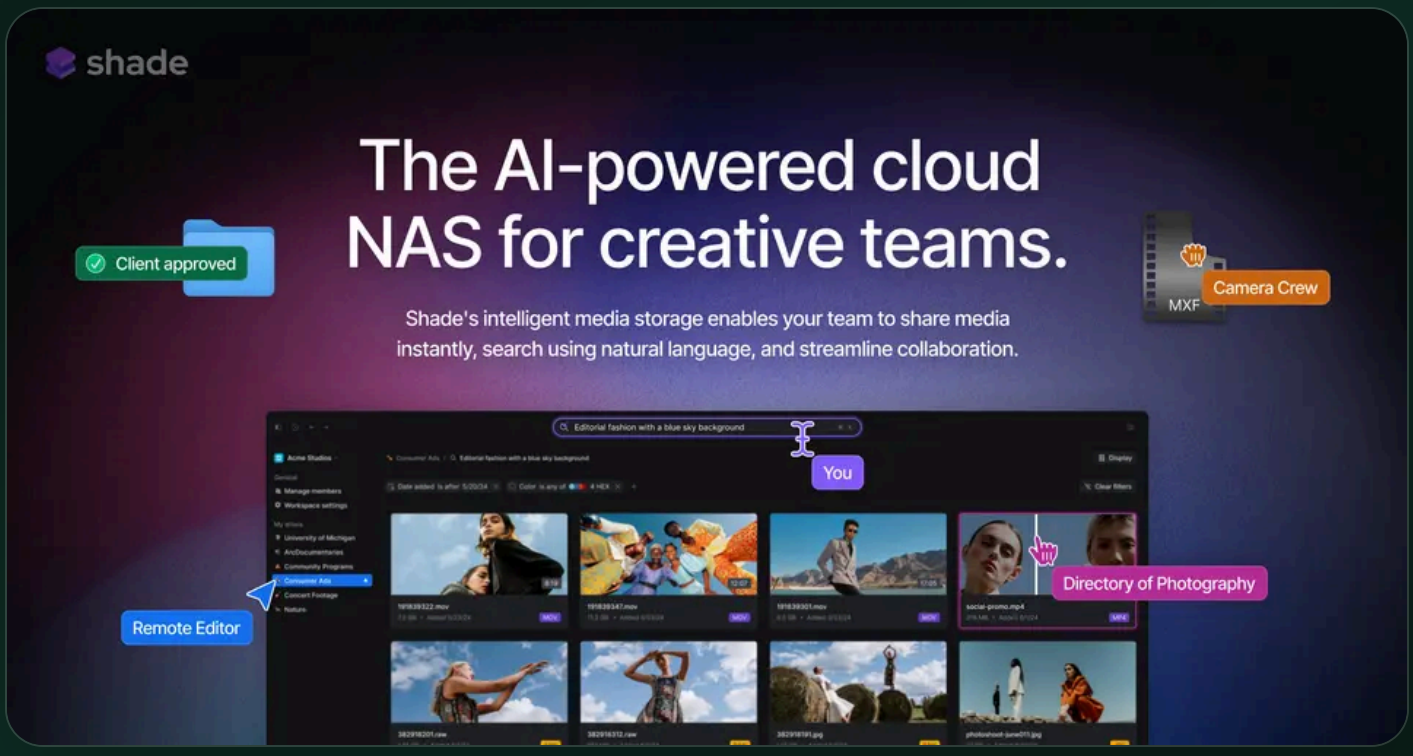
ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Shade

