ToolGPA

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Surge

The Insider's Guide

Static web publishing from the command line



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among web hosts, read from Surge's own pages.

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

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GPA, above 99 of the 122 other web hosts we grade

Surge puts a folder of static files on a global network with HTTPS, at a surge.sh name or your own domain, using one command from a terminal, CI job or coding agent. It does not build projects. Plans are per account, and there is one free plan and one paid plan.

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

> **Everything is done from a terminal with the CLI, so it is a poor start for anyone who does not use a command line.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

1 **Best for publishing a static folder from the command line**

Surge puts a folder of static files online with one command, and the free plan includes custom domains.

2 **Paid plans start at $30 a month**

As its pricing page puts it: $30 per month (Pro).

3 There is a free plan

Unlimited projects and domains, custom domains with certificates, 10 regions, previews and 100 revisions with rollback.

4 It runs on Web

Web.

5 One-command publishing

Run surge with a directory and a domain; the CLI remembers the domain in a one-line CNAME file and needs no config file.

6 Previews and rollback

Each publish is a revision and the last 100 are kept, so a domain can be previewed, cut over and rolled back.

7 Custom domains and certificates

Custom domains are free on every plan, with certificates issued and renewed automatically once DNS points at Surge.

8 A 2.4 GPA, above 99 of 122

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

9 Keep it

To replace Surge 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.

Surge at a glance

PRICING Free plan, from $30 per month (Pro)	FREE PLAN Yes
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON Web
MADE BY Chloi Inc., since 2014	CATEGORY Web Hosting
OUR GRADE 2.4 GPA, fair	

The report card

Best for publishing a static folder from the command line

Surge puts a folder of static files online with one command, and the free plan includes custom domains. It is command line only, builds nothing for you, and redirects, rewrites and password protection sit on a $30 a month plan.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD	Surge	Graded Nov 13, 2026
SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	A	Free plan with unlimited projects and domains, and custom domains with certificates at no cost. The only paid plan is $30 a month.
Free plan and trial	B	The free plan covers real use, with limits you can hit: 450 MB and 10,100 files a project, and publishing is rate limited.
Features	C	Previews, 100 revisions with rollback and single-page app support. It serves static files only and does not run a build, so it does a narrow job.
Ease of use	D	Everything is done from a terminal with the CLI, so it is a poor start for anyone who does not use a command line.
Platforms and integrations	C	Web only, with a CLI and scoped tokens for CI jobs. No dashboard to build in, and no phone or desktop app.
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 Surge is for

- ✓ Fits if you are happy in a terminal and want to push a build folder online
- ✓ Works for quick previews and demos from a CI job

Who it is not for

- ✕ Not for you if you want a point-and-click dashboard, as publishing is by command line
- ✕ Skip it if you need a build step, because Surge only serves files you built elsewhere
- ✕ Pricey if you need redirects, rewrites or password protection, which need Pro at $30 a month
- ✕ Watch out: publishing is rate limited on every plan, and a project tops out at 450 MB

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Developers who want to publish a build folder without a Git integration
- ✓ Quick previews and demos from a terminal or CI job
- ✓ Static sites that need a custom domain at no cost

Worth knowing

- ⓘ Static files only, and Surge does not run a build, so you build elsewhere and hand it the output.
- ⓘ Publishing is rate limited on every plan: 30 per domain and 60 per account every 15 minutes.
- ⓘ A project can be at most 450 MB and 10,100 files.
- ⓘ Password protection, redirects and rewrites need the $30 Pro plan.

PART 02 · PRICING

What it costs

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

$30

A month to start. There is a free plan too

Surge has a free plan. Paid plans start at $30 per month (Pro).

> **Free plan with unlimited projects and domains, and custom domains with certificates at no cost.**
>
> From our grade for value for money

FREE

$0

Unlimited projects and domains, custom domains with certificates, previews, rollback and scoped CI tokens.

PRO

$30

per month

Everything in Free plus password protection for a domain or paths, and redirects and rewrites.

The free plan

Unlimited projects and domains, custom domains with certificates, 10 regions, previews and 100 revisions with rollback.

Read from surge.sh on Nov 13, 2026.

What it does

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

1

Place it runs: Web

Static web publishing from the command line. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: public API, workflow automation.

> **It serves static files only and does not run a build, so it does a narrow job.**

From our grade for features

One-command publishing

Run surge with a directory and a domain; the CLI remembers the domain in a one-line CNAME file and needs no config file.

Previews and rollback

Each publish is a revision and the last 100 are kept, so a domain can be previewed, cut over and rolled back.

