ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

OpenIM

The Insider's Guide

Open-source chat, voice and video infrastructure for apps



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among team communication apps, read from OpenIM's own pages.

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

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

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GPA, above 9 of the 75 other team communication apps we grade

OpenIM is open-source communication infrastructure for building chat, messaging, voice calls and video meetings into an app or an existing system. It supplies a server, client SDKs, server APIs and webhooks, and you can deploy it on your own infrastructure. It is not a finished chat app on its own, though Business and Enterprise editions add production-ready client apps.

> "
>
> **The open-source edition is free to host yourself and meant for development.**
>
> From our report card of OpenIM

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

1 **Best for building chat and calls into your own app**

OpenIM is open-source chat, voice and video infrastructure for apps, not a chat app you install and use.

2 **There is a free plan**

The Open Source edition (server, IM SDK and demo apps) is listed as free.

3 **It runs on 3 platforms**

Web, iOS and Android.

4 **Chat and messaging**

One-to-one chat, groups, large groups, message history, offline messages, receipts, search and multi-device sync.

5 **Voice and video**

Voice calls, video calls, group calls, video meetings and screen sharing, sold as separate modules for the commercial editions.

6 **Client SDKs**

SDKs for iOS, Android, web (JavaScript), Flutter and React Native, and the site says it covers 10+ client platforms.

7 **A 2.2 GPA, above 9 of 75**

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

8 **Keep it**

To replace OpenIM you would be making chat that a whole team counts on staying up. That is not a weekend's work, with an AI app builder or without one.

OpenIM at a glance

PRICING Free plan	FREE PLAN Yes
FREE TRIAL Trials of the commercial editions are available by request.	RUNS ON Web, iOS, Android
MADE BY OpenIM	CATEGORY Team Communication
OUR GRADE 2.2 GPA, fair	

The report card

Best for building chat and calls into your own app

OpenIM is open-source chat, voice and video infrastructure for apps, not a chat app you install and use. The open-source edition is free to host yourself and meant for development. Production-ready clients sit on Business and Enterprise plans with no published price.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD	OpenIM	Graded Nov 13, 2026
SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	C	The open-source edition is free but you host it. Business and Enterprise have no published price.
Free plan and trial	B	Open source is free to download, with no cap, for developers who host it.
Features	C	Chat, voice and video, SDKs and webhooks. Voice, video and meetings are separate paid modules.
Ease of use	D	No rating on record. It is an SDK and server that developers build on and host.
Platforms and integrations	B	Web, iPhone and Android SDKs and a server API. Desktop is shown only as a demo app.
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 OpenIM is for

- ✓ Fits if you are a developer who wants chat inside your own product
- ✓ Works for companies that will host their own messaging server

Who it is not for

- ✕ Not for you if you want a ready chat app, as the open-source part is for building one
- ✕ Watch out: Business and Enterprise prices are not published
- ✕ Watch out: voice and video are separate modules bought as needed
- ✕ Skip it if you do not want to self-host, since Kubernetes deployment is an Enterprise feature
- ✕ Too light for production without the commercial clients, as the site says Enterprise is for that

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Developers adding chat to their own product
- ✓ Companies that must host messaging in their own environment
- ✓ Teams that want an open-source base and an optional commercial edition

Worth knowing

- ⓘ OpenIM is not a single chat app. Open Source is meant for development and custom clients, and the site says Enterprise is for production.
- ⓘ Business and Enterprise have no published prices; they are bought through a request-a-trial and contract process.
- ⓘ Voice and video and video meetings are separate modules purchased as needed on the commercial editions.
- ⓘ The open-source GitHub page lists an Electron demo app for Windows, Mac and Linux, but the site presents these as demos.

What it costs

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

3
plans to choose from

OpenIM has a free plan.

> **The open-source edition is free but you host it.**
>
> From our grade for value for money

OPEN SOURCE

$0

OpenIM Server and IM SDK for development and custom client integration; you host it yourself.

BUSINESS

Custom

Production-ready client UI on multiple platforms under a commercial license. No price is published.

ENTERPRISE

Custom

Everything in Business plus advanced messaging, Kubernetes deployment and high availability. No price is published.

The free plan

The Open Source edition (server, IM SDK and demo apps) is listed as free.

Trying it first

Trials of the commercial editions are available by request.

Read from openim.io on Nov 13, 2026.

What it does

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

3

Places it runs: Web, iOS and Android

Open-source chat, voice and video infrastructure for apps. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: open source, self-hostable, public API, team chat, video calls.

"

Chat, voice and video, SDKs and webhooks.

From our grade for features

Chat and messaging

One-to-one chat, groups, large groups, message history, offline messages, receipts, search and multi-device sync.

Voice and video

Voice calls, video calls, group calls, video meetings and screen sharing, sold as separate modules for the commercial editions.

Client SDKs

SDKs for iOS, Android, web (JavaScript), Flutter and React Native, and the site says it covers 10+ client platforms.

Server API and webhooks

Server APIs and webhook callbacks connect accounts, permissions and events to your own backend.

Self-hosted deployment

OpenIM Server runs in your own cloud or private network, and Enterprise adds Kubernetes and a high-availability cluster.

Where it runs

Web iOS Android

What it works with

Its own pages name no integrations.

OpenIM is made by OpenIM.

