ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Rainmeter

The Insider’s Guide

Free Windows desktop customization tool with community skins



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among desktop utilities, read from Rainmeter’s own pages.

Made by Rainmeter · checked Nov 12, 2026 · toolgpa.com

2.6
GPA



Rainmeter
desktop customization tool

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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 Rainmeter's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Rainmeter'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 35 of the 96 other desktop utilities we grade

Rainmeter puts customizable skins on the Windows desktop, from hardware usage meters to audio visualizers. It ships with a few starter skins, and most people install skins made by the community or write their own in a simple configuration language.

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

> **The site says a finished look usually means finding or building skins and tweaking them by hand.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

1 **Best for custom desktop skins on Windows**

Rainmeter puts skins on your Windows desktop, from clocks to CPU meters, and it is free and open source.

2 **It is free**

Rainmeter has no paid plan at all. The full app is free, open source software under the GNU GPL v2 license.

3 **It runs on Windows**

Windows.

4 **Desktop skins**

Displays customizable skins directly on the desktop, such as clocks, weather, system meters and audio visualizers.

5 **Hardware usage meters**

Skins can read system statistics like CPU, memory and network use.

6 **Own skins**

Skins are written in a simple language, so users can modify existing ones or build new ones.

7 **A 2.6 GPA, above 35 of 96**

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

8 **Keep it**

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

Rainmeter at a glance

PRICING Free	FREE PLAN Yes
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON Windows
MADE BY Rainmeter, since 2001	CATEGORY Desktop Utilities
OUR GRADE 2.6 GPA, good	

The report card

Best for custom desktop skins on Windows

Rainmeter puts skins on your Windows desktop, from clocks to CPU meters, and it is free and open source. Beyond a few starter skins you have to find or

build skins and tweak them by hand, and skins from outside rainmeter.net come at your own risk.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD	Rainmeter	Graded Nov 12, 2026
SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	A	Free, open source under GPL v2 since 2001, under 60% of the cheaper quarter.
Free plan and trial	A	The whole app is free, with no paid edition listed.
Features	C	Skins, hardware meters and a skin language. The finished look depends on skins you find or write, so it is a toolkit more than a finished product.
Ease of use	C	No rating on record. The site says a finished look usually means finding or building skins and tweaking them by hand.
Platforms and integrations	D	Windows 7 or above only. No Mac, Linux or phone version.
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 Rainmeter is for

- ✓ Fits if you want live system stats on a custom Windows desktop
- ✓ Works for hobbyists who like editing their own skins

Who it is not for

- ✕ Skip it if you are on Mac or Linux, as it is Windows only
- ✕ Not for you if you want a finished look out of the box, as only a few starter skins ship with it
- ✕ Watch out: skins from outside rainmeter.net are downloaded at your own risk, the site warns
- ✕ Too light for support, as help comes from forums and Discord

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Windows users who want a custom desktop layout with live system stats
- ✓ Hobbyists who like writing or editing their own skins

Worth knowing

- ⓘ Windows 7 or above only.
- ⓘ Skins from sources other than rainmeter.net are downloaded at the user's own risk, as the site warns.
- ⓘ Beyond a few starter skins, getting a finished look usually means finding or building skins and tweaking them by hand.

What it costs

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

Free

No paid plan at all

Rainmeter is free to use.

> **The whole app is free, with no paid edition listed.**
>
> From our grade for free plan and trial

FREE

$0

Open source under the GNU GPL v2 license; no paid edition is listed.

The free plan

The full app is free, open source software under the GNU GPL v2 license.

Read from rainmeter.net 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: Windows

Free Windows desktop customization tool with community skins. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: open source, works offline, system monitor.

> "
>
> **Skins, hardware meters and a skin language.**
>
> From our grade for features

Desktop skins

Displays customizable skins directly on the desktop, such as clocks, weather, system meters and audio visualizers.

Hardware usage meters

Skins can read system statistics like CPU, memory and network use.

Own skins

Skins are written in a simple language, so users can modify existing ones or build new ones.

Community skin library

The vendor points to DeviantArt, Reddit, its own forums and Discord as places to find skins.

Light resource use

The site says it uses very little hardware resources on Windows 7 through Windows 11.

Documentation

A getting-started guide and a documentation site cover the skin language and the app.

Where it runs

Windows

What it works with

Its own pages name no integrations.

