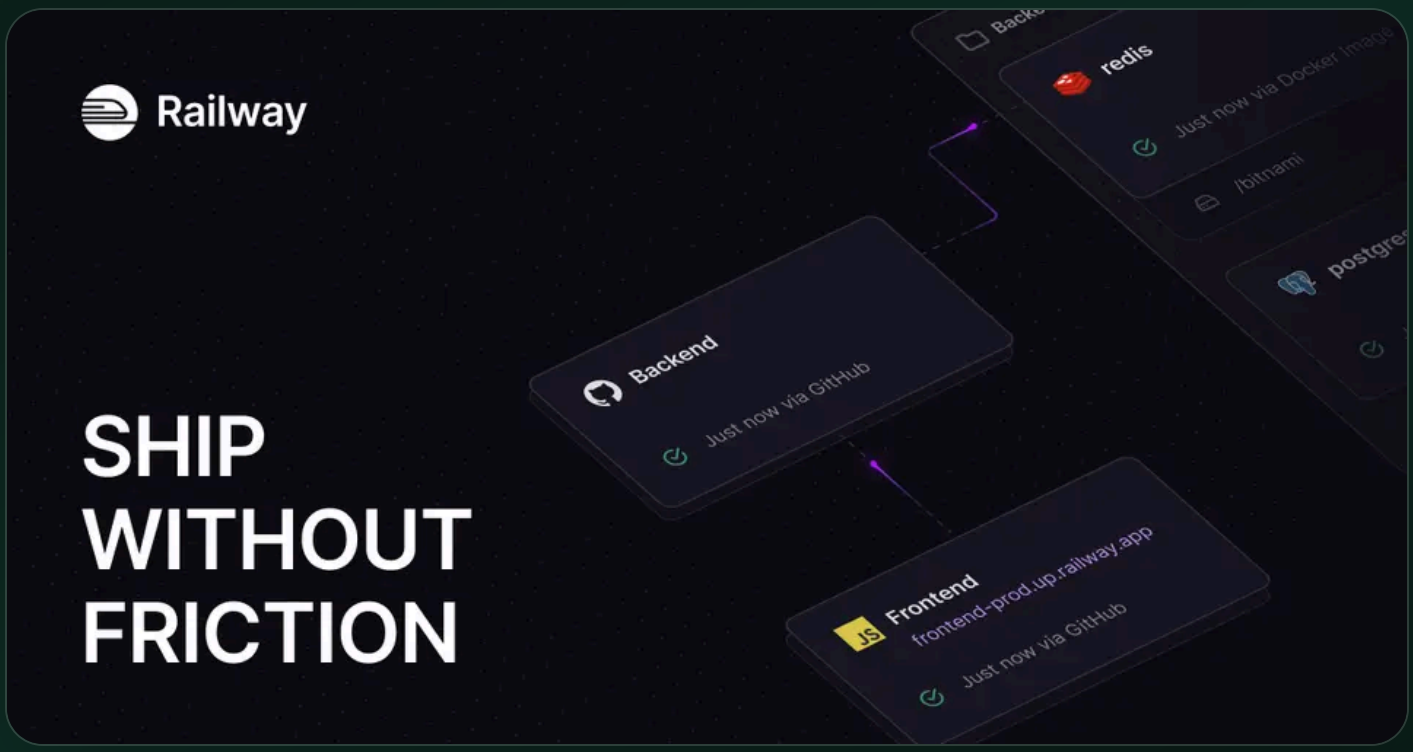
ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Railway

