ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Launchy

The Insider's Guide

Open-source keystroke launcher with plugins and skins



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among window managers and launchers, read from Launchy's own pages.

Made by Josh Karlin · 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 Launchy's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Launchy'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 47 of the 48 other window managers and launchers we grade

Launchy is an open-source launcher that indexes the programs in your start menu and opens documents, folders and bookmarks from a few typed letters. It runs on Windows, macOS and Linux and can be extended with plugins and skins made by other developers. It is offered on a pay-what-you-want basis.

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

> **No store rating on record, but you install it and type; nothing needs setting up first.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

1 **Best for a small launcher on Windows, Mac and Linux**

Launchy indexes your start menu and opens programs, folders and bookmarks from a few typed letters, on Windows, macOS and Linux.

2 **It is free**

Launchy has no paid plan at all. Pay what you want: it can be downloaded for free, with a suggested payment of $10 and a request to consider at least $3.

3 **It runs on 3 platforms**

Windows, macOS and Linux.

4 **Start menu indexing**

Indexes the programs in the start menu and launches documents, project files, folders and bookmarks from a few keystrokes.

5 **Plugins**

Windows-only plugins from other developers cover tasks such as killing processes, a calculator and PuTTY sessions.

6 **Plugin development**

Plugins can be written in C++, or with add-ons in .NET or Python.

7 **A 3.0 GPA, above 47 of 48**

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

8 **Keep it**

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

Launchy at a glance

PRICING Free	FREE PLAN Yes
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON macOS, Windows, Linux
MADE BY Josh Karlin	CATEGORY Window Managers & Launchers
OUR GRADE 3.0 GPA, very good	

The report card

Best for a small launcher on Windows, Mac and Linux

Launchy indexes your start menu and opens programs, folders and bookmarks from a few typed letters, on Windows, macOS and Linux. The site

dates neither its stable 2.5 nor its 2.6 beta, and the plugins page is Windows only and used at your own risk.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD **Launchy** Graded Nov 13, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	A	Pay what you want: a free download, with $10 suggested and a request for at least $3.
Free plan and trial	A	Downloading is free with nothing locked, though the vendor asks you to consider paying at least $3.
Features	C	Start menu indexing, plugins and skins. The plugins are Windows only and come from other developers, so the core job is covered but unevenly across systems.
Ease of use	B	No store rating on record, but you install it and type; nothing needs setting up first.
Platforms and integrations	C	Windows, macOS and Linux builds, computers only, with no phone or web version.

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 Launchy is for

- ✓ Fits if you want a small launcher that works the same on Windows, Mac and Linux
- ✓ Works for people who want to pay what they feel it is worth

Who it is not for

- ✗ Watch out: the site doesn't date the stable 2.5 or the 2.6 beta, so it is hard to tell if it is kept up
- ✗ Skip it if you want plugins off Windows, as the plugins page is Windows only
- ✗ Not for you if you worry about safety of add-ons, since plugins and skins are not vetted by the maker and are used at your own risk
- ✗ Pricey if you feel the ask, because the page keeps asking for at least $3

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Users who want a small, long-established launcher
- ✓ People who want to pay what they think is fair
- ✓ Linux and Mac users who want the same launcher on each system

Worth knowing

- ⓘ The latest stable version is 2.5, and the newest beta listed is 2.6 Beta 2; the site does not date either.
- ⓘ The plugins page is Windows only, and its author says third-party plugins are used at your own risk.
- ⓘ Plugins and skins come from other developers, with no vetting by the maker.
- ⓘ The Android app mentioned on the site is a separate product.

What it costs

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

Free

No paid plan at all

Launchy is free to use.

PAY WHAT YOU WANT

$0

Free download; the vendor suggests $10 and asks for at least $3, with options from $3 to $100.

The free plan

Pay what you want: it can be downloaded for free, with a suggested payment of $10 and a request to consider at least $3.

Read from launchy.net 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

Open-source keystroke launcher with plugins and skins. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: open source, keyboard-first, launcher.

> **The plugins are Windows only and come from other developers, so the core job is covered but unevenly across systems.**
>
> From our grade for features

Start menu indexing

Indexes the programs in the start menu and launches documents, project files, folders and bookmarks from a few keystrokes.

Plugins

Windows-only plugins from other developers cover tasks such as killing processes, a calculator and PuTTY sessions.

