ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

OpenRefine

The Insider's Guide

Free open-source desktop tool for cleaning and transforming messy data



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among spreadsheet and database tools, read from OpenRefine's own pages.

Made by OpenRefine contributors · checked Nov 13, 2026 · toolgpa.com

2.8
GPA



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

2.8

GPA, above 47 of the 63 other spreadsheet and database tools we grade

OpenRefine is free, open-source software for cleaning data, converting it between formats and extending it with web services and external data. It runs on your own machine, and you work with facets, clustering of similar values, and reconciliation against external databases. It is released under the BSD 3-clause license.

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

> **It isn't a spreadsheet, so there is no formula grid for modelling, and support comes from a forum and chat.**
>
> From our report card of OpenRefine

1 **Best for cleaning messy data on your own computer**

OpenRefine is a free, open-source tool for cleaning and reshaping messy data, with clustering and reconciliation against Wikidata.

2 **It is free**

OpenRefine has no paid plan at all.

3 **It runs on 3 platforms**

Windows, macOS and Linux.

4 **Faceting**

Drill through large datasets with facets and apply operations to the filtered view.

5 **Clustering**

Merges similar values to fix inconsistencies, using the project's heuristics.

6 **Reconciliation**

Matches your dataset to external databases through reconciliation services.

7 **A 2.8 GPA, above 47 of 63**

That is against the other spreadsheet and database tools we grade, on value, the free plan, features, ease of use and platforms.

8 **Keep it**

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

OpenRefine at a glance

PRICING Free	FREE PLAN It is free
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON macOS, Windows, Linux
MADE BY OpenRefine contributors	CATEGORY Spreadsheets & Databases
OUR GRADE 2.8 GPA, good	

The report card

Best for cleaning messy data on your own computer

OpenRefine is a free, open-source tool for cleaning and reshaping messy data, with clustering and reconciliation against Wikidata. It isn't a

spreadsheet, so there is no formula grid for modelling, and support comes from a forum and chat.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD	OpenRefine	Graded Nov 13, 2026
SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	A	Free under the BSD 3-clause licence to download and run, with donations welcome.
Free plan and trial	A	Free outright, with no cap or paid tier.
Features	C	Faceting, clustering, reconciliation and undo. It cleans data well but has no cell formula grid, so it is a different job from a spreadsheet.
Ease of use	C	You download and run it, then learn faceting and its expression language. No store rating on record, and the Windows zip includes its own Java.
Platforms and integrations	C	A program for computers only, on Windows, Mac and Linux, linking to Wikidata and Wikibase.
Grade point average		Good, out of 4.0 **2.8**

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 OpenRefine is for

- ✓ Fits if you have a messy list of names or addresses to tidy
- ✓ Works for people who reconcile data against Wikidata

Who it is not for

- ✗ Skip it if you want to build models with formulas, as there's no formula grid
- ✗ Too light for charts or dashboards, since it is a cleaning tool
- ✗ Tight if you want paid support, as help comes from a forum and chat
- ✗ Watch out: expect a learning curve before the clustering features pay off

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Librarians, researchers and journalists tidying inconsistent names and categories
- ✓ Anyone who wants to clean data locally rather than upload it to a cloud service

Worth knowing

- ⓘ It is a data-cleaning tool, not a spreadsheet: there is no cell formula grid to build models in.
- ⓘ Downloads are a Windows installer or zip, a Mac DMG and a Linux tar.gz; the Windows zip includes an embedded Java install.
- ⓘ Support comes from a community forum and chat rather than a paid vendor.

What it costs

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

Free

No paid plan at all

OpenRefine is free to use.

> **Free outright, with no cap or paid tier.**
>
> From our grade for free plan and trial

FREE

$0

Free software under the BSD 3-clause license; the project accepts donations.

Read from openrefine.org 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: macOS, Windows and Linux

Free open-source desktop tool for cleaning and transforming messy data. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: open source, works offline, spreadsheets.

> "Faceting, clustering, reconciliation and undo.

From our grade for features

Faceting

Drill through large datasets with facets and apply operations to the filtered view.

Clustering

Merges similar values to fix inconsistencies, using the project's heuristics.

Reconciliation

Matches your dataset to external databases through reconciliation services.

Infinite undo and redo

Rewind to any earlier state and replay the operation history on a new version of the data.

Wikibase editing

Contribute data to Wikidata and other Wikibase instances.

