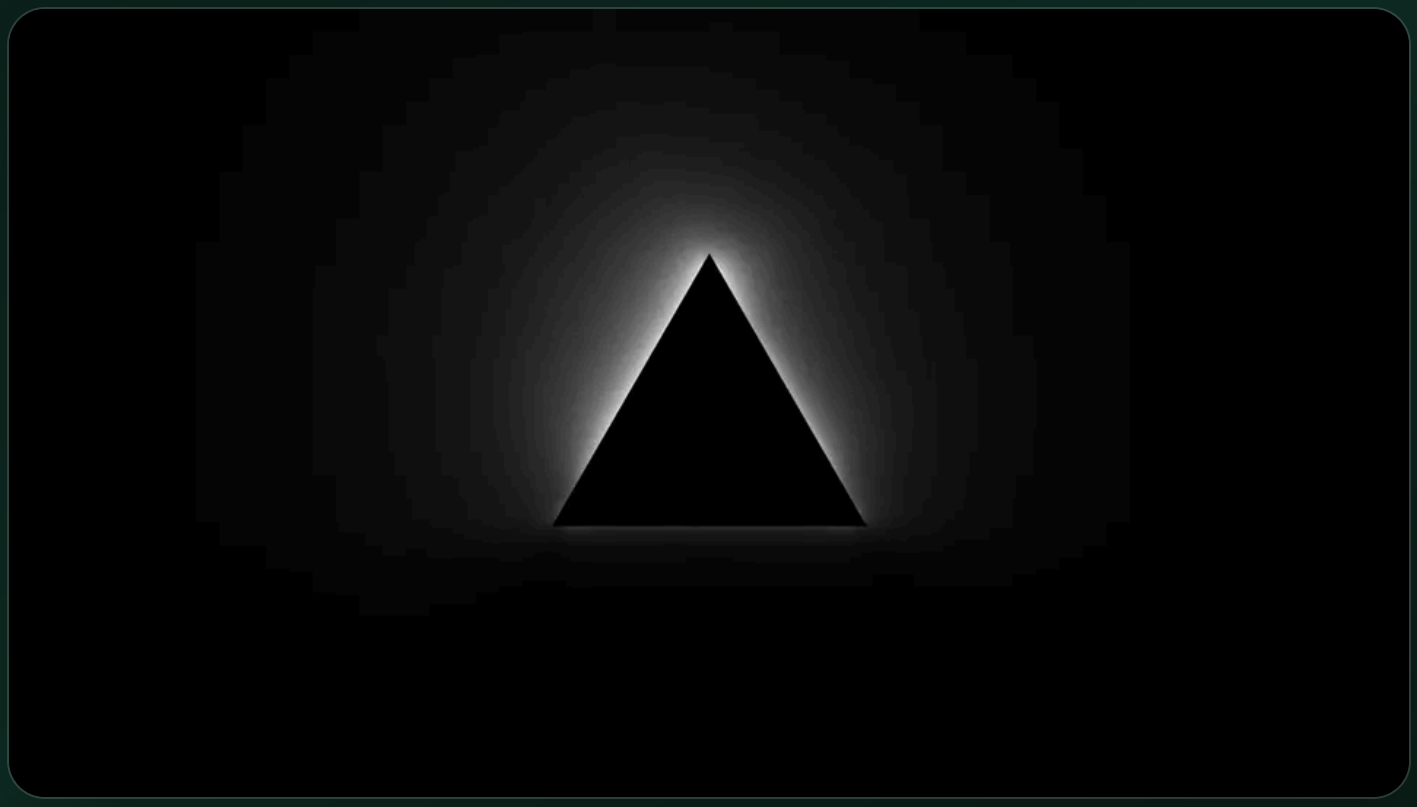
ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Vercel

