ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

OpenCart

The Insider's Guide

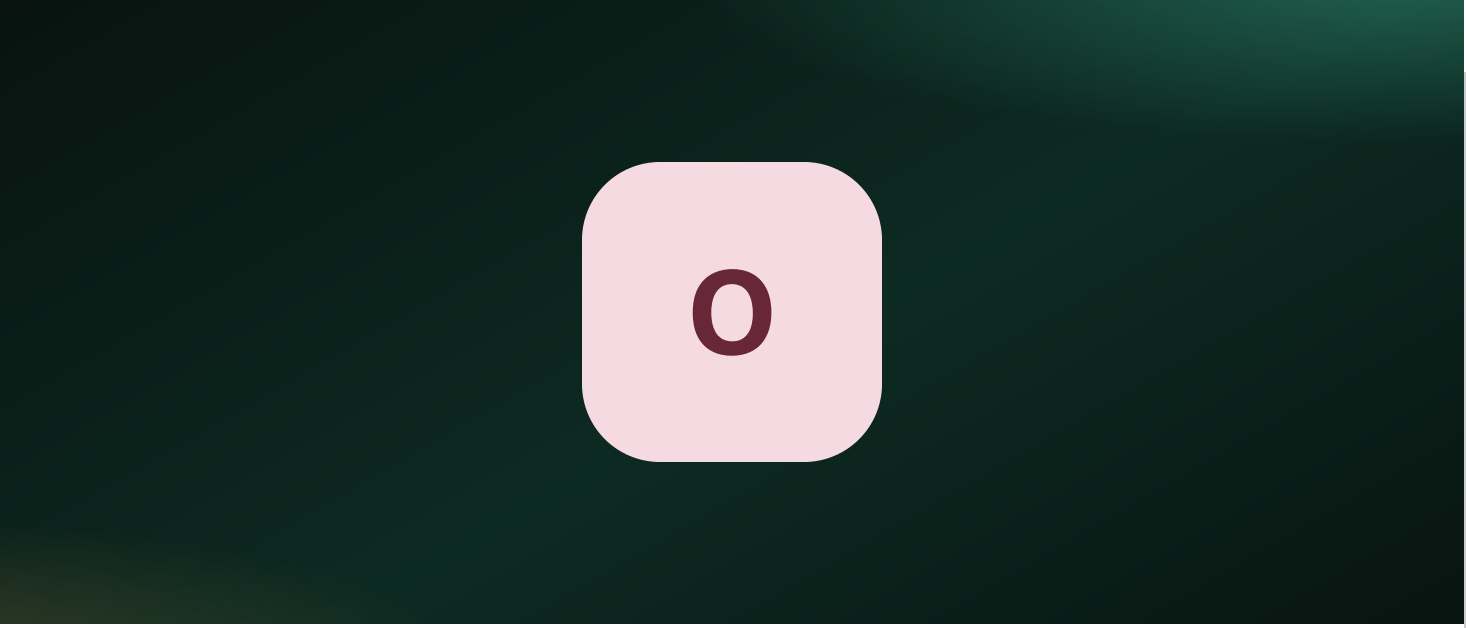
Free open-source shopping cart you host yourself



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among online store builders, read from OpenCart's own pages.

Made by OpenCart · checked Nov 12, 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 OpenCart's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on OpenCart's page too, where it is kept up to date. Checked Nov 12, 2026.

Welcome

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

2.4

GPA, above 60 of the 80 other online store builders we grade

OpenCart is a free, open-source shopping cart that you download and run on your own web hosting. It has no monthly fee, handles unlimited products and categories, and can run several stores from one admin. Themes, payment gateways and other add-ons come from its marketplace, which lists over 13,000 modules and themes.

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

> "
>
> **You install, update, secure and back up the store yourself, or pay someone to.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

1 **Best for a free PHP store on your own hosting**

You supply and run the hosting, support is sold per job, and many extensions and themes in its marketplace cost extra.

2 **It is free**

OpenCart has no paid plan at all.

3 It runs on Web

Web.

4 Multi-store admin

Several stores can be managed from one admin screen, each with its own theme, localized settings and per-store product prices.

5 Unlimited catalog

No cap on products or categories, with product options and attributes, filters, reviews and ratings, reward points and downloadable products.