Where it runs

macOS · Windows · Linux

What it works with

Wikidata · Wikibase

OpenRefine is made by OpenRefine contributors.

Where it stands

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

47/63

Other spreadsheet and database tools it is graded above

OpenRefine's GPA of 2.8 is higher than 47 of the 63 other spreadsheet and database tools we grade, and level with 6.

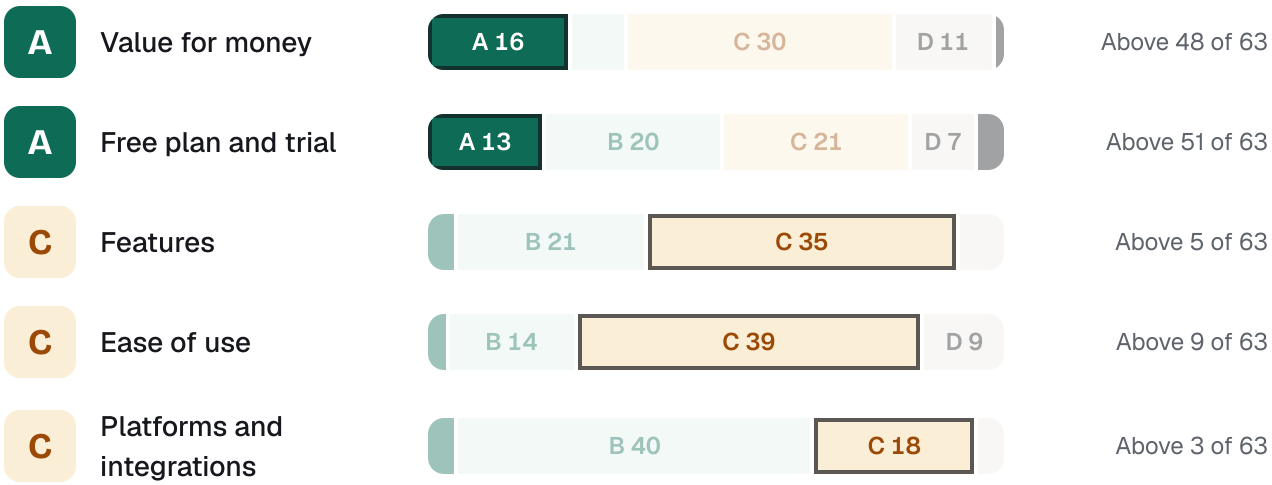
It stands best on free plan and trial (A, above 51 of 63) and worst on platforms and integrations (C, above 3).

OpenRefine has no paid plan.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 2.0 out of 4. Nothing scores higher for less, though at least one tool matches that score at a lower price.

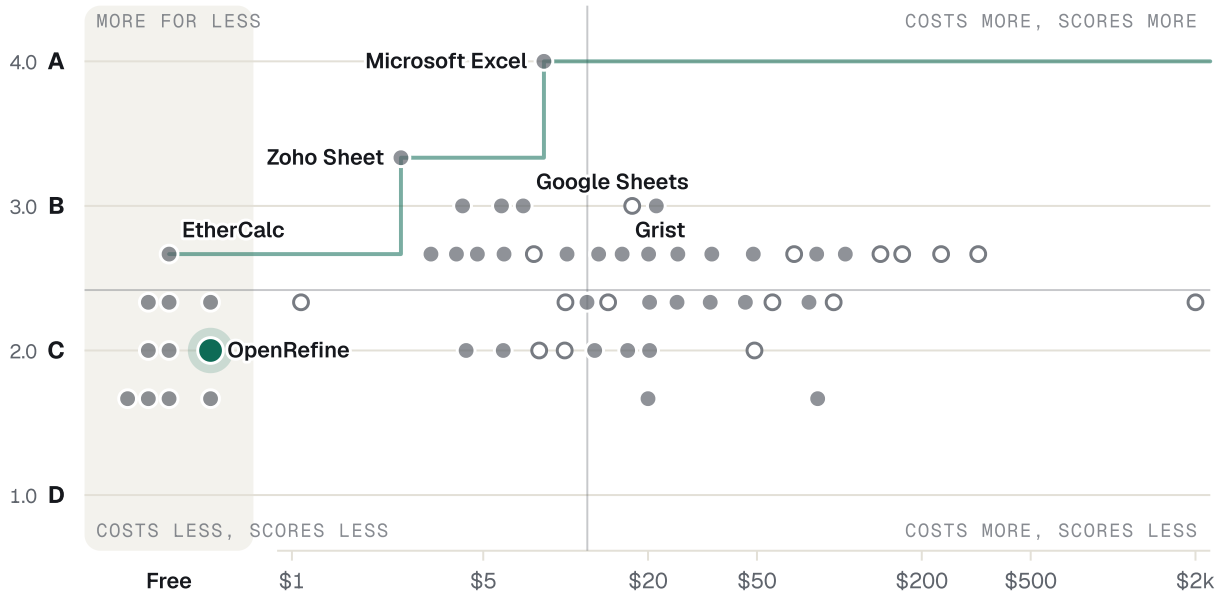
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 64 spreadsheet and database tools we grade, cut by the letter each got. OpenRefine's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 59 spreadsheet and database tools. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. OpenRefine 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