The Insider’s Guide

Git-based hosting for front-end and full-stack web apps

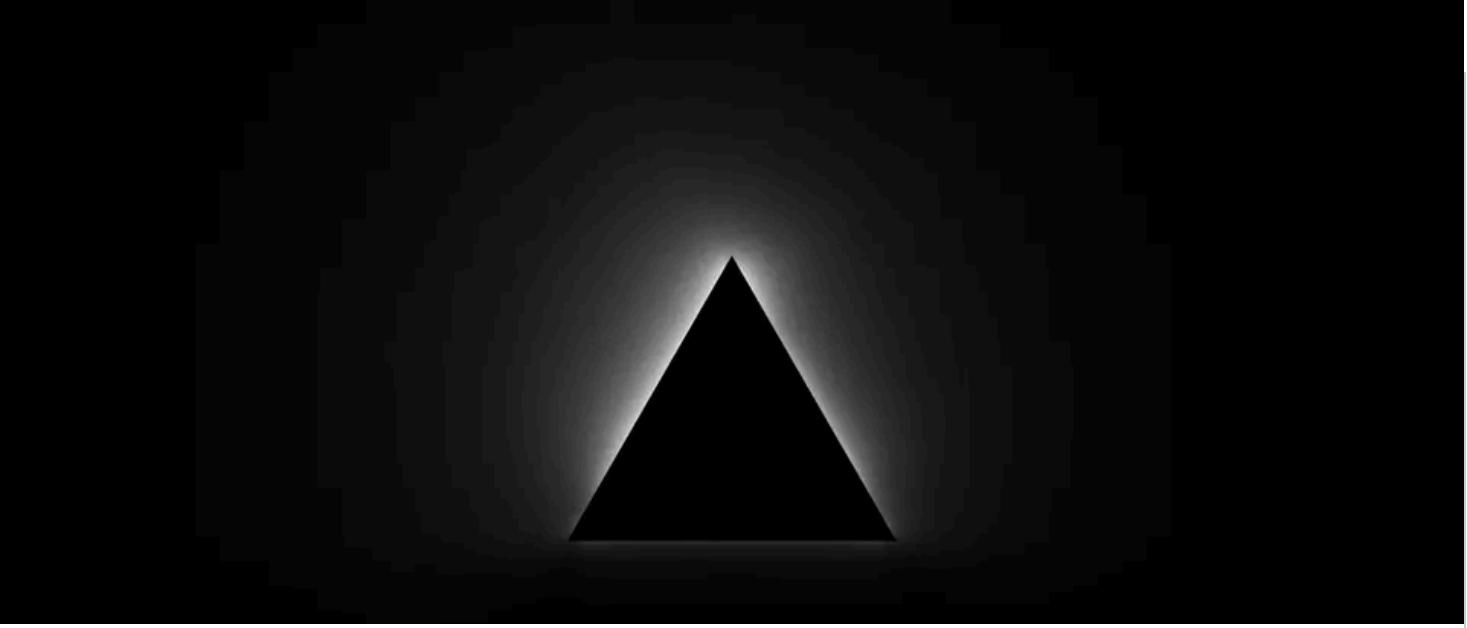


Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among web hosts, read from Vercel’s own pages.

Made by Vercel · checked Nov 12, 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 Vercel's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Vercel'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 45 of the 54 other web hosts we grade

Vercel deploys web apps from Git on every branch push, serves them through a global CDN and runs server code on its Fluid compute. Teams use it for Next.js and other frameworks, with preview URLs, a web application firewall, analytics and an AI gateway built into the platform. Pro is a flat $20 a month that includes $20 of usage credit.

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

"

You connect a Git repo and set up projects, domains and environment variables.

From our grade for ease of use

1 **Best for deploying front-end apps from Git**

Vercel deploys front-end and full-stack apps from Git, with a preview link for each branch.

2 **Paid plans start at $20 a month**

As its pricing page puts it: $20 per month for 1 deploying seat (Pro).

3 There is a free plan

Hobby plan: $0 a month, with automatic CI/CD, a global CDN, a web application firewall and DDoS mitigation. Limited to non-commercial, personal use.

4 It runs on Web

Web.

5 Git deploys and preview URLs

Projects deploy on every push from GitHub, GitLab, Bitbucket or Azure DevOps, and each branch gets its own preview URL.

6 Fluid compute

Server code is billed for actual execution time rather than idle time, according to the pricing page.

7 Global CDN and firewall

Content is served from a global delivery network with HTTPS certificates, a web application firewall and DDoS mitigation on every plan.

8 A 2.4 GPA, above 45 of 54

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

9 Keep it

Nothing Vercel does is plain enough to make in a weekend. The 4 things listed below take a company.

Vercel at a glance

PRICING
Free plan, from $20 per month for 1 deploying seat (Pro)

FREE PLAN
Yes

FREE TRIAL
Pro trial: 14 days with $20 in credits.

