

The Unbilled Stack

40 free, open-source GitHub repos — every one from Parts 1 to 4 of "Repos So Good They Shouldn't Be Free" — that replace the paid software running most businesses. Automation, databases, chat, support, BI, design, AI infra and more. Each one is self-hostable. This guide gives you the repo, the bill it kills, and exactly how to stand it up.

\$200,000+

per year of software these 40 repos replace at team scale — for the cost of a few small servers.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

- 1 Pick the bill that hurts most.** Start with the one paid tool you resent paying for — don't migrate everything at once.
- 2 Spin it up locally first.** Almost all of these are one Docker command. Run it on your laptop, kick the tires, decide if it's good enough.
- 3 Move it to a cheap VPS + a domain.** A \$5–20/mo server hosts most of these comfortably. Add HTTPS, back it up, invite the team.
- 4 Cancel the subscription.** Keep the paid tool one month in parallel, confirm the open-source one covers your workflow, then turn it off.

Honest note: self-hosting trades a monthly bill for a little ownership — you handle updates, backups, and security. For most of these, that's an afternoon of setup and near-zero upkeep. Where a repo has a real catch (license limits, "use the right edition"), this guide says so.

Part 4 — Deploy this weekend

EXACT COMMANDS

The 10 newest picks, with the real command to get each running. Double-verified June 2026 — always check the repo's README for the latest.

01 n8n github.com/n8n-io/n8n

kills **Zapier** · \$69/mo Team — climbs by task

```
$ docker run -p 5678:5678 docker.n8n.io/n8nio/n8n
```

Visual workflow automation on a canvas · 500+ integrations · AI-native. Fair-code: free to self-host, no reselling.

02 NocoDB github.com/nocodb/nocodb

kills **Airtable** · \$20/seat/mo (\$4,800/yr · 20)

```
$ docker run -d -p 8080:8080 nocodb/nocodb:latest
```

Turns Postgres/MySQL into an Airtable-style grid · Kanban/gallery/forms · REST + webhooks. Sustainable-Use license.

03 Mattermost github.com/mattermost/mattermost

kills **Slack** · \$7.25/user/mo Pro (\$1,740/yr · 20)

```
$ docker run -d -p 8065:8065 mattermost/mattermost-team-edition
```

Channels/DMs/threads, unlimited history. Install Team Edition (no cap), NOT Entry. No SSO, ~250-user ceiling.

04 Hoppscotch github.com/hoppscotch/hoppscotch

kills **Postman** · \$19/user/mo Team (\$4,560/yr · 20)

```
$ docker run -p 3000:3000 hoppscotch/hoppscotch
```

REST/GraphQL/WebSocket client · collections + envs · imports Postman collections. Truly MIT.

05 Plane github.com/makeplane/plane

kills **Jira / Linear** · \$7.91/user/mo Jira (\$2,373/yr · 25)

```
$ ./setup.sh # Community Edition from GitHub releases
```

Issues/cycles/modules · list, board, calendar, gantt. Use the CE setup script — NOT the prime.plane.so installer (paid).

Part 4 — Deploy this weekend

EXACT COMMANDS

...continued. Recipes 06–10.

06 Ghost github.com/TryGhost/Ghost

kills **Substack** · 10% of revenue (\$5,000/yr @ \$50k)

```
$ docker compose up -d # Ghost + MySQL + Caddy
```

Newsletter + site + paid memberships · Stripe direct = keep 100%. MIT, own your list.

07 Stirling-PDF github.com/Stirling-Tools/Stirling-PDF

kills **Adobe Acrobat Pro** · \$23.99/license/mo (\$5,758/yr · 20)

```
$ docker run -d -p 8080:8080 stirlingtools/stirling-pdf:latest
```

100+ PDF tools in the browser, runs locally · merge/split/OCR/sign/redact. Open-core (a few advanced bits are paid).

08 Meilisearch github.com/meilisearch/meilisearch

kills **Algolia** · ~1M searches/mo ≈ \$5,940/yr

```
$ docker run -p 7700:7700 getmeili/meilisearch
```

Instant, typo-tolerant search-as-you-type in Rust · drop-in API. Core MIT; advanced EE is BUSL-licensed.

