AILUTIONS / SETUP GUIDE

9 open-source tools. How to set each one up.

Replace paid software

What each tool replaces, what you need, the exact steps to get it running, and what to watch out for. Checked against each project's own docs.



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AT A GLANCE

The nine tools

#	TOOL	REPLACES	MAIN REQUIREMENT
01	**OpenHiggsfield**	Higgsfield	Muapi.ai API key
02	**Voice Studio**	ElevenLabs	10 GB disk, GPU optional
03	**OpenSEO**	Semrush	DataForSEO API key
04	**AppFlowy**	Notion	Nothing for local use
05	**OpenWhispr**	Wispr Flow	Microphone access
06	**OpenProject**	Asana	Docker
07	**Cal.com (Cal.diy)**	Calendly	Node.js, PostgreSQL, Yarn
08	**Chatwoot**	Intercom	Docker Compose, a server
09	**Cap**	Loom	macOS or Windows app, or Docker

BEFORE YOU START

1. **Free software, not always free to run.**
   OpenHiggsfield and OpenSEO need paid API keys. Servers cost money. Your time to maintain them counts too.
2. **Check the license before commercial use.**
   AGPL-3.0 (AppFlowy, Voice Studio, Cap) has obligations if you offer the software to others over a network. Cal.diy is meant for non-production use. Read each LICENSE file.
3. **Details change.**
   These are open projects. Commands and defaults were checked in November 2026 against their docs. If a step fails, the repo's docs are the source of truth.
4. **Secure anything you put on a server.**
   Change default passwords, set real secrets, use HTTPS, and keep it updated.

01 REPLACES HIGGSFIELD

OpenHiggsfield

AI image and video generation from a single prompt bar, with many models to choose from. You bring your own API key and pay the model provider directly.

REPO
github.com/Anil-matcha/Open-Higgsfield-AI

LICENSE
MIT

NEEDS
A Muapi.ai API key

PLATFORMS
macOS, Windows, or run from source

SETUP

1. **Option A: desktop app**
   Download the installer from the Releases page of the repo (macOS Apple Silicon or Intel .dmg, Windows .exe).
2. **macOS first launch**
   The app is unsigned. Run the command below, then right-click the app and choose Open.
3. **Windows first launch**
   If SmartScreen blocks it, choose More info, then Run anyway.
4. **Option B: from source**
   Needs Node.js. Run the commands below and open http://localhost:5173.
5. **First use**
   Paste your Muapi API key when asked, then generate.

```
xattr -cr "/Applications/Open Higgsfield AI.app"
```

```
git clone https://github.com/Anil-matcha/Open-Higgsfield-AI.git
cd Open-Higgsfield-AI
npm install
npm run dev
```

GOOD TO KNOW

Several projects use the name OpenHiggsfield. This guide covers the Anil-matcha repo (also mirrored under Autom8AI). A different one, wide-trace/open-higgsfield, runs at openhiggsfield.ai and has no LICENSE file. Check the repo before you install.

The software is free. Generations are billed by your API provider.

02 REPLACES ELEVENLABS

Voice Studio

A desktop app to clone voices, design new ones and dub videos on your own computer. It supports 646 languages and has no cloud account or usage meter.

REPO
github.com/debpalash/VoiceStudio

LICENSE
AGPL-3.0

NEEDS
About 10 GB free disk. GPU optional (NVIDIA CUDA or Apple Silicon recommended)

STATUS
Active beta

SETUP

1. **Option A: installer**
   Download the latest build from the Releases page. On Linux it is an AppImage.
2. **Linux AppImage**
   Make it executable and run it. If FUSE is missing, add --appimage-extract-and-run.
3. **Option B: from source**
   Needs git, Python 3.11+, Bun and Rust. On Linux you also need the GTK/WebKit packages listed in docs/install/linux.md.
4. **First launch**
   The app builds its own Python environment and downloads model weights. Allow time and disk space.

```
chmod +x VoiceStudio.Studio_*.AppImage
./VoiceStudio.Studio_*.AppImage
```

```
git clone https://github.com/debpalash/VoiceStudio.git
cd VoiceStudio
bun install
bun desktop
```

GOOD TO KNOW

It is in beta, so expect rough edges. Out of the box, voice quality trails ElevenLabs. Test it on your own use case before you drop a paid plan.

On CPU only, generation is slow. A GPU makes a large difference.

Install steps for Windows and macOS are in the repo under docs/install/.

03 REPLACES SEMRUSH

OpenSEO

Keyword research, rank tracking, backlink analysis and site audits in one place. It is self-hostable, and it includes an MCP server so AI assistants can use it.

