ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Skimlinks

The Insider's Guide

Affiliate link monetization for publishers, with paid merchant tiers



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among affiliate and referral tools, read from Skimlinks's own pages.

Made by Skimlinks · checked Nov 13, 2026 · toolgpa.com

2.4
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 Skimlinks's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Skimlinks'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

2.4

GPA, above 68 of the 89 other affiliate and referral tools we grade

Skimlinks is an affiliate monetization service run as a single contract and integration between publishers and merchants. A small piece of code on a site converts product links into affiliate links, and the Publisher Hub reports on what earned. Merchants that already sit on a connected affiliate network can pay for extra visibility.

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

> **You set up accounts and programs before it does anything, so there is a learning curve.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

1 **Best for turning product links in articles into affiliate links**

Skimlinks automatically converts product links on a publisher's site into affiliate links across many networks, and publishers join free.

2 **Paid plans start at $166 a month**

As its pricing page puts it: $166 per month, billed annually ($200 billed monthly).

3 There is a free plan

Publishers join for free; the paid plans are the Preferred Partner tiers sold to merchants.

4 It runs on Web

Web.

5 Automatic link monetization

A piece of code on the site converts organic product links into affiliate links, so editors do not have to build each one by hand.

6 One contract, many networks

The site says one integration and one contract connect a publisher to 48,500 merchants across more than 50 affiliate networks.

7 Publisher Hub and data tools

Performance, merchant and product data are available in the Publisher Hub and through APIs, feeds and cloud-based tools.

8 A 2.4 GPA, above 68 of 89

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

9 Keep it

The plain part of Skimlinks you could make: reports. What surrounds it you could not. The 2 things listed below take a company, not a weekend.

Skimlinks at a glance

PRICING Free plan, from $166 per month, billed annually ($200 billed monthly)	FREE PLAN Yes
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON Web
MADE BY Skimlinks	CATEGORY Affiliate & Referral Software
OUR GRADE 2.4 GPA, fair	

The report card

Best for turning product links in articles into affiliate links

Skimlinks automatically converts product links on a publisher's site into affiliate links across many networks, and publishers join free. Merchants pay for Preferred Partner tiers from $166 a month, and the share a publisher keeps isn't stated.

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

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	C	Preferred is $166 a month on annual billing ($200 monthly), at the top of what affiliate tools cost, and Premium is $900.
Free plan and trial	B	Publishers join for free. The paid tiers are for merchants, so a publisher can use it without paying.
Features	C	Automatic links, one contract across networks, a reporting hub and merchant search. It isn't a program host, so merchants need an existing network.
Ease of use	C	No store rating on record. You set up accounts and programs before it does anything, so there is a learning curve.
Platforms and integrations	B	Web, with Awin, CJ, Impact, Rakuten, Partnerize, PartnerStack, Refersion and Tradedoubler.

Grade point average — Fair, out of 4.0 **2.4**

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 Skimlinks is for

- ✓ Fits if you run a content site and want links monetised without hand-building them
- ✓ Works for merchants already on a major affiliate network

Who it is not for

- ✕ Watch out: what a publisher keeps from each sale isn't stated on the pages we read
- ✕ Pricey if you are a merchant, since tiers run $166 to $1,620 a month
- ✕ Tight if you choose Preferred, as it has a three-month minimum
- ✕ Watch out: Premium and VIP cost more by ACH ($1,100 and $1,900) than on a yearly contract
- ✕ Skip it if you need a standalone program, because merchants join inside an existing network

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Editorial publishers who want affiliate links added automatically
- ✓ Merchants already on a supported network who want more publisher exposure
- ✓ Shopping platforms and creators that need many merchants under one contract

Worth knowing

- ⓘ Merchants join by accepting Skimlinks inside their existing affiliate network; it is not a standalone program host.
- ⓘ The Preferred tier has a three-month minimum, and Premium and VIP need a yearly contract for the lower rate.
- ⓘ Premium and VIP are quoted at higher rates if paid by ACH ($1,100 and $1,900 a month) than on a yearly contract.
- ⓘ The publisher revenue split is not stated on the pages we read, so what a publisher keeps is unconfirmed.

