ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Mutt

The Insider's Guide

Small text-based mail client for Unix systems



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

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

2.4

GPA



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ToolGPA put this guide together from Mutt's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Mutt'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 54 of the 122 other email apps we grade

Mutt is a small but powerful text-based mail client for Unix operating systems. The project site lists stable 2.4.3 as the current release, with regular bug-fix releases, and it hosts source, wiki and issue tracking on GitLab. There is no charge for it.

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

> **It covers the basics, and the extras live in its forks, so you may end up with one of those.**
>
> From our report card of Mutt

1 **Best for a small mail reader for Unix terminals**

Mutt is a free text-based mail client for Unix, with IMAP and GPGME support and steady bug-fix releases.

2 **It is free**

Mutt has no paid plan at all. Free to download; source is on the project's GitLab.

3 **It runs on Linux**

Linux.

4 **Text-based interface**

Runs in a terminal and is described by its maintainers as small but very powerful.

5 **IMAP and GPGME**

Release notes mention IMAP support and GPGME-based signing and encryption.

6 **Steady bug-fix releases**

The news page shows frequent point releases, including a security fix in release 2.4.3.

7 **A 2.4 GPA, above 54 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**

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

Mutt at a glance

PRICING Free	FREE PLAN Yes
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON Linux
MADE BY The Mutt project	CATEGORY Email Apps
OUR GRADE 2.4 GPA, fair	

The report card

Best for a small mail reader for Unix terminals

Mutt is a free text-based mail client for Unix, with IMAP and GPGME support and steady bug-fix releases. It covers the basics, and the extras live in its forks, so you may end up with one of those. It's text only, with Linux as the only system on record.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD	Mutt	Graded Nov 13, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	A	Free to download, with the source on GitLab.
Free plan and trial	A	Free software, and the listing shows no paid plans or limits.
Features	C	Text-based mail with IMAP and GPGME. It does the basic job, and the project points to forks for more.
Ease of use	D	Text only and configured by editing files, so the first hour is setup.
Platforms and integrations	D	Unix systems only on record. No Windows or macOS builds are described, and nothing for phones or the web.
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 Mutt is for

- ✓ Fits if you read mail over SSH on a Unix box
- ✓ Works for people who want a tiny client and will write their own config

Who it is not for

- ✕ Skip it if you want a graphical, web or phone app
- ✕ Not for you if you use Windows or macOS
- ✕ Skip it if you don't want to write config files
- ✕ Watch out: support is mailing lists, IRC and an issue tracker

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Unix users who read mail in a terminal
- ✓ People who configure tools with plain text files

Worth knowing

- ⓘ Text-only; no graphical, web or mobile version.
- ⓘ The site names Unix operating systems; no Windows or macOS builds are described.
- ⓘ Support is through mailing lists, IRC and an issue tracker.

What it costs

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

Free

No paid plan at all

Mutt is free to use.

> **Free to download, with the source on GitLab.**
>
> From our grade for value for money

FREE

$0

Free software; no paid plans are listed.

The free plan

Free to download; source is on the project's GitLab.

Read from gitlab.com 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: Linux

Small text-based mail client for Unix systems. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: open source, email client.

> "
>
> **It does the basic job, and the project points to forks for more.**

From our grade for features

Text-based interface

Runs in a terminal and is described by its maintainers as small but very powerful.

IMAP and GPGME

Release notes mention IMAP support and GPGME-based signing and encryption.

Steady bug-fix releases

The news page shows frequent point releases, including a security fix in release 2.4.3.

Community resources

Documentation, a wiki, mailing lists, an IRC channel, a newsgroup and a GitLab project.

Mutt-based forks

NeoMutt and similar projects build on Mutt; K-9 Mail's site says it was named for it.

Where it runs

Linux

What it works with

GPGME

OpenSSL

Mutt is made by The Mutt project.