RUNS ON
Web

MADE BY
Vercel

CATEGORY
Web Hosting

OUR GRADE
2.4 GPA, fair

The report card

Best for deploying front-end apps from Git

Vercel deploys front-end and full-stack apps from Git, with a preview link for each branch. The free Hobby plan is for non-commercial use only, Pro is $20 a month for one deploying seat, and usage beyond the credit is billed on demand.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD — **Vercel** — Graded Nov 12, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	C	Pro is $20 a month per deploying seat with $20 of usage credit, just inside the dearer quarter ($19). Usage past the credit is billed per resource.
Free plan and trial	B	Hobby is free with CI/CD, a CDN and a firewall, plus a 14-day Pro trial. But it's limited to non-commercial, personal use.
Features	C	Git deploys, preview URLs, CDN, firewall, analytics and spend controls. It's front-end hosting first, and SCIM, multi-region failover and the SLA are Enterprise only.
Ease of use	C	No store rating on record. You connect a Git repo and set up projects, domains and environment variables.
Platforms and integrations	B	Web only, with GitHub, GitLab, Bitbucket, Azure DevOps and Next.js.
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 Vercel is for

- ✓ Fits if you ship Next.js or other framework apps from Git
- ✓ Works for personal projects on the free Hobby plan

Who it is not for

- ✗ Not for you if the project earns money and you want to stay on the free plan
- ✗ Pricey if you have a team: each extra deploying seat is $20 a month
- ✗ Watch out: usage beyond the $20 credit is billed on demand
- ✗ Watch out: Enterprise pricing isn't published

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Front-end teams shipping Next.js and other framework apps from Git
- ✓ Teams that want a preview link for each branch
- ✓ Personal projects, through the free Hobby plan

Worth knowing

- ⓘ The Hobby plan is limited to non-commercial, personal use under Vercel's fair use guidelines.
- ⓘ Pro includes one deploying seat; each extra Owner or Member seat is $20 a month, while viewer seats are free.
- ⓘ Usage beyond the $20 monthly credit is billed on demand, per resource, such as per million requests or per GB-hour.
- ⓘ Enterprise pricing is not published, and SCIM, multi-region failover and the 99.99% SLA are Enterprise only.

PART 02 · PRICING

What it costs

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

$20

A month to start. There is a free plan too

Vercel has a free plan. Paid plans start at $20 per month for 1 deploying seat (Pro).

> **Usage past the credit is billed per resource.**
>
> From our grade for value for money

HOBBY

$0

Import a repo and deploy, with CI/CD, CDN, firewall and fluid compute. Restricted to non-commercial, personal use.

PRO

$20

per month, includes 1 deploying seat and $20 of usage credit

Adds $20 of monthly usage credit, spend management, cold start prevention and free viewer seats. More deploying seats are $20 a month each.

ENTERPRISE

Custom

Sold through sales: SCIM and directory sync, managed WAF rulesets, multi-region compute and failover, 99.99% SLA and advanced support.

The free plan

Hobby plan: $0 a month, with automatic CI/CD, a global CDN, a web application firewall and DDoS mitigation. Limited to non-commercial, personal use.

Trying it first

Pro trial: 14 days with $20 in credits.

Read from vercel.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: Web

Git-based hosting for front-end and full-stack web apps. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: public API, AI features, web analytics, page speed.

> **Git deploys, preview URLs, CDN, firewall, analytics and spend controls.**

From our grade for features

Git deploys and preview URLs

Projects deploy on every push from GitHub, GitLab, Bitbucket or Azure DevOps, and each branch gets its own preview URL.

Fluid compute

Server code is billed for actual execution time rather than idle time, according to the pricing page.

Global CDN and firewall

Content is served from a global delivery network with HTTPS certificates, a web application firewall and DDoS mitigation on every plan.

Analytics and observability

Traffic and performance insights are included, with deeper observability available as a paid add-on on Pro.

Spend management

Pro teams can set a spending limit and alerts, and Vercel says it will stop usage before the budget is exceeded.

AI Gateway and SDK

Vercel offers an AI Gateway and an open-source AI SDK for apps that call language models, alongside Sandbox for running untrusted code.

Where it runs

Web

What it works with

GitHub · GitLab · Bitbucket · Azure DevOps · Next.js

Vercel is made by Vercel.