Plugin development

Plugins can be written in C++, or with add-ons in .NET or Python.

Skins

The look of the launcher can be changed with skins found in the Launchy forums.

Several operating systems

The download page lists builds for Windows, Mac OS X and Linux, with a source tarball.

Where it runs

macOS Windows Linux

What it works with

PuTTY

Launchy is made by Josh Karlin.

Where it stands

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

47/48

Other window managers and launchers it is graded above

Launchy's GPA of 3.0 is higher than 47 of the 48 other window managers and launchers we grade, and level with 1.

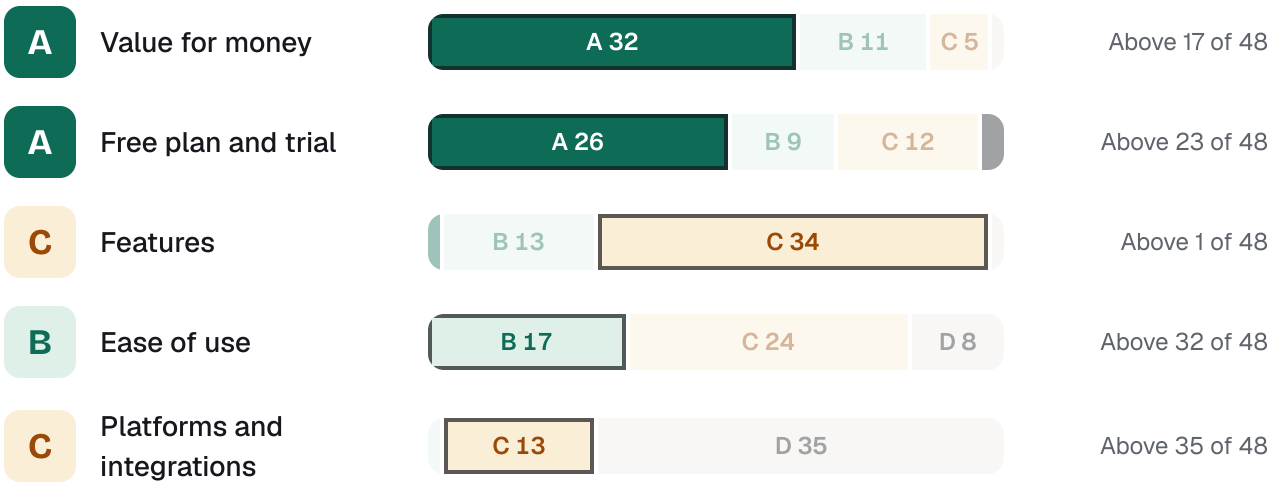
It stands best on free plan and trial (A, above 23 of 48) and worst on features (C, above 1).

Launchy has no paid plan.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 2.3 out of 4, and no tool on the category's chart scores higher without costing more.

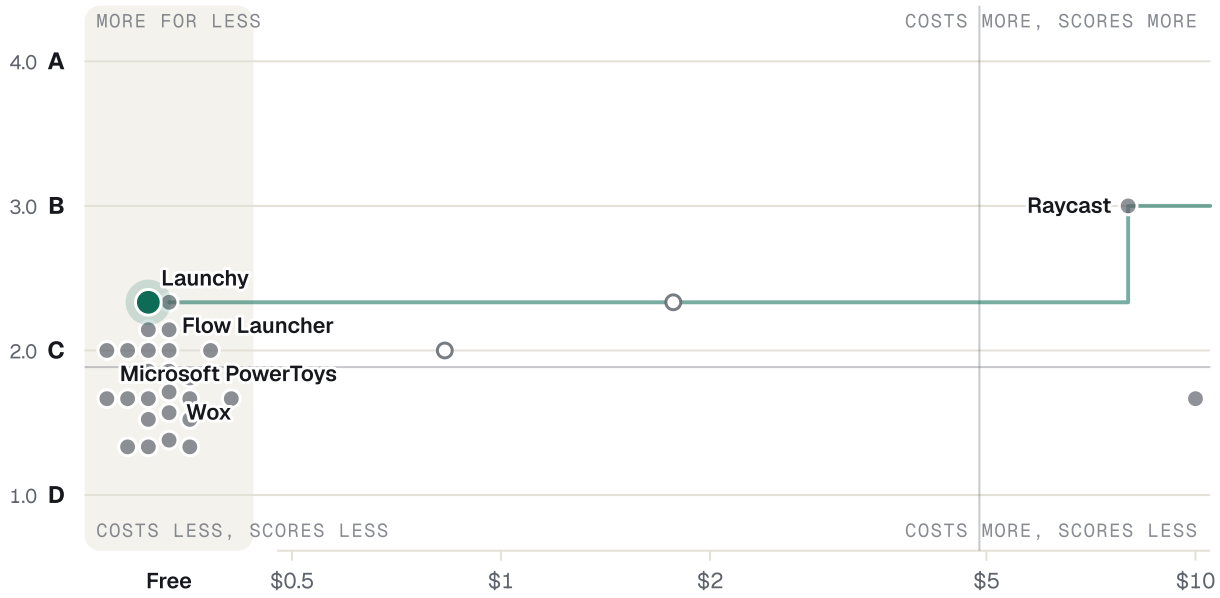
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 49 window managers and launchers we grade, cut by the letter each got. Launchy's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 29 window managers and launchers. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. Launchy 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