The Insider's Guide

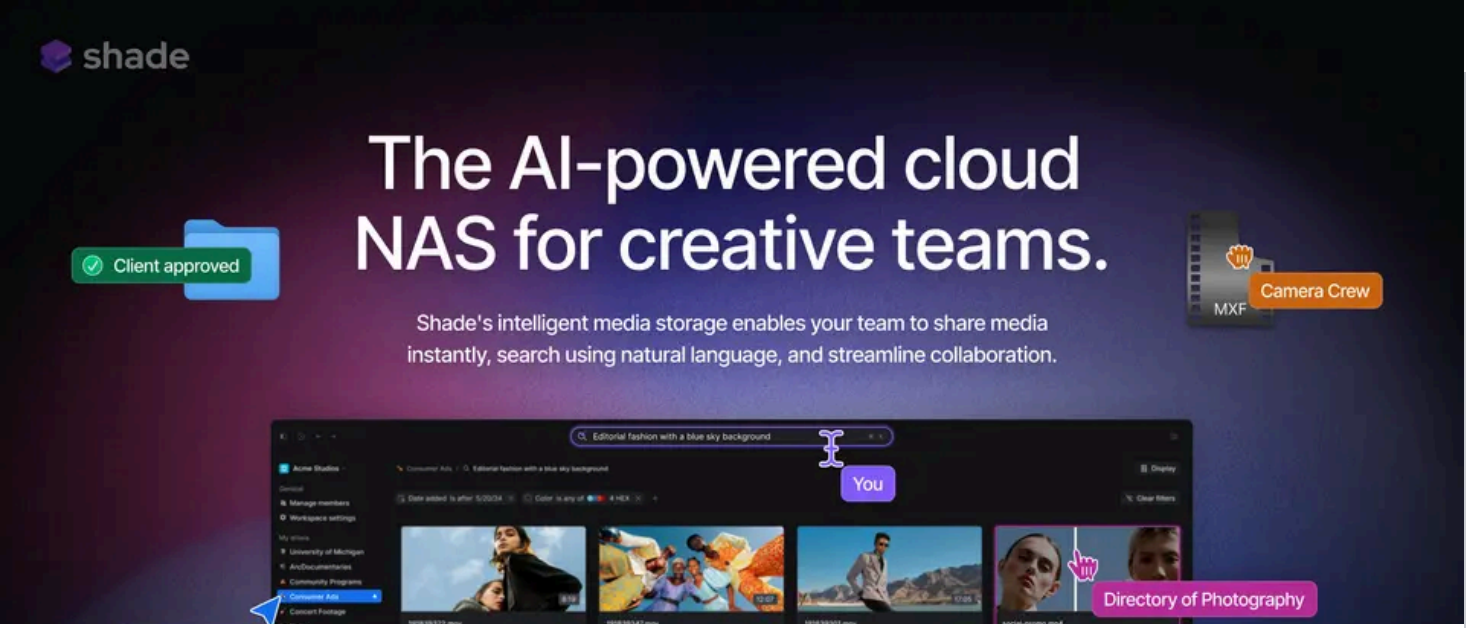
Cloud storage and review for video teams, with AI search



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

Made by Shade Inc. · checked Nov 13, 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 Shade's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Shade'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

2.0

GPA, above 13 of the 91 other file storage and sync services we grade

Shade is a cloud file system for creative and video teams. Drives mount on a computer like a local disk, and the service adds AI search, transcription, facial recognition, time-stamped review comments and client delivery links on the same files. It is sold per seat, with a Growth plan and a sales-quoted Enterprise plan.

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

"

No store rating on record, and workspaces and drives have to be set up.

From our grade for ease of use

1 **Best for video and creative teams sharing large files**

Shade mounts drives like a local disk for creative and video teams and adds AI search, transcription, review comments and client delivery links.

2 **Paid plans start at $29.75 a month for each person**

As its pricing page puts it: $29.75 per seat / month, billed annually ($35 billed monthly).

3 **You can try it first**

Free trial on the Growth plan; its length is not stated on the pricing page

4 **It runs on 4 platforms**

Web, macOS, Windows and Linux.

5 **Mountable drives**

The homepage describes drives that mount on a computer like a local disk; the pricing page lists unlimited drives, with multi-mount on Enterprise.

6 **AI search and indexing**

Search by sentence, facial recognition and transcripts, with unlimited AI indexing on both plans.

7 **Review and approval**

Time-stamped comments, annotation and markup, and a Slack integration appear in the plan comparison.

8 **A 2.0 GPA, above 13 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.

9 **Keep it**

To replace Shade you would be making files kept in step across devices without losing one. That is not a weekend's work, with an AI app builder or without one.

Shade at a glance

PRICING
Free trial, from $29.75 per seat / month, billed annually ($35 billed monthly)

FREE PLAN
No

FREE TRIAL
Free trial on the Growth plan; its length is not stated on the pricing page

RUNS ON
Web, macOS, Windows, Linux

MADE BY
Shade Inc.