PART 04 · STANDING

Where it stands

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

54/122

Other email apps it is graded above

Mutt's GPA of 2.4 is higher than 54 of the 122 other email apps we grade, and level with 19.

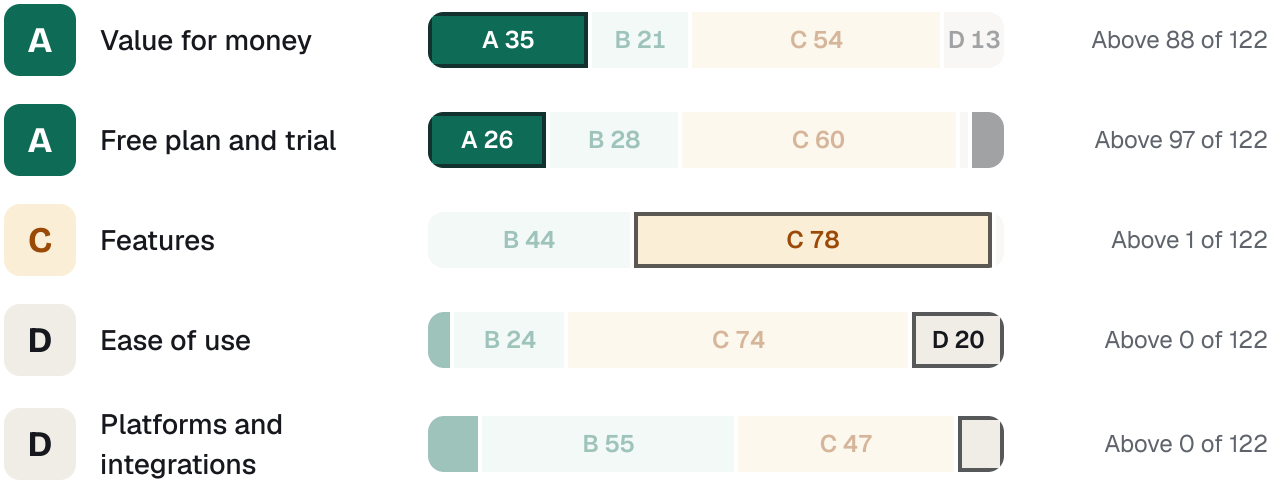
It stands best on free plan and trial (A, above 97 of 122) and worst on ease of use (D, above 0).

Mutt has no paid plan.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 1.3 out of 4. Nothing scores higher for less, though at least one tool matches that score at a lower price.

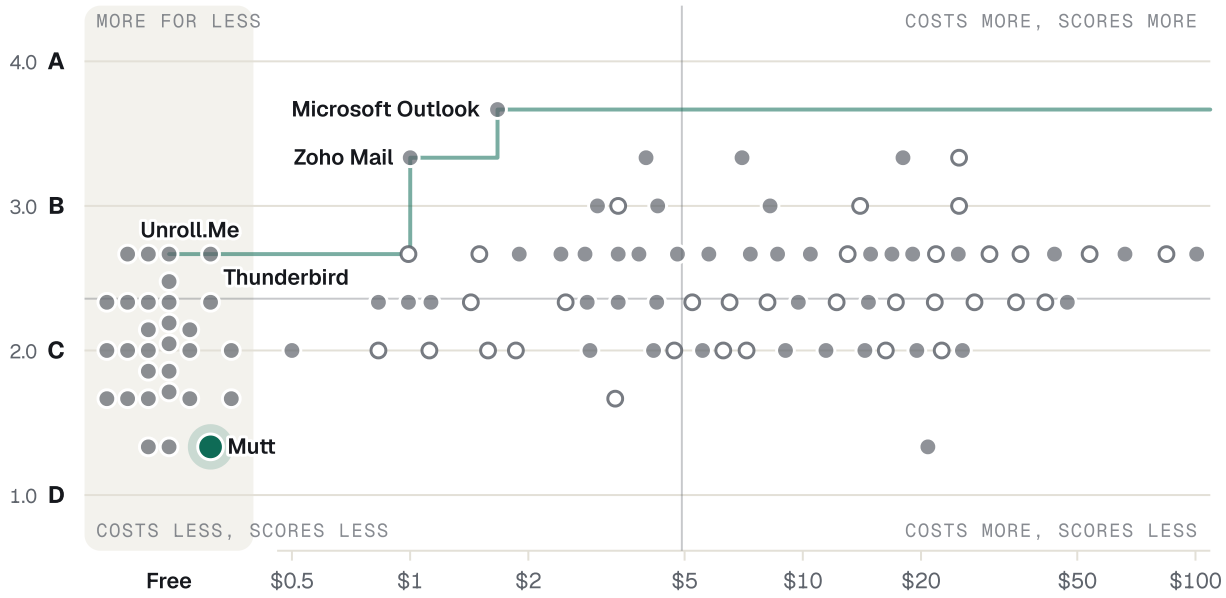
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 123 email apps we grade, cut by the letter each got. Mutt'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. Mutt 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