Custom domains and certificates

Custom domains are free on every plan, with certificates issued and renewed automatically once DNS points at Surge.

Single-page app support

A 200.html file serves unknown paths for client-side routes, and a 404.html gives a custom not-found page.

Tokens for CI and agents

A token can be scoped to one domain, and Surge publishes a manual for coding agents at surge.sh/docs/agents.

Where it runs

Web

What it works with

Vite
Astro
Eleventy
Hugo

Surge is made by Chloi Inc., and has been around since 2014.

PART 04 · STANDING

Where it stands

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

99/122

Other web hosts it is graded above

Surge's GPA of 2.4 is higher than 99 of the 122 other web hosts we grade, and level with 14.

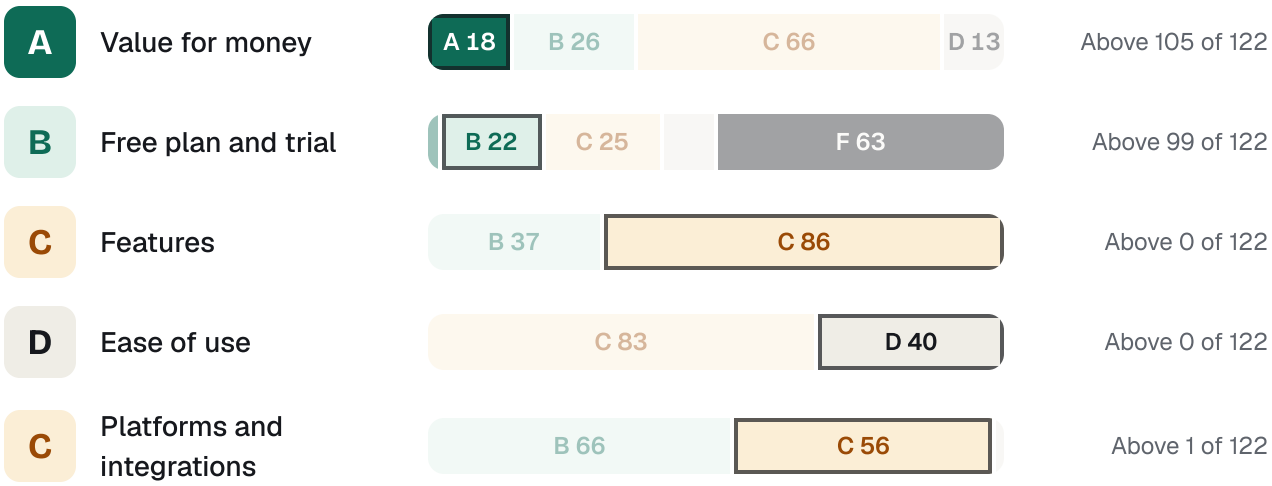
It stands best on value for money (A, above 105 of 122) and worst on ease of use (D, above 0).

Its paid plans start at $30 a month, against a middle price of $9.69 for the category: 96 of the 107 others that charge start lower.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 1.7 out of 4. 92 tools score higher and cost less.

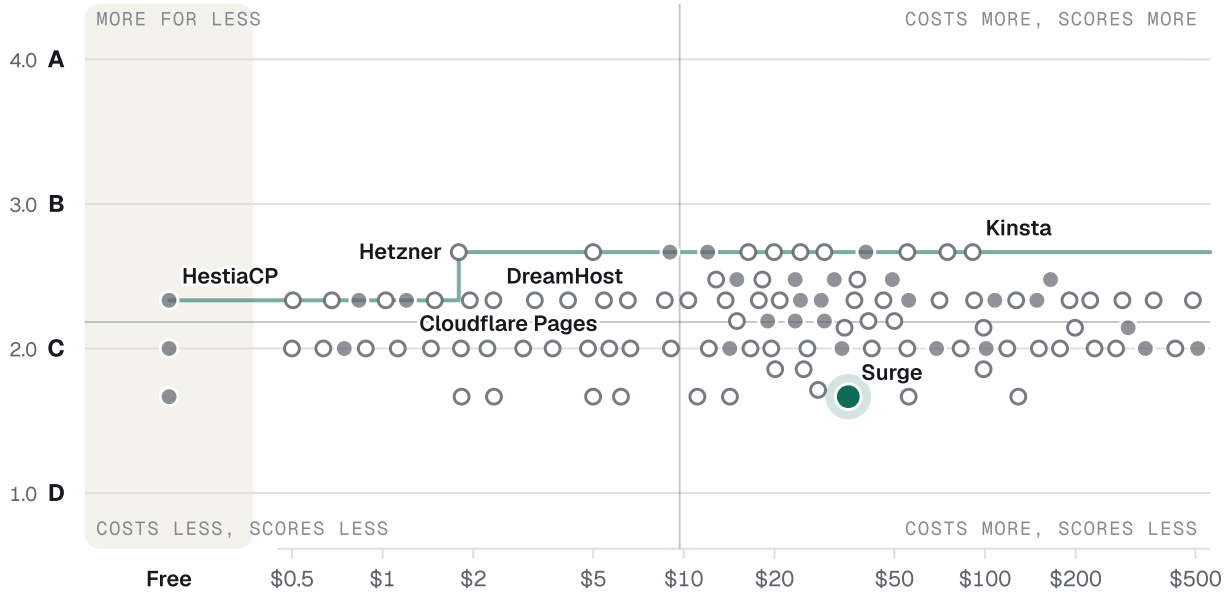
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 123 web hosts we grade, cut by the letter each got. Surge's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 111 web hosts. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. Surge 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 Surge 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.