OpenRefine 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 2.8 is higher than 47 of the 63 other spreadsheet and database tools we grade.

What you could not

- A spreadsheet engine with its formulas.
- Apps for macOS, Windows and Linux that stay in step with each other.

What this rests on. OpenRefine'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



VisiData, Tablecruncher, Modern CSV and Mito

The 4 tools OpenRefine is most often weighed against, with where each one differs from it.

VisiData

2.6 GPA

Free

Terminal spreadsheet-style tool for exploring tabular data.

- Only OpenRefine lists a Windows app.

OpenRefine and VisiData compared in full

Tablecruncher

3.0 GPA

Free

Fast open-source CSV editor for Mac, Windows and Linux.

- Only Tablecruncher lists a web app.

OpenRefine and Tablecruncher compared in full

Modern CSV

2.8 GPA

Free plan · from $39 one-time

Desktop CSV editor and viewer for Windows, Mac and Linux.

- OpenRefine is open source, according to its own site.
- Modern CSV can be bought with a one-time purchase.

OpenRefine and Modern CSV compared in full



2.0
GPA

Mito

Free plan · from $20/mo

Jupyter extensions: spreadsheet view and AI chat that write Python.

- Only OpenRefine lists Windows, macOS and Linux apps.
- Only Mito lists a web app.
- Mito also covers chat assistant.

OpenRefine and Mito compared in full

PART 06 · QUESTIONS

Quick answers

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

13

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 OpenRefine free?

Yes. OpenRefine is free to use.

How much does OpenRefine cost?

OpenRefine lists one plan. Free: $0.

What platforms does OpenRefine work on?

OpenRefine is available on Windows, macOS and Linux.

Does OpenRefine have an Android app?

No Android app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. OpenRefine is listed for Windows, macOS and Linux.

Does OpenRefine have an iPhone app?

No iPhone app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. OpenRefine is listed for Windows, macOS and Linux.

Is OpenRefine open source?

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

Does OpenRefine work offline?

Yes, according to its own site. What works without a connection differs by plan and platform, so check the vendor's page for the detail.

What does OpenRefine integrate with?

OpenRefine's listing names Wikidata and Wikibase. A listing names up to eight integrations, so it may connect to more.

Who makes OpenRefine?

OpenRefine is made by OpenRefine contributors.

What are the alternatives to OpenRefine?

The closest alternatives to OpenRefine in our directory are VisiData, Tablecruncher, Modern CSV and Mito.

How does OpenRefine compare with other spreadsheet and database tools?

OpenRefine's GPA of 2.8 is higher than 47 of the 63 other spreadsheet and database tools we grade, and level with 6.

Is OpenRefine good value for money?

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

Could I make my own version of OpenRefine?

OpenRefine 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 OpenRefine'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 OpenRefine contributors'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 OpenRefine contributors. Prices change, so check openrefine.org before you buy.

openrefine.org/

openrefine.org/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

OpenRefine, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/openrefine

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, "OpenRefine: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 13, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/openrefine
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Know someone choosing between spreadsheet and database tools?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded spreadsheet and database tools after OpenRefine, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Spreadsheets & Databases Insider's Guide

Every one of the 64 spreadsheet and database tools we grade, compared

Zoho Sheet Insider's Guide

Collaborative online spreadsheet with a free version

3.6 GPA

Google Sheets Insider's Guide

Browser-based spreadsheet, free with a Google Account

3.4 GPA

Microsoft Excel Insider's Guide

Spreadsheet app sold with Microsoft 365, free in the browser

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 OpenRefine'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. OpenRefine is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by OpenRefine contributors. Prices and plans change: check openrefine.org before you buy.