ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Windhawk

The Insider's Guide

Mod marketplace for customizing Windows programs and the shell



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

Made by Ramen Software · checked Nov 13, 2026 · toolgpa.com

2.8
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 Windhawk's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Windhawk'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 116 of the 186 other desktop utilities we grade

Windhawk is a free Windows program that installs small mods which change how the taskbar, Start menu and other applications look and behave. Each mod is offered as source code that can be reviewed, and mods are customized through options in the app.

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

> **What a mod does depends on whoever wrote it, and it is Windows only.**
>
> From our report card of Windhawk

1 **Best for tweaking the Windows shell with community mods**

Windhawk is a free marketplace of small mods that change Windows and its programs, each shipped as source code.

2 **It is free**

Windhawk has no paid plan at all. Free to download; the project is released under the GPL-3.0 license.

3 **It runs on Windows**

Windows.

4 **Mod marketplace**

Browse and install community mods from inside the app. The home page features mods such as a Start menu styler and a vertical taskbar for Windows 11.

5 **Mods as source code**

Each mod comes as source code that you can read before installing, so you can check what it does.

6 **Per-program targeting**

Every mod lists the programs it applies to, for example explorer.exe or StartMenuExperienceHost.exe.

7 **A 2.8 GPA, above 116 of 186**

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

8 **Keep it**

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

Windhawk at a glance

PRICING Free	FREE PLAN Yes
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON Windows
MADE BY Ramen Software	CATEGORY Desktop Utilities
OUR GRADE 2.8 GPA, good	

The report card

Best for tweaking the Windows shell with community mods

Windhawk is a free marketplace of small mods that change Windows and its programs, each shipped as source code. What a mod does depends on whoever wrote it, and it is Windows only.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD	Windhawk	Graded Nov 13, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	A	Free under GPL-3.0. Nothing to pay, below any category price.
Free plan and trial	A	Free to download with no cap. No trial clock and no paid tier.
Features	B	A mod marketplace with per-program targeting and options for each mod, running in the background. The job is wide and the listing shows no gap.
Ease of use	C	No rating on record. Mods install in a couple of clicks, but you have to pick and trust them one by one.
Platforms and integrations	D	Windows only; no Mac or Linux version. Windows only; no Mac or Linux version is listed, and no phone or web one.
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 Windhawk is for

- ✓ Fits if you want to change small things in Explorer or the taskbar
- ✓ Works for people who can read a mod's source before installing it

Who it is not for

- ✗ Not for you if you use a Mac or Linux, as only Windows is listed
- ✗ Watch out: mods come from community authors, so what each one changes depends on who wrote it
- ✗ Watch out: some mods target specific Windows versions, like the Windows 11 Start menu styler
- ✗ Skip it if you want one supported tool, since there is no vendor help desk on record

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Windows users who want to change taskbar or Start menu behavior
- ✓ People who want to read a mod's source before running it

Worth knowing

- ⓘ Windows only; no macOS or Linux version is listed.
- ⓘ Mods are written by community authors, so what a mod changes depends on its author.
- ⓘ Some mods target specific Windows versions, such as the Windows 11 Start menu styler.

What it costs

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

Free

No paid plan at all

Windhawk is free to use.

> **Nothing to pay, below any category price.**
>
> From our grade for value for money

FREE

$0

Free to download and use, with all listed mods.

The free plan

Free to download; the project is released under the GPL-3.0 license.

Read from windhawk.net 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: Windows

Mod marketplace for customizing Windows programs and the shell. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: open source, window management.

> **A mod marketplace with per-program targeting and options for each mod, running in the background.**
>
> From our grade for features

Mod marketplace

Browse and install community mods from inside the app. The home page features mods such as a Start menu styler and a vertical taskbar for Windows 11.

Mods as source code

Each mod comes as source code that you can read before installing, so you can check what it does.

Per-program targeting

Every mod lists the programs it applies to, for example explorer.exe or StartMenuExperienceHost.exe.

Options for each mod

Mods are customized through options in the interface; the vendor says no computer expertise is needed.

