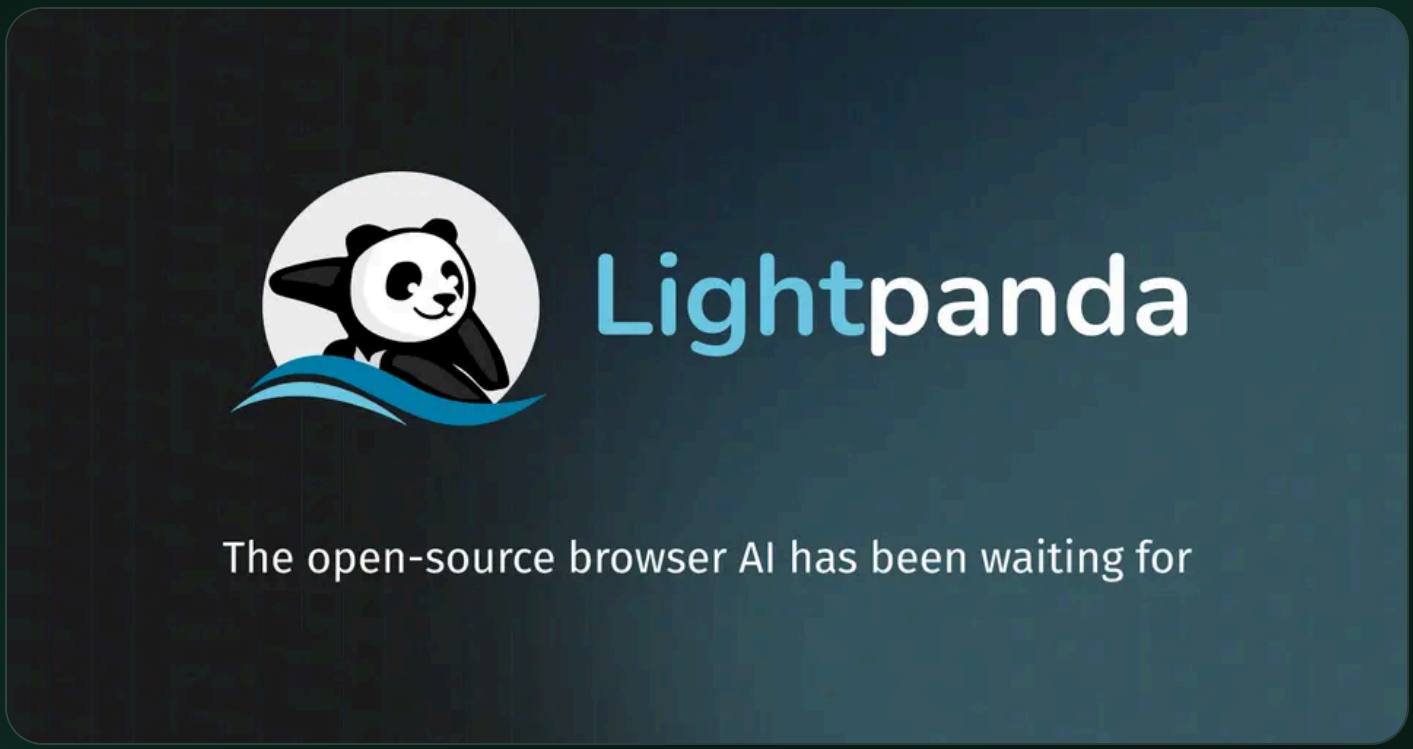
ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Lightpanda

