ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Mailu

The Insider's Guide

Free Docker-based mail server with webmail and admin UI



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among email apps, read from Mailu's own pages.

Made by Mailu project · checked Nov 13, 2026 · toolgpa.com

2.0
GPA

M

Contents

01 Welcome
What it is, who it suits, its grades and the ten things to know first

02 What it costs
Every plan, the free plan, ways to pay less and how prices have moved

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

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

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

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

07 About ToolGPA
Who made this guide, what else is on the site, and how to cite it

ToolGPA put this guide together from Mailu's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Mailu'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

2.0

GPA, above 11 of the 122 other email apps we grade

Mailu is a mail server packaged as a set of Docker images. It provides IMAP, SMTP and submission, webmail, an admin interface, spam and virus filtering, and DNS and TLS helpers. It is free software maintained by contributors and run on your own server, with Docker Compose and Kubernetes setups documented.

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

> **You supply the server, DNS, TLS and backups, and the project avoids groupware, so there are no calendars or contacts.**
>
> From our report card of Mailu

1 **Best for a simple Docker mail server**

Mailu is a free Docker-based mail server with webmail and an admin panel.

2 **It is free**

Mailu has no paid plan at all. The whole mail server is free software; you provide the server, domain and upkeep.

3 **It runs on Web**

Web.

4 **Standard mail server**

IMAP, SMTP and submission with auto-configuration profiles for mail clients.

5 **Webmail and admin interface**

Includes web access to mail and an admin interface with global admins, per-domain delegation, announcements and quotas.

6 **User mail features**

Aliases, domain aliases, auto-reply, auto-forward, fetched accounts, ManageSieve and full-text search of attachments.

7 **A 2.0 GPA, above 11 of 122**

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

8 **Keep it**

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

Mailu at a glance

PRICING Free	FREE PLAN Yes
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON Web
MADE BY Mailu project	CATEGORY Email Apps
OUR GRADE 2.0 GPA, fair	

The report card

Best for a simple Docker mail server

Mailu is a free Docker-based mail server with webmail and an admin panel. You supply the server, DNS, TLS and backups, and the project avoids groupware, so there are no calendars or contacts.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD

Mailu

Graded Nov 13, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	C	Free to run yourself, with a server to provide. The docs ask for 1 GB of memory, or 3 GB with antivirus.
Free plan and trial	B	The whole server is free software, with no paid plan. You provide the machine and the upkeep.
Features	C	Standard mail, webmail, an admin panel, spam filtering and security options. The project says it avoids groupware, so calendars and contacts are missing.
Ease of use	D	You run Docker or Kubernetes, DNS records and TLS yourself.
Platforms and integrations	C	Web admin and webmail, with Docker, Kubernetes and Let's Encrypt. No apps of its own.

Grade point average — Fair, out of 4.0 **2.0**

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 Mailu is for

- ✓ Fits if you want your own mail server in Docker and no groupware
- ✓ Works for admins who like plain compose files

Who it is not for

- ✗ Skip it if you want calendars and contacts, since the project says it avoids groupware
- ✗ Skip it if you don't want to run the server, DNS and backups
- ✗ Watch out: support is the community and contributors, and no paid plan exists
- ✗ Watch out: the docs are versioned, so make sure you read the one for your version

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Self-hosters who want a lean mail server without groupware extras
- ✓ Admins already running Docker or Kubernetes
- ✓ Small organizations hosting mail for their own domains

Worth knowing

- ⓘ You provide and maintain the server, DNS records, TLS and backups yourself.
- ⓘ The project says it aims to avoid groupware features, so calendars and contacts are not part of the core.
- ⓘ Support is from the community and contributors; no paid plan appears on the site.
- ⓘ The documentation is versioned, so check you are reading the version you run.

What it costs

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

Free

No paid plan at all

Mailu is free to use.

> **Free to run yourself, with a server to provide.**
>
> From our grade for value for money

MAILU

$0

Free software you host yourself. The docs list 1 GB of memory without antivirus or 3 GB with it.

The free plan

The whole mail server is free software; you provide the server, domain and upkeep.

Read from mailu.io on Nov 13, 2026.

What it does

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

1

Place it runs: Web

Free Docker-based mail server with webmail and admin UI. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: open source, self-hostable, email client, dMARC.

"

Standard mail, webmail, an admin panel, spam filtering and security options.

From our grade for features

Standard mail server

IMAP, SMTP and submission with auto-configuration profiles for mail clients.

Webmail and admin interface

Includes web access to mail and an admin interface with global admins, per-domain delegation, announcements and quotas.

