

State of Self-Host 2026

A build-time audit of every open-source alternative we list - what is still maintained, what is quietly aging, and where the self-host story has gaps.

10%

of self-hostable alternatives are **stale or dead.**

22 of 221 repos - 11 dead (incl. 7 archived)

Findings at a glance

1. 22 of 221 (10%) self-hostable alternatives have not shipped a commit in over 90 days. 11 of those (incl. 7 archived) are over a year cold.
2. 11 repositories with at least 1,000 GitHub stars have not shipped in 180+ days. Popular projects are not the same as maintained projects.
3. 0 of 99 SaaS categories tracked have no mature self-host option (zero alive alternatives, or the best alive alternative is under 500 stars).

Sample: live GitHub fetch at build time across 227 unique repos listed as alternatives to 100 paid SaaS pages. Build date: 2026-05-11. Methodology disclosed in section 5.

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SECTION 1

The freshness distribution

The single number worth quoting: 10% of self-hostable alternatives are stale or dead.

BUCKET	DEFINITION	REPOS	% OF TRACKED
Alive	<= 90 days	199	90%
Stale	91-365 days	11	5%
Dead	> 365 days or archived	11	5%

The healthy cohort is healthier than the headline number suggests: median commit age across the 199 alive repos is 2 days. Half of all alive alternatives have committed inside the last quarter; the other half are within the alive band but moving more slowly.

Most-starred alive alternatives in the directory

#	NAME	REPO	STARS	LAST COMMIT
1	n8n	n8n-io/n8n	187.4k	today
2	Ollama	ollama/ollama	171.2k	2d ago
3	Open WebUI	open-webui/open-webui	136.5k	today
4	Excalidraw	excalidraw/excalidraw	122.9k	4d ago
5	Supabase	supabase/supabase	102.2k	today
6	Immich	immich-app/immich	100.3k	today
7	Hugo + Decap CMS	gohugoio/hugo	88.0k	today
8	Uptime Kuma	louislam/uptime-kuma	86.5k	today
9	Syncthing	syncthing/syncthing	83.8k	today
10	vLLM	vllm-project/vllm	79.6k	today

SECTION 2

Big and quiet

11 repos with at least 1,000 stars have no commit on the default branch in 180+ days.

These are the projects most likely to mislead a self-host shopper. Star count signals past traction, not current maintenance - a directory that does not disclose this is silently routing people toward unmaintained software.

NAME	REPO	STARS	LAST COMMIT	COLD FOR
Maybe Finance	maybe-finance/maybe	54.1k	Jul 24, 2025	10mo ago
Focalboard	mattermost/focalboard	26.1k	Jun 11, 2025	11mo ago
UVdesk	uvdesk/community-skeleton	18.6k	Oct 1, 2025	7mo ago
Send (Timvisee fork)	timvisee/send	5.73k	Jul 1, 2025	10mo ago
BioDrop	EddieHubCommunity/BioDrop	5.71k	Jul 1, 2024	23mo ago
HTTPIe Desktop	httpie/desktop	3.94k	Mar 19, 2025	14mo ago
Trilium Notes	TriliumNext/Notes	2.92k	Jun 24, 2025	11mo ago
OhMyForm	ohmyform/ohmyform	2.89k	Oct 31, 2024	19mo ago
Statping-ng	statping-ng/statping-ng	1.97k	Jun 4, 2025	11mo ago
Cuttlefish	mlandauer/cuttlefish	1.62k	Jun 27, 2024	23mo ago
Oncall (LinkedIn)	linkedin/oncall	1.25k	Aug 20, 2025	9mo ago

SECTION 3

Where the OSS bench is thin

0 of 99 categories have no mature open-source self-host option in our directory.

"Mature" here is intentionally generous: at least one alive alternative with 500+ GitHub stars. Falling below that bar means the alt-side is either dead, stale, or so small that picking it is a bet on a single maintainer. Where the bench is thin, the SaaS is not competing with self-host - it is competing with nothing.

SECTION 4

The savings math

Self-hosting the entire 100-SaaS corpus on one shared VPS: about \$30/mo vs paying about \$3,710/mo at SaaS list price.

That is about \$44,166/year in theoretical savings if a single buyer subscribed to entry-tier of every SaaS we cover and replaced them all with the listed primary OSS pick. No buyer does that, of course - the right reading is per-pick, which is what osalt.dev/calc/ computes.

The methodology is the same as [/calc/](https://osalt.dev/calc/): shared VPS sized to the heaviest pick (most tools fit on \$5/mo; a few want \$10-\$20+), one paid seat per SaaS at its lowest-tier monthly price. The honest number per individual buyer is much smaller - most picks save tens of dollars a month, not thousands. The "why bother" case is durability and lock-in, not arithmetic.

SECTION 5

Methodology & caveats

Sample.

227 unique GitHub repositories listed as alternatives across 100 paid SaaS pages on os-alt. Hand-curated; not exhaustive of the open-source ecosystem.

Stale and dead definitions.

Last commit on the default branch > 90 days = stale. > 365 days OR repo archived = dead. These thresholds are coarse on purpose - many maintained projects in long-tail categories ship infrequently. A 91-day-quiet repo is not necessarily abandoned; it shows up in the stale bucket regardless.

Mature self-host option definition.

At least one listed alt that is alive AND has 500+ GitHub stars. Stars are a noisy popularity signal; the cutoff is editorial, not statistical.

Build-time, not point-in-time.

All numbers refresh on every deploy - the report and this PDF are regenerated against live GitHub state, so figures here will drift from one month to the next. Re-run builds and the report re-runs. Snapshot-vs-live diffs live at osalt.dev/insights/.

Selection bias.

The corpus is biased toward better-known SaaS with at least one well-known OSS alternative - by construction. The "thin categories" count would be larger if widened to every SaaS without a directory entry. Honest reading: within a curated set that already has open-source picks, this many categories still have no mature option.

SaaS pricing.

Lowest paid-tier monthly price per SaaS (free tiers count as \$0). One seat. Ignores volume discounts and annual commits.

CITE THIS REPORT

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