ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Zello

The Insider's Guide

Push-to-talk voice messaging for frontline teams

Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among team communication apps, read from Zello's own pages.

Made by Zello Inc. · checked Nov 13, 2026 · toolgpa.com

2.2
GPA

ZELLO

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 Zello's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Zello'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

2.2

GPA, above 9 of the 75 other team communication apps we grade

Zello is a push-to-talk app that lets a team send live voice messages, texts and photos to one person or a whole channel from a phone or computer. It is sold to frontline and field crews as a replacement for two-way radios, with a management console, location maps and dispatch tools.

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

> "
>
> **An admin sets up the network, channels and users.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

1 **Best for push-to-talk for frontline teams**

Zello turns phones and computers into push-to-talk radios, with channels, an admin console and location tracking from $6.80 a user a month.

2 **Paid plans start at $6.80 a month for each person**

As its pricing page puts it: $6.80 per user / month, billed yearly ($8.00 billed monthly).

3 **You can try it first**

14 days free, no credit card required.

4 **It runs on 4 platforms**

iOS, Android, Windows and macOS.

5 **Live push-to-talk**

Hold a button to send voice live to one person or a channel, with texts and photos in the same conversation.

6 **Channels and admin console**

Unlimited channels on every plan, managed from a console. Multiple admins, sub-admin permissions and bulk import are listed in the plan comparison.

7 **Location tracking**

Real-time location on a map from Core; historical breadcrumb tracking and Google Maps traffic are in the comparison table for higher plans.

8 **A 2.2 GPA, above 9 of 75**

That is against the other team communication apps we grade, on value, the free plan, features, ease of use and platforms.

9 **Keep it**

To replace Zello you would be making chat that a whole team counts on staying up. That is not a weekend's work, with an AI app builder or without one.

Zello at a glance

PRICING Free trial, from $6.80 per user / month, billed yearly ($8.00 billed monthly)	FREE PLAN No
FREE TRIAL 14 days free, no credit card required.	RUNS ON macOS, Windows, iOS, Android
MADE BY Zello Inc.	CATEGORY Team Communication
OUR GRADE 2.2 GPA, fair	STORE RATING 4.6 on the App Store, 35,590 ratings

The report card

Best for push-to-talk for frontline teams

Zello turns phones and computers into push-to-talk radios, with channels, an admin console and location tracking from $6.80 a user a month. Transcription, translation, AI features, message storage and panic buttons all need the $12.75 Plus plan, and there is no browser version.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD	Zello	Graded Nov 13, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	C	Core is $6.80 per user a month billed yearly, near the $7 middle. Plus is $12.75, right at the top quarter.
Free plan and trial	C	14-day trial with no card, and no free plan. First responders may qualify for free use.
Features	C	Live voice, channels, an admin console, location and an API. Storage, transcription, translation and panic buttons need Plus.
Ease of use	C	No rating on record. An admin sets up the network, channels and users.
Platforms and integrations	B	iPhone, Android, Windows and Mac, with an API and SDK. No web version.

Grade point average Fair, out of 4.0 **2.2**

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 Zello is for

- ✓ Fits if you run drivers, crews or shifts that need to talk at the push of a button
- ✓ Works for teams that want location tracking next to voice

Who it is not for

- ✕ Pricey if you want transcription, translation, AI or message storage, which need Plus at $12.75
- ✕ Skip it if you want a free plan, since there is only a 14-day trial
- ✕ Watch out: SSO, MDM sign-in and on-premise servers are Enterprise only, sold through sales
- ✕ Skip it if you want a browser version, as none is listed

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Field, retail and transport crews replacing radios with phones
- ✓ Dispatch teams that need location and a shared call queue
- ✓ Organizations that need stored message history for review

Worth knowing

- ⓘ Transcription, translation, AI features, message storage and panic buttons need the Plus plan.
- ⓘ SSO, MDM sign-in and on-premise servers are Enterprise only, sold through sales.
- ⓘ The pricing page says Zello is free for qualifying first responders.
- ⓘ Built around voice on phones and desktops; there is no browser version in the platform list.

