ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Rundeck

The Insider's Guide

Runbook automation and job scheduling for IT operations



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among automation tools, read from Rundeck's own pages.

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

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

2.2

GPA, above 54 of the 134 other automation tools we grade

Rundeck is a runbook automation tool, now part of PagerDuty, for running jobs and operations procedures across scripts, APIs and system commands. A free open-source Community edition is licensed under Apache 2.0, and PagerDuty Runbook Automation adds commercial features such as high availability and enterprise support.

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

"

You install it on your own servers, and Community needs registration to download.

From our grade for ease of use

1 **Best for running ops jobs and runbooks on a schedule**

Rundeck runs scripts, commands and API calls as scheduled or on-demand jobs, with a free open-source Community edition.

2 **There is a free plan**

Rundeck Community is free, open source software with workflow execution, scheduling, key storage and a job activity log.

3 It runs on 4 platforms

Web, Windows, Linux and macOS.

4 Workflow execution

Jobs chain scripts, tools, APIs and system commands into standard procedures such as provisioning, software updates and configuration changes.

5 Job scheduling

Scheduled and self-service jobs for daily reports, file transfers and other periodic work, as an alternative to maintaining cron or Windows Task Scheduler.

6 Job activity log

Execution history for commands and jobs shows when each ran, its log output and duration, which supports auditing.

7 A 2.2 GPA, above 54 of 134

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

8 Keep it

To replace Rundeck you would be making connections to other products, each kept working as those products change. That is not a weekend's work, with an AI app builder or without one.

Rundeck at a glance

PRICING
Free plan

FREE PLAN
Yes

FREE TRIAL
Free trial of the commercial product offered; length not stated

RUNS ON
Web, macOS, Windows, Linux

MADE BY
PagerDuty, Inc.

CATEGORY
Automation

OUR GRADE
2.2 GPA, fair

The report card

Best for running ops jobs and runbooks on a schedule

Rundeck runs scripts, commands and API calls as scheduled or on-demand jobs, with a free open-source Community edition. Community is self-hosted and needs a registration step, and single sign-on, high availability and enterprise support sit in paid editions with no published price.

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

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	C	Community is free but self-hosted. The commercial editions are quoted through sales, so there's no price to set against the category.
Free plan and trial	B	Community is free, open source and covers workflows, scheduling, key storage and a job log. You host it yourself.
Features	C	Workflow execution, scheduling, plugins, key storage and runners. Single sign-on, high availability and enterprise support aren't in the free edition.
Ease of use	D	No store rating on record. You install it on your own servers, and Community needs registration to download.
Platforms and integrations	B	Web, Windows, Linux and Mac, with 8 integrations and plugins.

Grade point average — Fair, out of 4.0 **2.2**

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 Rundeck is for

- ✓ Fits if your ops team runs scripts across many servers and wants a job log
- ✓ Works for small teams that can host the free Community edition

Who it is not for

- ✕ Not for you if you need single sign-on or high availability, since those aren't in Community
- ✕ Skip it if you don't want to host it, as Community is self-hosted
- ✕ Watch out: commercial pricing isn't published; a PagerDuty Runbook Automation licence is bought through sales
- ✕ Watch out: a free trial of the commercial product is offered, but its length isn't stated

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Operations and DevOps teams standardizing runbooks and self-service tasks
- ✓ Small teams that want a free, self-hosted job scheduler
- ✓ Larger organizations that need vendor support and high availability

Worth knowing

- ⓘ Single sign-on, high-availability clusters and enterprise support are not in the free Community edition.
- ⓘ Commercial pricing is not published; the downloads page says a license for PagerDuty Runbook Automation is bought through sales.
- ⓘ Community is self-hosted and needs a registration step before download.

What it costs

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

3
plans to choose from

Rundeck has a free plan.

> **The commercial editions are quoted through sales, so there's no price to set against the category.**
>
> From our grade for value for money

RUNDECK COMMUNITY

$0

Free open-source edition you host yourself, for small teams; registration is needed to download.