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

And it is not the kind of software a weekend replaces.

What you could not

- ✕ An email client: sending, receiving, threading and searching years of mail.
- ✕ A real app for Linux. Something home-made would be a web page.

What this rests on. Mutt'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



NeoMutt, aerc, Claws Mail, Thunderbird and Sylpheed

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



2.8 GPA

NeoMutt

Free

Command-line mail reader forked from Mutt with extra features.

- Only NeoMutt lists a macOS app.

Mutt and NeoMutt compared in full

A **2.6** GPA

aerc

Free

Terminal email client with Vim-style keys and git-email support.

- Only aerc lists a macOS app.

Mutt and aerc compared in full

C **2.8** GPA

Claws Mail

Free

Lightweight GTK email and news client, free under the GPL.

- Only Claws Mail lists a Windows app.
- Claws Mail also covers inbox filtering.

Mutt and Claws Mail compared in full



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GPA

Thunderbird

Free

Free, open-source email app for Windows, macOS, Linux and Android.

- Only Thunderbird lists Windows, macOS and Android apps.
- Thunderbird also covers tasks and calendar.

Mutt and Thunderbird compared in full



2.8
GPA

Sylpheed

Free

Lightweight desktop email client built on GTK+.

- Only Sylpheed lists Windows and macOS apps.
- Sylpheed also covers inbox filtering.

Mutt and Sylpheed 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 Mutt free?

Yes. Mutt is free to use.

How much does Mutt cost?

Mutt lists one plan. Free: $0.

What platforms does Mutt work on?

Mutt is available on Linux.

Does Mutt have an Android app?

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

Does Mutt have an iPhone app?

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

Is Mutt open source?

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

What does Mutt integrate with?

Mutt's listing names GPGME and OpenSSL. A listing names up to eight integrations, so it may connect to more.

Who makes Mutt?

Mutt is made by The Mutt project.

What are the alternatives to Mutt?

The closest alternatives to Mutt in our directory are NeoMutt, aerc, Claws Mail, Thunderbird and Sylpheed.

How does Mutt compare with other email apps?

Mutt's GPA of 2.4 is higher than 54 of the 122 other email apps we grade, and level with 19.

Is Mutt good value for money?

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

Could I make my own version of Mutt?

Mutt 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 Mutt'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 Mutt project's own pages on 13 November 2026. Not based on using the product, and shorter than our full reviews. The GitLab page was the only source that loaded, and it shows no prices.

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 The Mutt project. Prices change, so check gitlab.com before you buy.

gitlab.com/muttmua/mutt

k9mail.app/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

Mutt, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/mutt

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, "Mutt: The Insider's Guide", checked
Nov 13, 2026. https://toolgpa.com/tools/mutt
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Know someone choosing between email apps?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded email apps after Mutt, 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

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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 Mutt'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. Mutt is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by The Mutt project. Prices and plans change: check gitlab.com before you buy.