PART 02 · PRICING

What it costs

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

$166

A month to start. There is a free plan too

Skimlinks has a free plan. Paid plans start at $166 per month, billed annually ($200 billed monthly).

> **The paid tiers are for merchants, so a publisher can use it without paying.**

From our grade for free plan and trial

PUBLISHER ACCESS

$0

Free for publishers, who join to monetize links and read reports in the Publisher Hub.

PREFERRED

$166

per month, billed annually ($200 billed monthly)

Merchant tier: commission rate recommendation, 7-day performance reports and higher ranking in merchant search.

PREMIUM

$900

per month on a yearly contract ($1,100 by ACH)

Adds a dedicated growth manager, analytics help, twice-yearly competitor analysis and a program audit.

VIP

$1,620

per month on a yearly contract ($1,900 by ACH)

Adds a newsletter placement, monthly check-ins, a featured guide listing and a backlink from Skimlinks.com.

The free plan

Publishers join for free; the paid plans are the Preferred Partner tiers sold to merchants.

Read from skimlinks.com on Nov 13, 2026.

Ways to pay less

ANNUAL DISCOUNT

Up to 17% off Preferred with annual billing

The Preferred tier is $200 a month billed monthly or $166 a month when paid annually, a saving of up to 17%.

Stated on skimlinks.com

What it does

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

1

Place it runs: Web

Affiliate link monetization for publishers, with paid merchant tiers. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: public API, reports, affiliate tracking.

> **Automatic links, one contract across networks, a reporting hub and merchant search.**

From our grade for features

Automatic link monetization

A piece of code on the site converts organic product links into affiliate links, so editors do not have to build each one by hand.

One contract, many networks

The site says one integration and one contract connect a publisher to 48,500 merchants across more than 50 affiliate networks.

Publisher Hub and data tools

Performance, merchant and product data are available in the Publisher Hub and through APIs, feeds and cloud-based tools.

Merchant search

Publishers browse merchants and their commission rates and cookie windows. Preferred Partners rank higher in those results.

Preferred Partner program

Merchants pay a monthly access fee for commission-rate benchmarking, weekly or 7-day reporting and promotion in publisher newsletters.

Where it runs

- Web

What it works with

- Awin
- CJ Affiliate
- Impact
- Rakuten Advertising
- Partnerize
- PartnerStack
- Refersion
- Tradedoubler

Skimlinks is made by Skimlinks.

PART 04 · STANDING

Where it stands

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

68/89

Other affiliate and referral tools it is graded above

Skimlinks's GPA of 2.4 is higher than 68 of the 89 other affiliate and referral tools we grade, and level with 12.

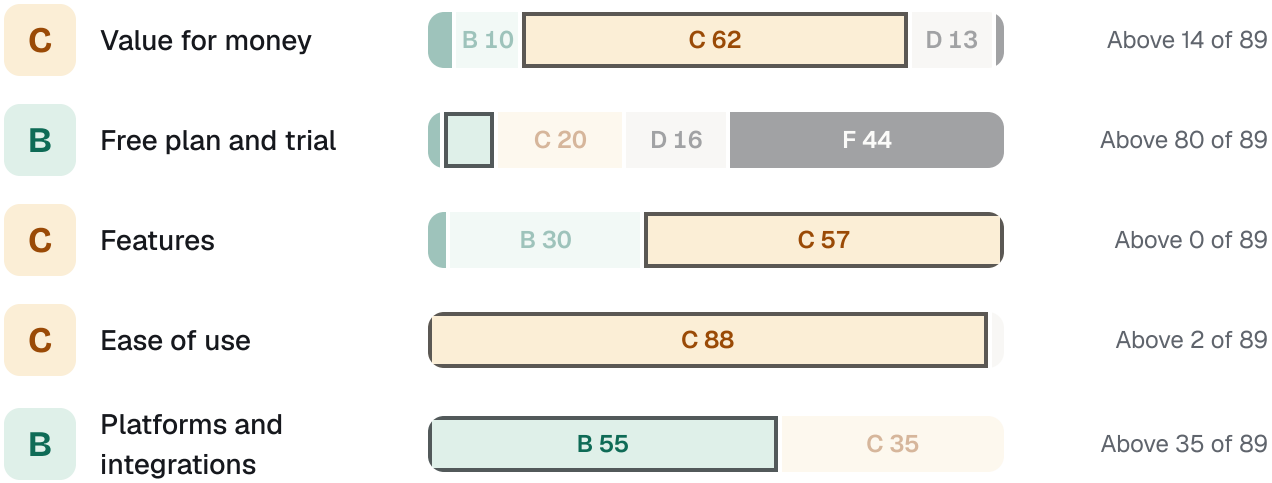
It stands best on free plan and trial (B, above 80 of 89) and worst on features (C, above 0).

