ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Red5

The Insider's Guide

Self-hosted ultra-low latency streaming server and SDKs



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among webinar and live streaming tools, read from Red5's own pages.

Made by Infrared5, Inc. · checked Nov 13, 2026 · toolgpa.com

1.8
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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 Red5's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Red5'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

1.8

GPA, above 9 of the 60 other webinar and live streaming tools we grade

Red5 Pro is licensed streaming server software that developers deploy on their own cloud accounts to deliver live and on-demand video over WebRTC and other protocols. It is a building block for custom apps such as webinars, auctions and surveillance viewers, with a separate managed option, Red5 Cloud.

To get you started, here are **9 things to know about Red5**, taken from its own pages and our grades.

> "
>
> **It is developer infrastructure that you deploy and configure.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

1 **Best for developers building low-latency streaming**

Red5 is self-hosted, ultra-low latency streaming infrastructure with SDKs, aimed at developers.

2 **Paid plans start at $29.99 a month**

As its pricing page puts it: $29.99 per month for 100 connections.

3 **You can try it first**

30-day free trial of Red5 Pro

4 **It runs on Web**

Web.

5 **Low-latency streaming**

Delivers live video over WebRTC, RTMP, RTSP and HLS, with recording and video on demand on every listed plan.

6 **Autoscaling**

Startup and above autoscale across AWS, Google Cloud, Azure or DigitalOcean; Developer Pro has no clustering.

7 **Instance-based licensing**

The FAQ says there is no charge per minute, viewer or bandwidth; price follows the license and number of running instances.

8 **A 1.8 GPA, above 9 of 60**

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

9 **Keep it**

To replace Red5 you would be making live video to hundreds of people at once. That is not a weekend's work, with an AI app builder or without one.

Red5 at a glance

PRICING
Free trial, from $29.99 per month for 100 connections

FREE PLAN
No

FREE TRIAL
30-day free trial of Red5 Pro

RUNS ON
Web

MADE BY
Infrared5, Inc.

CATEGORY
Webinars & Live Streaming

OUR GRADE
1.8 GPA, weak

The report card

Best for developers building low-latency streaming

Red5 is self-hosted, ultra-low latency streaming infrastructure with SDKs, aimed at developers. It is not a finished webinar product, hosting is separate, and the plan that scales starts at $109 a month.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD — **Red5** — Graded Nov 13, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	D	Developer Pro is $29.99 for 100 connections with no clustering; unlimited connections start at $109, over the $99 dearer-quarter mark.
Free plan and trial	C	30-day trial of Red5 Pro. The listing does not say whether it needs a card.
Features	C	Low-latency streaming, autoscaling, SDKs and an open-source server. No registration or reminders.
Ease of use	D	It is developer infrastructure that you deploy and configure.
Platforms and integrations	B	Web and mobile SDKs, with AWS, Azure, Google Cloud, DigitalOcean and Akamai.
Grade point average		Weak, out of 4.0 **1.8**

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 Red5 is for

- ✓ Fits if you have developers building a live product
- ✓ Works for teams that need autoscaling on their own cloud

Who it is not for

- ✗ Not for you if you want a ready webinar tool, as there is no registration
- ✗ Tight on Developer Pro: 100 connections with no clustering or autoscaling
- ✗ Watch out: hosting and data transfer are billed by your cloud provider
- ✗ Pricey if you want mobile SDKs: $349 a month per launched project
- ✗ Watch out: extra fees may apply for Castaway, custom SLAs and custom development

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Developers who need real-time video inside their own app
- ✓ Teams that want predictable licensing instead of per-viewer fees
- ✓ Organizations that need offline or on-premises streaming

Worth knowing

- ⓘ It is developer infrastructure, not a finished webinar product with registration or email reminders.
- ⓘ Hosting is separate: you pay your cloud provider for servers and data transfer.
- ⓘ Developer Pro is capped at 100 connections with no clustering or autoscaling.
- ⓘ Pricing says additional fees may apply for services such as Castaway, custom SLAs and custom development.

What it costs

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

$29.99

A month to start

Red5 is a paid product with a free trial, starting at $29.99 per month for 100 connections.

> **The listing does not say whether it needs a card.**

From our grade for free plan and trial

DEVELOPER PRO

$29.99

per month, up to 100 connections

Live streaming, recordings and VOD with no clustering or autoscaling; email support.

STARTUP

$109

per month, billed annually ($119 billed monthly)

Unlimited connections, adaptive bitrate and autoscaling on AWS, Google Cloud, Azure or DigitalOcean.

GROWTH PRO

$279

per month, billed annually ($299 billed monthly)

Adds transcoding and a private Slack channel to the Startup features.

ENTERPRISE

$3,499

per month and up

Adds offline deployments, 24/7 support and phone support to Growth Pro.

MOBILE SDKS

$349

per month per launched project, billed annually ($419 monthly)

One fee covers the iOS, Android and Linux SDKs for a single project.

Trying it first

30-day free trial of Red5 Pro

Read from red5.net on Nov 13, 2026.

What it does

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

1

Place it runs: Web

Self-hosted ultra-low latency streaming server and SDKs. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: self-hostable, public API, video calls, webinars.