PART 04 · STANDING

Where it stands

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

9/75

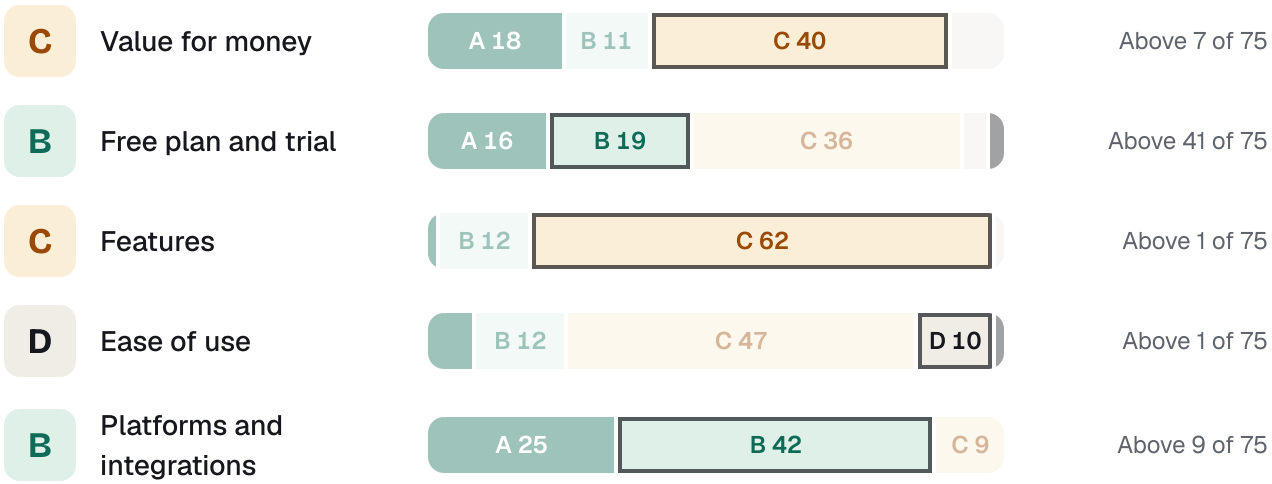
Other team communication apps it is graded above

OpenIM's GPA of 2.2 is higher than 9 of the 75 other team communication apps we grade, and level with 19.

It stands best on free plan and trial (B, above 41 of 75) and worst on ease of use (D, above 1).

Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 76 team communication apps we grade, cut by the letter each got. OpenIM'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

To replace OpenIM you would be making chat that a whole team counts on staying up. 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: 47 of the 75 other team communication apps grade higher. OpenIM is open source, so there is a third way: take its code and run it yourself.

What you could not

- ✕ Chat that a whole team counts on staying up.
- ✕ Video calls.
- ✕ A real app for iOS and Android. Something home-made would be a web page.
- ✕ An API that other software can build on.
- ✕ What a company asks for before it lets staff use something: roles and permissions.

What this rests on. OpenIM'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



ejabberd, Matrix, Mattermost, Rocket.Chat and Tinode

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

2.0 GPA

ejabberd

Free plan · from €200/mo

Erlang messaging server for XMPP, MQTT, SIP and Matrix.

- Only OpenIM lists a web app.
- Only OpenIM lists iOS and Android apps.
- Only ejabberd lists Windows, macOS and Linux apps.

OpenIM and ejabberd compared in full

3.0 GPA

Matrix

Free

Open, decentralized network for chat and calls.

- Only Matrix lists macOS, Windows and Linux apps.
- Matrix is end-to-end encrypted, according to its own site.
- OpenIM also covers video calls.

OpenIM and Matrix compared in full



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Mattermost

Free plan

Self-hosted team messaging with playbooks, calls and boards.

- Only Mattermost lists macOS, Windows and Linux apps.
- OpenIM also covers video calls.
- Mattermost also covers kanban boards, workflow automation and AI agents.

OpenIM and Mattermost compared in full



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Rocket.Chat

Free plan

Open-source, self-managed chat for security-focused teams.

- Only Rocket.Chat lists macOS, Windows and Linux apps.
- Rocket.Chat is end-to-end encrypted, according to its own site.
- OpenIM also covers video calls.

OpenIM and Rocket.Chat compared in full



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Tinode

Free plan · from $1.50/mo

Open-source instant messaging server you host or rent.

- OpenIM also covers video calls.

OpenIM and Tinode 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 OpenIM free?

OpenIM has a free plan. The Open Source edition (server, IM SDK and demo apps) is listed as free.

How much does OpenIM cost?

OpenIM lists 3 plans. Open Source: $0.

What platforms does OpenIM work on?

OpenIM is available on Web, iOS and Android.

Does OpenIM have a Windows app?

No Windows app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. OpenIM is listed for Web, iOS and Android.

Does OpenIM have a macOS app?

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

Is OpenIM open source?

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

Does OpenIM have an API?

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

Does OpenIM have a free trial?

Yes. Trials of the commercial editions are available by request.

Who makes OpenIM?

OpenIM is made by a company of the same name.

What are the alternatives to OpenIM?

The closest alternatives to OpenIM in our directory are ejabberd, Matrix, Mattermost, Rocket.Chat and Tinode.

How does OpenIM compare with other team communication apps?

OpenIM's GPA of 2.2 is higher than 9 of the 75 other team communication apps we grade, and level with 19.

Could I make my own version of OpenIM?

To replace OpenIM you would be making chat that a whole team counts on staying up.

Where this guide comes from

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

openim.io
openim.io/sdk/
openim.io/enterprise/
openim.io/open-source/

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

OpenIM, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/openim

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, "OpenIM: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 13, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/openim
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Know someone choosing between team communication apps?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded team communication apps after OpenIM, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Team Communication Insider's Guide

Every one of the 76 team communication apps we grade, compared

Discord Insider's Guide

Free text, voice and video chat built around servers

3.6 GPA

Pumble Insider's Guide

Team chat with unlimited message history on the free plan

3.6 GPA

Zoho Cliq Insider's Guide

Team chat, calls and meetings from the Zoho suite

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