Rewards budget management and incentive programs alongside recognition.

5 **Awards and nominations**

Nomination-based awards for teams and individuals.

6 **A 1.8 GPA, above 22 of 101**

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

7 **Keep it**

The plain part of Kudos you could make: reports. What surrounds it you could not. The 2 things listed below take a company, not a weekend.

Kudos at a glance

PRICING Paid	FREE PLAN No
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON Web
MADE BY Kudos, Inc., since 2011	CATEGORY HR Software
OUR GRADE 1.8 GPA, weak	

The report card

Best for recognition and rewards

Kudos is an employee recognition and rewards platform from Calgary. The site offers a 30-minute demo and no price. It also splits 'classic' and

'upgraded' versions with separate help sites, and it's recognition only, with no HR records or payroll.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD	Kudos	Graded Nov 13, 2026
SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	C	No price is published, so there's nothing to set against the $2 to $9 a seat a month this category charges. That leaves it at C.
Free plan and trial	F	No free plan and no trial is listed. You start with a demo request.
Features	C	Recognition and rewards, which it does fully, but the listing says it is recognition only, with no HR records or payroll. A smaller job, so C.
Ease of use	C	No store rating on record, and you'd set it up with your own people data first, so it's an ordinary C.
Platforms and integrations	B	Web only, with eight listed integrations. No mobile or desktop app named.
Grade point average		Weak, out of 4.0 **1.8**

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 Kudos is for

- ✓ Fits if you only want recognition and rewards
- ✓ Works for teams that connect it to chat and HR tools, with eight listed

Who it is not for

- ✕ Skip it if you want a price, because only a demo is offered
- ✕ Not for you if you want HR records or payroll, as it is recognition only
- ✕ Watch out: the site separates 'classic' and 'upgraded' versions with separate help sites
- ✕ Not for you if you want to try it first, as no trial is listed

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ HR teams building a recognition habit in Teams or Slack
- ✓ Organizations that need an HRIS user sync, or a file transfer if none is available

Worth knowing

- ⓘ No prices are published; the site offers a 30-minute demo.
- ⓘ The site separates 'classic' and 'upgraded' versions of the platform, with separate help sites.
- ⓘ Recognition and rewards only: it is not an HR records or payroll system.

What it costs

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

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

We could not confirm Kudos's current prices from its own site, so this guide lists no plans. kudos.com has them.

What it does

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

1

Place it runs: Web

Employee recognition and rewards platform from Calgary. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: AI features, reports.

> **Recognition and rewards, which it does fully, but the listing says it is recognition only, with no HR records or payroll.**
>
> From our grade for features

Employee recognition

Recognition messages tied to company values, sendable through Teams and Slack.

Rewards and incentives

Rewards budget management and incentive programs alongside recognition.

Awards and nominations

Nomination-based awards for teams and individuals.

Milestones and celebrations

Automated milestone recognition, celebrations and cards.

AI recognition assistant

An AI helper for writing recognition.

Reporting

Reporting on recognition activity, plus announcements and group Spaces.

Where it runs

Web

What it works with

Microsoft Teams · Slack · Workday · ADP · UKG · SAP SuccessFactors · Paycor · BambooHR

Kudos is made by Kudos, Inc., and has been around since 2011.