PART 02 · PRICING

What it costs

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

$6.80

A month to start, for each person

Zello is a paid product with a free trial, starting at $6.80 per user / month, billed yearly ($8.00 billed monthly).

> **First responders may qualify for free use.**
>
> From our grade for free plan and trial

CORE

$6.80

per user / month, billed yearly ($8.00 billed monthly)

Live voice, text and photo messages, unlimited channels, a management console, real-time location tracking and API and SDK access.

PLUS

$12.75

per user / month, billed yearly ($15.00 billed monthly)

Everything in Core, plus message storage, panic buttons, transcriptions and translations, AI summaries, an AI assistant and location history.

ENTERPRISE

Custom

Sold through sales. Adds an account manager, SSO and MDM sign-in, automated user provisioning, on-premise server options and priority support.

Trying it first

14 days free, no credit card required.

Read from zello.com on Nov 13, 2026.

Ways to pay less

ANNUAL DISCOUNT

15% off with yearly billing

The pricing page shows a Bill yearly toggle marked -15%: Core is $6.80 yearly against $8.00 monthly.

Stated on zello.com

What it does

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

4

Places it runs: macOS, Windows, iOS and Android

Push-to-talk voice messaging for frontline teams. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: public API, AI features, transcription, team chat.

> **Live voice, channels, an admin console, location and an API.**

From our grade for features

Live push-to-talk

Hold a button to send voice live to one person or a channel, with texts and photos in the same conversation.

Channels and admin console

Unlimited channels on every plan, managed from a console. Multiple admins, sub-admin permissions and bulk import are listed in the plan comparison.

Location tracking

Real-time location on a map from Core; historical breadcrumb tracking and Google Maps traffic are in the comparison table for higher plans.

Transcription and translation

Plus converts voice messages to text and translates them. The vendor also lists AI summaries and a knowledge-base assistant.

Dispatch tools

A Dispatch Hub for PC and Mac, a shared call queue and channel analytics for teams with a dispatcher.

Emergency alerts and Message Vault

Panic buttons send a channel-wide alert with audio and location; Message Vault stores communications in the cloud for review.

Where it runs

macOS
Windows
iOS
Android

What it works with

Google Maps

Zello is made by Zello Inc.

Where it stands

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

9/75

Other team communication apps it is graded above

Zello's GPA of 2.2 is higher than 9 of the 75 other team communication apps we grade, and level with 19.

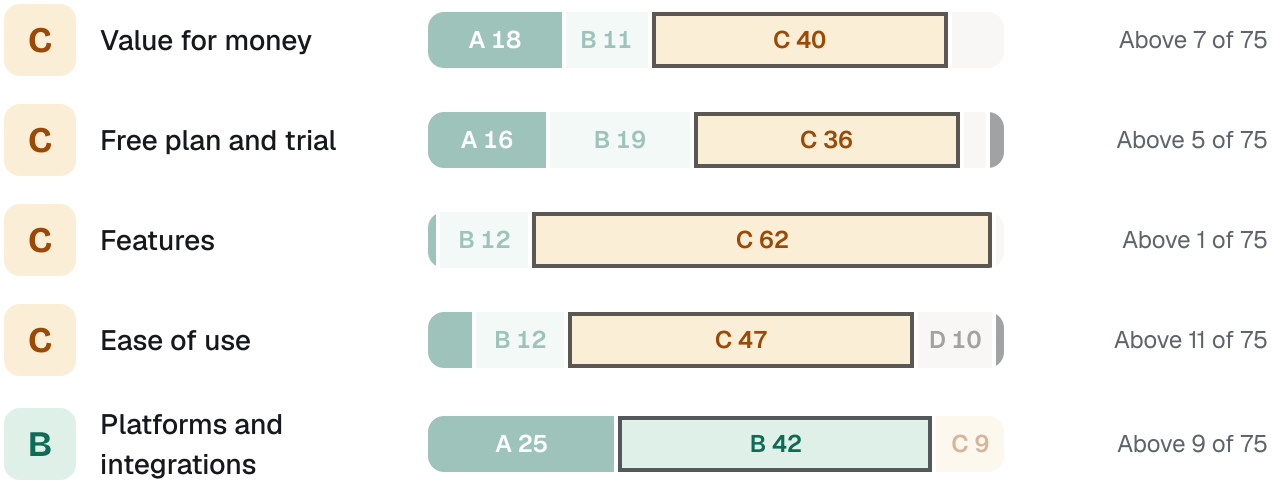
It stands best on platforms and integrations (B, above 9 of 75) and worst on features (C, above 1).