> "
>
> **Low-latency streaming, autoscaling, SDKs and an open-source server.**

From our grade for features

Low-latency streaming

Delivers live video over WebRTC, RTMP, RTSP and HLS, with recording and video on demand on every listed plan.

Autoscaling

Startup and above autoscale across AWS, Google Cloud, Azure or DigitalOcean; Developer Pro has no clustering.

Instance-based licensing

The FAQ says there is no charge per minute, viewer or bandwidth; price follows the license and number of running instances.

Client SDKs

SDKs for Android, iOS, Windows, macOS, Linux, Unreal Engine and Unity are sold per launched project.

Open-source server

Red5 also publishes an open-source media server and TrueTime tools such as WatchParty and Studio, including a webinar variant.

Where it runs

- Web

What it works with

- AWS
- Microsoft Azure
- Google Cloud
- DigitalOcean
- Akamai
- Zixi
- PubNub
- Unity

Red5 is made by Infrared5, Inc.

Where it stands

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

9/60

Other webinar and live streaming tools it is graded above

Red5's GPA of 1.8 is higher than 9 of the 60 other webinar and live streaming tools we grade, and level with 16.

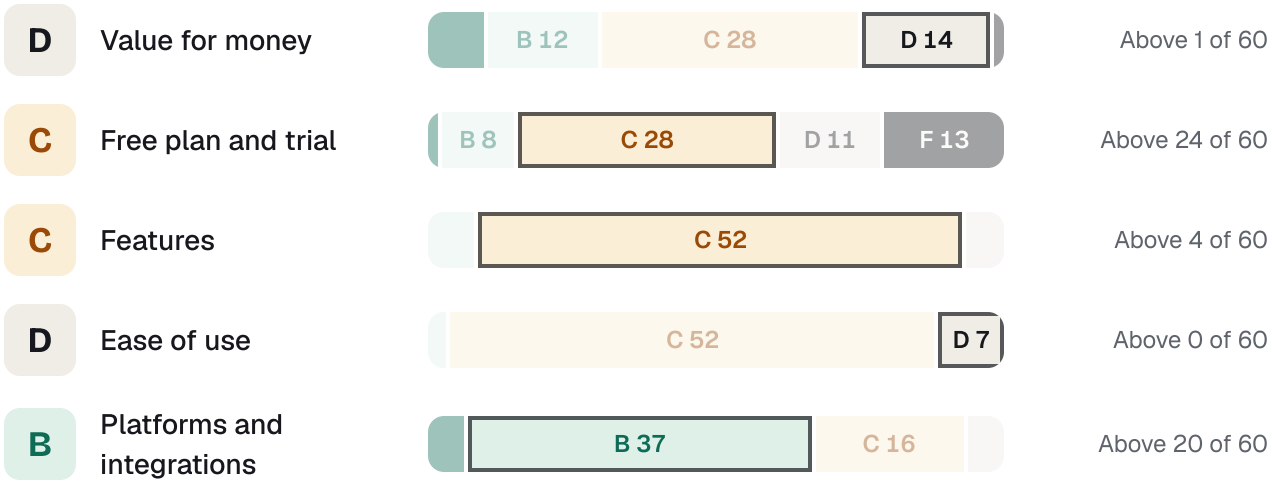
It stands best on platforms and integrations (B, above 20 of 60) and worst on ease of use (D, above 0).

Its paid plans start at $29.99 a month, against a middle price of $47 for the category: 15 of the 45 others that charge start lower.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 2.0 out of 4. 10 tools score higher and cost less.

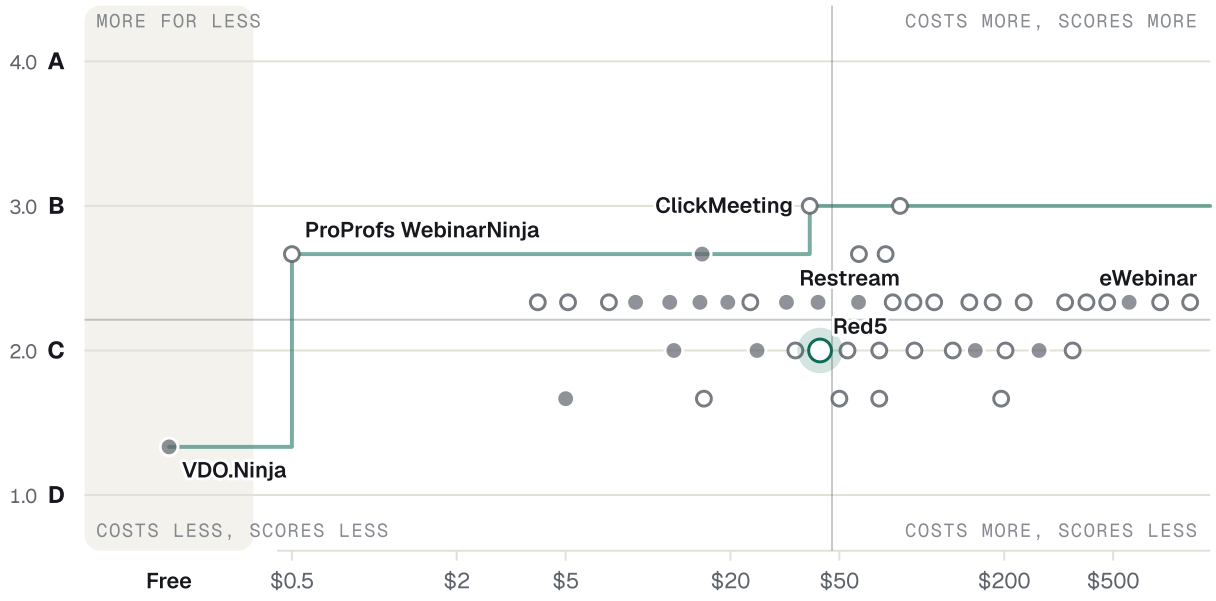
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 61 webinar and live streaming tools we grade, cut by the letter each got. Red5's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 47 webinar and live streaming tools. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. Red5 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 Red5 you would be making live video to hundreds of people at once. That is not a weekend's work, with an AI app builder or without one.

