ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Swimlanes.io

The Insider's Guide

Free text-driven sequence diagram maker that updates live



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among whiteboard and mind map tools, read from Swimlanes.io's own pages.

Made by Swimlanes.io · checked Nov 13, 2026 · toolgpa.com

2.8
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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 Swimlanes.io's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Swimlanes.io'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 75 of the 98 other whiteboard and mind map tools we grade

Swimlanes.io is a free web app for making sequence diagrams. You write plain text on the left and the diagram redraws on the right as you type. Diagrams are shared by link, embed or short URL, or downloaded as images or PDF, and an optional sign-in collects them in an account.

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

> **It draws sequence diagrams only, and without an account the diagram lives in a web address that changes every time you edit it.**
>
> From our report card of Swimlanes.io

1 **Best for quick sequence diagrams in the browser**

Swimlanes.io is a free web app that turns text into a sequence diagram as you type, with Markdown in notes and export to images.

2 **It is free**

Swimlanes.io has no paid plan at all.

3 **It runs on Web**

Web.

4 **Live text editing**

Edit the text on the left and the sequence diagram on the right updates in real time.

5 **Markdown in messages and notes**

Messages and notes accept italic, bold, strike-through and inline code, plus lists, links, code blocks and Font Awesome icons.

6 **Flow structures**

The syntax covers conditional sections with if and else, groups, dividers, delays, automatic numbering and actor reordering.

7 **A 2.8 GPA, above 75 of 98**

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

8 **Keep it**

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

Swimlanes.io at a glance

PRICING Free	FREE PLAN It is free
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON Web
MADE BY Swimlanes.io	CATEGORY Whiteboards & Mind Maps
OUR GRADE 2.8 GPA, good	

The report card

Best for quick sequence diagrams in the browser

Swimlanes.io is a free web app that turns text into a sequence diagram as you type, with Markdown in notes and export to images. It draws sequence

diagrams only, and without an account the diagram lives in a web address that changes every time you edit it.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD	Swimlanes.io	Graded Nov 13, 2026
SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	A	Free, with no paid plan listed. It is a web app anyone can open and use, which beats every price in the category.
Free plan and trial	A	Free outright: no plan, cap or trial on the page. An account is optional and only collects your diagrams.
Features	C	Does sequence diagrams fully, with flow structures, Markdown, sharing and export. That is a smaller job than a whiteboard, with no freeform canvas.
Ease of use	C	No store rating on record. You write the diagram in a text syntax, so there is a short learning curve.
Platforms and integrations	C	Web only. Sign-in goes through Google or GitHub, and no apps or integrations are 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 Swimlanes.io is for

- ✓ Fits if you write a sequence diagram a week and want it from text
- ✓ Works for explaining an API call or a login flow to someone with a link

Who it is not for

- ✗ Skip it if you want a freeform canvas or sticky notes: it draws sequence diagrams only
- ✗ Watch out: without an account the web address changes on every edit, so an old link shows the old diagram
- ✗ Not for you if your company needs a named vendor and published terms, because the site gives neither
- ✗ Too light for teams: no real-time collaboration is listed

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Quick sequence diagrams to paste into docs or tickets
- ✓ Developers who want a text syntax with Markdown notes
- ✓ Sharing a diagram as a link without creating an account

Worth knowing

- ⓘ Without an account, the diagram lives in the URL and the URL changes whenever the diagram is edited.
- ⓘ It draws sequence diagrams only, with no freeform canvas.
- ⓘ The site does not name the company behind it or publish terms or a pricing page that we could read.

What it costs

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

Free

No paid plan at all

Swimlanes.io is free to use.

> **It is a web app anyone can open and use, which beats every price in the category.**
>
> From our grade for value for money

FREE

$0

The site describes itself as a free web app; no paid plan is listed.

Read from swimlanes.io 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

Free text-driven sequence diagram maker that updates live. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: Markdown, diagrams, file sharing.

> **Does sequence diagrams fully, with flow structures, Markdown, sharing and export.**

From our grade for features

Live text editing

Edit the text on the left and the sequence diagram on the right updates in real time.

Markdown in messages and notes

Messages and notes accept italic, bold, strike-through and inline code, plus lists, links, code blocks and Font Awesome icons.

Flow structures

The syntax covers conditional sections with if and else, groups, dividers, delays, automatic numbering and actor reordering.

Sharing and export

Diagrams can be shared as a link, short URL, image link or embed, or downloaded as an image or PDF.

Optional account

Signing in with Google or GitHub collects a person's diagrams in one place; without it the URL carries the diagram.

Where it runs

Web

What it works with

Google

GitHub

Swimlanes.io is made by Swimlanes.io.

