ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

StartAllBack

The Insider's Guide

Windows 11 taskbar, Start menu and Explorer restyling tool



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among desktop utilities, read from StartAllBack's own pages.

Made by Stanislav Zinukhov (StartIsBack) · checked Nov 12, 2026 · toolgpa.com

2.4

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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 StartAllBack's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on StartAllBack's page too, where it is kept up to date. Checked Nov 12, 2026.

Welcome

What it is, who it suits, its grades and the ten things to know first

2.4

GPA, above 17 of the 96 other desktop utilities we grade

StartAllBack changes the Windows 11 shell to bring back older layouts. It restores a movable taskbar with labels and adjustable icon sizes, a classic Start menu, the older File Explorer command bar and context menus. The same developer sells StartIsBack for Windows 8 and 10, and one license key works across versions.

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

> "
>
> **You install it and the taskbar changes, with options to adjust.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

1 **Best for an older-style Windows 11 taskbar and Start menu**

StartAllBack gives Windows 11 a taskbar, Start menu and Explorer closer to the older ones, for $4.99 once.

2 **What it costs**

Paid plans start at $4.99 one-time for a personal license.

3 **You can try it first**

30-day trial with no feature limits; afterward it runs in a limited mode with a blank Start menu

4 **It runs on Windows**

Windows.

5 **Taskbar restore**

Shows labels on task icons, sets icon size and margins, and moves the taskbar to the top, left or right edge.

6 **Start menu**

Brings back a Start menu that opens programs and system places in one click, with its own search.

7 **File Explorer and Control Panel**

Restores a revamped ribbon and command bar, a bottom details pane and the older search box.

8 **A 2.4 GPA, above 17 of 96**

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

9 **Your call**

It depends on the utility: a converter or a calculator is an afternoon.

StartAllBack at a glance

PRICING
Free trial, from $4.99 one-time for a personal license

FREE PLAN
No

FREE TRIAL
30-day trial with no feature limits; afterward it runs in a limited mode with a blank Start menu

RUNS ON
Windows

MADE BY
Stanislav Zinukhov (StartIsBack)

CATEGORY
Desktop Utilities

OUR GRADE
2.4 GPA, fair

The report card

Best for an older-style Windows 11 taskbar and Start menu

StartAllBack gives Windows 11 a taskbar, Start menu and Explorer closer to the older ones, for $4.99 once. After the 30-day trial the Start menu goes

blank and a reminder shows at every boot until you activate it.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD	StartAllBack	Graded Nov 12, 2026
SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	A	$4.99 once for personal use, far under the category's cheaper quarter. Businesses pay $50 for 10 PCs.
Free plan and trial	C	A 30-day trial with no feature limits, and no card is mentioned. After that, a limited mode with a blank Start menu.
Features	C	Restores taskbar labels and placement, a Start menu, Explorer commands and old-style context menus. It does one job on Windows 11 only, and Windows 10 and 8 need StartIsBack.
Ease of use	B	No rating on record. You install it and the taskbar changes, with options to adjust.
Platforms and integrations	D	Windows 11 only for this product. No other platform and no integrations.
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 StartAllBack is for

- ✓ Fits if you miss the older Windows taskbar and Start menu
- ✓ Works for businesses that want group-policy control over the Start menu

Who it is not for

- ✗ Skip it if you are on Windows 10 or earlier, as that is a different product, StartIsBack
- ✗ Watch out: after the 30-day trial the Start menu goes blank until you activate a key
- ✗ Not for you if you use Mac or Linux, as it is Windows only
- ✗ Watch out: new versions for new Windows releases may need a licence upgrade payment, and activation is tied to your hardware

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Windows 11 users who miss the older taskbar and Start menu
- ✓ Businesses that want group-policy control over the Start menu

Worth knowing

- ⓘ Windows 11 only for StartAllBack; Windows 10 and 8 use StartIsBack versions.
- ⓘ After the 30-day trial the Start menu goes blank and a reminder appears at every boot until a key is activated.
- ⓘ New versions for new Windows releases may need a license upgrade payment, according to the vendor's FAQ.
- ⓘ Activation is tied to the PC's hardware, and one key activates a limited number of computers.

PART 02 · PRICING

What it costs

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

$4.99 one-time

To start

StartAllBack is a paid product with a free trial, starting at $4.99 one-time for a personal license.

