ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

MinIO

The Insider's Guide

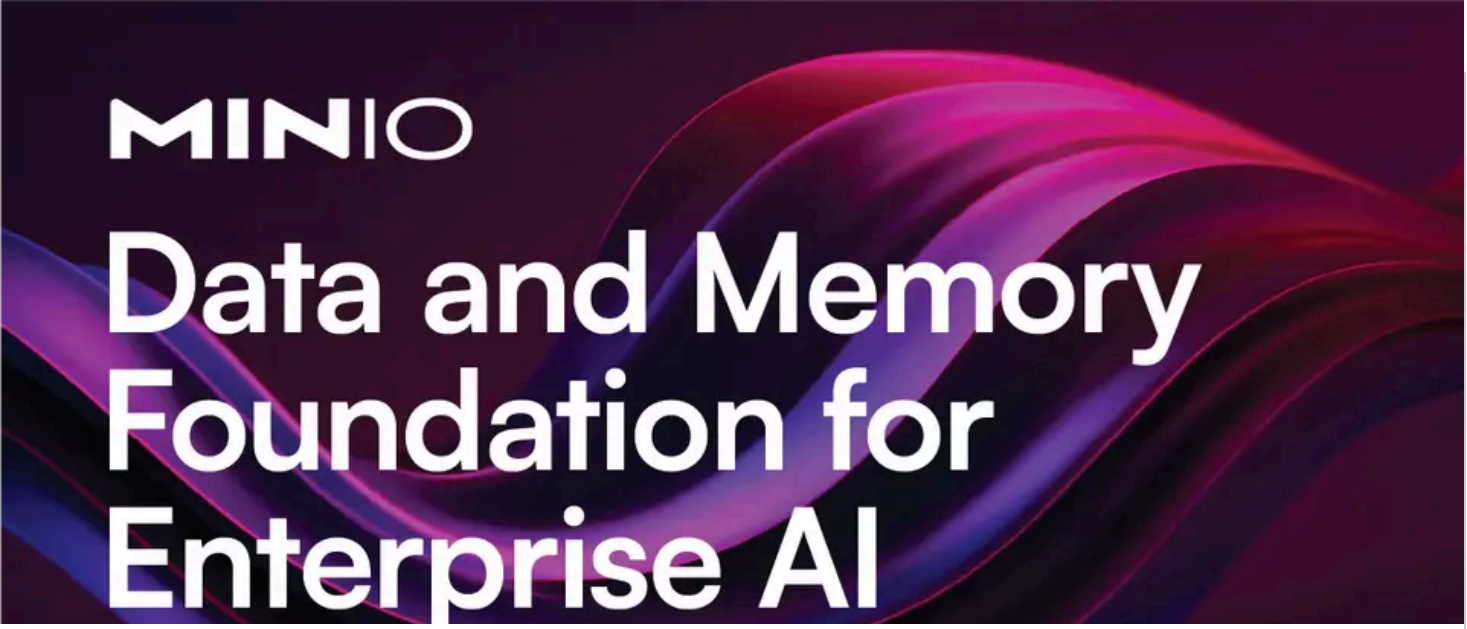
S3-compatible object storage software you run yourself



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among file storage and sync services, read from MinIO's own pages.

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

2.2
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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 MinIO's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on MinIO'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

2.2

GPA, above 34 of the 91 other file storage and sync services we grade

MinIO makes AIStor, object storage software that speaks the S3 API and also covers Iceberg tables and SFTP, deployed on your own servers or cloud. It is aimed at engineering and data teams rather than people who want a file-sync app. The original open-source edition is described on the pricing page as end of life.

> "
>
> **Deployed on your own servers or cloud and run by operators.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

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

1 **Best for S3-compatible object storage for engineers**

MinIO sells AIStor, S3-compatible object storage for engineering and data teams.

2 **There is a free plan**

AIStor Free: the full AIStor feature set on a single-node deployment, with community Slack and documentation support. Redistribution is prohibited.

3 **It runs on Web**

Web.

4 **S3-compatible object storage**

AIStor is described as fully S3-compatible, with S3 Express, an Iceberg catalog and SFTP also listed among its protocols.

5 **Replication**

The feature list names active-active, synchronous and asynchronous, multi-site, bucket and batch replication.

6 **Security**

Encryption, a key management server, a data firewall and immutability are listed, and the page shows FIPS 140-3, SOC 2 and ISO 27001 badges.

7 **A 2.2 GPA, above 34 of 91**

That is against the other file storage and sync services we grade, on value, the free plan, features, ease of use and platforms.

8 **Keep it**

Nothing MinIO does is plain enough to make in a weekend. The 3 things listed below take a company.