CATEGORY
File Storage & Sync

OUR GRADE
2.0 GPA, fair

The report card

Best for video and creative teams sharing large files

Shade mounts drives like a local disk for creative and video teams and adds AI search, transcription, review comments and client delivery links. It is $29.75 a seat a month, far above what file storage typically charges, Growth stops at 15 seats and the trial length is not stated.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD

Shade

Graded Nov 13, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	D	$29.75 a seat a month billed annually ($35 monthly), against $7 in the middle for file storage, though it is a different kind of product from plain storage.
Free plan and trial	D	A free trial on Growth with no length stated on the pricing page, and no free plan.
Features	B	Mounted drives, AI search, transcription, face recognition, time-stamped review comments and client delivery on the same files.
Ease of use	C	No store rating on record, and workspaces and drives have to be set up.
Platforms and integrations	B	Web, Mac, Windows and Linux with Slack. No phone app is listed.

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 Shade is for

- ✓ Fits if you edit video and want review comments on the files themselves
- ✓ Works for creative teams that deliver files to clients

Who it is not for

- ✕ Pricey if you just want storage, at $29.75 a seat a month
- ✕ Not for you if you have over 15 seats or 150 guests, as that needs Enterprise at no published price
- ✕ Watch out: SSO, SCIM and audit logging are Enterprise only
- ✕ Watch out: the comparison claims against LucidLink, Frame.io and Dropbox are the vendor's own

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Video and creative teams that want storage, review and delivery in one product
- ✓ Small production teams of up to 15 seats on Growth

Worth knowing

- ⓘ Growth is capped at 15 seats, 150 guests and 1 workspace; larger teams need Enterprise, which has no published price.
- ⓘ Storage is 500 GB of active storage per seat on Growth, and the page says storage add-ons are available.
- ⓘ SSO/SAML, SCIM and audit logging are limited to Enterprise.
- ⓘ The site markets Shade as a replacement for LucidLink, Frame.io and Dropbox; these claims are the vendor's own.

PART 02 · PRICING

What it costs

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

$29.75

A month to start, for each person

Shade is a paid product with a free trial, starting at $29.75 per seat / month, billed annually ($35 billed monthly).

> **A free trial on Growth with no length stated on the pricing page, and no free plan.**

From our grade for free plan and trial

GROWTH

$29.75

per seat / month, billed annually ($35 billed monthly)

1 workspace, unlimited drives and AI indexing, up to 15 seats and 150 guests, and 500 GB of active storage per seat.

ENTERPRISE

Custom

Unlimited workspaces and seats, up to 250 guests, 1 TB of active storage per seat, SSO/SAML, SCIM, audit logging and a dedicated account manager. Sold through sales.

Trying it first

Free trial on the Growth plan; its length is not stated on the pricing page

Read from shade.inc on Nov 13, 2026.

Ways to pay less

ANNUAL DISCOUNT

Annual billing: $29.75 against $35 monthly

The pricing page shows $29.75 per seat a month on annual billing against $35 per seat a month billed monthly for Growth.

Stated on shade.inc

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

Cloud storage and review for video teams, with AI search. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: AI features, transcription, file sync, file sharing.

> **Mounted drives, AI search, transcription, face recognition, time-stamped review comments and client delivery on the same files.**
>
> From our grade for features

Mountable drives

The homepage describes drives that mount on a computer like a local disk; the pricing page lists unlimited drives, with multi-mount on Enterprise.

AI search and indexing

Search by sentence, facial recognition and transcripts, with unlimited AI indexing on both plans.

Review and approval

Time-stamped comments, annotation and markup, and a Slack integration appear in the plan comparison.

Client delivery

Role-based access, download permissions and published links are listed for sharing work with clients.

Video proxies and metadata

Web playback and downloadable proxies, plus EXIF, IPTC, XMP and timecode metadata.

Where it runs

Web · macOS · Windows · Linux

What it works with

Slack

Shade is made by Shade Inc.

Where it stands

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

13/91

Other file storage and sync services it is graded above

Shade's GPA of 2.0 is higher than 13 of the 91 other file storage and sync services we grade, and level with 20.