PART 04 · STANDING

Where it stands

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

45/54

Other web hosts it is graded above

Vercel's GPA of 2.4 is higher than 45 of the 54 other web hosts we grade, and level with 5.

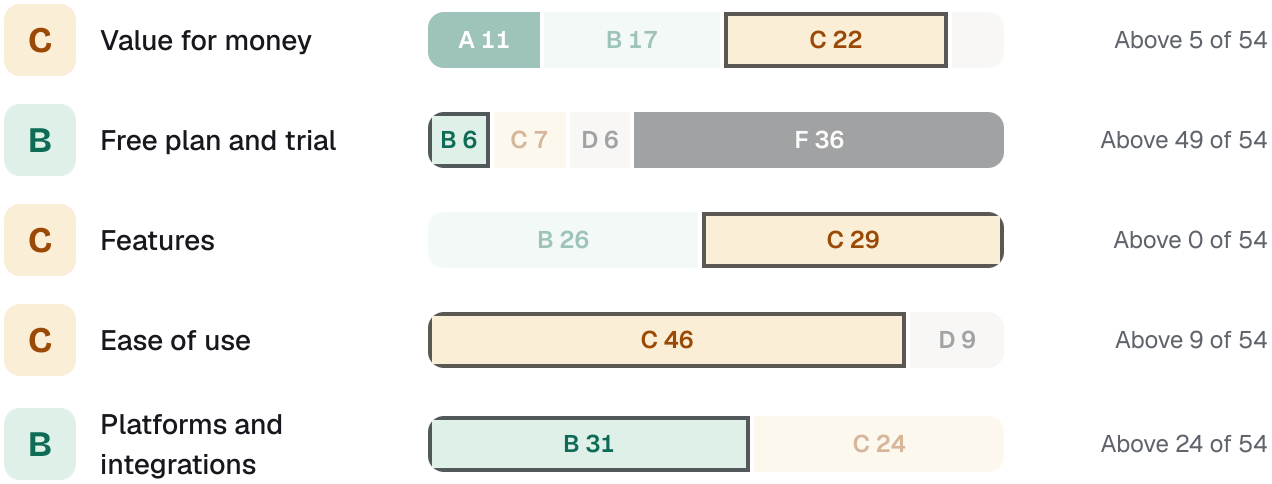
It stands best on free plan and trial (B, above 49 of 54) and worst on features (C, above 0).

Its paid plans start at $20 a month, against a middle price of $9 for the category: 41 of the 52 others that charge start lower.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 2.3 out of 4. 6 tools score higher and cost less.

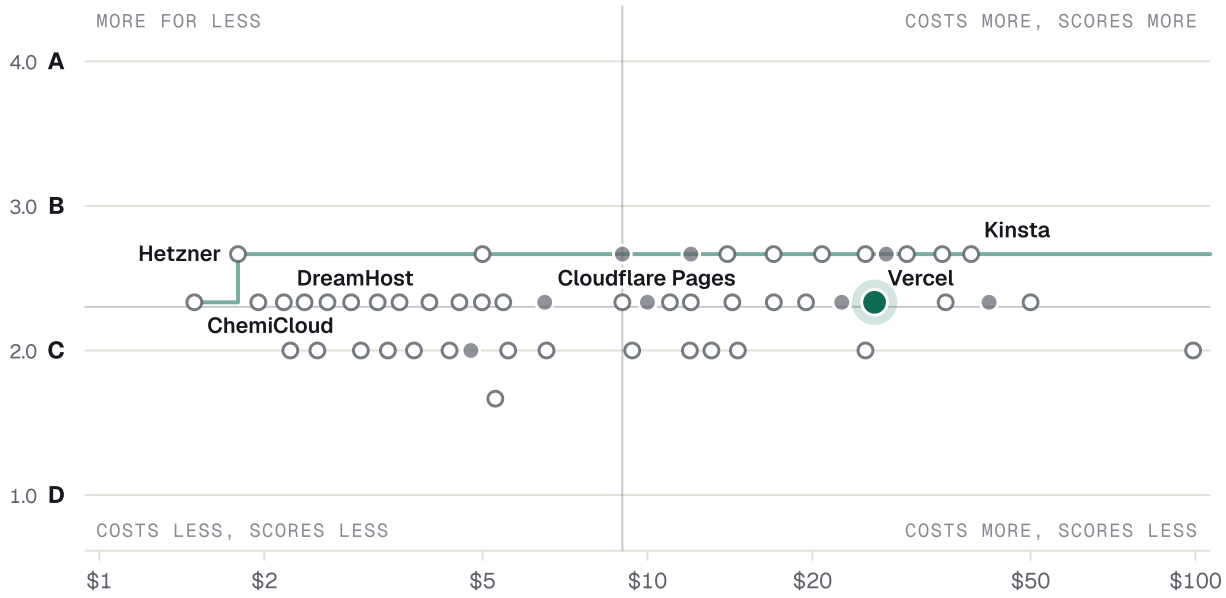
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 55 web hosts we grade, cut by the letter each got. Vercel's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 53 web hosts. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. Vercel 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