User mail features

Aliases, domain aliases, auto-reply, auto-forward, fetched accounts, ManageSieve and full-text search of attachments.

Security options

Enforced TLS, DANE, MTA-STS, Let's Encrypt, outgoing DKIM, an antivirus scanner and blocking of malicious attachments.

Spam filtering

Auto-learning, greylisting, DMARC and SPF checks and anti-spoofing.

Compose and Kubernetes setups

Documented Docker Compose and Kubernetes installs, a RESTful API and a command line for administration.

Where it runs

Web

What it works with

Docker

Kubernetes

Let's Encrypt

Mailu is made by Mailu project.

PART 04 · STANDING

Where it stands

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

11/122

Other email apps it is graded above

Mailu's GPA of 2.0 is higher than 11 of the 122 other email apps we grade, and level with 17.

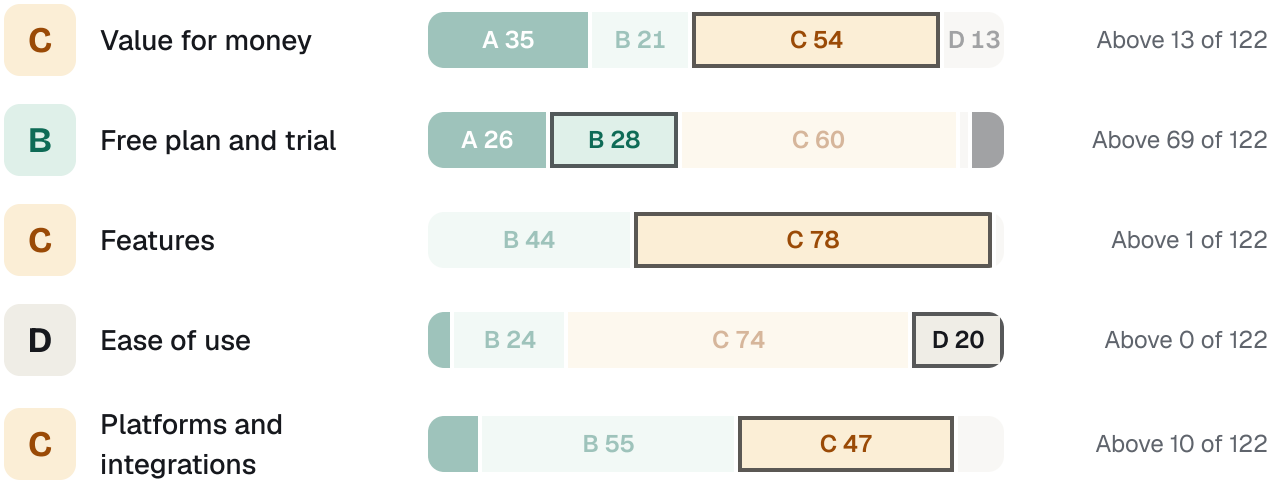
It stands best on free plan and trial (B, above 69 of 122) and worst on ease of use (D, above 0).

Mailu has no paid plan.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 1.7 out of 4. Nothing scores higher for less, though at least one tool matches that score at a lower price.

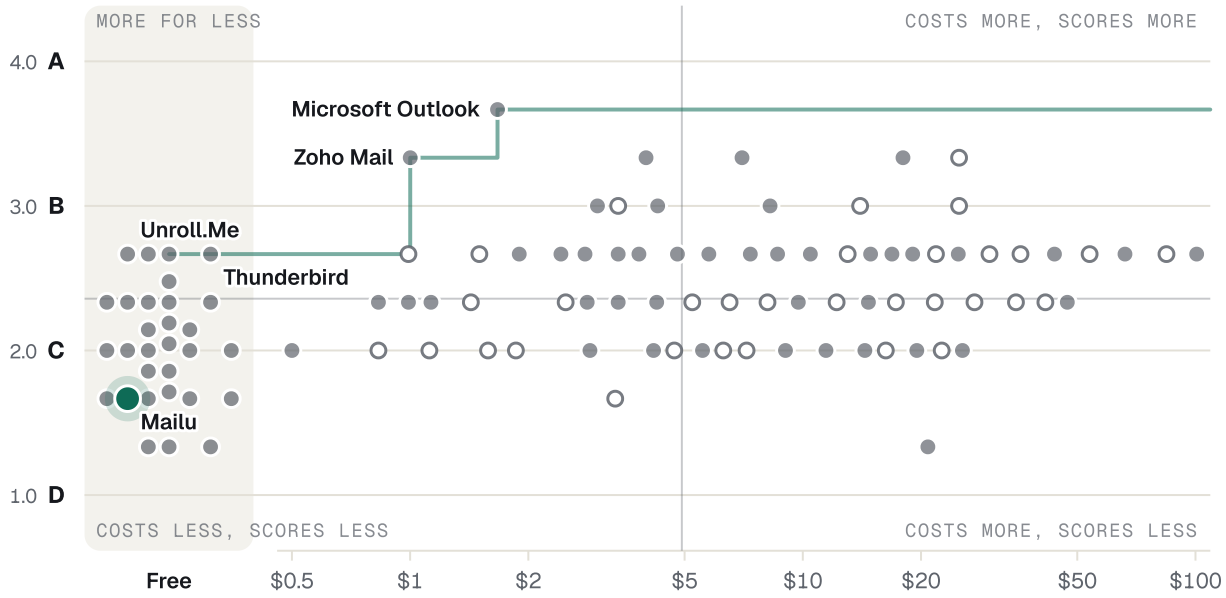
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 123 email apps we grade, cut by the letter each got. Mailu's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 107 email apps. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. Mailu 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

