ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Read the Docs

The Insider's Guide

Hosts documentation built from a Git repository



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among docs and wiki tools, read from Read the Docs's own pages.

Made by Read the Docs, Inc · checked Nov 12, 2026 · toolgpa.com

2.0

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

2.0

GPA, above 6 of the 86 other docs and wiki tools we grade

Read the Docs builds documentation from a Git repository and hosts it with search, versioning and pull request previews. It works with Sphinx, MkDocs, Docusaurus and other tools. Open source projects use a free, ad-supported community site, and companies use a separate paid Business site.

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

> **You point it at a repository and add a config file, with a docs tool such as Sphinx or MkDocs behind it.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

1 **Best for hosting docs built from a Git repository**

It hosts docs written in another tool rather than being an editor, and its free site is for open source only and shows ads.

2 **Paid plans start at $50 a month**

As its pricing page puts it: $50 per month, billed monthly.

3 There is a free plan

Read the Docs Community is free for open source projects: public repositories and public documentation, with ad-supported hosting.

4 It runs on Web

Web.

5 Builds from Git

Connect a Git repository and the service builds the docs automatically, with versioning, search and CDN hosting on every plan.

6 Works with common doc tools

The site names Sphinx, MkDocs and Docusaurus as supported documentation tools.

7 Pull request previews

Each pull request gets a live preview build with a visual diff against production.

8 A 2.0 GPA, above 6 of 86

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

9 Keep it

The plain part of Read the Docs you could make: documents. What surrounds it you could not. The 3 things listed below take a company, not a weekend.

Read the Docs at a glance

PRICING
Free plan, from $50 per month, billed monthly

FREE PLAN
Yes

FREE TRIAL
30-day free trial on the Business plans; nothing is charged automatically when it ends

RUNS ON
Web

MADE BY
Read the Docs, Inc, since 2010

CATEGORY
Docs & Wikis

OUR GRADE
2.0 GPA, fair

The report card

Best for hosting docs built from a Git repository

Read the Docs builds and hosts documentation from a Git repository, free for open-source projects and from $50 a month for private ones. It hosts docs written in another tool rather than being an editor, and its free site is for open source only and shows ads.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD — **Read the Docs** — Graded Nov 12, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	C	Basic is $50 a month, above the category's middle at $18 and below its dearer quarter at $82.50. Advanced is $150 and Pro $250, and SAML SSO needs Enterprise from $10,000 a year.

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Free plan and trial	C	Community is free for open-source projects, with public repos and docs and ads. Business plans have a 30-day trial with nothing charged automatically, but there is no free plan for private docs.
Features	C	Builds from Git, works with Sphinx, MkDocs and Docusaurus, pull-request previews, private docs and access control. It is a host and not an editor or a wiki, and plans cap concurrent builds, domains and redirects.
Ease of use	D	You point it at a repository and add a config file, with a docs tool such as Sphinx or MkDocs behind it. It assumes a developer.
Platforms and integrations	B	Web, with GitHub and GitLab sign-in and builds, and the common docs tools. No desktop or phone apps.
Grade point average		Fair, out of 4.0 **2.0**

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 Read the Docs is for

- ✓ Fits if you maintain an open-source project and want free hosted docs
- ✓ Works for companies already building docs with Sphinx or MkDocs

Who it is not for

- ✗ Skip it if you want an editor, as it hosts and builds docs written elsewhere
- ✗ Watch out: the free Community site is for open source only and shows ads
- ✗ Tight if you are on Basic, with 2 concurrent builds, a shared domain and 50 redirects
- ✗ Watch out: SAML SSO needs Enterprise from $10,000 a year, and annual prices are not shown

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Open source projects that want free documentation hosting
- ✓ Engineering teams that keep docs in Git and want builds and previews handled for them

Worth knowing

- ⓘ It hosts and builds docs written with another tool; it is not an editor or a wiki.
- ⓘ Community and Business are two separate sites (readthedocs.org and readthedocs.com), and the free one is for open source only and shows ads.
- ⓘ Business plans are capped by concurrent builds, custom domains and redirects; SAML SSO needs Enterprise, from $10,000 per year.
- ⓘ Annual plans are offered on every paid tier, invoice or purchase order included, but the page does not show their prices.

