ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Wowza

The Insider's Guide

Streaming server software you run yourself, plus a cloud platform



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among webinar and live streaming tools, read from Wowza's own pages.

Made by Wowza Media Systems, LLC · checked Nov 12, 2026 · toolgpa.com

1.4
GPA



Contents

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

02 What it costs
Every plan, the free plan, ways to pay less and how prices have moved

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

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

05 The alternatives
The tools it is most often weighed against, side by side

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

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

ToolGPA put this guide together from Wowza's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Wowza'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

1.4

GPA, above 0 of the 34 other webinar and live streaming tools we grade

Wowza sells live and on-demand video streaming infrastructure. Wowza Streaming Engine is a server you run on your own hardware or cloud account, and Wowza Video is its managed cloud platform with its own player. It is aimed at developers and organizations building streaming into their own services, not at people who want a ready-made webinar room.

> "
>
> **A server product that needs setup and configuration, with no rating on record.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

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

1 **Best for self-run streaming server software**

Wowza makes streaming server software you run yourself, plus a cloud platform.

2 **Paid plans start at $195 a month**

As its pricing page puts it: $195 per month for Streaming Engine, billed monthly.

3 **You can try it first**

Free trial for Streaming Engine and for Wowza Video; the page does not state its length

4 **It runs on Web**

Web.

5 **Self-hosted streaming server**

Wowza Streaming Engine runs on premises, in a private or public cloud, behind a firewall or fully offline, and can be deployed as a Docker container.

6 **Many protocols**

It ingests and delivers WebRTC, SRT, RTMP, RTSP and HLS, and supports low-latency HLS and DASH.

7 **APIs and SDKs**

A REST API and a Java SDK let developers script the server and add custom modules.

8 **A 1.4 GPA, above 0 of 34**

That is against the other webinar and live streaming tools we grade, on value, the free plan, features, ease of use and platforms.

9 **Keep it**

Nothing Wowza does is plain enough to make in a weekend. The 2 things listed below take a company.

Wowza at a glance

PRICING
Free trial, from $195 per month for Streaming Engine, billed monthly

FREE PLAN
No

FREE TRIAL
Free trial for Streaming Engine and for Wowza Video; the page does not state its length

RUNS ON
Web

MADE BY
Wowza Media Systems, LLC, since 2007

CATEGORY
Webinars & Live Streaming

OUR GRADE
1.4 GPA, weak

The report card

Best for self-run streaming server software

Wowza makes streaming server software you run yourself, plus a cloud platform. It starts at $195 a month, and there is no registration, polls or chat, so it is infrastructure for engineers rather than a webinar tool.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD	Wowza	Graded Nov 12, 2026
SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	D	$195 a month for Streaming Engine, right at the dearest tenth of the category ($195 and up). One month costs $295.
Free plan and trial	D	A free trial is offered but its length is not stated, and there is no free plan.
Features	D	It is infrastructure: it streams and transcodes video, but gives no registration, polls or attendee chat, so you build the rest.
Ease of use	D	A server product that needs setup and configuration, with no rating on record.
Platforms and integrations	B	Web platform listed, with RTMP, SRT, HLS, WebRTC, Docker and an API.
Grade point average		Weak, out of 4.0 **1.4**

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 Wowza is for

- ✓ Fits if your team builds its own streaming service
- ✓ Makes sense if you need a server you can run in your own setup

Who it is not for

- ✕ Pricey if you stream occasionally: $195 a month, or $295 for a single month
- ✕ Not for you if you want webinars with registration and polls
- ✕ Watch out: extra transcoded channels cost $25 each beyond the 10 per instance, and extra instances cost $195 each
- ✕ Watch out: Wowza Video, the managed cloud, is priced separately, and Perpetual and Enterprise licenses are quoted by sales

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Developers building live video into their own app or service
- ✓ Organizations that need streaming on their own servers or offline
- ✓ Teams that want to choose their own encoder, CDN and player

Worth knowing

- ⓘ It is infrastructure, not a webinar tool: there is no registration page, polls or attendee chat out of the box.
- ⓘ Additional transcoded channels cost $25 each beyond the 10 included per instance.
- ⓘ Wowza Video, the managed cloud product, is priced separately; this listing records the Streaming Engine plans shown on the pricing page.
- ⓘ Perpetual and Enterprise licenses are quoted by sales, with no published price.

