ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Scribus

The Insider’s Guide

Free open-source desktop publishing and page layout program



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among writing tools, read from Scribus’s own pages.

Made by The Scribus Team · checked Nov 13, 2026 · toolgpa.com

2.8
GPA



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 Scribus's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Scribus'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 95 of the 136 other writing tools we grade

Scribus is a page layout program for print and PDF work, such as magazines, brochures and forms. It stores documents in an open XML format, supports CMYK and spot colors, and exports PDF/X files for commercial printers. It is free and open source.

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

> "
>
> **It lays out text rather than helping you write it, so long text is usually written elsewhere, and it takes time to learn.**
>
> From our report card of Scribus

1 **Best for print layouts and PDFs on a computer**

Scribus is a free desktop publishing program for Windows, Mac and Linux that exports print-ready PDFs with colour management.

2 **It is free**

Scribus has no paid plan at all.

3 **It runs on 3 platforms**

Windows, macOS and Linux.

4 **Print-ready PDF export**

Exports PDF/X-1a, PDF/X-3 and PDF/X-4 for commercial printing, plus PDFs for screen use and forms.

5 **Color management**

Handles RGB, CMYK, LAB, spectral and spot colors, ships with about 200 palettes and can simulate color blindness.

6 **Open XML file format**

Documents are stored as readable XML, so a damaged file can be inspected and repaired in a text editor.

7 **A 2.8 GPA, above 95 of 136**

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

8 **Keep it**

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

Scribus at a glance

PRICING Free	FREE PLAN It is free
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON macOS, Windows, Linux
MADE BY The Scribus Team, since 2001	CATEGORY Writing Tools
OUR GRADE 2.8 GPA, good	

The report card

Best for print layouts and PDFs on a computer

Scribus is a free desktop publishing program for Windows, Mac and Linux that exports print-ready PDFs with colour management. It lays out text rather

than helping you write it, so long text is usually written elsewhere, and it takes time to learn.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD	Scribus	Graded Nov 13, 2026
SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	A	Free to download and run, against a category median of $9.75 a month.
Free plan and trial	A	Free outright: a program anyone can download, with no paid tier or trial.
Features	C	Print PDF export, colour management, scripting and vector drawing. The listing says it is a layout tool, not a word processor, so writing happens elsewhere.
Ease of use	C	No store rating on record. Page layout in frames has a learning curve.
Platforms and integrations	C	A computer program only, on Windows, Mac and Linux. No web, phone or integrations listed.
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 Scribus is for

- ✓ Fits if you lay out a newsletter or booklet for print
- ✓ Works for people who want a free alternative to paid layout software

Who it is not for

- ✕ Skip it if you want to write long text in it: it is a layout tool, not a word processor
- ✕ Not for you if you want a web or phone app, as it runs on computers only
- ✕ Tight if you are new to layout: frames and colour settings take time to learn
- ✕ Watch out: the download page lists source archives and installers, so check which fits your system

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Newsletters, brochures and booklets that go to a print shop
- ✓ People who want an open file format for layout work

Worth knowing

- ⓘ It is a layout tool, not a word processor, so long text is usually written elsewhere and placed in frames.
- ⓘ The downloads page lists source archives and installers; check it for the build for your system.

What it costs

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

Free

No paid plan at all

Scribus is free to use.

> **Free outright: a program anyone can download, with no paid tier or trial.**
>
> From our grade for free plan and trial

SCRIBUS

$0

Free and open source; the stable release is 1.6.7 and a development line is also offered.

Read from scribus.net on Nov 13, 2026.

What it does

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

3

Places it runs: macOS, Windows and Linux

Free open-source desktop publishing and page layout program. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: open source, documents.

"

Print PDF export, colour management, scripting and vector drawing.

From our grade for features

Print-ready PDF export

Exports PDF/X-1a, PDF/X-3 and PDF/X-4 for commercial printing, plus PDFs for screen use and forms.

Color management

Handles RGB, CMYK, LAB, spectral and spot colors, ships with about 200 palettes and can simulate color blindness.

Open XML file format

Documents are stored as readable XML, so a damaged file can be inspected and repaired in a text editor.