REPO
github.com/every-app/open-seo

LICENSE
MIT

NEEDS
A DataForSEO account and API key

HOSTING
Docker, or one-command Cloudflare deploy

SETUP

1. **Get the data key**
   Create a DataForSEO account. Build the key as the base64 of login:API password. You pay DataForSEO directly for the data.
2. **Pick a hosting route**
   Docker with the prebuilt image (docs/SELF_HOSTING_DOCKER.md) or a Cloudflare deploy on your own account, free plan works (docs/SELF_HOSTING_CLOUDFLARE.md).
3. **Local run**
   Clone the repo, copy the example env file and put the key in DATAFORSEO_API_KEY. The app opens at http://localhost:3001.
4. **First visit**
   The first person to sign up becomes the admin. Invite teammates with invitation links.
5. **Backlinks**
   Enable backlinks on your DataForSEO account, or that feature will not return data.

```
git clone https://github.com/every-app/open-seo.git
cd open-seo
cp .env.example .env
# edit .env and set DATAFORSEO_API_KEY
```

GOOD TO KNOW

The tool is free, the data is not. The project quotes about $0.01 per 20 pages for a site audit. Check DataForSEO pricing before you budget.

Follow the exact commands in the repo docs listed above. Docker and Cloudflare steps can change between releases.

04 REPLACES NOTION

AppFlowy

Docs, databases and boards that work offline. It can run local AI models such as Llama 3 and Mistral, so your notes do not have to leave your machine.

REPO
github.com/AppFlowy-IO/AppFlowy

LICENSE
AGPL-3.0

NEEDS
Nothing for local use

PLATFORMS
macOS, Windows, Linux, iOS, Android

SETUP

1. **Install**
   Download the desktop app from the Releases page of the repo (macOS, Windows or Linux). Mobile apps are in the app stores.
2. **Open the app**
   Start with a local workspace. Everything stays on your computer.
3. **Local AI**
   In the AI settings, choose a local model. The model is downloaded to your machine.
4. **Team sync**
   For multi-user sync, see docs.appflowy.io for the current options.

GOOD TO KNOW

The older AppFlowy-Cloud server repo is archived and states it is no longer maintained. Its README points to a commercial self-hosted offering. I could not verify a current free self-host route, so this guide does not give commands for it.

The hosted plans list a free tier and a Pro plan at about $10 per user per month billed annually. Confirm on their pricing page.

05 REPLACES WISPR FLOW

OpenWhispr

Hold a hotkey, speak, and the text appears in almost any app. It can transcribe fully offline with local Whisper and Parakeet models, or use the cloud if you prefer.

REPO
github.com/OpenWhispr/openwhispr

DOCS
docs.openwhispr.com/quickstart

NEEDS
Microphone access

PLATFORMS
macOS, Windows, Linux

SETUP

1. **Install**
   Download from the Releases page: .dmg for macOS (Apple Silicon or Intel), .exe for Windows, AppImage, deb, rpm or tar.gz for Linux.
2. **Grant permissions**
   Microphone is required. On macOS also allow Accessibility (for auto-paste) and Screen Recording (for meeting audio).
3. **Choose how to transcribe**
   Local: download a model and work offline. Bring your own key: OpenAI, Groq or another provider. Or sign in to OpenWhispr Cloud.
4. **Dictate**
   Default hotkey: Globe/Fn on macOS, Ctrl+Win on Windows, Ctrl+Super or F8 on Linux. You can change it in settings.
5. **From source (optional)**
   Needs Node.js.

```
git clone https://github.com/OpenWhispr/openwhispr.git
cd openwhispr
npm install
npm run dev
```

GOOD TO KNOW

There is an optional paid Pro plan at about $8 per month. The local route does not need it.

On Intel Macs, some speaker features are unavailable.

06 REPLACES ASANA

OpenProject

Tasks, Gantt charts, time tracking and project plans. The community edition is free to self-host. Some enterprise add-ons are paid.

SITE
openproject.org

NEEDS
Docker Engine (AMD64 or ARM64)

PORT
8080 in the example below

DEFAULT LOGIN
admin / admin

SETUP

1. **Create a secret**
   Generate a random key and keep it. It must stay the same across restarts.
2. **Run the container**
   Use the command below. The first start takes a few minutes.
3. **Sign in**
   Open http://localhost:8080 and log in with admin / admin. Change the password straight away.
4. **Keep your data**
   The command below stores data inside the container. For a real setup, mount two folders, one for the database (pgdata) and one for uploads (assets). The mount command is in the official Docker guide.

```
openssl rand -hex 64
```

```
docker run -d -p 8080:80 --name openproject \
  -e SECRET_KEY_BASE=<your-secret-key-base> \
  -e OPENPROJECT_HOST__NAME=localhost:8080 \
  -e OPENPROJECT_HTTPS=false \
  openproject/openproject:17
```

GOOD TO KNOW

For a public server, set OPENPROJECT_HOST__NAME to your real domain and put it behind HTTPS.