6 Payments and currencies

36 payment methods ship with it, including PayPal, Klarna and Authorize.Net, plus recurring payments and multi-currency pricing with automatic rate updates.

7 A 2.4 GPA, above 60 of 80

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

8 Keep it

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

OpenCart at a glance

PRICING Free	FREE PLAN It is free
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON Web
MADE BY OpenCart	CATEGORY Online Store Builders
OUR GRADE 2.4 GPA, fair	

The report card

Best for a free PHP store on your own hosting

OpenCart is a free PHP shopping cart with multi-store admin, an unlimited catalog and 36 payment methods built in. You supply and run the hosting, support is sold per job, and many extensions and themes in its marketplace cost extra.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD	OpenCart	Graded Nov 12, 2026
SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	C	Free to download with no monthly fee, but only if you host it yourself, which needs a server. Many marketplace extensions and themes are paid.
Free plan and trial	B	A free download with no caps on products or categories. You pay for your own hosting.
Features	B	Multi-store admin, an unlimited catalog, 36 payment methods, multi-currency, 40+ languages, coupons and an affiliate system. The listing shows no gap in the core store job.
Ease of use	D	No store rating on record. You install, update, secure and back up the store yourself, or pay someone to.
Platforms and integrations	B	Web, with a marketplace of over 13,000 modules and themes for shipping, payments, marketing and accounting.
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 OpenCart is for

- ✓ Fits if you already have web hosting and want no software fee
- ✓ Works for sellers who need several storefronts from one admin

Who it is not for

- ✕ Not for you if you want a hosted store, as you run it yourself
- ✕ Pricey if you need help: a version update starts at $300, a bug fix at $100 and a backup is $50
- ✕ Watch out: extensions and themes come from third parties, and many cost extra
- ✕ Skip it if you want the hosted OpenCart Cloud priced up front, as that goes through ScalaHosting

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Merchants who already have web hosting and want no software fee
- ✓ Developers building custom stores on an open-source PHP base
- ✓ Sellers who need several storefronts from a single admin

Worth knowing

- ⓘ You install, update, secure and back up the store yourself or pay a host or partner to do it.
- ⓘ Dedicated support is sold per job: a version update starts at $300, a bug fix at $100 and a one-time backup is $50.
- ⓘ OpenCart Cloud, the hosted option, is signed up for through ScalaHosting, whose pricing is not recorded here.
- ⓘ Extensions and themes come from third parties in the marketplace, and many cost extra.

What it costs

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

Free

No paid plan at all

OpenCart is free to use.

> **Free to download with no monthly fee, but only if you host it yourself, which needs a server.**
>
> From our grade for value for money

OPENCART

$0

Free download with no monthly fees. You supply and pay for your own hosting; paid themes and extensions are optional.

Read from opencart.com on Nov 12, 2026.

What it does

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

1

Place it runs: Web

Free open-source shopping cart you host yourself. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: open source, self-hostable, online store, digital downloads.

> **The listing shows no gap in the core store job.**
>
> From our grade for features

Multi-store admin

Several stores can be managed from one admin screen, each with its own theme, localized settings and per-store product prices.

Unlimited catalog

No cap on products or categories, with product options and attributes, filters, reviews and ratings, reward points and downloadable products.

Payments and currencies

36 payment methods ship with it, including PayPal, Klarna and Authorize.Net, plus recurring payments and multi-currency pricing with automatic rate updates.

Languages

Available in more than 40 languages, including right-to-left ones such as Arabic and Hebrew.

Marketplace and extensions

A marketplace of over 13,000 modules and themes covers shipping, payments, marketing, accounting and reporting.

Built-in marketing tools

Coupons, discounts and specials, an affiliate system with set commission percentages, and a newsletter signup are part of the core software.

Where it runs

Web

What it works with

PayPal
Klarna
Authorize.Net
Skrill
SagePay
First Data
Amazon Payments
LiqPay

OpenCart is made by OpenCart.

Where it stands

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

60/80

Other online store builders it is graded above

OpenCart's GPA of 2.4 is higher than 60 of the 80 other online store builders we grade, and level with 13.