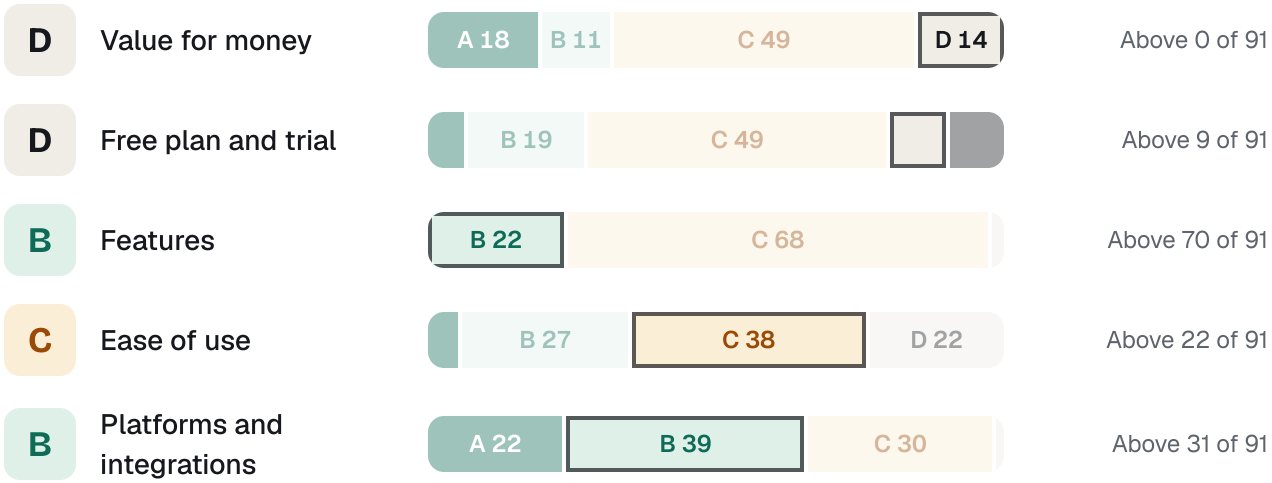
It stands best on features (B, above 70 of 91) and worst on value for money (D, above 0).

Its paid plans start at $29.75 a month for each person, against a middle price of $6.64 for the category: 55 of the 60 others that charge start lower.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 2.7 out of 4. 13 tools score higher and cost less.

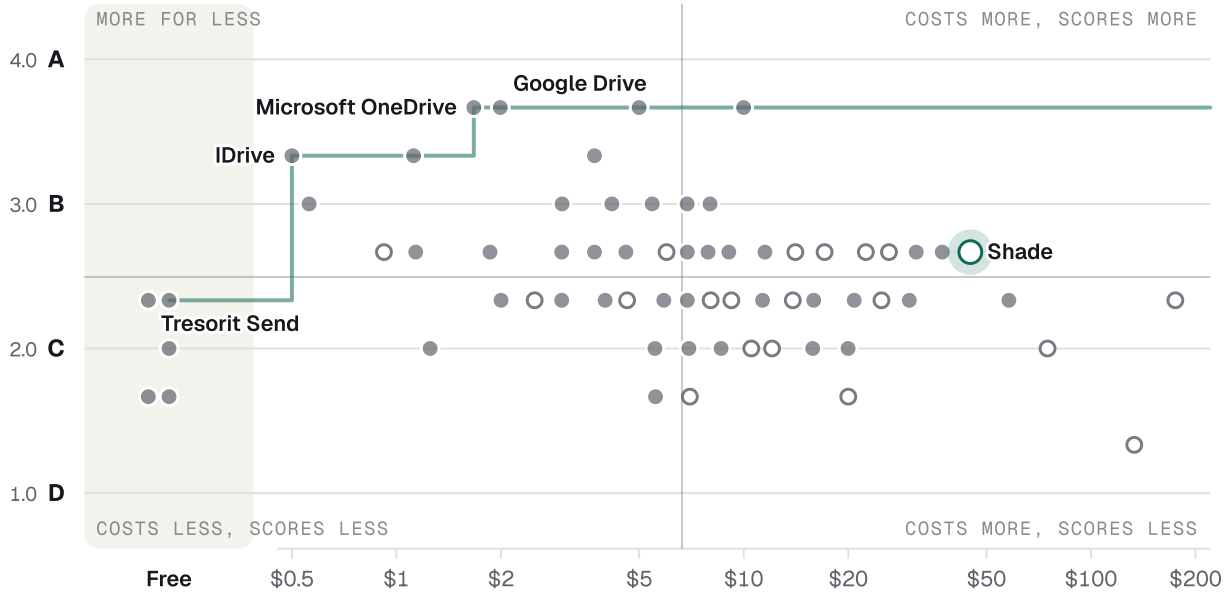
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 92 file storage and sync services we grade, cut by the letter each got. Shade'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. Shade 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 Shade you would be making files kept in step across devices without losing one. 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: 58 of the 91 other file storage and sync services grade higher. It costs $357 a year.