The Insider's Guide

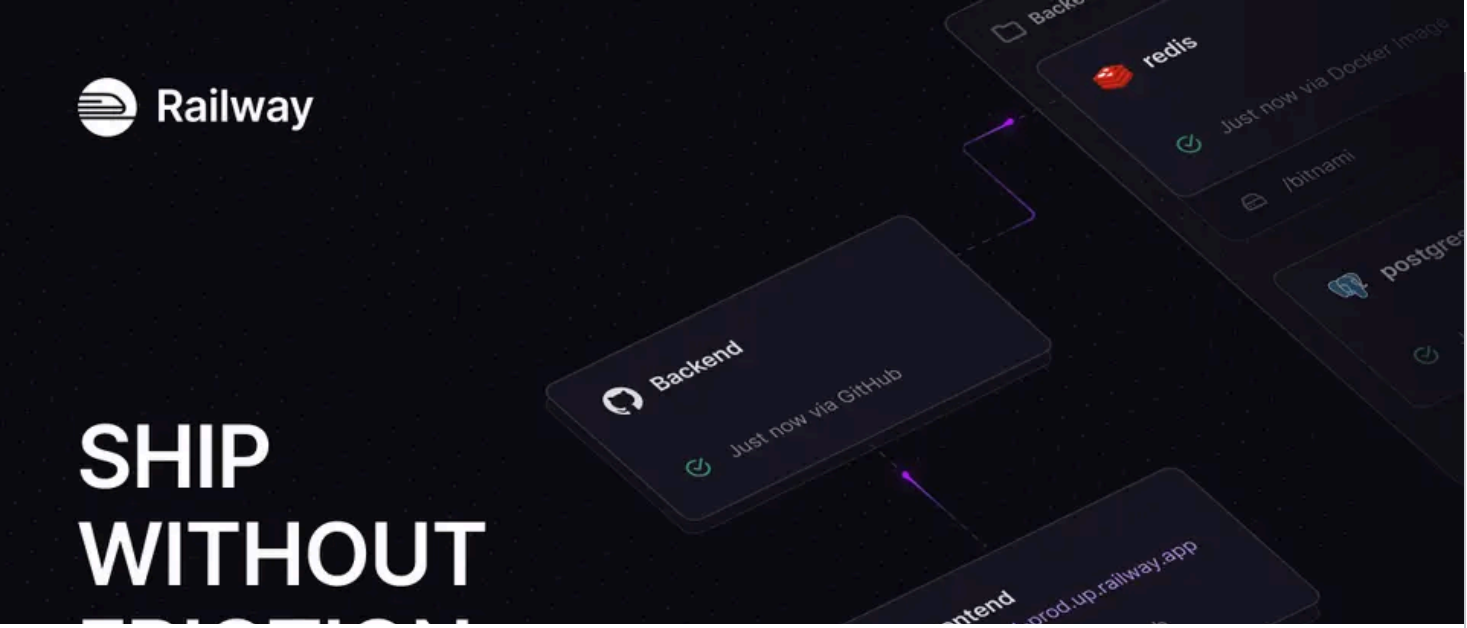
App and database hosting billed by the second for usage



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among web hosts, read from Railway's own pages.

Made by Railway Corp. · checked Nov 12, 2026 · toolgpa.com

2.6
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 Railway's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Railway'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

2.6

GPA, above 114 of the 122 other web hosts we grade

Railway deploys apps, databases and sandboxes from templates or a Git repo and bills for the CPU, memory, storage and egress they use, metered by the second. Plans set a minimum monthly spend that counts as usage credit: $5 on Hobby and $20 on Pro.

To get you started, here are **9 things to know about Railway**, taken from its own pages and our grades.

> "
>
> **You set up projects, services and databases.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

1 **Best for side projects billed by usage**

Railway bills apps and databases by the second for what they use, from a $5 minimum on Hobby.

2 **Paid plans start at $5 a month**

As its pricing page puts it: $5 minimum usage per month (Hobby).

3 **You can try it first**

30-day trial with a one-time $5 credit, no card required.

4 **It runs on 3 platforms**

Web, iOS and Android.

5 **Usage-based billing**

Memory costs $0.00000386 per GB-second and CPU $0.00000772 per vCPU-second, so an idle service costs little.

6 **Templates**

The templates page offers ready-made setups for apps and databases that deploy to a project in a few steps.

7 **Volumes and object storage**

Persistent volumes are billed per GB-second and object storage is $0.015 per GB-month with free egress.

8 **A 2.6 GPA, above 114 of 122**

That is against the other web hosts we grade, on value, the free plan, features, ease of use and platforms.

9 **Keep it**

To replace Railway you would be making an AI agent, with the models and the safeguards behind it. That is not a weekend's work, with an AI app builder or without one.

Railway at a glance

PRICING
Free trial, from $5 minimum usage per month (Hobby)

FREE PLAN
No

FREE TRIAL
30-day trial with a one-time $5 credit, no card required.

RUNS ON
Web, iOS, Android

MADE BY
Railway Corp.

