ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Rclone

The Insider's Guide

Command-line tool for syncing and mounting cloud storage



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among file storage and sync services, read from Rclone's own pages.

Made by Nick Craig-Wood and contributors · checked Nov 13, 2026 · toolgpa.com

2.8
GPA



RCLONE

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 Rclone's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Rclone'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 73 of the 91 other file storage and sync services we grade

Rclone is an open-source command-line program for copying, syncing, mounting and checking files on local disks and cloud storage. It supports more than 70 storage products, from S3-style object stores to consumer file services, and standard protocols such as SFTP and WebDAV. It is used from the terminal, in scripts, or through its remote-control API.

> "
>
> **It is run from the command line and set up with configuration files.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

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

1 **Best for syncing and mounting cloud storage from the command line**

It is a command-line tool, and its web interface is labelled experimental.

2 **It is free**

Rclone has no paid plan at all. Free and open source under the MIT license; no paid plans.

3 **It runs on 4 platforms**

macOS, Windows, Linux and Android.

4 **Copy, sync and bisync**

One-way sync makes a destination match a source; bisync keeps two directories matching in both directions.

5 **Wide provider support**

The site says over 70 cloud storage products support it, including S3 object stores, plus SFTP, WebDAV, FTP and HTTP.

6 **Mount as a disk**

Mounts local, cloud or virtual filesystems as a drive on Windows, macOS, Linux and FreeBSD.

7 **A 2.8 GPA, above 73 of 91**

That is against the other file storage and sync services we grade, on value, the free plan, features, ease of use and platforms.

8 **Keep it**

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

Rclone at a glance

PRICING Free	FREE PLAN Yes
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON macOS, Windows, Linux, Android
MADE BY Nick Craig-Wood and contributors	CATEGORY File Storage & Sync
OUR GRADE 2.8 GPA, good	

The report card

Best for syncing and mounting cloud storage from the command line

Rclone is a free MIT-licensed command-line program that copies, syncs and mounts files across 70+ storage products. You pay only your storage providers. It is a command-line tool, and its web interface is labelled experimental.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD	Rclone	Graded Nov 13, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	A	Free under the MIT licence, with no paid plans. Anyone can download and run it, and you pay only the storage providers you connect.
Free plan and trial	A	The whole program is free with no caps. You do need an account with a provider, as it hosts nothing.
Features	B	Copy, sync, bisync, mount as a drive, encryption, compression, hash checks and serving files, across 70+ providers. Nothing in the listing is missing from the job.
Ease of use	D	It is run from the command line and set up with configuration files. The web GUI is labelled experimental.
Platforms and integrations	C	A program for computers: Mac, Windows and Linux, with Android only as separate builds. Many storage backends but no phone or web app of its own.

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 Rclone is for

- ✓ Fits if you are comfortable in a terminal and want to move files between many providers
- ✓ Works for people who want to mount cloud storage as a drive

Who it is not for

- ✗ Skip it if you want a point-and-click app, as it is a command-line program
- ✗ Not for you if you need hosting, because it does not store files itself
- ✗ Too light for people wanting a polished GUI, since the web interface is labelled experimental
- ✗ Watch out: Android is only available as separate builds
- ✗ Tight if you want vendor support: it is a free open-source project

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Moving data between cloud providers without going through a local disk
- ✓ Scripted backups to S3-style or other object storage
- ✓ People comfortable working in a terminal

Worth knowing

- ⓘ It is a command-line program; the web GUI is labeled experimental.
- ⓘ Android is mentioned only as separate builds, not as a main download.
- ⓘ It does not host storage itself: you need an account with a supported provider.
- ⓘ The site points third-party developers to the command line and API for GUI and backup front ends.

What it costs

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

Free

No paid plan at all

Rclone is free to use.

> **Free under the MIT licence, with no paid plans.**
>
> From our grade for value for money

RCLONE

$0

Free MIT-licensed software; you pay only the storage providers you connect it to.

The free plan

Free and open source under the MIT license; no paid plans.

Read from rclone.org on Nov 13, 2026.

What it does

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

4

Places it runs: macOS, Windows, Linux and Android

Command-line tool for syncing and mounting cloud storage. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: open source, end-to-end encrypted, public API, file sync, file management.

> **Nothing in the listing is missing from the job.**

From our grade for features

Copy, sync and bisync

One-way sync makes a destination match a source; bisync keeps two directories matching in both directions.

Wide provider support

The site says over 70 cloud storage products support it, including S3 object stores, plus SFTP, WebDAV, FTP and HTTP.

Mount as a disk

Mounts local, cloud or virtual filesystems as a drive on Windows, macOS, Linux and FreeBSD.

Crypt, compress and chunk backends

Virtual backends wrap another remote to encrypt, compress, chunk or merge it.