What you could not

- ✕ Files kept in step across devices without losing one.
- ✕ Storing and serving files for other people.

- ✕ Speech turned into text you can trust.
- ✕ Apps for macOS, Windows and Linux that stay in step with each other.
- ✕ It is priced for each person, which means accounts and billing for a team.
- ✕ AI features, unless you pay a model provider for each request yourself.
- ✕ What a company asks for before it lets staff use something: roles and permissions.
- ✕ The depth: we grade its features B, which means it covers the whole job.

What this rests on. Shade'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



LucidLink, Dropbox, Suite Studios, MASV and Box

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

2.0 GPA

LucidLink

Free trial · from $7/mo

Cloud file system that streams large files to your desktop.

- Only Shade lists a web app.
- Only LucidLink lists iOS and Android apps.
- LucidLink is end-to-end encrypted, according to its own site.

Shade and LucidLink compared in full

2.8 GPA

Dropbox

Free plan · from $9.99/mo

Cloud storage and file sync with transfer and signing tools.

- Dropbox has a free plan. Shade does not, though it has a free trial.
- Only Dropbox lists iOS and Android apps.
- Shade also covers transcription.

Shade and Dropbox compared in full



1.8
GPA

Suite Studios

Free trial · from $75/mo

Cloud storage that streams large media files like a local drive.

- Only Shade lists a web app.
- Shade also covers transcription.

Shade and Suite Studios compared in full



2.0
GPA

MASV

Free plan · from $58/mo

Pay-per-GB large file transfer for media and data teams.

- MASV has a free plan. Shade does not, though it has a free trial.
- Shade also covers transcription and file sync.
- MASV also covers workflow automation.

Shade and MASV compared in full



2.8
GPA

Box

Free plan · from $5/mo

Business content storage with e-signatures, workflows and AI.

- Box has a free plan. Shade does not, though it has a free trial.
- Only Shade lists a Linux app.
- Only Box lists iOS and Android apps.

Shade and Box 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 Shade free?

No, Shade is a paid product, but you can try it first. Free trial on the Growth plan; its length is not stated on the pricing page.

How much does Shade cost?

Shade lists 2 plans. Growth: $29.75 per seat / month, billed annually ($35 billed monthly).

What platforms does Shade work on?

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

Does Shade offer any discounts?

Shade publicly lists the following: Annual billing: $29.75 against $35 monthly.

Does Shade have an Android app?

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

Does Shade have an iPhone app?

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

Is Shade open source?

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

What does Shade integrate with?

Shade's listing names Slack. A listing names up to eight integrations, so it may connect to more.

Who makes Shade?

Shade is made by Shade Inc.

What are the alternatives to Shade?

The closest alternatives to Shade in our directory are LucidLink, Dropbox, Suite Studios, MASV and Box.

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

Shade's GPA of 2.0 is higher than 13 of the 91 other file storage and sync services we grade, and level with 20.

Is Shade good value for money?

ToolGPA grades Shade D for value for money. Its paid plans start at $29.75 a month for each person, against a middle price of $6.64 for the category: 55 of the 60 others that charge start lower.

Could I make my own version of Shade?

To replace Shade you would be making files kept in step across devices without losing one.

Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from Shade'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 Shade'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 Shade Inc. Prices change, so check shade.inc before you buy.

shade.inc/pricing

shade.inc

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

Shade, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/shade

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, "Shade: The Insider's Guide", checked
Nov 13, 2026. https://toolgpa.com/tools/shade
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Know someone choosing between file storage and sync services?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded file storage and sync services after Shade, 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 Shade'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. Shade is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Shade Inc. Prices and plans change: check shade.inc before you buy.