The Insider's Guide

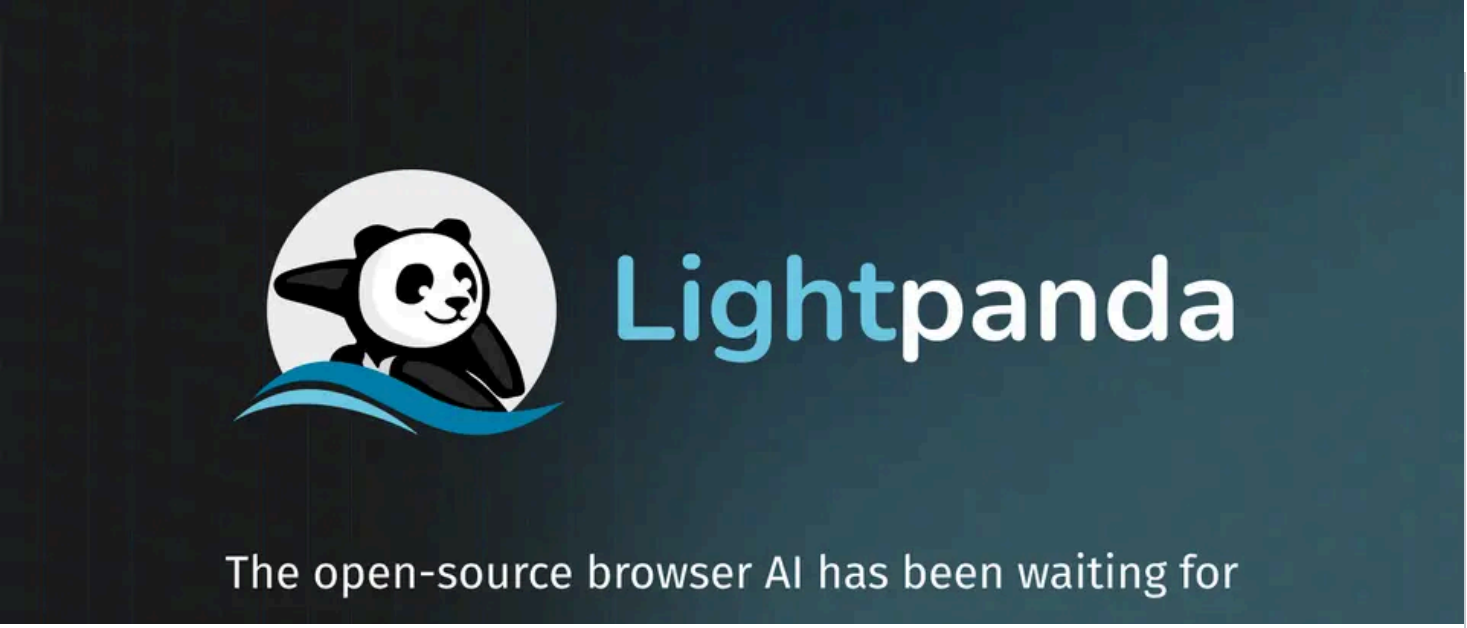
Lightweight headless browser for automation and AI agents



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

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

2.4
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 Lightpanda's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Lightpanda'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

2.4

GPA, above 17 of the 60 other browsers we grade

Lightpanda is a headless browser engine written in Zig for crawling, automation and AI agents. It runs JavaScript but does no graphical rendering. You can run it locally under an open-source license or use the hosted Lightpanda Cloud, which is priced in browser hours.

To get you started, here are **9 things to know about Lightpanda**, taken from its own pages and our grades.

> "
>
> **It runs JavaScript but draws no pages, so it is not a browser for reading the web, and the speed numbers on its site are its own.**
>
> From our report card of Lightpanda

1 **Best for headless browsing for crawlers and AI agents**

Lightpanda is a headless browser engine in Zig for crawling, automation and AI agents.

2 **Paid plans start at $19 a month**

As its pricing page puts it: $19 per month for 300 browser hours.

3 There is a free plan

Explorer: 10 browser hours a month and 5 concurrent sessions on Lightpanda Cloud.

4 It runs on 2 platforms

Linux and macOS.

5 Built for machines

A browser engine built from scratch for headless use, running JavaScript without rendering graphics.

6 CDP support

Works with Puppeteer, Playwright and Chromedp through the Chrome DevTools Protocol; the docs also cover WebDriver and Selenium.

7 Agent tooling

The docs list an MCP server, an agent mode with PandaScript, and a Python SDK.

8 A 2.4 GPA, above 17 of 60

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

9 Keep it

To replace Lightpanda you would be making a web browser. That is not a weekend's work, with an AI app builder or without one.