Nothing Vercel does is plain enough to make in a weekend. The 4 things listed below take a company.

It is one of the better ones too: its GPA of 2.4 is higher than 45 of the 54 other web hosts we grade. It costs $240 a year.

What you could not

- A tracking script and a database that counts every visit.
- Speed tests run from real browsers on a schedule.
- It plugs into other products, GitHub, GitLab and Bitbucket among them, and has an API.

- ✕ AI features, unless you pay a model provider for each request yourself.

What this rests on. Vercel'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, Render, Railway, Cloudflare Pages and Firebase Hosting

The 5 tools Vercel 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.

- Vercel also covers web analytics and page speed.
- Netlify also covers AI agents and forms.

Vercel and Netlify compared in full

R

2.4 GPA

Render

Free plan · from $25/mo

Cloud hosting for web services, databases and workers.

- Vercel also covers web analytics and page speed.
- Render also covers databases and workflow automation.

Vercel and Render compared in full



2.6
GPA

Railway

Free trial · from $5/mo

App and database hosting billed by the second for usage.

- Vercel has a free plan. Railway does not, though it has a free trial.
- Only Railway lists iOS and Android apps.
- Vercel also covers web analytics and page speed.

Vercel and Railway compared in full



2.8
GPA

Cloudflare Pages

Free plan · from $5/mo

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

- Vercel also covers web analytics.

Vercel and Cloudflare Pages compared in full



2.4
GPA

Firebase Hosting

Free plan · from $0.026

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

- Vercel also covers web analytics.

Vercel and Firebase Hosting 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 Vercel free?

Vercel has a free plan. Hobby plan: $0 a month, with automatic CI/CD, a global CDN, a web application firewall and DDoS mitigation.

How much does Vercel cost?

Vercel lists 3 plans. Hobby: $0.

What platforms does Vercel work on?

Vercel is available on Web.

Does Vercel have an Android app?

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

Does Vercel have an iPhone app?

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

Is Vercel open source?

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

Does Vercel have an API?

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

What does Vercel integrate with?

Vercel's listing names GitHub, GitLab, Bitbucket, Azure DevOps and Next.js.

Does Vercel have a free trial?

Yes. Pro trial: 14 days with $20 in credits.

Who makes Vercel?

Vercel is made by a company of the same name.

What are the alternatives to Vercel?

The closest alternatives to Vercel in our directory are Netlify, Render, Railway, Cloudflare Pages and Firebase Hosting.

How does Vercel compare with other web hosts?

Vercel's GPA of 2.4 is higher than 45 of the 54 other web hosts we grade, and level with 5.

Is Vercel good value for money?

ToolGPA grades Vercel C for value for money. Its paid plans start at $20 a month, against a middle price of $9 for the category: 41 of the 52 others that charge start lower.

Could I make my own version of Vercel?

Nothing Vercel does is plain enough to make in a weekend. The 4 things listed below take a company.

Where this guide comes from

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

vercel.com/pricing
vercel.com/docs/plans/pro-plan
vercel.com/docs/plans/hobby
vercel.com
vercel.com/docs/plans/pro-plan/trials
vercel.com/docs/git

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	95	739	579
tools graded	categories	price changes on record	apps priced in 12 countries

What else is on toolgpa.com

Vercel, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/vercel

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, "Vercel: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 12, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/vercel
```

Know someone choosing between web hosts?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

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

Web Hosting Insider's Guide

Every one of the 55 web hosts we grade, compared

Cloudflare Pages Insider's Guide

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

2.8 GPA

Netlify Insider's Guide

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

2.8 GPA

Northflank Insider's Guide

Container platform for services, jobs, databases and GPUs

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