PART 04 · STANDING

Where it stands

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

75/98

Other whiteboard and mind map tools it is graded above

Swimlanes.io's GPA of 2.8 is higher than 75 of the 98 other whiteboard and mind map tools we grade, and level with 9.

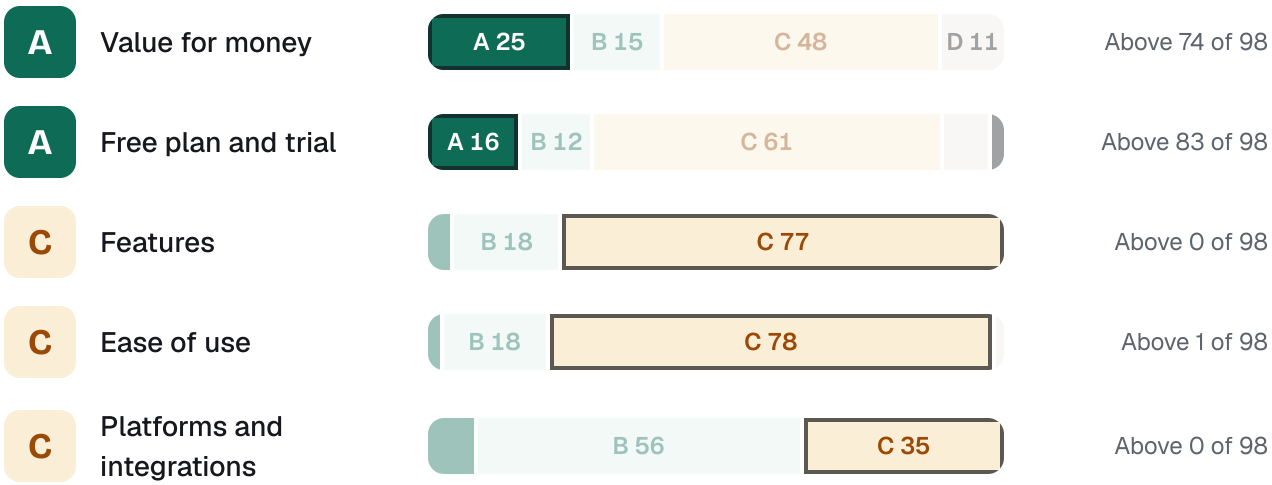
It stands best on free plan and trial (A, above 83 of 98) and worst on features (C, above 0).

Swimlanes.io 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.

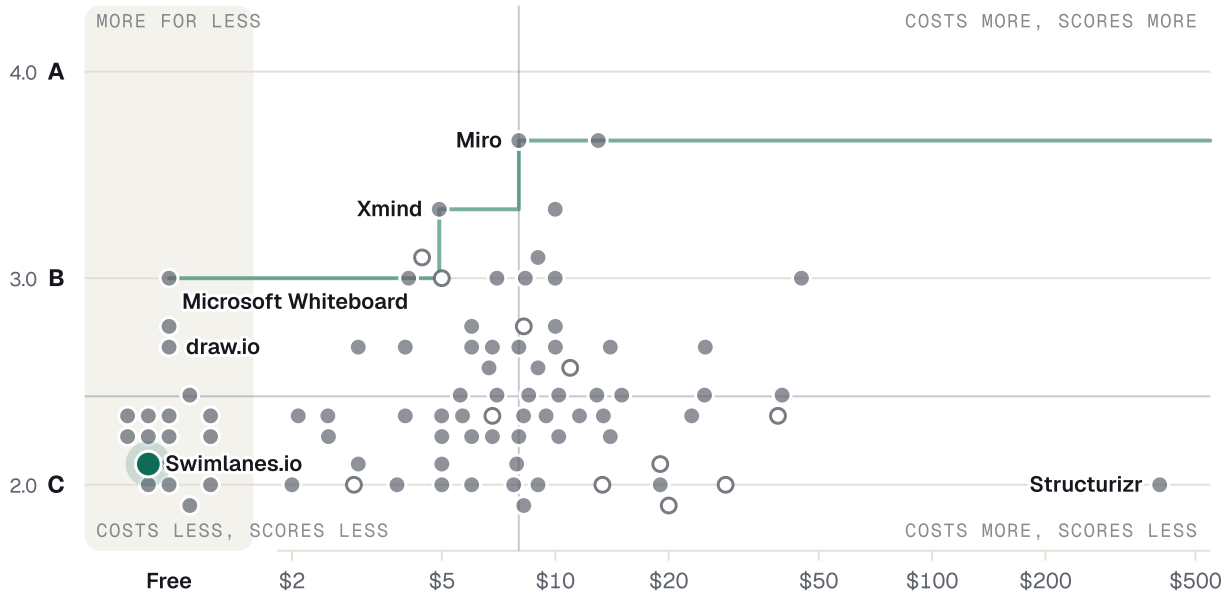
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 99 whiteboard and mind map tools we grade, cut by the letter each got. Swimlanes.io's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 88 whiteboard and mind map tools. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. Swimlanes.io 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

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

And it is not the kind of software a weekend replaces. It is one of the better ones too: its GPA of 2.8 is higher than 75 of the 98 other whiteboard and mind map tools we grade.