Runs in the background

The vendor says it is designed to run constantly without a noticeable impact on the system.

Where it runs

Windows

What it works with

Its own pages name no integrations.

Windhawk is made by Ramen Software.

Where it stands

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

116/186

Other desktop utilities it is graded above

Windhawk's GPA of 2.8 is higher than 116 of the 186 other desktop utilities we grade, and level with 37.

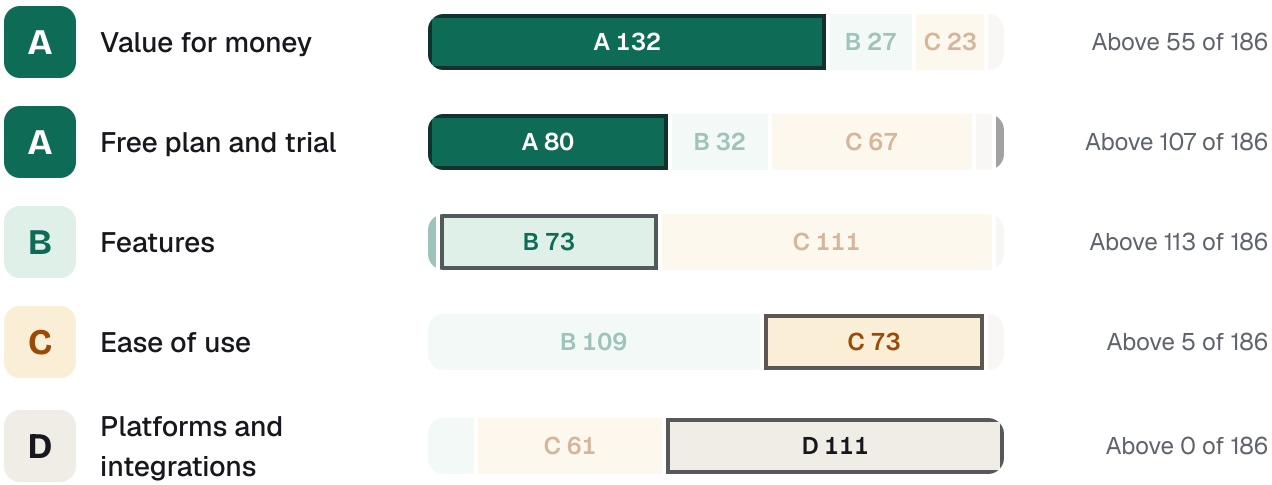
It stands best on free plan and trial (A, above 107 of 186) and worst on platforms and integrations (D, above 0).

Windhawk 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.

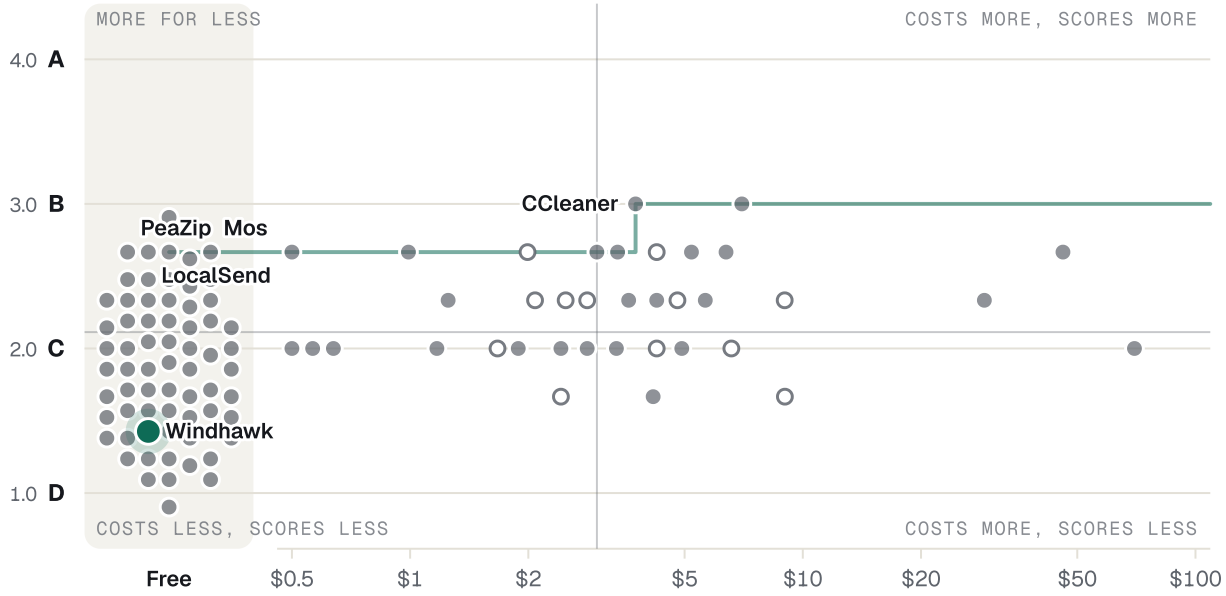
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 187 desktop utilities we grade, cut by the letter each got. Windhawk's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 103 desktop utilities. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. Windhawk 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