Lightpanda at a glance

PRICING Free plan, from $19 per month for 300 browser hours	FREE PLAN Yes
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON macOS, Linux
MADE BY Lightpanda	CATEGORY Browsers
OUR GRADE 2.4 GPA, fair	

The report card

Best for headless browsing for crawlers and AI agents

Lightpanda is a headless browser engine in Zig for crawling, automation and AI agents. It runs JavaScript but draws no pages, so it is not a browser for reading the web, and the speed numbers on its site are its own.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD — **Lightpanda** — Graded Nov 13, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	A	Open source to run yourself, and Lightpanda Cloud has a $0 Explorer plan. Builder is $19 a month, under this category's $19.99 dearer quarter.
Free plan and trial	A	Run it locally at no charge, or use Cloud's Explorer plan with 10 browser hours and 5 concurrent sessions a month.
Features	D	One narrow function: a headless engine with CDP support, and you need Puppeteer, Playwright or similar to drive it.
Ease of use	D	No rating on record. It has no graphical interface and is driven by code and the command line.
Platforms and integrations	C	Linux and macOS, with Windows through WSL, and works with Puppeteer, Playwright, Chromedp, Selenium and Stagehand. No phone.

Grade point average — Fair, out of 4.0 **2.4**

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 Lightpanda is for

- ✓ Fits if you write crawlers or automations and want a light engine
- ✓ Makes sense if you run AI agents that need pages loaded without a screen

Who it is not for

- ✗ Skip it if you want to read websites: it has no graphical interface
- ✗ Not for you if you avoid code, because it is driven through a command line and libraries
- ✗ Tight if you stay on Explorer: 10 browser hours and 5 sessions a month
- ✗ Watch out: Cloud plans are bring-your-own-proxy
- ✗ Watch out: the benchmark numbers are the vendor's own, from one test setup

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Developers running crawlers and scraping jobs at scale
- ✓ Teams building AI agents that need a fast, low-memory browser
- ✓ Anyone who wants to self-run an open-source headless browser

Worth knowing

- ⓘ It has no graphical interface: it is a headless engine, not a browser for everyday browsing.
- ⓘ The vendor's site lists Linux, macOS and Windows through WSL as operating systems.
- ⓘ Cloud plans bring your own proxy.
- ⓘ The vendor's benchmark numbers are its own, run on one test setup.

PART 02 · PRICING

What it costs

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

$19

A month to start. There is a free plan too

Lightpanda has a free plan. Paid plans start at $19 per month for 300 browser hours.

EXPLORER

$0

per month for 10 browser hours

5 concurrent sessions, community support on Discord, bring your own proxy.

BUILDER

$19

per month for 300 browser hours

30 concurrent sessions, email and Slack support, bring your own proxy. Hours beyond 300 cost $0.08 each.

ENTERPRISE

Custom

Custom volume pricing, dedicated support, SLA and uptime guarantees, and on-premise or private cloud options.

The free plan

Explorer: 10 browser hours a month and 5 concurrent sessions on Lightpanda Cloud.

Read from lightpanda.io on Nov 13, 2026.

What it does

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

2

Places it runs: macOS and Linux

Lightweight headless browser for automation and AI agents. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: open source, workflow automation, web browser.

> **One narrow function: a headless engine with CDP support, and you need Puppeteer, Playwright or similar to drive it.**
>
> From our grade for features

Built for machines

A browser engine built from scratch for headless use, running JavaScript without rendering graphics.

CDP support

Works with Puppeteer, Playwright and Chromedp through the Chrome DevTools Protocol; the docs also cover WebDriver and Selenium.

Agent tooling

The docs list an MCP server, an agent mode with PandaScript, and a Python SDK.

Local or cloud

Install it locally with a one-line script, Docker or a package manager, or run sessions on Lightpanda Cloud.

Speed and memory claims

The vendor's benchmark, run against chromedp on 933 pages, shows 5 seconds against 46 and 123 MB against 2 GB peak memory.

Where it runs

macOS

Linux

What it works with

Puppeteer

Playwright

Chromedp

Selenium

Stagehand

Lightpanda is made by Lightpanda.