Official guide: openproject.org/docs/installation-and-operations/installation/docker/

07 REPLACES CALENDLY

Cal.com (Cal.diy)

Booking links with Google Calendar and Outlook sync. The fully open version is called Cal.diy. It leaves out Teams, Orgs, Insights, Workflows and SSO.

REPO
github.com/calcom/cal.diy

LICENSE
MIT

NEEDS
Node.js 18+, PostgreSQL 13+, Yarn

INTENDED FOR
Personal, non-production use

SETUP

1. **Clone and install**
   Run the commands below.
2. **Create the env file**
   Copy .env.example to .env. Generate NEXTAUTH_SECRET with openssl rand -base64 32 and CALENDSO_ENCRYPTION_KEY with openssl rand -base64 24.
3. **Connect the database**
   Set DATABASE_URL in .env to your PostgreSQL connection string, and copy it into .env.appStore.
4. **Create the tables**
   Run the migration command below.
5. **Start**
   Run yarn dev and open http://localhost:3000.
6. **Shortcut**
   Docker Compose also works: set the two secrets in .env, then docker compose up -d. A setup wizard opens on first visit.

```
git clone https://github.com/calcom/cal.diy.git
cd cal.diy
yarn
```

```
yarn workspace @calcom/prisma db-migrate
yarn dev
```

GOOD TO KNOW

Cal.com itself moved to closed source in April 2026. Cal.diy is the open version. The repo says it is strictly recommended for personal, non-production use. For a business, use the paid Cal.com product.

Calendar sync needs your own Google or Microsoft app credentials.

08 REPLACES INTERCOM

Chatwoot

Live chat, email, WhatsApp and Instagram messages in one shared inbox for your team. Free to self-host.

REPO
github.com/chatwoot/chatwoot

LICENSE
MIT

NEEDS
Docker 20.10.10+ and Docker Compose v2.14.1+

SERVER
A VPS or any Linux machine

SETUP

1. **Install Docker**
   On Ubuntu, use the Docker install script and the compose plugin.
2. **Download the files**
   Get the env file and the production compose file.
3. **Set passwords**
   Edit .env and set the Redis and Postgres passwords. Set the same Postgres password in docker-compose.yaml.
4. **Prepare the database**
   Run the prepare command below.
5. **Start**
   Run docker compose up -d. Check with curl -I localhost:3000/api. A 200 response means it works.
6. **Go public**
   By default it listens on 127.0.0.1 only. Put a reverse proxy such as Nginx in front of it for HTTPS.

```
wget -O .env https://raw.githubusercontent.com/chatwoot/chatwoot/develop/.env.example
wget -O docker-compose.yaml https://raw.githubusercontent.com/chatwoot/chatwoot/develop/docker
-compose.production.yaml
```

```
docker compose run --rm rails bundle exec rails db:chatwoot_prepare
docker compose up -d
```

GOOD TO KNOW

WhatsApp and Instagram channels need their own provider setup and approvals on top of the install.

Official guide: developers.chatwoot.com/self-hosted/deployment/docker

09 REPLACES LOOM

Cap

Record your screen and share it by link or export the file. It has comments and transcripts, and you can self-host the sharing side.

REPO
github.com/CapSoftware/Cap

LICENSE
AGPLv3 (some parts MIT)

NEEDS
macOS or Windows for the desktop app

SELF-HOST
Docker

SETUP

1. **Option A: desktop app**
   Download from cap.so/download, sign in or create an account.
2. **Pick a mode**
   Instant Mode uploads while you record and gives you a share link when you stop. Studio Mode records locally, opens an editor, then exports.
3. **Option B: self-host**
   Run the commands below. Cap Web opens at http://localhost:3000.
4. **Login links**
   If email is not configured, the login links show in the logs. Use the logs command below.
5. **Use your server in the app**
   In the desktop app, set Settings, Cap Server URL to your instance.

```
git clone https://github.com/CapSoftware/Cap.git
cd Cap
docker compose up -d
```

```
docker compose logs cap-web
```

GOOD TO KNOW

Before you expose it to the internet, set CAP_URL (for example https://cap.yourdomain.com) and S3_PUBLIC_URL, and replace the default secrets.

Other hosting options: Railway one-click, or Coolify with docker-compose.coolify.yml.