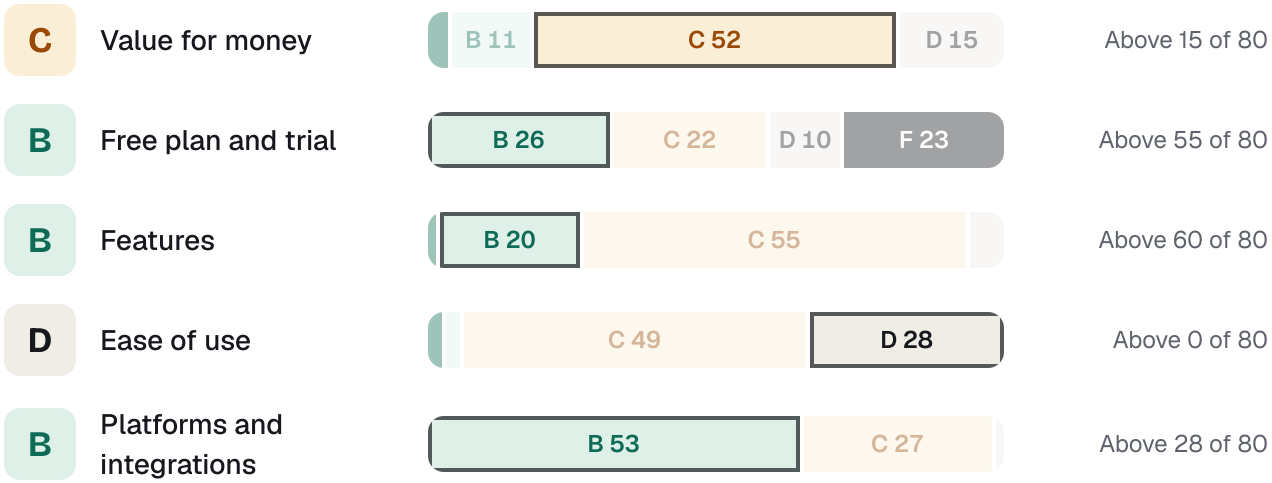
It stands best on features (B, above 60 of 80) and worst on ease of use (D, above 0).

OpenCart 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.

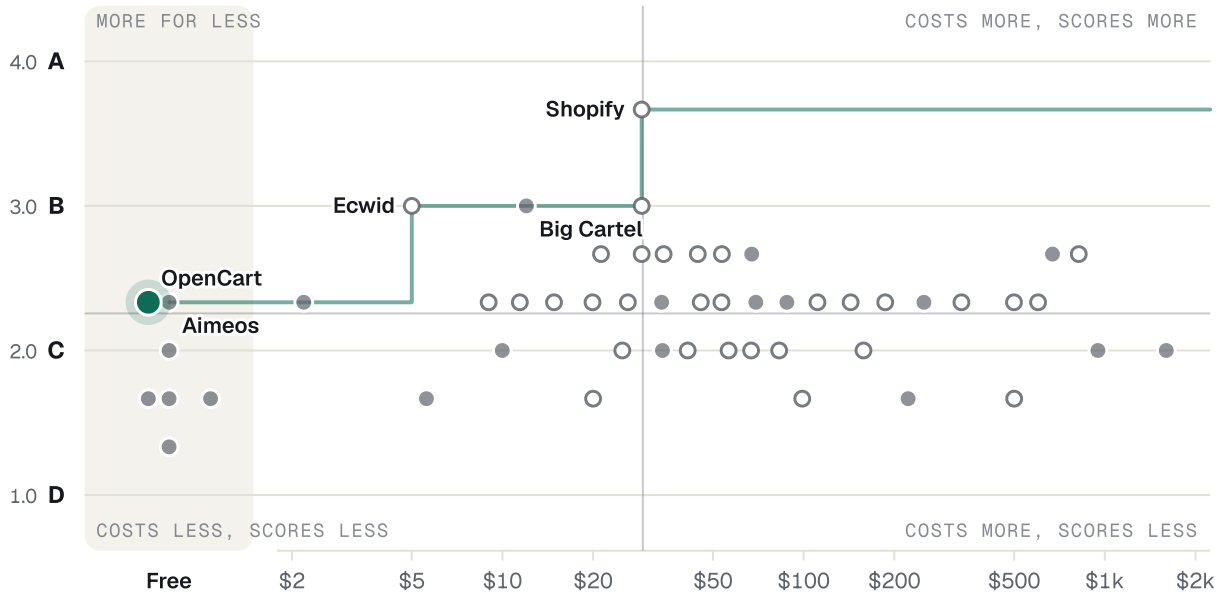
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 81 online store builders we grade, cut by the letter each got. OpenCart's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 52 online store builders. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. OpenCart 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

OpenCart 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 2.4 is higher than 60 of the 80 other online store builders we grade.