PART 02 · PRICING

What it costs

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

$195

A month to start

Wowza is a paid product with a free trial, starting at $195 per month for Streaming Engine, billed monthly.

> **A free trial is offered but its length is not stated, and there is no free plan.**

From our grade for free plan and trial

ONE MONTH OF STREAMING

$295

one-time purchase for one month, first instance included

Streaming Engine for occasional events: up to 10 concurrent transcoded channels on the first instance, extra instances $295 each.

BASIC MONTHLY

$195

per month, billed monthly, first instance included

Streaming Engine for steady use: up to 10 concurrent transcoded channels on the first instance, extra instances $195 each per month.

ENTERPRISE

Custom

Annual plans and discounted rates, hybrid cloud services (CDN, Flowplayer, analytics), offline keys and professional services.

Trying it first

Free trial for Streaming Engine and for Wowza Video; the page does not state its length

PERPETUAL

Custom

A license with no expiration for containerized, air-gapped or self-hosted deployments, scoped and quoted by Wowza.

Read from wowza.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

Streaming server software you run yourself, plus a cloud platform. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: self-hostable, public API.

> **It is infrastructure: it streams and transcodes video, but gives no registration, polls or attendee chat, so you build the rest.**
>
> From our grade for features

Self-hosted streaming server

Wowza Streaming Engine runs on premises, in a private or public cloud, behind a firewall or fully offline, and can be deployed as a Docker container.

Many protocols

It ingests and delivers WebRTC, SRT, RTMP, RTSP and HLS, and supports low-latency HLS and DASH.

APIs and SDKs

A REST API and a Java SDK let developers script the server and add custom modules.

Transcoding

Each paid Streaming Engine instance includes 10 concurrent transcoded channels; extra channels are $25 each.

Security options

DRM, watermarking and encryption are offered, and the company says it holds a SOC 2 Type II report.

Managed cloud option

Wowza Video is a separate cloud platform that handles ingest, transcoding, delivery, analytics and a player without running servers.

Where it runs

Web

What it works with

WebRTC SRT RTMP HLS Docker

Wowza is made by Wowza Media Systems, LLC, and has been around since 2007.

Where it stands

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

0/34

Other webinar and live streaming tools it is graded above

Wowza's GPA of 1.4 is higher than 0 of the 34 other webinar and live streaming tools we grade, and level with 1.

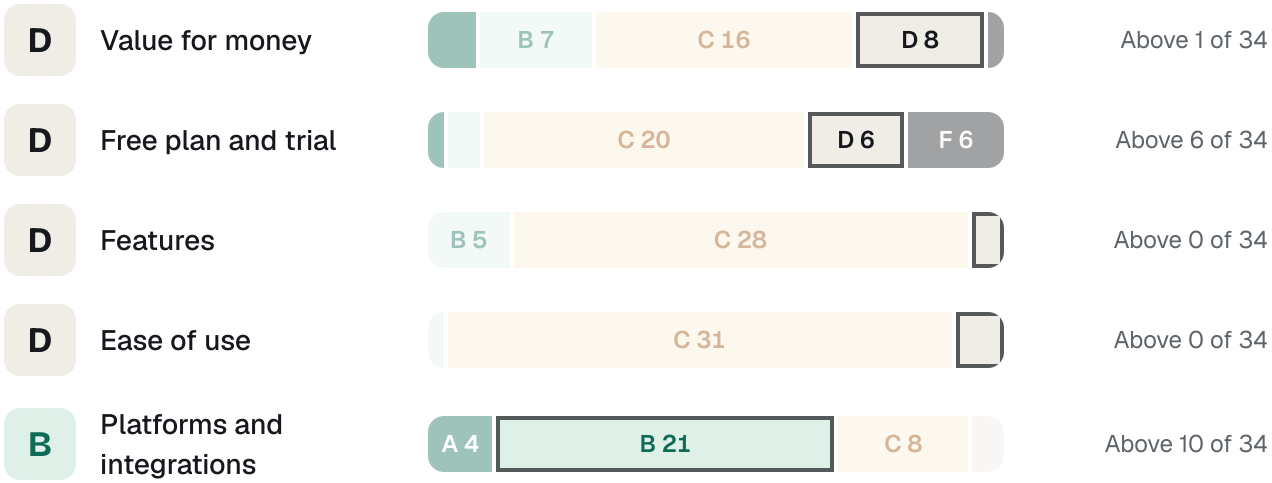
It stands best on platforms and integrations (B, above 10 of 34) and worst on features (D, above 0).