MinIO at a glance

PRICING Free plan	FREE PLAN Yes
FREE TRIAL 60-day free trial of Enterprise Lite and Enterprise	RUNS ON Web
MADE BY MinIO, Inc., since 2014	CATEGORY File Storage & Sync
OUR GRADE 2.2 GPA, fair	

The report card

Best for S3-compatible object storage for engineers

MinIO sells AIStor, S3-compatible object storage for engineering and data teams. The free version is a single node with no resilience, clusters need quoted Enterprise subscriptions, and the pricing page calls the old open source edition end of life.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD	MinIO	Graded Nov 13, 2026
SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	C	The free tier is single-node and Enterprise Lite and Enterprise are quoted on request, so there is no price to compare.
Free plan and trial	B	Free single-node deployment with the full feature set and community support. Redistribution is prohibited, and there is a 60-day trial of the paid tiers.
Features	C	S3 API, replication, security and management for object storage. It is not a file-sync app, and clustering is paid.
Ease of use	D	Deployed on your own servers or cloud and run by operators. No store rating on record.
Platforms and integrations	B	Web console, S3 API and Kubernetes, Prometheus, NVIDIA and Databricks listed.
Grade point average		Fair, out of 4.0 **2.2**

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 MinIO is for

- ✓ Fits if you run your own infrastructure and need S3-style storage
- ✓ Works for data teams that want a single test node for free

Who it is not for

- ✗ Not for you if you want a file-sync or sharing app
- ✗ Not for you if you want a managed service, as it runs on your own servers
- ✗ Watch out: the pricing page says the original AGPLv3 edition is end of life with no fixes or security patches
- ✗ Watch out: clusters need a paid subscription whose price is not published

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Engineering and data teams that need S3-compatible storage on their own hardware
- ✓ Single-node development and small self-supported deployments on the free tier

Worth knowing

- ⓘ Clustered, highly available deployments need a paid Enterprise Lite or Enterprise subscription; the free tier is single-node only.
- ⓘ No Enterprise Lite or Enterprise prices are published; both are quoted on request.
- ⓘ The pricing page says the original open-source MinIO edition (AGPLv3) is end of life with no fixes or security patches.
- ⓘ This is infrastructure software for operators, not a consumer file-sync or sharing app.

What it costs

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

3
plans to choose from

MinIO has a free plan.

> **The free tier is single-node and Enterprise Lite and Enterprise are quoted on request, so there is no price to compare.**
>
> From our grade for value for money

FREE

$0

Single-node deployment with community Slack and documentation support; no resiliency beyond one node.

ENTERPRISE LITE

Custom

Multi-node, horizontally scalable, for capacity under 400 TiB. Priced on request; optional direct-to-engineer support with a sub-5-day SLA.

ENTERPRISE

Custom

Multi-node with 24/7/365 direct-to-engineer support, a sub-4-hour SLA and dedicated onboarding. Priced on request.

The free plan

AIStor Free: the full AIStor feature set on a single-node deployment, with community Slack and documentation support. Redistribution is prohibited.

Trying it first

60-day free trial of Enterprise Lite and Enterprise

Read from min.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

S3-compatible object storage software you run yourself. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: self-hostable, public API, file management.

> **It is not a file-sync app, and clustering is paid.**

From our grade for features

S3-compatible object storage

AIStor is described as fully S3-compatible, with S3 Express, an Iceberg catalog and SFTP also listed among its protocols.

Replication

The feature list names active-active, synchronous and asynchronous, multi-site, bucket and batch replication.

Security

Encryption, a key management server, a data firewall and immutability are listed, and the page shows FIPS 140-3, SOC 2 and ISO 27001 badges.

Management

An admin console, quality-of-service controls, lifecycle management, audit trail and Prometheus metrics are listed.

Sized by usable capacity

Subscription pricing follows usable storage capacity after erasure-code overhead, not raw disk.

Where it runs

Web

What it works with

NVIDIA
Databricks
Kubernetes
Prometheus

MinIO is made by MinIO, Inc., and has been around since 2014.

Where it stands

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

34/91

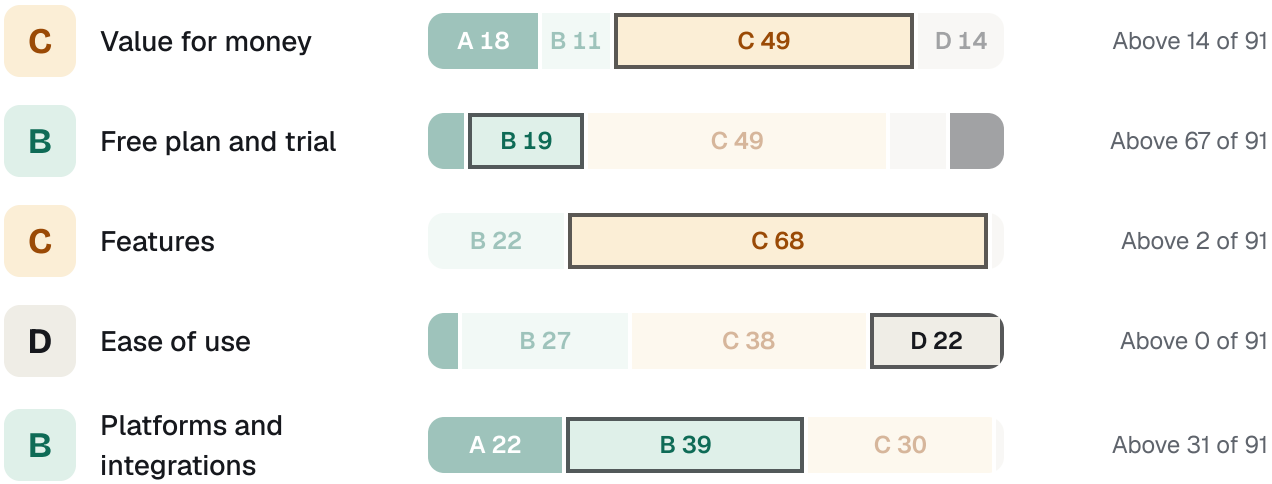
Other file storage and sync services it is graded above