Rainmeter is made by Rainmeter, and has been around since 2001.

Where it stands

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

35/96

Other desktop utilities it is graded above

Rainmeter's GPA of 2.6 is higher than 35 of the 96 other desktop utilities we grade, and level with 25.

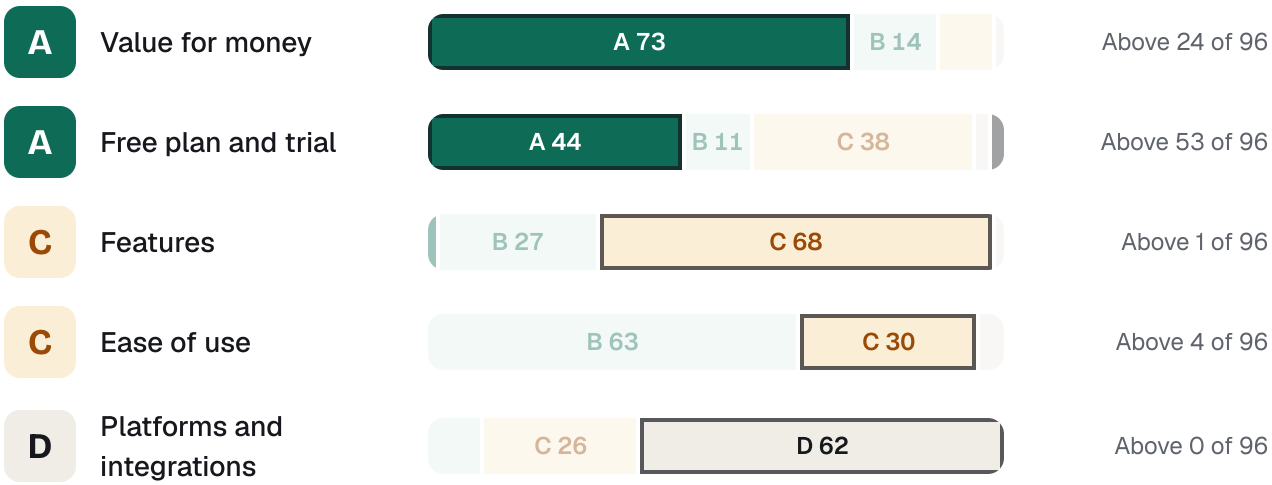
It stands best on free plan and trial (A, above 53 of 96) and worst on platforms and integrations (D, above 0).

Rainmeter has no paid plan.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 1.7 out of 4. Nothing scores higher for less, though at least one tool matches that score at a lower price.

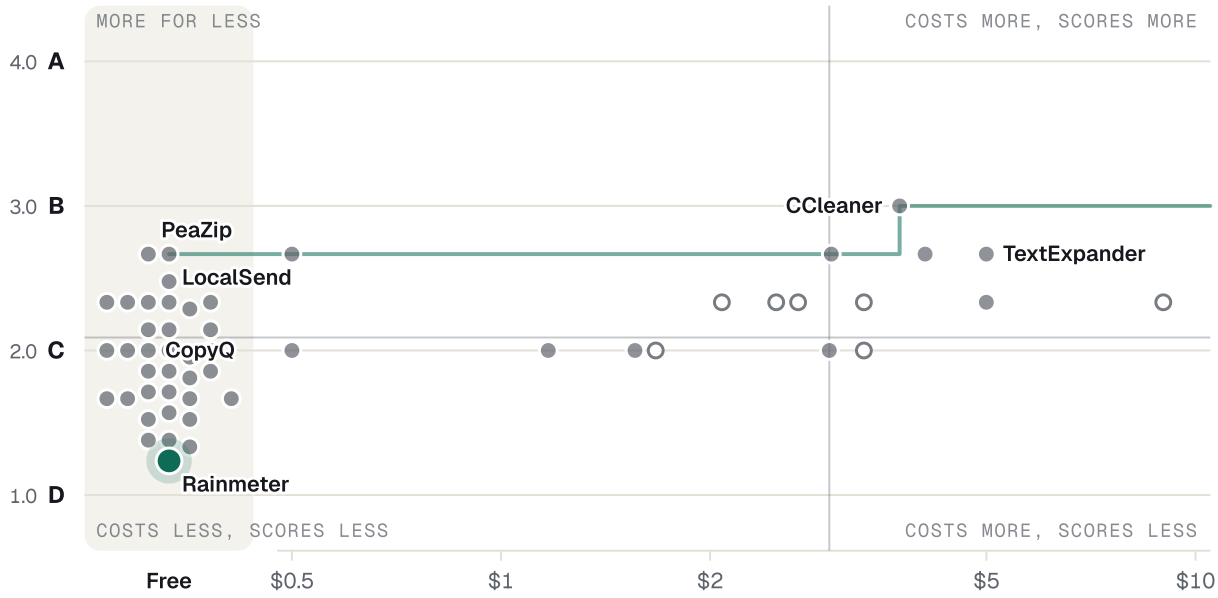
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 97 desktop utilities we grade, cut by the letter each got. Rainmeter's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 52 desktop utilities. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. Rainmeter 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