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

And it is not the kind of software a weekend replaces.

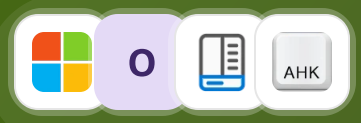
What you could not

- ✕ Control over other apps' windows.
- ✕ A real app for Windows. Something home-made would be a web page.
- ✕ The depth: we grade its features B, which means it covers the whole job.

What this rests on. Windhawk'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, Open-Shell, StartAllBack and AutoHotkey

The 4 tools Windhawk 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 also covers launcher, file management and keyboard and mouse remapping.

Windhawk and Microsoft PowerToys compared in full

3.0 GPA

Open-Shell

Free

Free classic-style Start menu and Explorer tweaks for Windows.

- Windhawk also covers window management.
- Open-Shell also covers launcher.

Windhawk and Open-Shell compared in full



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StartAllBack

Free trial · from $4.99 one-time

Windows 11 taskbar, Start menu and Explorer restyling tool.

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

Windhawk and StartAllBack compared in full



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AutoHotkey

Free

Free, open-source scripting language for Windows automation.

- Windhawk also covers window management.
- AutoHotkey also covers workflow automation, text expansion and keyboard and mouse remapping.

Windhawk and AutoHotkey 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 Windhawk free?

Yes. Windhawk is free to use.

How much does Windhawk cost?

Windhawk lists one plan. Free: $0.

What platforms does Windhawk work on?

Windhawk is available on Windows.

Does Windhawk have an Android app?

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

Does Windhawk have an iPhone app?

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

Is Windhawk open source?

Yes. Windhawk is open source, according to its own site.

Who makes Windhawk?

Windhawk is made by Ramen Software.

What are the alternatives to Windhawk?

The closest alternatives to Windhawk in our directory are Microsoft PowerToys, Open-Shell, StartAllBack and AutoHotkey.

How does Windhawk compare with other desktop utilities?

Windhawk's GPA of 2.8 is higher than 116 of the 186 other desktop utilities we grade, and level with 37.

Is Windhawk good value for money?

ToolGPA grades Windhawk A for value for money. Windhawk has no paid plan.

Could I make my own version of Windhawk?

Windhawk 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 Windhawk'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 Ramen Software'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 Ramen Software. Prices change, so check windhawk.net before you buy.

windhawk.net/ github.com/ramensoftware/windhawk

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

Windhawk, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/windhawk

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, "Windhawk: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 13, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/windhawk
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Know someone choosing between desktop utilities?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

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

Desktop Utilities Insider's Guide

Every one of the 187 desktop utilities we grade, compared

Just Color Picker Insider's Guide

Free portable color picker and editor for Windows and macOS

3.2 GPA

LocalSend Insider's Guide

Open-source file sharing between nearby devices, no cloud

3.2 GPA

Mos Insider's Guide

Free Mac menu bar utility for smooth mouse wheel scrolling

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 Windhawk'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. Windhawk is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Ramen Software. Prices and plans change: check windhawk.net before you buy.