CATEGORY
Web Hosting

OUR GRADE
2.6 GPA, good

The report card

Best for side projects billed by usage

Railway bills apps and databases by the second for what they use, from a $5 minimum on Hobby. The free plan is $1 a month after a 30-day trial, and Hobby is one developer workspace with community support.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD **Railway** Graded Nov 12, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	B	Hobby is $5 minimum usage a month, inside the cheaper quarter ($5.28), but usage above the credit is on top and egress is $0.05 per GB. Pro is $20.
Free plan and trial	C	A 30-day trial with $5 and no card, then a Free plan at $1 a month, limited to 1 project, 3 services and 0.5 GB RAM a service.
Features	B	Usage billing, templates, volumes, object storage, replicas and regions, and sandboxes. The listing names no core gap.
Ease of use	C	No store rating on record. You set up projects, services and databases.
Platforms and integrations	B	Web, iOS and Android, but no desktop app and no integrations listed.

Grade point average Good, out of 4.0 **2.6**

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 Railway is for

- ✓ Fits if you run side projects that only run part of the time
- ✓ Works for teams that want unlimited seats on the $20 plan

Who it is not for

- ✕ Tight if you stay on Free: 1 project, 3 services, 0.5 GB RAM
- ✕ Watch out: usage above the included credit is billed on top of the minimum
- ✕ Watch out: Hobby has community support, and support and the 99.99% target start on Pro
- ✕ Not for you if you need SSO, RBAC or HIPAA BAAs, as those are Enterprise

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Side projects and prototypes that run only part of the time
- ✓ Teams that want unlimited seats on a $20 minimum plan
- ✓ Apps that need a database and a service deployed together

Worth knowing

- ⓘ Egress is $0.05 per GB, and usage above the included credit is charged on top of the minimum.
- ⓘ After the trial, the Free plan allows 1 project, 3 services and 0.5 GB of RAM per service.
- ⓘ Hobby is a single developer workspace with community support; support and a 99.99% target begin on Pro.
- ⓘ SSO, role-based access control and HIPAA BAAs are Enterprise only.

What it costs

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

$5
A month to start

Railway is a paid product with a free trial, starting at $5 minimum usage per month (Hobby).

FREE

$0

per month, after the trial

After a 30-day trial with $5 in credits, $1 per month. Up to 1 vCPU and 0.5 GB RAM per service, 0.5 GB volume.

HOBBY

$5

minimum usage per month, includes $5 of usage

Includes $5 of monthly usage credit, up to 48 vCPU and 48 GB RAM per service, a single developer workspace and 7-day logs.

PRO

$20

minimum usage per month, includes $20 of usage

Includes $20 of monthly usage credit, unlimited workspace seats, up to 1,000 vCPU per service and a 99.99% availability target.

ENTERPRISE

Custom

Single sign-on, role-based access control, HIPAA BAAs, dedicated VMs, bring-your-own-cloud and a 99.999% availability target.

Trying it first

30-day trial with a one-time $5 credit, no card required.

Read from railway.com on Nov 12, 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

App and database hosting billed by the second for usage. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: public API, databases, AI agents.

> **Usage billing, templates, volumes, object storage, replicas and regions, and sandboxes.**
>
> From our grade for features

Usage-based billing

Memory costs $0.00000386 per GB-second and CPU $0.00000772 per vCPU-second, so an idle service costs little.

Templates

The templates page offers ready-made setups for apps and databases that deploy to a project in a few steps.

Volumes and object storage

Persistent volumes are billed per GB-second and object storage is $0.015 per GB-month with free egress.

Sandboxes and VMs

Isolated Linux VMs for agents, builds and untrusted code, billed for CPU used and memory held, at about $50 per vCPU-month.

Replicas and regions

Services can run up to 5 replicas on Hobby and 42 on Pro, across concurrent global regions.

Mobile app

The site lists a Railway app for iOS and Android.

Where it runs

Web iOS Android

What it works with

Its own pages name no integrations.

Railway is made by Railway Corp.

Where it stands

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

114/122

Other web hosts it is graded above

Railway's GPA of 2.6 is higher than 114 of the 122 other web hosts we grade, and level with 5.