It is one of the better ones too: its GPA of 2.4 is higher than 99 of the 122 other web hosts we grade. It costs $360 a year.

What you could not

- ✕ Connections to other products, each kept working as those products change.

What this rests on. Surge'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



Netlify, GitHub Pages, Cloudflare Pages, Neocities and Firebase Hosting

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

2.8 GPA

Netlify

Free plan · from $9/mo

Git-based hosting for sites and web apps, priced by monthly credits.

- Surge also covers workflow automation.
- Netlify also covers AI agents and forms.

Surge and Netlify compared in full

2.8 GPA

GitHub Pages

Free plan · from $0

Static site hosting built into GitHub repositories.

Surge and GitHub Pages compared in full

2.8 GPA

Cloudflare Pages

Free plan · from $5/mo

Git-based hosting for static sites and full-stack apps.

- Surge also covers workflow automation.
- Cloudflare Pages also covers page speed.

Surge and Cloudflare Pages compared in full



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Neocities

Free plan · from $5/mo

Free static website hosting with an in-browser editor.

- Neocities is open source, according to its own site.
- Surge also covers workflow automation.

Surge and Neocities compared in full



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Firebase Hosting

Free plan · from $0.026

Google's CDN hosting for static and single-page web apps.

- Surge also covers workflow automation.
- Firebase Hosting also covers page speed.

Surge and Firebase Hosting compared in full

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 Surge free?

Surge has a free plan. Unlimited projects and domains, custom domains with certificates, 10 regions, previews and 100 revisions with rollback.

How much does Surge cost?

Surge lists 2 plans. Free: $0.

What platforms does Surge work on?

Surge is available on Web.

Does Surge have an Android app?

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

Does Surge have an iPhone app?

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

Is Surge open source?

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

Does Surge have an API?

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

What does Surge integrate with?

Surge's listing names Vite, Astro, Eleventy and Hugo. A listing names up to eight integrations, so it may connect to more.

Who makes Surge?

Surge is made by Chloi Inc. It dates from 2014.

What are the alternatives to Surge?

The closest alternatives to Surge in our directory are Netlify, GitHub Pages, Cloudflare Pages, Neocities and Firebase Hosting.

How does Surge compare with other web hosts?

Surge's GPA of 2.4 is higher than 99 of the 122 other web hosts we grade, and level with 14.

Is Surge good value for money?

ToolGPA grades Surge A for value for money. Its paid plans start at $30 a month, against a middle price of $9.69 for the category: 96 of the 107 others that charge start lower.

Could I make my own version of Surge?

To replace Surge 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 Surge'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 Surge'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 Chloi Inc. Prices change, so check surge.sh before you buy.

surge.sh/pricing

surge.sh

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

Surge, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/surge

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, "Surge: The Insider's Guide", checked
Nov 13, 2026. https://toolgpa.com/tools/surge
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Know someone choosing between web hosts?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded web hosts after Surge, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Web Hosting Insider's Guide

Every one of the 123 web hosts we grade, compared

Cloudflare Pages Insider's Guide

Git-based hosting for static sites and full-stack apps

2.8 GPA

GitHub Pages Insider's Guide

Static site hosting built into GitHub repositories

2.8 GPA

Netlify Insider's Guide

Git-based hosting for sites and web apps, priced by monthly credits

2.8 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 Surge'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. Surge is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Chloi Inc. Prices and plans change: check surge.sh before you buy.