MinIO's GPA of 2.2 is higher than 34 of the 91 other file storage and sync services we grade, and level with 9.

It stands best on free plan and trial (B, above 67 of 91) and worst on ease of use (D, above 0).

Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 92 file storage and sync services we grade, cut by the letter each got. MinIO'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

Nothing MinIO does is plain enough to make in a weekend. The 3 things listed below take a company.

What you could not

- ✕ A file manager working directly on your disk.
- ✕ It plugs into other products, NVIDIA, Databricks and Kubernetes among them, and has an API.
- ✕ What a company asks for before it lets staff use something: SOC 2 and roles and permissions.

What this rests on. MinIO'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



Wasabi, Backblaze B2, Storj, Filebase and Tigris

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

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Wasabi

Free trial · from $7.99/mo

S3-compatible cloud object storage at a flat per-TB rate.

- MinIO has a free plan. Wasabi does not, though it has a free trial.
- MinIO is self-hostable, according to its own site.

MinIO and Wasabi compared in full

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Backblaze B2

Free plan · from $6.95/mo

S3-compatible object storage billed per terabyte.

- MinIO is self-hostable, according to its own site.

MinIO and Backblaze B2 compared in full



1.8
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Storj

Free trial · from $7/mo

Distributed S3-compatible object storage priced per terabyte.

- MinIO has a free plan. Storj does not, though it has a free trial.
- Only Storj lists macOS, Windows and Linux apps.
- MinIO is self-hostable, according to its own site.

MinIO and Storj compared in full



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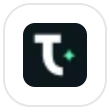
Filebase

Free plan · from $7.50/mo

S3-compatible object storage with IPFS pinning and free egress.

- MinIO is self-hostable, according to its own site.

MinIO and Filebase compared in full



2.0
GPA

Tigris

Free plan

S3-compatible object storage with no egress fees.

- MinIO is self-hostable, according to its own site.

MinIO and Tigris compared in full

PART 06 · QUESTIONS

Quick answers

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

14

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 MinIO free?

MinIO has a free plan. AIStor Free: the full AIStor feature set on a single-node deployment, with community Slack and documentation support.

How much does MinIO cost?

MinIO lists 3 plans. Free: $0.

What platforms does MinIO work on?

MinIO is available on Web.

Does MinIO have an Android app?

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

Does MinIO have an iPhone app?

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

Is MinIO open source?

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

Can MinIO be self-hosted?

Yes. MinIO's own site says it can be run on a server of your own.

Does MinIO have an API?

Yes. MinIO offers a public API, according to its own site.

What does MinIO integrate with?

MinIO's listing names NVIDIA, Databricks, Kubernetes and Prometheus. A listing names up to eight integrations, so it may connect to more.

Does MinIO have a free trial?

Yes. 60-day free trial of Enterprise Lite and Enterprise.

Who makes MinIO?

MinIO is made by MinIO, Inc. It dates from 2014.

What are the alternatives to MinIO?

The closest alternatives to MinIO in our directory are Wasabi, Backblaze B2, Storj, Filebase and Tigris.

How does MinIO compare with other file storage and sync services?

MinIO's GPA of 2.2 is higher than 34 of the 91 other file storage and sync services we grade, and level with 9.

Could I make my own version of MinIO?

Nothing MinIO does is plain enough to make in a weekend. The 3 things listed below take a company.

Where this guide comes from

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

min.io/pricing
min.io/download
min.io
min.io/about

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

MinIO, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/minio

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, "MinIO: The Insider's Guide", checked
Nov 13, 2026. https://toolgpa.com/tools/minio
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Know someone choosing between file storage and sync services?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded file storage and sync services after MinIO, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

File Storage & Sync Insider's Guide

Every one of the 92 file storage and sync services we grade, compared

Google Drive Insider's Guide

Cloud storage tied to Google Docs, Gmail and Photos

3.6 GPA

Filen Insider's Guide

End-to-end encrypted cloud storage from Germany with open source apps

3.4 GPA

Microsoft OneDrive Insider's Guide

Microsoft's cloud storage, bundled with Microsoft 365 plans

3.4 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 MinIO'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. MinIO is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by MinIO, Inc. Prices and plans change: check min.io before you buy.