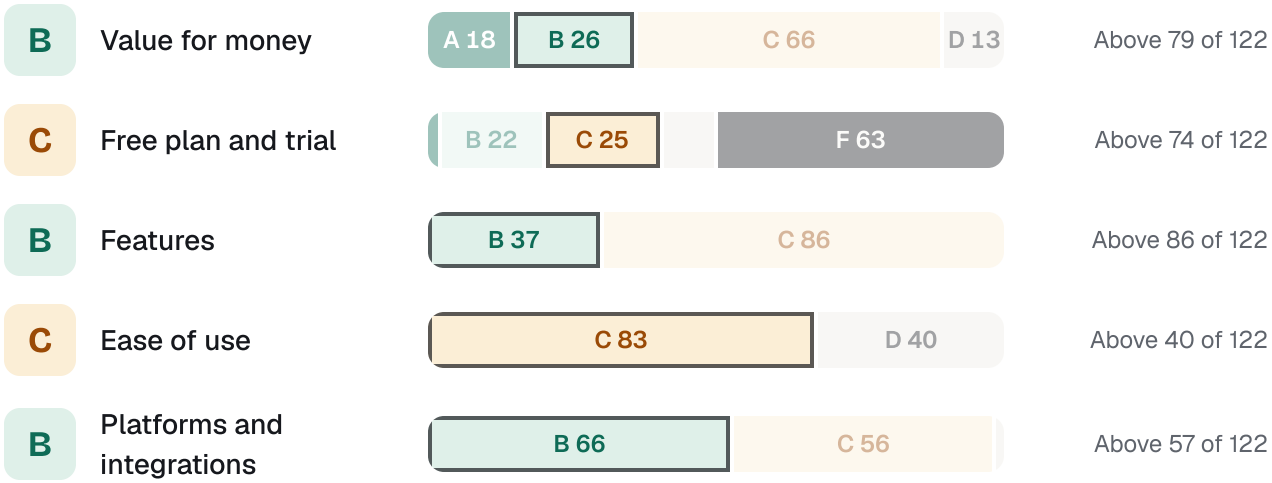
It stands best on features (B, above 86 of 122) and worst on ease of use (C, above 40).

Its paid plans start at $5 a month, against a middle price of $9.69 for the category: 31 of the 107 others that charge start lower.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 2.7 out of 4. Nothing scores higher for less, though at least one tool matches that score at a lower price.

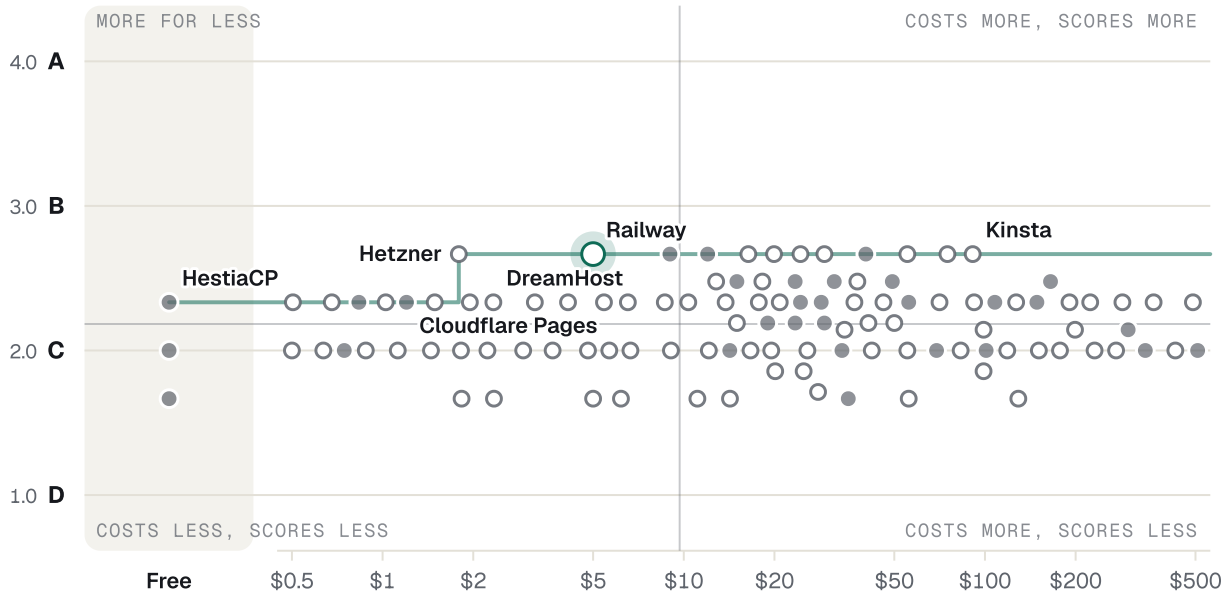
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 123 web hosts we grade, cut by the letter each got. Railway's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 111 web hosts. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. Railway 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

To replace Railway you would be making an AI agent, with the models and the safeguards behind it. That is not a weekend's work, with an AI app builder or without one.