Its paid plans start at $166 a month, against a middle price of $65.46 for the category: 40 of the 49 others that charge start lower.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 2.3 out of 4. 17 tools score higher and cost less.

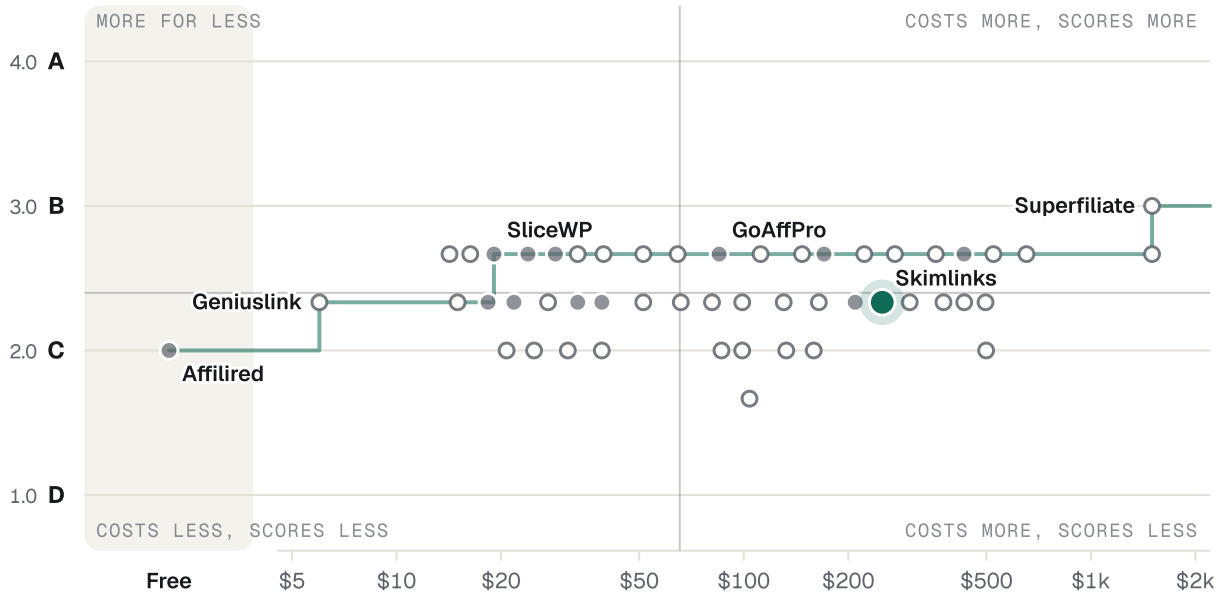
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 90 affiliate and referral tools we grade, cut by the letter each got. Skimlinks's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 51 affiliate and referral tools. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. Skimlinks 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 Skimlinks you could make: reports. What surrounds it you could not. The 2 things listed below take a company, not a weekend.

It is one of the better ones too: its GPA of 2.4 is higher than 68 of the 89 other affiliate and referral tools we grade. It costs $1,992 a year.

What you could make

- Reports: an app builder makes this well.

What you could not

- Every click and sale traced back to the right partner.

- ✕ It plugs into other products, Awin, CJ Affiliate and Impact among them, and has an API.