Its paid plans start at $6.80 a month for each person, against a middle price of $6.90 for the category: 25 of the 51 others that charge start lower.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 2.3 out of 4. 18 tools score higher and cost less.

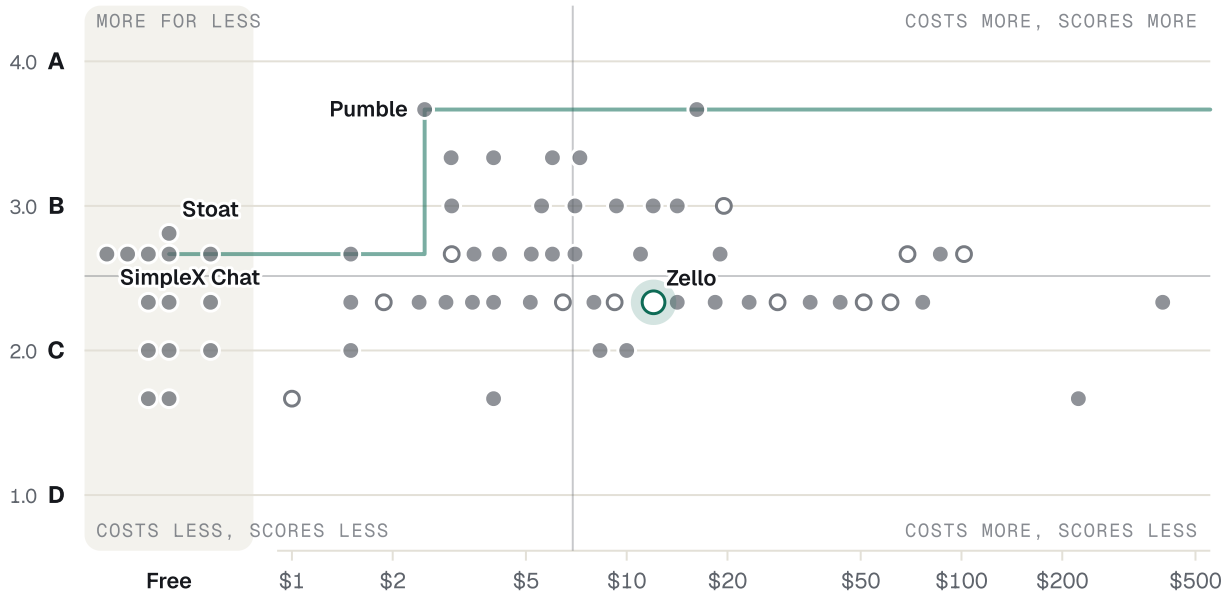
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 76 team communication apps we grade, cut by the letter each got. Zello's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 66 team communication apps. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. Zello 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 Zello you would be making chat that a whole team counts on staying up. That is not a weekend's work, with an AI app builder or without one.

That makes this kind of software worth paying for, not this one in particular: 47 of the 75 other team communication apps grade higher. It costs $81.60 a year.

What you could not

- ✕ Chat that a whole team counts on staying up.
- ✕ Speech turned into text you can trust.