It is one of the better ones too: its GPA of 2.6 is higher than 114 of the 122 other web hosts we grade. It costs $60 a year.

What you could not

- ✕ An AI agent, with the models and the safeguards behind it.
- ✕ Databases with views, filters and links between them.

- ✕ A real app for iOS and Android. Something home-made would be a web page.
- ✕ An API that other software can build on.
- ✕ The depth: we grade its features B, which means it covers the whole job.

What this rests on. Railway'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



Render, Fly.io, Vercel, Koyeb and DigitalOcean

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

R

2.4
GPA

Render

Free plan · from $25/mo

Cloud hosting for web services, databases and workers.

- Render has a free plan. Railway does not, though it has a free trial.
- Only Railway lists iOS and Android apps.
- Railway also covers AI agents.

Railway and Render compared in full



2.2
GPA

Fly.io

Free trial · from $2.19/mo

Virtual machines and databases in 18 regions, billed per second.

- Only Railway lists iOS and Android apps.

Railway and Fly.io compared in full



2.4
GPA

Vercel

Free plan · from $20/mo

Git-based hosting for front-end and full-stack web apps.

- Vercel has a free plan. Railway does not, though it has a free trial.
- Only Railway lists iOS and Android apps.
- Railway also covers databases and AI agents.

Railway and Vercel compared in full



1.8
GPA

Koyeb

From $29/mo

Serverless platform for apps, APIs and GPU workloads.

- Only Railway lists iOS and Android apps.
- Railway also covers databases and AI agents.

Railway and Koyeb compared in full



2.2
GPA

DigitalOcean

Free plan · from $4/mo

Cloud servers, app hosting and managed databases for developers.

- DigitalOcean has a free plan. Railway does not, though it has a free trial.
- Only Railway lists iOS and Android apps.
- Railway also covers AI agents.

Railway and DigitalOcean 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 Railway free?

No, Railway is a paid product, but you can try it first. 30-day trial with a one-time $5 credit, no card required.

How much does Railway cost?

Railway lists 4 plans. Free: $0 per month, after the trial.

What platforms does Railway work on?

Railway is available on Web, iOS and Android.

Does Railway have a Windows app?

No Windows app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 12, 2026. Railway is listed for Web, iOS and Android.

Does Railway have a macOS app?

No macOS app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 12, 2026. Railway is listed for Web, iOS and Android.

Is Railway open source?

Railway is not described as open source on its own site, as read on Nov 12, 2026.

Does Railway have an API?

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

Who makes Railway?

Railway is made by Railway Corp.

What are the alternatives to Railway?

The closest alternatives to Railway in our directory are Render, Fly.io, Vercel, Koyeb and DigitalOcean.

How does Railway compare with other web hosts?

Railway's GPA of 2.6 is higher than 114 of the 122 other web hosts we grade, and level with 5.

Is Railway good value for money?

ToolGPA grades Railway B for value for money. Its paid plans start at $5 a month, against a middle price of $9.69 for the category: 31 of the 107 others that charge start lower.

Could I make my own version of Railway?

To replace Railway you would be making an AI agent, with the models and the safeguards behind it.

Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from Railway'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 Railway'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 Railway Corp. Prices change, so check railway.com before you buy.

railway.com/pricing

railway.com

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

Railway, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/railway

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, "Railway: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 12, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/railway
```

Know someone choosing between web hosts?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded web hosts after Railway, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Web Hosting Insider's Guide

Every one of the 123 web hosts we grade, compared

Cloudflare Pages Insider's Guide

Git-based hosting for static sites and full-stack apps

2.8 GPA

GitHub Pages Insider's Guide

Static site hosting built into GitHub repositories

2.8 GPA

Netlify Insider's Guide

Git-based hosting for sites and web apps, priced by monthly credits

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