> **After that, a limited mode with a blank Start menu.**
>
> From our grade for free plan and trial

PERSONAL

$4.99

one-time, personal use

License key stated to work with any StartIsBack version, including StartAllBack. Personal use only; the site also mentions a family pack.

BUSINESS, 10 PCS

$50.00

one-time for 10 PCs

Required for business use. Adds group policies, priority email support and future optional updates; 100 PCs is $450 and 1,000 PCs is $3,000.

Trying it first

30-day trial with no feature limits; afterward it runs in a limited mode with a blank Start menu

Read from startisback.com on Nov 12, 2026.

What it does

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

1

Place it runs: Windows

Windows 11 taskbar, Start menu and Explorer restyling tool. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: works offline, one-time purchase, menu bar app.

> **Restores taskbar labels and placement, a Start menu, Explorer commands and old-style context menus.**
>
> From our grade for features

Taskbar restore

Shows labels on task icons, sets icon size and margins, and moves the taskbar to the top, left or right edge.

Start menu

Brings back a Start menu that opens programs and system places in one click, with its own search.

File Explorer and Control Panel

Restores a revamped ribbon and command bar, a bottom details pane and the older search box.

Context menus

Replaces the Windows 11 menus with rounded acrylic ones that the vendor says open faster.

Styles and recoloring

Offers Windows 7, Windows 8 and third-party taskbar and Start menu styles and recolors UI in many windows apps.

Light footprint

The vendor says it uses less RAM and starts fewer processes than the default shell.

Where it runs

Windows

What it works with

Its own pages name no integrations.

StartAllBack is made by Stanislav Zinukhov (StartIsBack).

PART 04 · STANDING

Where it stands

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

17/96

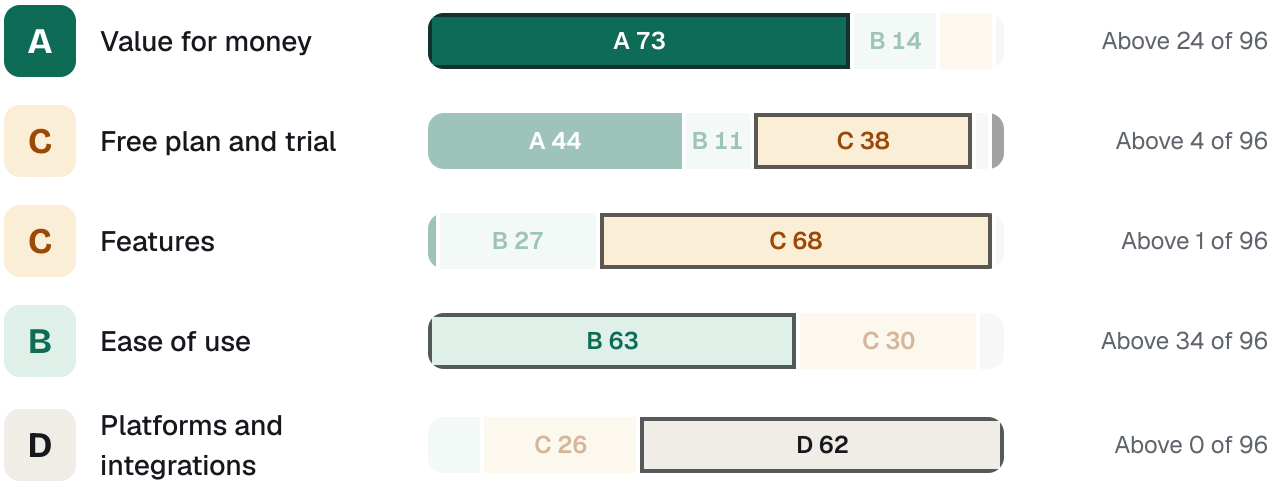
Other desktop utilities it is graded above

StartAllBack's GPA of 2.4 is higher than 17 of the 96 other desktop utilities we grade, and level with 17.

It stands best on value for money (A, above 24 of 96) and worst on platforms and integrations (D, above 0).

Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 97 desktop utilities we grade, cut by the letter each got. StartAllBack'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.

Your call

It depends on the utility: a converter or a calculator is an afternoon.