What you could make

- Digital downloads: an app builder makes this well.

What you could not

- Checkout, card payments and sales tax handled for you.

- It plugs into other products, PayPal, Klarna and Authorize.Net among them.
- The depth: we grade its features B, which means it covers the whole job.

What this rests on. OpenCart'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



WooCommerce, PrestaShop, Shopware, nopCommerce and Ecwid

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

WooCommerce

2.2 GPA

Free plan

Free, open-source store plugin for WordPress that you host yourself.

- Only WooCommerce lists iOS and Android apps.
- OpenCart also covers digital downloads.

OpenCart and WooCommerce compared in full

PrestaShop

2.4 GPA

Free plan · from €24/mo

Open-source ecommerce software, free to self-host or sold hosted.

- OpenCart also covers digital downloads.

OpenCart and PrestaShop compared in full

Shopware

2.4 GPA

Free plan · from €600/mo

Open-source commerce platform for B2B and B2C stores.

- OpenCart also covers digital downloads.

OpenCart and Shopware compared in full



2.2
GPA

nopCommerce

Free

Free open-source ASP.NET Core shopping cart.

- OpenCart also covers digital downloads.

OpenCart and nopCommerce compared in full



2.2
GPA

Ecwid

From $5/mo

Online store you can add to any website or run as its own site.

- OpenCart has a free plan. Ecwid does not.
- Only Ecwid lists iOS and Android apps.
- OpenCart is open source and self-hostable, according to its own site.

OpenCart and Ecwid 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 OpenCart free?

Yes. OpenCart is free to use.

How much does OpenCart cost?

OpenCart lists one plan. OpenCart: $0.

What platforms does OpenCart work on?

OpenCart is available on Web.

Does OpenCart have an Android app?

No Android app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 12, 2026. OpenCart is listed for Web.

Does OpenCart have an iPhone app?

No iPhone app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 12, 2026. OpenCart is listed for Web.

Is OpenCart open source?

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

What does OpenCart integrate with?

OpenCart's listing names PayPal, Klarna, Authorize.Net, Skrill, SagePay, First Data, Amazon Payments and LiqPay.

Who makes OpenCart?

OpenCart is made by a company of the same name.

What are the alternatives to OpenCart?

The closest alternatives to OpenCart in our directory are WooCommerce, PrestaShop, Shopware, nopCommerce and Ecwid.

How does OpenCart compare with other online store builders?

OpenCart's GPA of 2.4 is higher than 60 of the 80 other online store builders we grade, and level with 13.

Is OpenCart good value for money?

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

Could I make my own version of OpenCart?

OpenCart 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 OpenCart's own pages on Nov 12, 2026, and the grades were given on Nov 12, 2026. Graded from this listing, whose facts were read from OpenCart's own pages on 12 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 OpenCart. Prices change, so check opencart.com before you buy.

opencart.com/
opencart.com/index.php?route=cms/company
dedicated.opencart.com/
opencart.com/index.php?route=cms/feature
opencart.com/index.php?route=support/support
opencart.com/index.php?route=cms/download

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

OpenCart, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/opencart

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, "OpenCart: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 12, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/opencart
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Know someone choosing between online store builders?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded online store builders after OpenCart, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Online Store Builders Insider's Guide

Every one of the 84 online store builders we grade, compared

Big Cartel Insider's Guide

Simple online store for artists, makers and independent sellers

2.8 GPA

Shopify Insider's Guide

Hosted commerce platform for online, in-person and social selling

2.8 GPA

BigCommerce Insider's Guide

Hosted ecommerce platform with plans set by yearly sales

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