PART 04 · STANDING

Where it stands

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

17/60

Other browsers it is graded above

Lightpanda's GPA of 2.4 is higher than 17 of the 60 other browsers we grade, and level with 2.

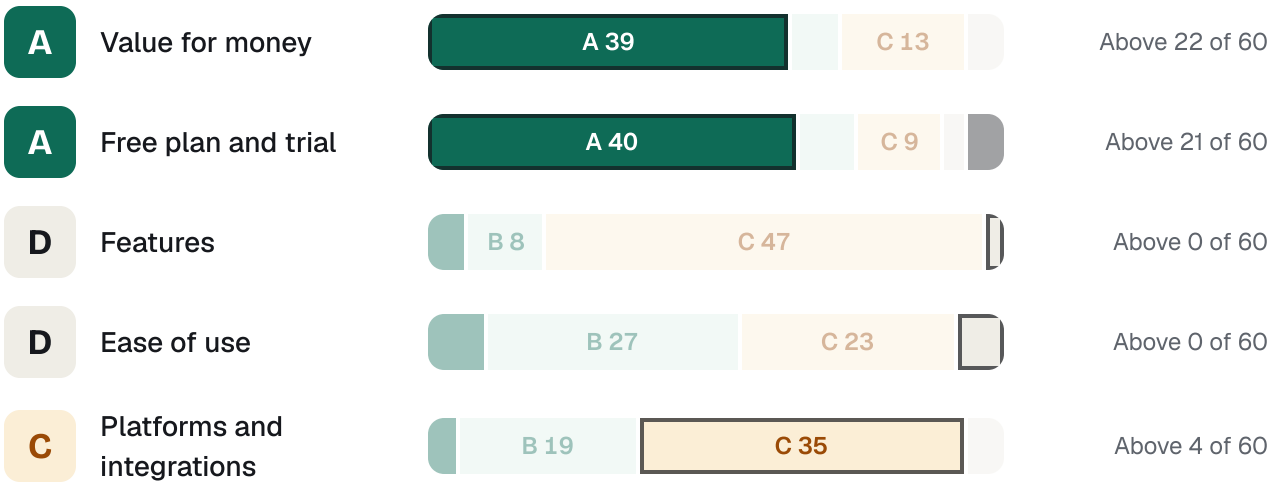
It stands best on value for money (A, above 22 of 60) and worst on features (D, above 0).

Its paid plans start at $19 a month, against a middle price of $9.50 for the category: 14 of the 19 others that charge start lower.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 1.3 out of 4. 48 tools score higher and cost less.

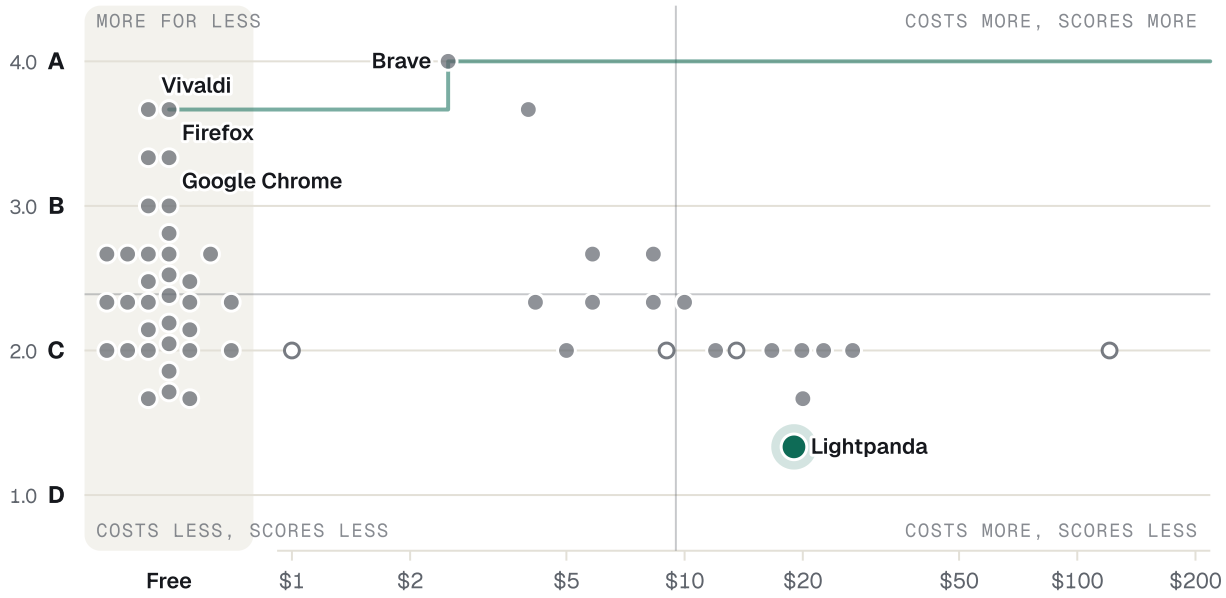
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 61 browsers we grade, cut by the letter each got. Lightpanda'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. Lightpanda 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