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

And it is not the kind of software a weekend replaces. That makes this kind of software worth paying for, not this one in particular: 94 of the 122 other email apps grade higher.

What you could not

- ✕ An email client: sending, receiving, threading and searching years of mail.
- ✕ Reading the reports inbox providers send about your domain.

What this rests on. Mailu'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



mailcow, Mail-in-a-Box, docker-mailserver, Modoboa and Stalwart Mail Server

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



2.4 GPA

mailcow

Free

Dockerized open-source mail server with a web admin UI.

- Mailu also covers dMARC.
- mailcow also covers calendar.

Mailu and mailcow compared in full



2.0 GPA

Mail-in-a-Box

Free

Free script that turns a cloud server into your own mail server.

- Mailu also covers dMARC.
- Mail-in-a-Box also covers calendar.

Mailu and Mail-in-a-Box compared in full



1.8
GPA

docker-mailserver

Free

Self-hosted mail server packaged as a Docker container.

- Only Mailu lists a web app.
- Only docker-mailserver lists a Linux app.
- Mailu also covers email client and dMARC.

Mailu and docker-mailserver compared in full

M

2.2
GPA

Modoboa

Free

Open-source mail server with a web admin panel and webmail.

- Mailu also covers dMARC.
- Modoboa also covers calendar.

Mailu and Modoboa compared in full



2.2
GPA

Stalwart Mail Server

Free plan · from $2.40/yr

Open-source mail and collaboration server written in Rust.

- Stalwart Mail Server also covers calendar and file sharing.

Mailu and Stalwart Mail Server 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 Mailu free?

Yes. Mailu is free to use.

How much does Mailu cost?

Mailu lists one plan. Mailu: $0.

What platforms does Mailu work on?

Mailu is available on Web.

Does Mailu have an Android app?

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

Does Mailu have an iPhone app?

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

Is Mailu open source?

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

What does Mailu integrate with?

Mailu's listing names Docker, Kubernetes and Let's Encrypt. A listing names up to eight integrations, so it may connect to more.

Who makes Mailu?

Mailu is made by Mailu project.

What are the alternatives to Mailu?

The closest alternatives to Mailu in our directory are mailcow, Mail-in-a-Box, docker-mailserver, Modoboa and Stalwart Mail Server.

How does Mailu compare with other email apps?

Mailu's GPA of 2.0 is higher than 11 of the 122 other email apps we grade, and level with 17.

Is Mailu good value for money?

ToolGPA grades Mailu C for value for money. Mailu has no paid plan.

Could I make my own version of Mailu?

Mailu 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 Mailu'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 the Mailu project'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 Mailu project. Prices change, so check mailu.io before you buy.

mailu.io/2024.06/index.html

mailu.io/2024.06/compose/requirements.html

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

Mailu, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/mailu

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

Know someone choosing between email apps?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded email apps after Mailu, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Email Apps Insider's Guide

Every one of the 126 email apps we grade, compared

Microsoft Outlook Insider's Guide

Microsoft's email and calendar app for desktop, mobile and web

3.6 GPA

AOL Mail Insider's Guide

Free webmail with news and weather in a companion mobile app

3.2 GPA

BlueMail Insider's Guide

Cross-platform email client with a unified inbox and built-in AI

3.2 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 Mailu'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. Mailu is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Mailu project. Prices and plans change: check mailu.io before you buy.