That makes this kind of software worth paying for, not this one in particular: 35 of the 60 other webinar and live streaming tools grade higher. It costs $359.88 a year.

What you could not

- ✕ Live video to hundreds of people at once.
- ✕ Video calls.

- ✕ It plugs into other products, AWS, Microsoft Azure and Google Cloud among them, and has an API.

What this rests on. Red5'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



Ant Media Server, Wowza, Flussonic, Nimble Streamer and Dacast

The 5 tools Red5 is most often weighed against, with where each one differs from it.

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Ant Media Server

Free trial · from $109/mo

Low-latency WebRTC streaming server you run or rent by the hour.

Red5 and Ant Media Server compared in full

1.4 GPA

Wowza

Free trial · from $195/mo

Streaming server software you run yourself, plus a cloud platform.

- Red5 also covers video calls and webinars.

Red5 and Wowza compared in full

1.2 GPA

Flussonic

Paid

Streaming media server for IPTV, CCTV and corporate video.

- Only Red5 lists a web app.
- Only Flussonic lists a Linux app.

Red5 and Flussonic compared in full



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Nimble Streamer

Free trial · from $70/mo

Software media server for live and VOD streaming, billed per server.

- Only Nimble Streamer lists a Linux app.
- Red5 also covers video calls.
- Nimble Streamer also covers transcription.

Red5 and Nimble Streamer compared in full



2.2
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Dacast

Free trial · from $39/mo

Live streaming and video hosting with bandwidth-based plans.

- Red5 is self-hostable, according to its own site.
- Red5 also covers video calls.
- Dacast also covers reports and multistreaming.

Red5 and Dacast 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 Red5 free?

No, Red5 is a paid product, but you can try it first. 30-day free trial of Red5 Pro.

How much does Red5 cost?

Red5 lists 5 plans. Developer Pro: $29.99 per month, up to 100 connections.

What platforms does Red5 work on?

Red5 is available on Web.

Does Red5 have an Android app?

No Android app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. Red5 is listed for Web.

Does Red5 have an iPhone app?

No iPhone app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. Red5 is listed for Web.

Is Red5 open source?

Red5 is not described as open source on its own site, as read on Nov 13, 2026.

Can Red5 be self-hosted?

Yes. Red5's own site says it can be run on a server of your own.

Does Red5 have an API?

Yes. Red5 offers a public API, according to its own site.

What does Red5 integrate with?

Red5's listing names AWS, Microsoft Azure, Google Cloud, DigitalOcean, Akamai, Zixi, PubNub and Unity.

Who makes Red5?

Red5 is made by Infrared5, Inc.

What are the alternatives to Red5?

The closest alternatives to Red5 in our directory are Ant Media Server, Wowza, Flussonic, Nimble Streamer and Dacast.

How does Red5 compare with other webinar and live streaming tools?

Red5's GPA of 1.8 is higher than 9 of the 60 other webinar and live streaming tools we grade, and level with 16.

Is Red5 good value for money?

ToolGPA grades Red5 D for value for money. Its paid plans start at $29.99 a month, against a middle price of $47 for the category: 15 of the 45 others that charge start lower.

Could I make my own version of Red5?

To replace Red5 you would be making live video to hundreds of people at once.

Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from Red5'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 Red5'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 Infrared5, Inc. Prices change, so check red5.net before you buy.

red5.net/pricing/

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

Red5, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/red5

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, "Red5: The Insider's Guide", checked
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ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded webinar and live streaming tools after Red5, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Webinars & Live Streaming Insider's Guide

Every one of the 61 webinar and live streaming tools we grade, compared

PRISM Live Studio Insider's Guide

Free streaming app for desktop and mobile with a paid Plus tier

3.0 GPA

Lightstream Insider's Guide

Browser-based live streaming studio, built for console streamers

2.8 GPA

ClickMeeting Insider's Guide

Webinars and online meetings with paid events and automation

2.6 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 Red5'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. Red5 is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Infrared5, Inc. Prices and plans change: check red5.net before you buy.