To replace Lightpanda you would be making a web browser. 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 60 other browsers grade higher. It costs $228 a year. Lightpanda is open source, so there is a third way: take its code and run it yourself.

What you could not

- ✕ A web browser.
- ✕ Connections to other products, each kept working as those products change.

× A real app for macOS and Linux. Something home-made would be a web page.

What this rests on. Lightpanda'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



Hyperbeam, Kasm Workspaces and Chromium

The 3 tools Lightpanda is most often weighed against, with where each one differs from it.

2.0 GPA

Hyperbeam

Free plan

API for embedding shared cloud browsers and virtual computers.

- Only Lightpanda lists Linux and macOS apps.
- Only Hyperbeam lists a web app.
- Lightpanda is open source, according to its own site.

Lightpanda and Hyperbeam compared in full

2.2 GPA

Kasm Workspaces

Free plan

Containerized desktops, apps and browsers streamed to a browser.

- Only Lightpanda lists Linux and macOS apps.
- Only Kasm Workspaces lists a web app.
- Kasm Workspaces is self-hostable, according to its own site.

Lightpanda and Kasm Workspaces compared in full



2.8
GPA

Chromium

Free

Open-source browser project, with builds for testing and development.

- Only Chromium lists a Windows app.
- Lightpanda also covers workflow automation.

Lightpanda and Chromium compared in full

PART 06 · QUESTIONS

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 Lightpanda free?

Lightpanda has a free plan. Explorer: 10 browser hours a month and 5 concurrent sessions on Lightpanda Cloud.

How much does Lightpanda cost?

Lightpanda lists 3 plans. Explorer: $0 per month for 10 browser hours.

What platforms does Lightpanda work on?

Lightpanda is available on Linux and macOS.

Does Lightpanda have an Android app?

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

Does Lightpanda have an iPhone app?

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

Is Lightpanda open source?

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

What does Lightpanda integrate with?

Lightpanda's listing names Puppeteer, Playwright, Chromedp, Selenium and Stagehand.

Who makes Lightpanda?

Lightpanda is made by a company of the same name.

What are the alternatives to Lightpanda?

The closest alternatives to Lightpanda in our directory are Hyperbeam, Kasm Workspaces and Chromium.

How does Lightpanda compare with other browsers?

Lightpanda's GPA of 2.4 is higher than 17 of the 60 other browsers we grade, and level with 2.

Is Lightpanda good value for money?

ToolGPA grades Lightpanda A for value for money. Its paid plans start at $19 a month, against a middle price of $9.50 for the category: 14 of the 19 others that charge start lower.

Could I make my own version of Lightpanda?

To replace Lightpanda you would be making a web browser. That is not a weekend's work, with an AI app builder or without one.

Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from Lightpanda'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 Lightpanda'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 Lightpanda. Prices change, so check lightpanda.io before you buy.

lightpanda.io
lightpanda.io/docs
lightpanda.io/pricing

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

Lightpanda, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/lightpanda

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, "Lightpanda: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 13, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/lightpanda
```

Know someone choosing between browsers?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded browsers after Lightpanda, 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 Lightpanda'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. Lightpanda is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Lightpanda. Prices and plans change: check lightpanda.io before you buy.