Python scripting

A scripting engine based on Python automates layout tasks; PDF forms can also use JavaScript.

Vector drawing and import

Includes vector drawing tools and many import and export filters for graphics and document types.

Where it runs

macOS Windows Linux

What it works with

Its own pages name no integrations.

Scribus is made by The Scribus Team, and has been around since 2001.

PART 04 · STANDING

Where it stands

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

95/136

Other writing tools it is graded above

Scribus's GPA of 2.8 is higher than 95 of the 136 other writing tools we grade, and level with 23.

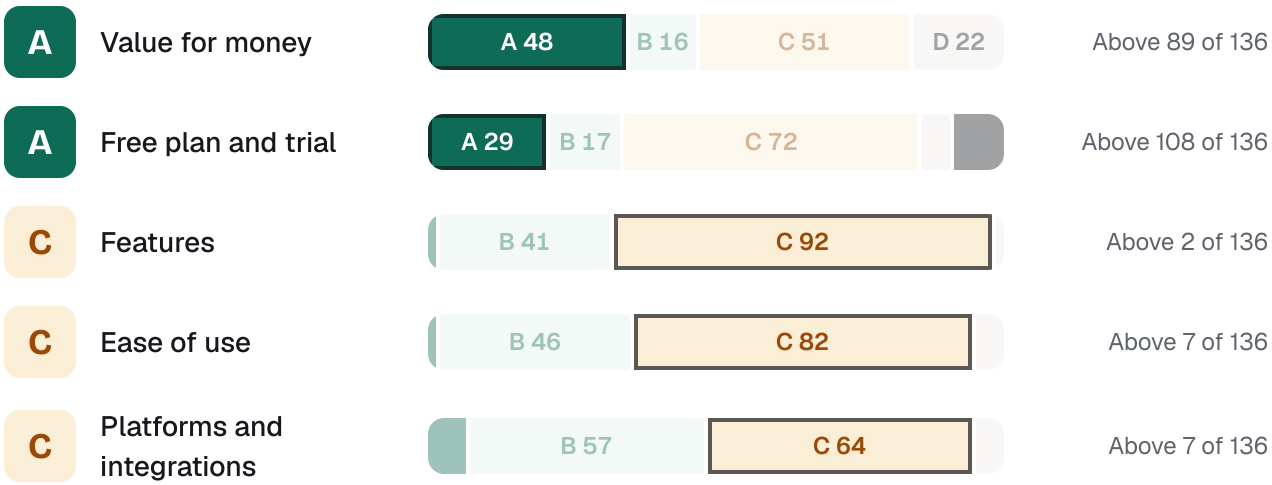
It stands best on free plan and trial (A, above 108 of 136) and worst on features (C, above 2).

Scribus 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.

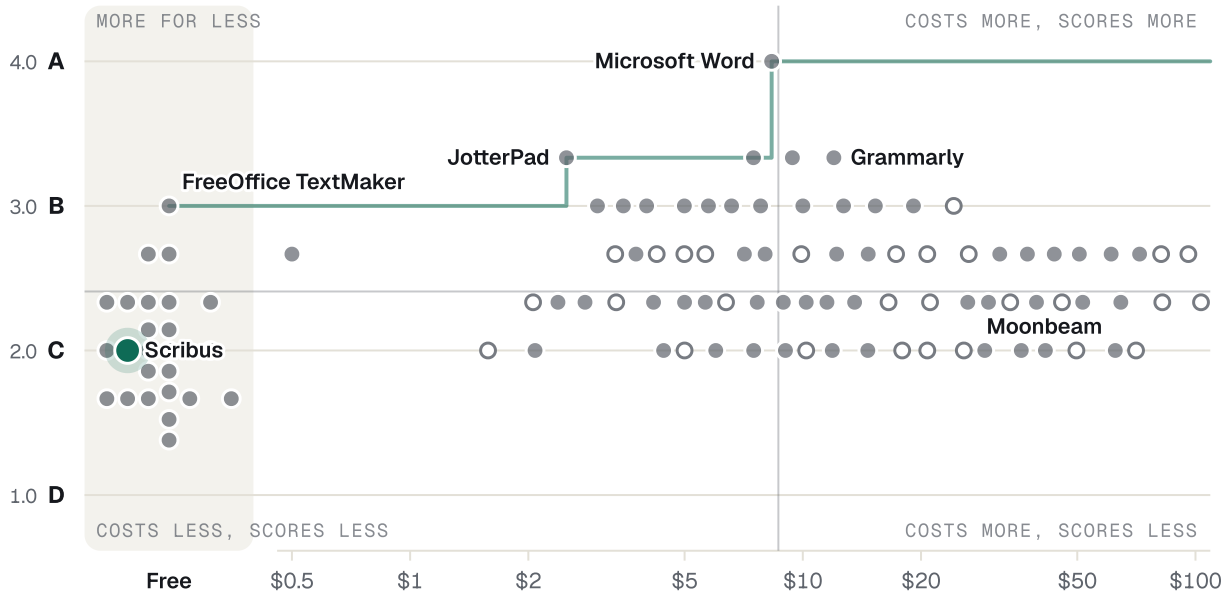
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 137 writing tools we grade, cut by the letter each got. Scribus's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 107 writing tools. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. Scribus 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