Integrity checks

Checks MD5 or SHA1 hashes and preserves timestamps, and interrupted transfers can be restarted.

Serve and remote control

Can serve files over HTTP, WebDAV, FTP, SFTP and DLNA; an experimental web GUI and a remote-control API are listed.

Where it runs

macOS · Windows · Linux · Android

What it works with

Amazon S3 · Google Drive · Dropbox · Microsoft OneDrive · Backblaze B2 · Box · SFTP · WebDAV

Rclone is made by Nick Craig-Wood and contributors.

Where it stands

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

73/91

Other file storage and sync services it is graded above

Rclone's GPA of 2.8 is higher than 73 of the 91 other file storage and sync services we grade, and level with 9.

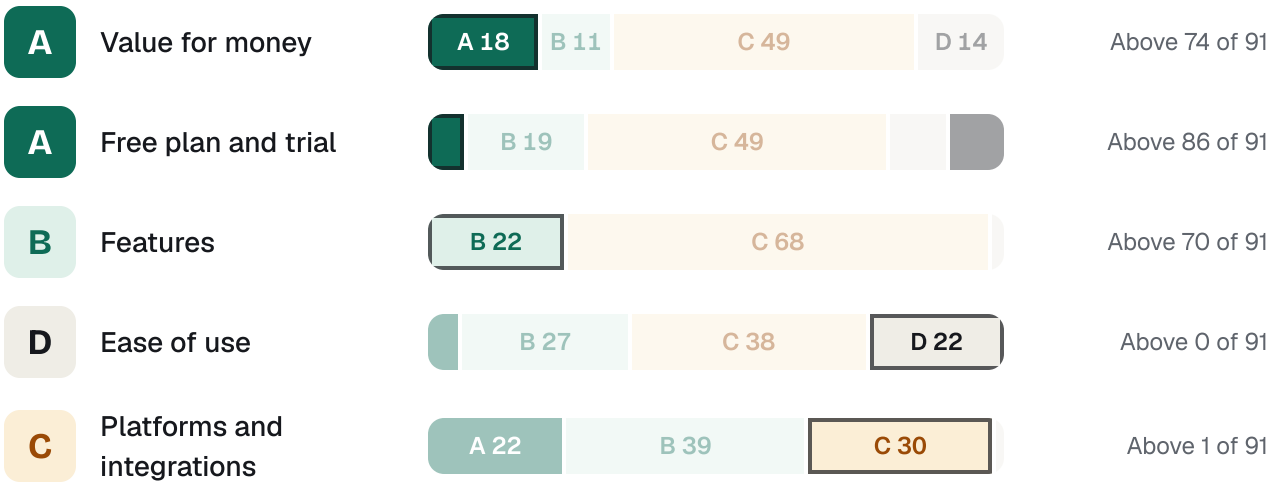
It stands best on free plan and trial (A, above 86 of 91) and worst on ease of use (D, above 0).

Rclone 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.

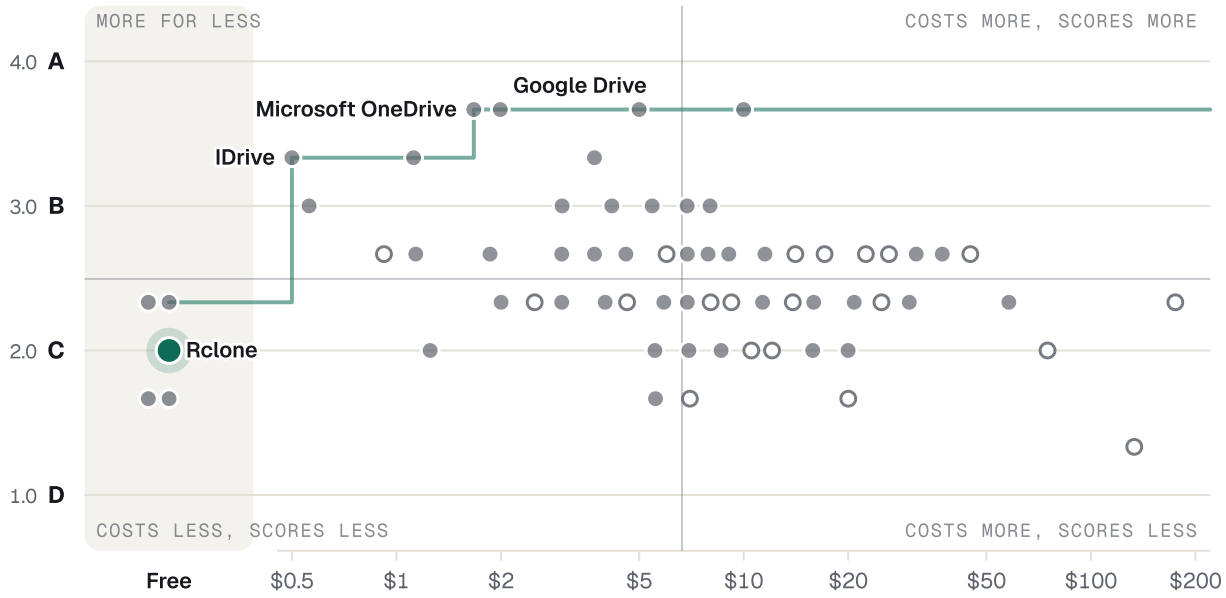
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 92 file storage and sync services we grade, cut by the letter each got. Rclone's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 66 file storage and sync services. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. Rclone 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