StartAllBack sits between: not beyond making, and not a weekend's work either. What you would give up is listed below. Whether that is worth the price is your call. At $4.99, paid once, it costs less than the weekend it would take to replace, which is the argument for keeping it.

What you could not

- ✕ A native app living in the menu bar.
- ✕ A real app for Windows. Something home-made would be a web page.
- ✕ It is priced for each person, which means accounts and billing for a team.

What this rests on. StartAllBack'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



Microsoft PowerToys, Files, Fences and Flow Launcher

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

2.8 GPA

Microsoft PowerToys

Free

Free Microsoft utilities for customizing Windows 10 and 11.

- Microsoft PowerToys has a free plan. StartAllBack does not, though it has a free trial.
- StartAllBack can be bought with a one-time purchase.
- Microsoft PowerToys is open source, according to its own site.

StartAllBack and Microsoft PowerToys compared in full

2.8 GPA

Files

Free plan · from $12.99 one-time

Open-source file manager for Windows with tabs and dual pane.

- Files has a free plan. StartAllBack does not, though it has a free trial.
- StartAllBack can be bought with a one-time purchase.
- Files is open source, according to its own site.

StartAllBack and Files compared in full

F

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GPA

Fences

Free trial · from $9.99/yr

Windows desktop organizer that groups icons into shaded areas.

- StartAllBack also covers menu bar app.
- Fences also covers file management.

StartAllBack and Fences compared in full

3.0
GPA

Flow Launcher

Free

Free, open-source app launcher and file search for Windows.

- Flow Launcher has a free plan. StartAllBack does not, though it has a free trial.
- StartAllBack can be bought with a one-time purchase.
- Flow Launcher is open source, according to its own site.

StartAllBack and Flow Launcher compared in full

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 StartAllBack free?

No, StartAllBack is a paid product, but you can try it first. 30-day trial with no feature limits; afterward it runs in a limited mode with a blank Start menu.

How much does StartAllBack cost?

StartAllBack lists 2 plans. Personal: $4.99 one-time, personal use.

What platforms does StartAllBack work on?

StartAllBack is available on Windows.

Does StartAllBack have an Android app?

No Android app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 12, 2026. StartAllBack is listed for Windows.

Does StartAllBack have an iPhone app?

No iPhone app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 12, 2026. StartAllBack is listed for Windows.

Is StartAllBack open source?

StartAllBack is not described as open source on its own site, as read on Nov 12, 2026.

Does StartAllBack work offline?

Yes, according to its own site. What works without a connection differs by plan and platform, so check the vendor's page for the detail.

Who makes StartAllBack?

StartAllBack is made by Stanislav Zinukhov (StartIsBack).

What are the alternatives to StartAllBack?

The closest alternatives to StartAllBack in our directory are Microsoft PowerToys, Files, Fences and Flow Launcher.

How does StartAllBack compare with other desktop utilities?

StartAllBack's GPA of 2.4 is higher than 17 of the 96 other desktop utilities we grade, and level with 17.

Could I make my own version of StartAllBack?

It depends on the utility: a converter or a calculator is an afternoon.

Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from StartAllBack's own pages on Nov 12, 2026, and the grades were given on Nov 12, 2026. Graded from this listing, whose facts were read from StartIsBack's own pages on 12 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 Stanislav Zinukhov (StartIsBack). Prices change, so check startallback.com before you buy.

startallback.com/

startisback.com/

PART 07 · ABOUT

About ToolGPA

Who made this guide, what else is on the site, and how to cite it

5,038

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.

5,038
tools graded

95
categories

739
price changes on record

579
apps priced in 12 countries

What else is on toolgpa.com

StartAllBack, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/startallback

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, "StartAllBack: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 12, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/startallback
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Know someone choosing between desktop utilities?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded desktop utilities after StartAllBack, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Desktop Utilities Insider's Guide

Every one of the 97 desktop utilities we grade, compared

LocalSend Insider's Guide

Open-source file sharing between nearby devices, no cloud

3.2 GPA

Ninite Insider's Guide

Installs and updates many Windows apps at once

3.2 GPA

PeaZip Insider's Guide

Free file archiver for Linux, macOS and Windows

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 StartAllBack'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. StartAllBack is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Stanislav Zinukhov (StartIsBack). Prices and plans change: check startallback.com before you buy.