What it costs

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

$50

A month to start. There is a free plan too

Read the Docs has a free plan. Paid plans start at $50 per month, billed monthly.

> **Community is free for open-source projects, with public repos and docs and ads.**

From our grade for free plan and trial

COMMUNITY

$0

Free for open source projects. Clones public repositories only, publishes public documentation and shows ads.

BASIC

$50

per month, billed monthly

Private repositories, 2 concurrent builds, a shared domain, SSO with GitHub and GitLab, 50 redirects and support within 3 business days.

ADVANCED

$150

per month, billed monthly

4 concurrent builds, 5 custom domains, 250 redirects and 90 days of page and search analytics. Support within 2 business days.

PRO

$250

per month, billed monthly

6 concurrent builds, 15 custom domains, 500 redirects, SSO with Google as well, and 90 days of authentication auditing. Support within 1 business day.

ENTERPRISE

$10,000

per year and up

SAML SSO, dedicated builders, advanced audit tracking and a support SLA.

The free plan

Read the Docs Community is free for open source projects: public repositories and public documentation, with ad-supported hosting.

Trying it first

30-day free trial on the Business plans; nothing is charged automatically when it ends

Read from about.readthedocs.com on Nov 12, 2026.

Ways to pay less

OTHER SAVINGS

Free hosting for open source documentation

Open source documentation is always free on Read the Docs Community, supported by ads.

Stated on about.readthedocs.com

What it does

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

1

Place it runs: Web

Hosts documentation built from a Git repository. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: AI features, documents.

> **Builds from Git, works with Sphinx, MkDocs and Docusaurus, pull-request previews, private docs and access control.**
>
> From our grade for features

Builds from Git

Connect a Git repository and the service builds the docs automatically, with versioning, search and CDN hosting on every plan.

Works with common doc tools

The site names Sphinx, MkDocs and Docusaurus as supported documentation tools.

Pull request previews

Each pull request gets a live preview build with a visual diff against production.

Private docs and access control

Business plans clone private repositories and can restrict who views the documentation, with SSO through GitHub, GitLab and, on Pro, Google.

AI-ready output

The site lists support for llms.txt, Markdown content negotiation and agent skills.

Where it runs

Web

What it works with

GitHub
GitLab
Sphinx
MkDocs
Docusaurus
Google

Read the Docs is made by Read the Docs, Inc, and has been around since 2010.

PART 04 · STANDING

Where it stands

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

6/86

Other docs and wiki tools it is graded above

Read the Docs's GPA of 2.0 is higher than 6 of the 86 other docs and wiki tools we grade, and level with 10.

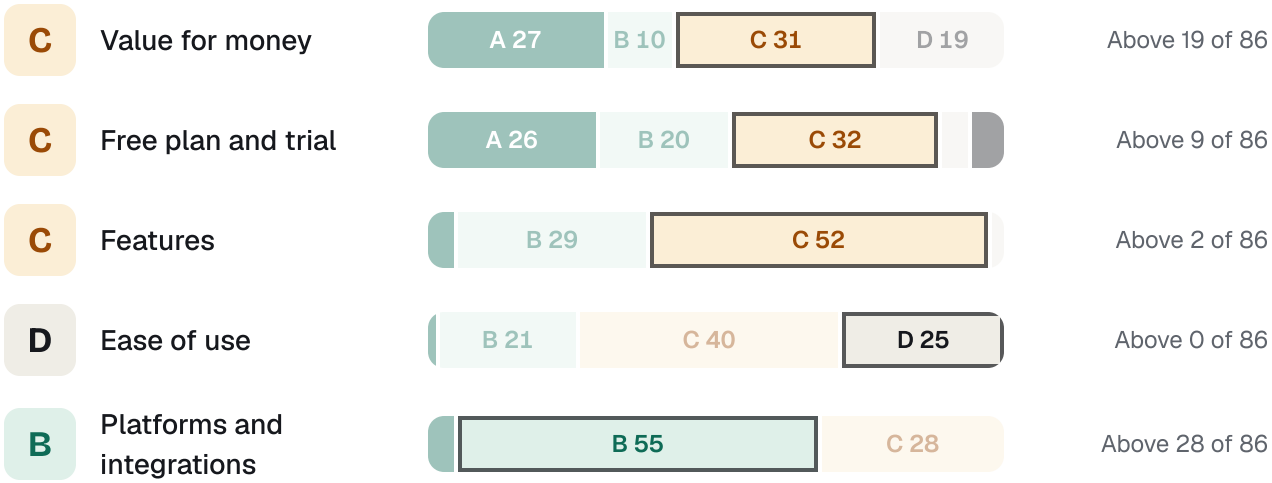
It stands best on platforms and integrations (B, above 28 of 86) and worst on ease of use (D, above 0).