What you could make

- Markdown: an app builder makes this well.

What you could not

- A diagram editor.
- Storing and serving files for other people.

What this rests on. Swimlanes.io'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

SequenceDiagram.org, WebSequenceDiagrams, PlantUML, Mermaid and nomnoml

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



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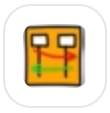
SequenceDiagram.org

Free

Text-based UML sequence diagrams you can also drag and drop.

- Swimlanes.io also covers Markdown and file sharing.

Swimlanes.io and SequenceDiagram.org compared in full



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WebSequenceDiagrams

Free plan · from $10/mo

Text-to-diagram sequence diagram maker with its own layout engine.

- WebSequenceDiagrams is self-hostable, according to its own site.
- Swimlanes.io also covers Markdown and file sharing.

Swimlanes.io and WebSequenceDiagrams compared in full

P

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PlantUML

Free

Draw UML and other diagrams from plain-text descriptions.

- Only PlantUML lists a browser extension.
- PlantUML is open source, according to its own site.
- Swimlanes.io also covers Markdown and file sharing.

Swimlanes.io and PlantUML compared in full

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GPA

Mermaid

Free plan · from $10/mo

Text-based diagramming platform with AI and a visual editor.

- Swimlanes.io also covers Markdown and file sharing.
- Mermaid also covers presentations.

Swimlanes.io and Mermaid compared in full

N

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nomnoml

Free

Text-to-UML diagram editor with a live preview.

- nomnoml is open source, according to its own site.
- Swimlanes.io also covers Markdown and file sharing.

Swimlanes.io and nomnoml compared in full

Quick answers

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

12

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 Swimlanes.io free?

Yes. Swimlanes.io is free to use.

How much does Swimlanes.io cost?

Swimlanes.io lists one plan. Free: $0.

What platforms does Swimlanes.io work on?

Swimlanes.io is available on Web.

Does Swimlanes.io have an Android app?

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

Does Swimlanes.io have an iPhone app?

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

Is Swimlanes.io open source?

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

What does Swimlanes.io integrate with?

Swimlanes.io's listing names Google and GitHub. A listing names up to eight integrations, so it may connect to more.

Who makes Swimlanes.io?

Swimlanes.io is made by a company of the same name.

What are the alternatives to Swimlanes.io?

The closest alternatives to Swimlanes.io in our directory are SequenceDiagram.org, WebSequenceDiagrams, PlantUML, Mermaid and nomnoml.

How does Swimlanes.io compare with other whiteboard and mind map tools?

Swimlanes.io's GPA of 2.8 is higher than 75 of the 98 other whiteboard and mind map tools we grade, and level with 9.

Is Swimlanes.io good value for money?

ToolGPA grades Swimlanes.io A for value for money. Swimlanes.io has no paid plan.

Could I make my own version of Swimlanes.io?

Swimlanes.io is free, so making your own would save you nothing. And it is not the kind of software a weekend replaces.

Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from Swimlanes.io'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 swimlanes.io'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 Swimlanes.io. Prices change, so check swimlanes.io before you buy.

swimlanes.io/

swimlanes.io/gallery/full-syntax

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

Swimlanes.io, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/swimlanes-io

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, "Swimlanes.io: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 13, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/swimlanes-io
```

Know someone choosing between whiteboard and mind map tools?

Send them this guide: toolgpa.com/tools/swimlanes-io/guide

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded whiteboard and mind map tools after Swimlanes.io, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Whiteboards & Mind Maps Insider's Guide

Every one of the 99 whiteboard and mind map tools we grade, compared

Microsoft Whiteboard Insider's Guide

Free collaborative canvas built into Microsoft 365 and Teams

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draw.io Insider's Guide

Free diagram editor that saves files to storage you choose

3.2 GPA

tldraw Insider's Guide

Free online whiteboard with a local desktop app

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 Swimlanes.io'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. Swimlanes.io is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Swimlanes.io. Prices and plans change: check swimlanes.io before you buy.