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

It is one of the better ones too: its GPA of 2.8 is higher than 95 of the 136 other writing tools we grade.

What you could make

- Documents: an app builder makes this well.

What you could not

- Apps for macOS, Windows and Linux that stay in step with each other.

What this rests on. Scribus'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



LibreOffice Writer, Microsoft Word, Typst and Atticus

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

3.2 GPA

LibreOffice Writer

Free

Free, open-source word processor for Windows, macOS and Linux.

- LibreOffice Writer also covers templates and long-form writing.

Scribus and LibreOffice Writer compared in full

3.4 GPA

Microsoft Word

Free plan · from $9.99/mo

Word processor sold with Microsoft 365, free in the browser.

- Only Scribus lists a Linux app.
- Only Microsoft Word lists a web app.
- Only Microsoft Word lists iOS and Android apps.

Scribus and Microsoft Word compared in full



3.2
GPA

Typst

Free plan · from $7.99/mo

Markup-based typesetting system with a collaborative web app.

- Only Typst lists a web app.
- Typst is self-hostable, according to its own site.
- Scribus also covers documents.

Scribus and Typst compared in full



1.8
GPA

Atticus

From $147 one-time

Book writing and formatting app for ebooks and print.

- Scribus has a free plan. Atticus does not.
- Only Atticus lists a web app.
- Scribus is open source, according to its own site.

Scribus and Atticus compared in full

PART 06 · QUESTIONS

Quick answers

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

11

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 Scribus free?

Yes. Scribus is free to use.

How much does Scribus cost?

Scribus lists one plan. Scribus: $0.

What platforms does Scribus work on?

Scribus is available on Windows, macOS and Linux.

Does Scribus have an Android app?

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

Does Scribus have an iPhone app?

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

Is Scribus open source?

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

Who makes Scribus?

Scribus is made by The Scribus Team. It dates from 2001.

What are the alternatives to Scribus?

The closest alternatives to Scribus in our directory are LibreOffice Writer, Microsoft Word, Typst and Atticus.

How does Scribus compare with other writing tools?

Scribus's GPA of 2.8 is higher than 95 of the 136 other writing tools we grade, and level with 23.

Is Scribus good value for money?

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

Could I make my own version of Scribus?

Scribus is free, so making your own would save you nothing. It is one of the better ones too: its GPA of 2.8 is higher than 95 of the 136 other writing tools we grade.

Where this guide comes from

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

scribus.net
scribus.net/about/
scribus.net/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

Scribus, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/scribus

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, "Scribus: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 13, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/scribus
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Know someone choosing between writing tools?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

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

Writing Tools Insider's Guide

Every one of the 137 writing tools we grade, compared

FreeOffice TextMaker Insider's Guide

Free word processor that opens and saves Microsoft Word files

3.4 GPA

Microsoft Word Insider's Guide

Word processor sold with Microsoft 365, free in the browser

3.4 GPA

Apache OpenOffice Insider's Guide

Free open-source office suite with the Writer word processor

3.2 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 Scribus'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. Scribus is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by The Scribus Team. Prices and plans change: check scribus.net before you buy.