- ✕ Apps for macOS, Windows, iOS and Android that stay in step with each other.
- ✕ It is priced for each person, which means accounts and billing for a team.
- ✕ It plugs into other products, Google Maps among them, and has an API.
- ✕ AI features, unless you pay a model provider for each request yourself.
- ✕ What a company asks for before it lets staff use something: roles and permissions.

What this rests on. Zello'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



Voxer, Mumble, TeamSpeak, Slack and Signal

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

2.6 GPA

Voxer

Free plan · from $4.17/mo

Push-to-talk voice messaging for teams.

- Voxer has a free plan. Zello does not, though it has a free trial.
- Only Zello lists Windows and macOS apps.
- Only Voxer lists a web app.

Zello and Voxer compared in full

2.8 GPA

Mumble

Free

Free open-source voice chat with low latency.

- Mumble has a free plan. Zello does not, though it has a free trial.
- Only Zello lists iOS and Android apps.
- Only Mumble lists a Linux app.

Zello and Mumble compared in full



2.0
GPA

TeamSpeak

Paid

Voice chat you run on your own server or a hosted one.

- Only TeamSpeak lists a Linux app.
- TeamSpeak is self-hostable and end-to-end encrypted, according to its own site.
- Zello also covers transcription.

Zello and TeamSpeak compared in full



2.8
GPA

Slack

Free plan · from $7.25/mo

Channel-based team messaging with huddles, workflows and AI.

- Slack has a free plan. Zello does not, though it has a free trial.
- Only Slack lists a web app.
- Only Slack lists a Linux app.

Zello and Slack compared in full



3.2
GPA

Signal

Free

Nonprofit messenger with end-to-end encrypted chats and calls.

- Signal has a free plan. Zello does not, though it has a free trial.
- Only Signal lists a Linux app.
- Signal is end-to-end encrypted, according to its own site.

Zello and Signal 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 Zello free?

No, Zello is a paid product, but you can try it first. 14 days free, no credit card required.

How much does Zello cost?

Zello lists 3 plans. Core: $6.80 per user / month, billed yearly ($8.00 billed monthly).

What platforms does Zello work on?

Zello is available on iOS, Android, Windows and macOS.

Does Zello offer any discounts?

Zello publicly lists the following: 15% off with yearly billing.

How is Zello rated?

Zello's iPhone and iPad app averages 4.6 out of 5 from 35,590 ratings on the App Store in the United States, as read on Nov 13, 2026.

Does Zello have a Linux app?

No Linux app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. Zello is listed for iOS, Android, Windows and macOS.

Is Zello open source?

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

Does Zello have an API?

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

What does Zello integrate with?

Zello's listing names Google Maps. A listing names up to eight integrations, so it may connect to more.

Who makes Zello?

Zello is made by Zello Inc.

What are the alternatives to Zello?

The closest alternatives to Zello in our directory are Voxer, Mumble, TeamSpeak, Slack and Signal.

How does Zello compare with other team communication apps?

Zello's GPA of 2.2 is higher than 9 of the 75 other team communication apps we grade, and level with 19.

Is Zello good value for money?

ToolGPA grades Zello C for value for money. Its paid plans start at $6.80 a month for each person, against a middle price of $6.90 for the category: 25 of the 51 others that charge start lower.

Could I make my own version of Zello?

To replace Zello you would be making chat that a whole team counts on staying up.

Where this guide comes from

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

zello.com/pricing
zello.com/downloads/
zello.com/

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

Zello, kept up to date

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

toolgpa.com/tools/zello

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, "Zello: The Insider's Guide", checked
Nov 13, 2026. https://toolgpa.com/tools/zello
```

Know someone choosing between team communication apps?

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

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded team communication apps after Zello, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Team Communication Insider's Guide

Every one of the 76 team communication apps we grade, compared

Discord Insider's Guide

Free text, voice and video chat built around servers

3.6 GPA

Pumble Insider's Guide

Team chat with unlimited message history on the free plan

3.6 GPA

Zoho Cliq Insider's Guide

Team chat, calls and meetings from the Zoho suite

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