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

What you could not

- ✕ Readings from inside the operating system.
- ✕ A real app for Windows. Something home-made would be a web page.

What this rests on. Rainmeter'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



Wallpaper Engine, Microsoft PowerToys, Fences and Stats

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

2.6 GPA

Wallpaper Engine

From $4.99 one-time

Animated live wallpapers for Windows, bought once on Steam.

- Rainmeter has a free plan. Wallpaper Engine does not.
- Only Wallpaper Engine lists an Android app.
- Rainmeter is open source, according to its own site.

Rainmeter and Wallpaper Engine compared in full

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Microsoft PowerToys

Free

Free Microsoft utilities for customizing Windows 10 and 11.

- Rainmeter also covers system monitor.
- Microsoft PowerToys also covers launcher, window management, file management and keyboard and mouse remapping.

Rainmeter and Microsoft PowerToys compared in full

F

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Fences

Free trial · from $9.99/yr

Windows desktop organizer that groups icons into shaded areas.

- Rainmeter has a free plan. Fences does not, though it has a free trial.
- Rainmeter is open source, according to its own site.
- Fences can be bought with a one-time purchase.

Rainmeter and Fences compared in full



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Stats

Free

Free, open-source system monitor for the Mac menu bar.

- Only Rainmeter lists a Windows app.
- Only Stats lists a macOS app.
- Stats also covers menu bar app.

Rainmeter and Stats 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 Rainmeter free?

Yes. Rainmeter is free to use.

How much does Rainmeter cost?

Rainmeter lists one plan. Free: $0.

What platforms does Rainmeter work on?

Rainmeter is available on Windows.

Does Rainmeter have an Android app?

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

Does Rainmeter have an iPhone app?

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

Is Rainmeter open source?

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

Does Rainmeter 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.

Who makes Rainmeter?

Rainmeter is made by a company of the same name. It dates from 2001.

What are the alternatives to Rainmeter?

The closest alternatives to Rainmeter in our directory are Wallpaper Engine, Microsoft PowerToys, Fences and Stats.

How does Rainmeter compare with other desktop utilities?

Rainmeter's GPA of 2.6 is higher than 35 of the 96 other desktop utilities we grade, and level with 25.

Is Rainmeter good value for money?

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

Could I make my own version of Rainmeter?

Rainmeter is free, so making your own would save you nothing. What you could not make: Readings from inside the operating system.

Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from Rainmeter'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 Rainmeter'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 Rainmeter. Prices change, so check rainmeter.net before you buy.

rainmeter.net

rainmeter.net/discover/

About ToolGPA

Who made this guide, what else is on the site, and how to cite it

5,038
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**.

5,038
tools graded

95
categories

739
price changes on record

579
apps priced in 12 countries

What else is on toolgpa.com

Rainmeter, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/rainmeter

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, "Rainmeter: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 12, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/rainmeter
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Know someone choosing between desktop utilities?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded desktop utilities after Rainmeter, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Desktop Utilities Insider's Guide

Every one of the 97 desktop utilities we grade, compared

LocalSend Insider's Guide

Open-source file sharing between nearby devices, no cloud

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Ninite Insider's Guide

Installs and updates many Windows apps at once

3.2 GPA

PeaZip Insider's Guide

Free file archiver for Linux, macOS and Windows

3.2 GPA

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Choosing software? Every tool graded, every price dated.

Compare tools at toolgpa.com ›

Everything in this guide is ToolGPA's own summary of what Rainmeter'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. Rainmeter is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Rainmeter. Prices and plans change: check rainmeter.net before you buy.