Its paid plans start at $195 a month, against a middle price of $50 for the category: 26 of the 28 others that charge start lower.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 1.7 out of 4. 24 tools score higher and cost less.

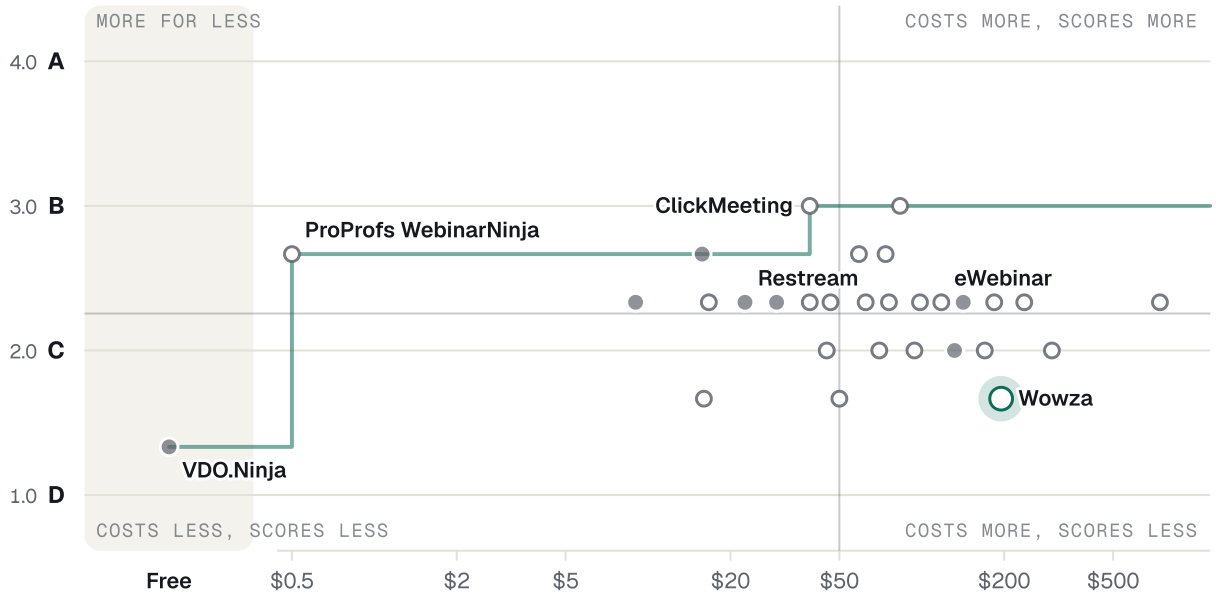
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 35 webinar and live streaming tools we grade, cut by the letter each got. Wowza's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 30 webinar and live streaming tools. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. Wowza 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 Wowza does is plain enough to make in a weekend. The 2 things listed below take a company.

That makes this kind of software worth paying for, not this one in particular: 33 of the 34 other webinar and live streaming tools grade higher. It costs $2,340 a year.