Its paid plans start at $50 a month, against a middle price of $18.50 for the category: 38 of the 57 others that charge start lower.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 2.0 out of 4. 36 tools score higher and cost less.

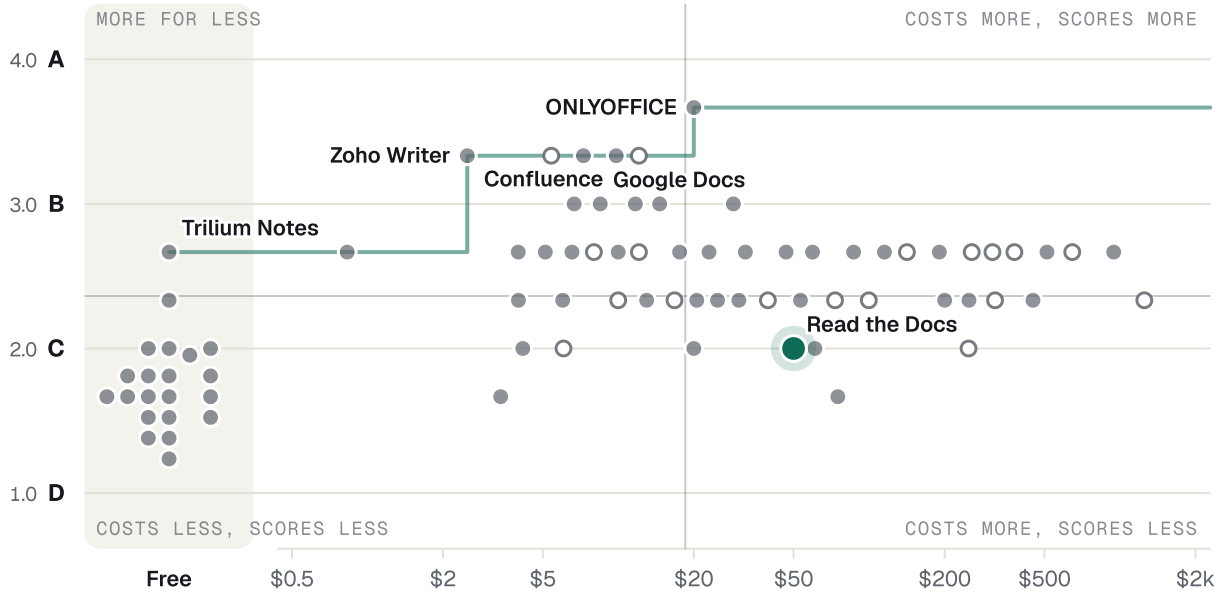
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 87 docs and wiki tools we grade, cut by the letter each got. Read the Docs's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 79 docs and wiki tools. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. Read the Docs 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

The plain part of Read the Docs you could make: documents. What surrounds it you could not. The 3 things listed below take a company, not a weekend.

That makes this kind of software worth paying for, not this one in particular: 70 of the 86 other docs and wiki tools grade higher. It costs $600 a year.

What you could make

- Documents: an app builder makes this well.

What you could not

- It plugs into other products, GitHub, GitLab and Sphinx among them.