What this rests on. Skimlinks'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



Sovrn Commerce, FlexOffers, Awin, impact.com and CJ Affiliate

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

1.8 GPA

Sovrn Commerce

Paid

Affiliate linking and reporting for publishers and creators.

- Skimlinks has a free plan. Sovrn Commerce does not.
- Only Sovrn Commerce lists an iOS app.
- Only Sovrn Commerce lists a browser extension.

Skimlinks and Sovrn Commerce compared in full

1.8 GPA

FlexOffers

Paid

Affiliate network for publishers and advertisers.

- Skimlinks has a free plan. FlexOffers does not.
- FlexOffers also covers partner payouts.

Skimlinks and FlexOffers compared in full



1.8
GPA

Awin

Free trial · from $99/mo

Affiliate network and platform for brands and partners.

- Skimlinks has a free plan. Awin does not, though it has a free trial.
- Awin also covers partner payouts.

Skimlinks and Awin compared in full



2.0
GPA

impact.com

Free trial · from $30/mo

Partnership platform for affiliate, creator and referral programs.

- Skimlinks has a free plan. impact.com does not, though it has a free trial.
- impact.com also covers partner payouts.

Skimlinks and impact.com compared in full



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GPA

CJ Affiliate

Paid

Affiliate network and platform for brands, publishers and creators.

- Skimlinks has a free plan. CJ Affiliate does not.
- CJ Affiliate also covers partner payouts.

Skimlinks and CJ Affiliate 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 Skimlinks free?

Skimlinks has a free plan. Publishers join for free; the paid plans are the Preferred Partner tiers sold to merchants.

How much does Skimlinks cost?

Skimlinks lists 4 plans. Publisher access: $0.

What platforms does Skimlinks work on?

Skimlinks is available on Web.

Does Skimlinks offer any discounts?

Skimlinks publicly lists the following: Up to 17% off Preferred with annual billing.

Does Skimlinks have an Android app?

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

Does Skimlinks have an iPhone app?

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

Is Skimlinks open source?

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

Does Skimlinks have an API?

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

What does Skimlinks integrate with?

Skimlinks's listing names Awin, CJ Affiliate, Impact, Rakuten Advertising, Partnerize, PartnerStack, Refersion and Tradedoubler.

Who makes Skimlinks?

Skimlinks is made by a company of the same name.

What are the alternatives to Skimlinks?

The closest alternatives to Skimlinks in our directory are Sovrn Commerce, FlexOffers, Awin, impact.com and CJ Affiliate.

How does Skimlinks compare with other affiliate and referral tools?

Skimlinks's GPA of 2.4 is higher than 68 of the 89 other affiliate and referral tools we grade, and level with 12.

Is Skimlinks good value for money?

ToolGPA grades Skimlinks C for value for money. Its paid plans start at $166 a month, against a middle price of $65.46 for the category: 40 of the 49 others that charge start lower.

Could I make my own version of Skimlinks?

The plain part of Skimlinks you could make: reports. What surrounds it you could not.

Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from Skimlinks'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 Skimlinks'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 Skimlinks. Prices change, so check skimlinks.com before you buy.

skimlinks.com/preferred-partner-program/
skimlinks.com/editorial-publishers/
skimlinks.com/company/
skimlinks.com
skimlinks.com/growth-merchants

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

Skimlinks, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/skimlinks

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, "Skimlinks: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 13, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/skimlinks
```

Know someone choosing between affiliate and referral tools?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded affiliate and referral tools after Skimlinks, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Affiliate & Referral Software Insider's Guide

Every one of the 90 affiliate and referral tools we grade, compared

GoAffPro Insider's Guide

Affiliate and multi-level marketing app for online stores

3.2 GPA

SliceWP Insider's Guide

WordPress affiliate plugin with a free edition and paid add-ons

2.8 GPA

Affiliatly Insider's Guide

Affiliate program software for online stores, with a free plan

2.6 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 Skimlinks'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. Skimlinks is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Skimlinks. Prices and plans change: check skimlinks.com before you buy.