What you could not

- ✕ It plugs into other products, WebRTC, SRT and RTMP among them, and has an API.
- ✕ What a company asks for before it lets staff use something: SOC 2.

What this rests on. Wowza'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



Dacast, Castr, Restream, BoxCast and vMix

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

2.2 GPA

Dacast

Free trial · from $39/mo

Live streaming and video hosting with bandwidth-based plans.

- Wowza is self-hostable, according to its own site.
- Dacast also covers reports, webinars and multistreaming.

Wowza and Dacast compared in full

2.4 GPA

Castr

Free trial · from $16.67/mo

Multistreaming, video hosting and 24/7 playout in one service.

- Wowza is self-hostable, according to its own site.
- Castr also covers multistreaming.

Wowza and Castr compared in full

Restream

2.4 GPA

Free plan · from $19/mo

Multistream one live video to YouTube, Twitch, LinkedIn and more.

- Restream has a free plan. Wowza does not, though it has a free trial.
- Wowza is self-hostable, according to its own site.
- Restream also covers transcription, webinars and multistreaming.

Wowza and Restream compared in full

BoxCast

1.8 GPA

Free trial · from $109/mo

Live streaming platform with encoders, captions and OTT apps.

- Wowza is self-hostable, according to its own site.
- BoxCast also covers ticketing, web analytics and multistreaming.

Wowza and BoxCast compared in full

vMix

2.2 GPA

Free trial · from $60 one-time

Windows live video production and streaming software.

- Only Wowza lists a web app.
- Only vMix lists a Windows app.
- Wowza is self-hostable, according to its own site.

Wowza and vMix compared in full

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 Wowza free?

No, Wowza is a paid product, but you can try it first. Free trial for Streaming Engine and for Wowza Video; the page does not state its length.

How much does Wowza cost?

Wowza lists 4 plans. One Month of Streaming: $295 one-time purchase for one month, first instance included.

What platforms does Wowza work on?

Wowza is available on Web.

Does Wowza have an Android app?

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

Does Wowza have an iPhone app?

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

Is Wowza open source?

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

Can Wowza be self-hosted?

Yes. Wowza's own site says it can be run on a server of your own.

Does Wowza have an API?

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

What does Wowza integrate with?

Wowza's listing names WebRTC, SRT, RTMP, HLS and Docker. A listing names up to eight integrations, so it may connect to more.

Who makes Wowza?

Wowza is made by Wowza Media Systems, LLC. It dates from 2007.

What are the alternatives to Wowza?

The closest alternatives to Wowza in our directory are Dacast, Castr, Restream, BoxCast and vMix.

How does Wowza compare with other webinar and live streaming tools?

Wowza's GPA of 1.4 is higher than 0 of the 34 other webinar and live streaming tools we grade, and level with 1.

Is Wowza good value for money?

ToolGPA grades Wowza D for value for money. Its paid plans start at $195 a month, against a middle price of $50 for the category: 26 of the 28 others that charge start lower.

Could I make my own version of Wowza?

Nothing Wowza does is plain enough to make in a weekend. The 2 things listed below take a company.

Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from Wowza'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 Wowza'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 Wowza Media Systems, LLC. Prices change, so check wowza.com before you buy.

wowza.com/pricing
wowza.com/company
wowza.com/streaming-engine

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

Wowza, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/wowza

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:

```
ToolGPA, "Wowza: The Insider's Guide", checked
Nov 12, 2026. https://toolgpa.com/tools/wowza
```

Know someone choosing between webinar and live streaming tools?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded webinar and live streaming tools after Wowza, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Webinars & Live Streaming Insider's Guide

Every one of the 35 webinar and live streaming tools we grade, compared

Lightstream Insider's Guide

Browser-based live streaming studio, built for console streamers

2.8 GPA

ClickMeeting Insider's Guide

Webinars and online meetings with paid events and automation

2.6 GPA

Streamlabs Insider's Guide

Live streaming apps, overlays and tools for creators

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