PART 04 · STANDING

Where it stands

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

22/101

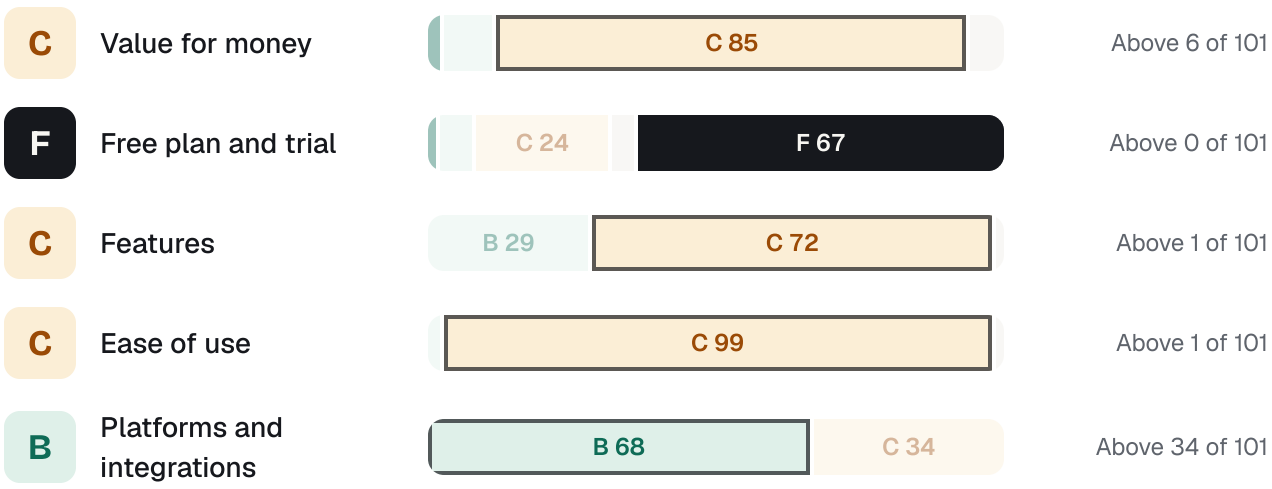
Other HR software it is graded above

Kudos's GPA of 1.8 is higher than 22 of the 101 other HR software we grade, and level with 33.

It stands best on platforms and integrations (B, above 34 of 101) and worst on free plan and trial (F, above 0).

Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 102 HR software we grade, cut by the letter each got. Kudos'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

The plain part of Kudos you could make: reports. What surrounds it you could not. The 2 things listed below take a company, not a weekend.

That makes this kind of software worth paying for, not this one in particular: 46 of the 101 other HR software grade higher.

What you could make

- Reports: an app builder makes this well.

What you could not

- It plugs into other products, Microsoft Teams, Slack and Workday among them.
- AI features, unless you pay a model provider for each request yourself.

What this rests on. Kudos'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.

PART 05 · ALTERNATIVES

The alternatives

The tools it is most often weighed against, side by side



Bonusly, Workhuman, Motivosity, Awardco and Vantage Circle

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

2.2 GPA

Bonusly

Free trial · from $5/mo

Peer-to-peer employee recognition and rewards.

- Only Bonusly lists iOS and Android apps.
- Bonusly also covers community.

Kudos and Bonusly compared in full

2.0 GPA

Workhuman

Paid

Social recognition and rewards platform for large employers.

- Workhuman also covers dashboards.

Kudos and Workhuman compared in full

2.0 GPA

Motivosity

Paid

Employee recognition and rewards platform with a social feed.

- Only Motivosity lists iOS and Android apps.
- Motivosity also covers surveys and dashboards.

Kudos and Motivosity compared in full



1.8
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Awardco

Paid

Employee recognition, rewards and survey platform sold by quote.

- Awardco also covers surveys.

Kudos and Awardco compared in full



1.8
GPA

Vantage Circle

Paid

Employee recognition, rewards, wellness and survey platform.

- Only Vantage Circle lists iOS and Android apps.
- Vantage Circle also covers surveys and dashboards.

Kudos and Vantage Circle compared in full

PART 06 · QUESTIONS

Quick answers

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

10

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 Kudos free?

No. Kudos is a paid product.

What platforms does Kudos work on?

Kudos is available on Web.

Does Kudos have an Android app?

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

Does Kudos have an iPhone app?

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

Is Kudos open source?

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

What does Kudos integrate with?

Kudos's listing names Microsoft Teams, Slack, Workday, ADP, UKG, SAP SuccessFactors, Paycor and BambooHR.

Who makes Kudos?

Kudos is made by Kudos, Inc. It dates from 2011.

What are the alternatives to Kudos?

The closest alternatives to Kudos in our directory are Bonusly, Workhuman, Motivosity, Awardco and Vantage Circle.

How does Kudos compare with other HR software?

Kudos's GPA of 1.8 is higher than 22 of the 101 other HR software we grade, and level with 33.

Could I make my own version of Kudos?

The plain part of Kudos you could make: reports. What surrounds it you could not.

Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from Kudos'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 Kudos'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 Kudos, Inc. Prices change, so check kudos.com before you buy.

kudos.com/

kudos.com/about-us

kudos.com/platform/integrations

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

Kudos, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/kudos

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, "Kudos: The Insider's Guide", checked
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Send them this guide: toolgpa.com/tools/kudos/guide

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded HR software after Kudos, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

HR Software Insider's Guide

Every one of the 102 HR software we grade, compared

Breathe Insider's Guide

UK HR software for small firms, priced per business, not per person

2.6 GPA

Buk Insider's Guide

Latin American HR and payroll suite with a free tier for 20 people

2.6 GPA

Leave Dates Insider's Guide

Annual leave planner and absence tracker for small teams

2.6 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 Kudos'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. Kudos is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Kudos, Inc. Prices and plans change: check kudos.com before you buy.