- AI features, unless you pay a model provider for each request yourself.
- What a company asks for before it lets staff use something: single sign-on.

What this rests on. Read the Docs'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



GitBook, Docusaurus, MkDocs, Sphinx and Mintlify

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

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GitBook

Free plan · from $65/mo

Documentation platform for product and API docs, synced with Git.

- GitBook also covers AI search, Markdown and AI agents.

Read the Docs and GitBook compared in full

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Docusaurus

Free

Open-source static site generator for documentation.

- Docusaurus is open source, according to its own site.
- Docusaurus also covers Markdown.

Read the Docs and Docusaurus compared in full

M

2.6 GPA

MkDocs

Free

Static site generator for Markdown project documentation.

- MkDocs is open source, according to its own site.
- MkDocs also covers Markdown.

Read the Docs and MkDocs compared in full



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Sphinx

Free

Documentation generator for Python projects and beyond.

- Only Read the Docs lists a web app.
- Only Sphinx lists macOS, Windows and Linux apps.
- Sphinx is open source, according to its own site.

Read the Docs and Sphinx compared in full



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Mintlify

Free plan · from $450/mo

Documentation platform with built-in AI agents.

- Mintlify also covers AI search and AI agents.

Read the Docs and Mintlify compared in full

PART 06 · QUESTIONS

Quick answers

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

14

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 Read the Docs free?

Read the Docs has a free plan. Read the Docs Community is free for open source projects: public repositories and public documentation, with ad-supported hosting.

How much does Read the Docs cost?

Read the Docs lists 5 plans. Community: $0.

What platforms does Read the Docs work on?

Read the Docs is available on Web.

Does Read the Docs offer any discounts?

Read the Docs publicly lists the following: Free hosting for open source documentation.

Does Read the Docs have an Android app?

No Android app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 12, 2026. Read the Docs is listed for Web.

Does Read the Docs have an iPhone app?

No iPhone app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 12, 2026. Read the Docs is listed for Web.

Is Read the Docs open source?

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

What does Read the Docs integrate with?

Read the Docs's listing names GitHub, GitLab, Sphinx, MkDocs, Docusaurus and Google.

Does Read the Docs have a free trial?

Yes. 30-day free trial on the Business plans; nothing is charged automatically when it ends.

Who makes Read the Docs?

Read the Docs is made by Read the Docs, Inc. It dates from 2010.

What are the alternatives to Read the Docs?

The closest alternatives to Read the Docs in our directory are GitBook, Docusaurus, MkDocs, Sphinx and Mintlify.

How does Read the Docs compare with other docs and wiki tools?

Read the Docs's GPA of 2.0 is higher than 6 of the 86 other docs and wiki tools we grade, and level with 10.

Is Read the Docs good value for money?

ToolGPA grades Read the Docs C for value for money. Its paid plans start at $50 a month, against a middle price of $18.50 for the category: 38 of the 57 others that charge start lower.

Could I make my own version of Read the Docs?

The plain part of Read the Docs you could make: documents. What surrounds it you could not.

Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from Read the Docs'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 Read the Docs'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 Read the Docs, Inc. Prices change, so check about.readthedocs.com before you buy.

about.readthedocs.com/pricing/

about.readthedocs.com/

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

Read the Docs, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/read-the-docs

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, "Read the Docs: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 12, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/read-the-docs
```

Know someone choosing between docs and wiki tools?

Send them this guide: toolgpa.com/tools/read-the-docs/guide

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded docs and wiki tools after Read the Docs, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Docs & Wikis Insider's Guide

Every one of the 87 docs and wiki tools we grade, compared

Zoho Writer Insider's Guide

Free online word processor with AI and document automation

3.6 GPA

Google Docs Insider's Guide

Browser-based word processor, free with a Google Account

3.4 GPA

ONLYOFFICE Insider's Guide

Open-source office suite for documents, sheets, slides and PDFs

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 Read the Docs'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. Read the Docs is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Read the Docs, Inc. Prices and plans change: check about.readthedocs.com before you buy.