Launchy 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 3.0 is higher than 47 of the 48 other window managers and launchers we grade.

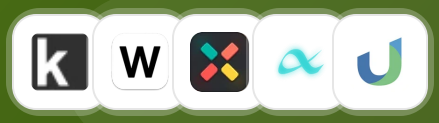
What you could not

- ✕ A launcher wired into the operating system.
- ✕ Apps for macOS, Windows and Linux that stay in step with each other.

What this rests on. Launchy'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



Keypirinha, Wox, Executor, Albert and Ulauncher

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

Keypirinha

2.4 GPA

Free

Free keyboard launcher for Windows with Python plugins.

- Only Launchy lists macOS and Linux apps.
- Launchy is open source, according to its own site.

Launchy and Keypirinha compared in full

Wox

2.8 GPA

Free

Open-source keyboard launcher for Windows, macOS and Linux.

- Wox also covers clipboard manager and window management.

Launchy and Wox compared in full



2.6 GPA

Executor

Free

Free MIT-licensed keyword launcher built only for Windows.

- Only Launchy lists macOS and Linux apps.
- Executor also covers clipboard manager and calculator.

Launchy and Executor compared in full



2.6 GPA

Albert

Free

Plugin-based keyboard launcher for Linux and macOS.

- Only Launchy lists a Windows app.
- Launchy is open source, according to its own site.

Launchy and Albert compared in full



2.6 GPA

Ulauncher

Free

Open-source application launcher for Linux with extensions.

- Only Launchy lists Windows and macOS apps.

Launchy and Ulauncher compared in full

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 Launchy free?

Yes. Launchy is free to use.

How much does Launchy cost?

Launchy lists one plan. Pay what you want: $0.

What platforms does Launchy work on?

Launchy is available on Windows, macOS and Linux.

Does Launchy have an Android app?

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

Does Launchy have an iPhone app?

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

Is Launchy open source?

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

What does Launchy integrate with?

Launchy's listing names PuTTY. A listing names up to eight integrations, so it may connect to more.

Who makes Launchy?

Launchy is made by Josh Karlin.

What are the alternatives to Launchy?

The closest alternatives to Launchy in our directory are Keypirinha, Wox, Executor, Albert and Ulauncher.

How does Launchy compare with other window managers and launchers?

Launchy's GPA of 3.0 is higher than 47 of the 48 other window managers and launchers we grade, and level with 1.

Is Launchy good value for money?

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

Could I make my own version of Launchy?

Launchy 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 Launchy'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 Launchy'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 Josh Karlin. Prices change, so check launchy.net before you buy.

launchy.net/

launchy.net/download.php

launchy.net/plugins.php

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

Launchy, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/launchy

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, "Launchy: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 13, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/launchy
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Know someone choosing between window managers and launchers?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded window managers and launchers after Launchy, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Window Managers & Launchers Insider's Guide

Every one of the 49 window managers and launchers we grade, compared

Flow Launcher Insider's Guide

Free, open-source app launcher and file search for Windows

3.0 GPA

Cerebro Insider's Guide

Free open-source Electron launcher for Windows, Mac and Linux

2.8 GPA

DockDoor Insider's Guide

Free Dock window previews and Alt-Tab switcher for macOS

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 Launchy'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. Launchy is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Josh Karlin. Prices and plans change: check launchy.net before you buy.