RUNBOOK AUTOMATION
SELF HOSTED

Custom

Commercial edition you host, with high availability, enterprise support and certified plugins. License sold through sales.

RUNBOOK AUTOMATION

Custom

PagerDuty-hosted edition with a stated 99.9% availability SLA, single sign-on and managed security patching.

The free plan

Rundeck Community is free, open source software with workflow execution, scheduling, key storage and a job activity log.

Trying it first

Free trial of the commercial product offered; length not stated

Read from rundeck.com 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: Web, macOS, Windows and Linux

Runbook automation and job scheduling for IT operations. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: open source, self-hostable, workflow automation, job scheduling.

> **Workflow execution, scheduling, plugins, key storage and runners.**

From our grade for features

Workflow execution

Jobs chain scripts, tools, APIs and system commands into standard procedures such as provisioning, software updates and configuration changes.

Job scheduling

Scheduled and self-service jobs for daily reports, file transfers and other periodic work, as an alternative to maintaining cron or Windows Task Scheduler.

Job activity log

Execution history for commands and jobs shows when each ran, its log output and duration, which supports auditing.

Plugins

Community plugins connect Rundeck to infrastructure and tools, and teams can write their own. Certified enterprise plugins come with the commercial editions.

Key storage and encryption

The Community edition includes key and password encryption and a key storage facility.

High availability and runners

The commercial editions add clusters with automatic takeover, failed-job resume, node health checks and the next-generation runner for remote environments.

Where it runs

Web · macOS · Windows · Linux

What it works with

PagerDuty · ServiceNow · Datadog · VMware · GitHub · AWS · Kubernetes · Ansible

Rundeck is made by PagerDuty, Inc.

PART 04 · STANDING

Where it stands

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

54/134

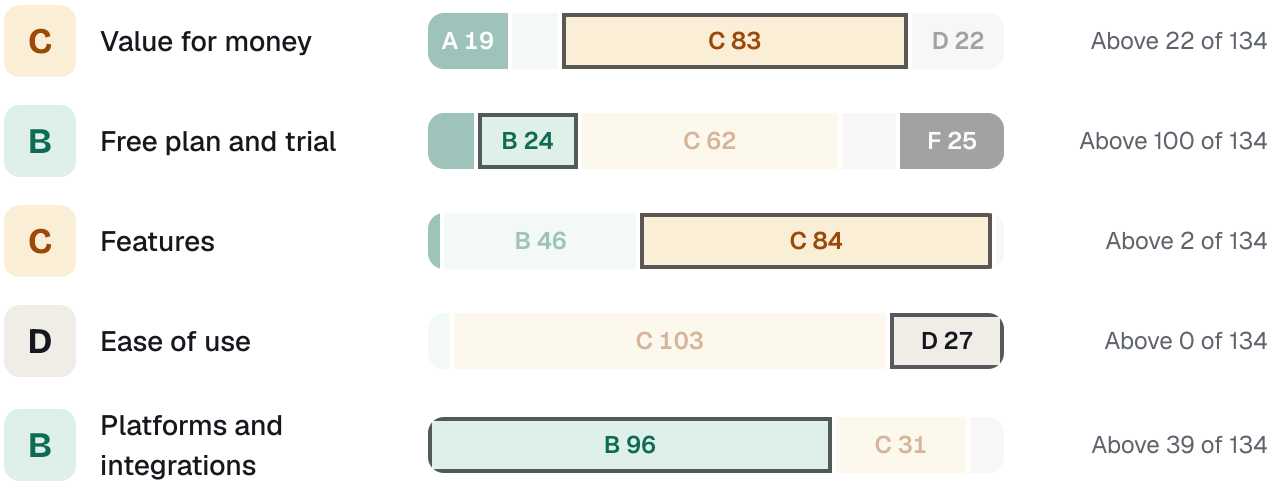
Other automation tools it is graded above

Rundeck's GPA of 2.2 is higher than 54 of the 134 other automation tools we grade, and level with 35.

It stands best on free plan and trial (B, above 100 of 134) and worst on ease of use (D, above 0).

Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 135 automation tools we grade, cut by the letter each got. Rundeck's own letter is outlined.



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 Rundeck you would be making connections to other products, each kept working as those products change. That is not a weekend's work, with an AI app builder or without one.

Rundeck is open source, so there is a third way: take its code and run it yourself.

What you could make

- Job scheduling: an app builder makes this well.

What you could not

- Connections to other products, each kept working as those products change.
- Apps for macOS, Windows and Linux that stay in step with each other.

What this rests on. Rundeck'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



StackStorm, Apache Airflow, Kestra, Tines and Apache DolphinScheduler

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

2.4 GPA

StackStorm

Free

Open-source event-driven automation for DevOps and SRE teams.

- Only Rundeck lists Windows and macOS apps.
- Rundeck also covers job scheduling.

Rundeck and StackStorm compared in full

2.4 GPA

Apache Airflow

Free

Open-source platform for authoring and scheduling workflows in Python.

- Only Rundeck lists Windows, Linux and macOS apps.
- Rundeck also covers job scheduling.

Rundeck and Apache Airflow compared in full

2.4
GPA

Kestra

Free plan

Open-source workflow orchestration platform defined in YAML.

- Only Rundeck lists Windows, Linux and macOS apps.
- Rundeck also covers job scheduling.

Rundeck and Kestra compared in full

2.6
GPA

Tines

Free plan

Workflow automation and AI agents for security and IT teams.

- Only Rundeck lists Windows, Linux and macOS apps.
- Rundeck is open source, according to its own site.
- Rundeck also covers job scheduling.

Rundeck and Tines compared in full

A

2.4
GPA

Apache DolphinScheduler

Free

Open-source workflow scheduler for data pipelines.

- Only Rundeck lists Windows, Linux and macOS apps.

Rundeck and Apache DolphinScheduler compared in full

PART 06 · QUESTIONS

Quick answers

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

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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 Rundeck free?

Rundeck has a free plan. Rundeck Community is free, open source software with workflow execution, scheduling, key storage and a job activity log.

How much does Rundeck cost?

Rundeck lists 3 plans. Rundeck Community: $0.

What platforms does Rundeck work on?

Rundeck is available on Web, Windows, Linux and macOS.

Does Rundeck have an Android app?

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

Does Rundeck have an iPhone app?

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

Is Rundeck open source?

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

What does Rundeck integrate with?

Rundeck's listing names PagerDuty, ServiceNow, Datadog, VMware, GitHub, AWS, Kubernetes and Ansible.

Does Rundeck have a free trial?

Yes. Free trial of the commercial product offered; length not stated.

Who makes Rundeck?

Rundeck is made by PagerDuty, Inc.

What are the alternatives to Rundeck?

The closest alternatives to Rundeck in our directory are StackStorm, Apache Airflow, Kestra, Tines and Apache DolphinScheduler.

How does Rundeck compare with other automation tools?

Rundeck's GPA of 2.2 is higher than 54 of the 134 other automation tools we grade, and level with 35.

Could I make my own version of Rundeck?

To replace Rundeck you would be making connections to other products, each kept working as those products change.

Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from Rundeck'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 PagerDuty'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 PagerDuty, Inc. Prices change, so check rundeck.com before you buy.

rundeck.com/community-vs-enterprise
rundeck.com/features
rundeck.com
rundeck.com/downloads

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

Rundeck, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/rundeck

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, "Rundeck: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 13, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/rundeck
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Know someone choosing between automation tools?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded automation tools after Rundeck, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Automation Insider's Guide

Every one of the 135 automation tools we grade, compared

Knime Insider's Guide

Open-source visual workflows for data analysis and automation

3.2 GPA

IFTTT Insider's Guide

Simple trigger-and-action automations for apps and smart devices

3.0 GPA

Node-RED Insider's Guide

Open-source, flow-based programming tool for event-driven apps

3.0 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 Rundeck'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. Rundeck is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by PagerDuty, Inc. Prices and plans change: check rundeck.com before you buy.