Rclone 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 73 of the 91 other file storage and sync services we grade.

What you could not

- ✕ Files kept in step across devices without losing one.
- ✕ A file manager working directly on your disk.
- ✕ Apps for macOS, Windows, Linux and Android that stay in step with each other.

- ✕ It plugs into other products, Amazon S3, Google Drive and Dropbox among them, and has an API.
- ✕ End-to-end encryption done properly.
- ✕ The depth: we grade its features B, which means it covers the whole job.

What this rests on. Rclone'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



Syncthing, FreeFileSync, Unison, Duplicati and MultCloud

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

2.6 GPA

Syncthing

Free

Free, open source file sync directly between your own devices.

- Only Rclone lists an Android app.
- Rclone is end-to-end encrypted, according to its own site.
- Rclone also covers file management.

Rclone and Syncthing compared in full

3.0 GPA

FreeFileSync

Free plan · from €20/yr

Open-source folder comparison and sync for desktops.

- Only Rclone lists an Android app.
- Rclone is end-to-end encrypted, according to its own site.

Rclone and FreeFileSync compared in full

U

2.6
GPA

Unison

Free

Open-source two-way file synchronizer for Unix, macOS and Windows.

- Only Rclone lists an Android app.
- Rclone is end-to-end encrypted, according to its own site.
- Rclone also covers file management.

Rclone and Unison compared in full



2.8
GPA

Duplicati

Free plan · from $2/mo

Encrypted backup to storage you choose, with a free open-source client.

- Only Rclone lists an Android app.
- Only Duplicati lists a web app.
- Rclone also covers file sync and file management.

Rclone and Duplicati compared in full



2.0
GPA

MultCloud

Free plan · from $19.99/mo

Web service for moving and syncing files between cloud drives.

- Only Rclone lists macOS, Windows, Linux and Android apps.
- Only MultCloud lists a web app.
- Rclone is open source and end-to-end encrypted, according to its own site.

Rclone and MultCloud 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 Rclone free?

Yes. Rclone is free to use.

How much does Rclone cost?

Rclone lists one plan. Rclone: $0.

What platforms does Rclone work on?

Rclone is available on macOS, Windows, Linux and Android.

Does Rclone have an iPhone app?

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

Is Rclone open source?

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

Is Rclone end-to-end encrypted?

Rclone describes itself as end-to-end encrypted on its own site. Nobody here has audited that.

Does Rclone have an API?

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

What does Rclone integrate with?

Rclone's listing names Amazon S3, Google Drive, Dropbox, Microsoft OneDrive, Backblaze B2, Box, SFTP and WebDAV.

Who makes Rclone?

Rclone is made by Nick Craig-Wood and contributors.

What are the alternatives to Rclone?

The closest alternatives to Rclone in our directory are Syncthing, FreeFileSync, Unison, Duplicati and MultCloud.

How does Rclone compare with other file storage and sync services?

Rclone's GPA of 2.8 is higher than 73 of the 91 other file storage and sync services we grade, and level with 9.

Is Rclone good value for money?

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

Could I make my own version of Rclone?

Rclone 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 Rclone'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 Rclone'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 Nick Craig-Wood and contributors. Prices change, so check rclone.org before you buy.

rclone.org/
rclone.org/downloads/
rclone.org/licence/

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

Rclone, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/rclone

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:

```
ToolGPA, "Rclone: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 13, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/rclone
```

Know someone choosing between file storage and sync services?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded file storage and sync services after Rclone, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

File Storage & Sync Insider's Guide

Every one of the 92 file storage and sync services we grade, compared

Google Drive Insider's Guide

Cloud storage tied to Google Docs, Gmail and Photos

3.6 GPA

Filen Insider's Guide

End-to-end encrypted cloud storage from Germany with open source apps

3.4 GPA

Microsoft OneDrive Insider's Guide

Microsoft's cloud storage, bundled with Microsoft 365 plans

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 Rclone'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. Rclone is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Nick Craig-Wood and contributors. Prices and plans change: check rclone.org before you buy.