09 SigNoz github.com/SigNoz/signoz

kills **Datadog** · \$15/host/mo (\$3,600/yr · 20 hosts)

```
$ git clone https://github.com/SigNoz/signoz && cd signoz/deploy && docker compose up -d
```

Metrics + traces + logs, one pane · OpenTelemetry-native, no lock-in. Core MIT; some enterprise in ee/.

10 Chatwoot github.com/chatwoot/chatwoot

kills **Zendesk / Intercom** · \$115/agent/mo (\$13,800/yr · 10)

```
$ docker compose up -d # chatwoot + postgres + redis
```

Omnichannel inbox (email/chat/WhatsApp/social) · help center · bots · CSAT. MIT core.

Part 3 — The business stack REFERENCE

The tools that run a company. Name, the paid tool it replaces, the repo, and the primary way to install it.

PART 3

REPO	REPLACES	GITHUB	GET STARTED
Twenty	Salesforce	github.com/twentyhq/twenty	<code>git clone · docker compose up -d</code>
Appsmith	Retool	github.com/appsmithorg/appsmith	<code>docker run appsmith/appsmith-ce</code>
Apache Superset	Tableau / Looker	github.com/apache/superset	<code>docker compose (image-tag)</code>
DocuSeal	DocuSign	github.com/docusealco/docuseal	<code>docker run docusealco/docuseal</code>
Penpot	Figma	github.com/penpot/penpot	<code>docker compose up -d</code>
AFFiNE	Notion + Miro	github.com/toeverything/AFFiNE	<code>docker run ghcr.io/.../affine</code>
Cap	Loom	github.com/CapSoftware/Cap	<code>desktop app + docker share server</code>
Listmonk	Mailchimp	github.com/knadh/listmonk	<code>docker compose (+ postgres)</code>
Qdrant	Pinecone	github.com/qdrant/qdrant	<code>docker run qdrant/qdrant</code>
Vaultwarden	1Password Business	github.com/dani-garcia/vaultwarden	<code>docker run vaultwarden/server</code>

The GitHub link is always the source of truth for current setup steps. Heavier ones (Superset) want 4 GB+ RAM.

Parts 1 & 2 — Where it started

REFERENCE

The first twenty — the AI-heavy batches that kicked off the series.

PART 1

REPO	REPLACES	GITHUB	GET STARTED
AutoHedge	a quant trading desk	github.com/The-Swarm-Corporation/AutoHedge	<code>pip install -U autohedge</code>
Vibe-Trading	a pro trading terminal + analyst	github.com/HKUDES/Vibe-Trading	<code>git clone · pip install -r</code>
Fincept Terminal	Bloomberg Terminal (\$27K/yr)	github.com/Fincept-Corporation/FinceptTerminal	<code>pip / desktop</code>
LibreChat	ChatGPT Plus (\$20/mo)	github.com/danny-avila/LibreChat	<code>docker compose up -d</code>
Open Generative AI	Midjourney + Runway + Sora	github.com/Anil-matcha/Open-Generative-AI	<code>git clone · docker</code>
Open-LLM-VTuber	AI companion apps	github.com/Open-LLM-VTuber/Open-LLM-VTuber	<code>git clone · pip / conda</code>
Claude Ads	an agency ad audit (\$2k–10k)	github.com/AgriciDaniel/claude-ads	<code>Claude Code skill</code>
Agentic Inbox	Superhuman (\$30/mo)	github.com/cloudflare/agentic-inbox	<code>wrangler deploy (Cloudflare)</code>
Camofox	stealth-scraping APIs	github.com/jo-inc/camofox-browser	<code>pip install · git clone</code>
Hyperframes	paid video-render SaaS	github.com/heygen-com/hyperframes	<code>npm i · git clone</code>

PART 2

REPO	REPLACES	GITHUB	GET STARTED
Odysseus	ChatGPT Plus / Pro	github.com/pewdiepie-archdaemon/odysseus	<code>docker · git clone (dev)</code>
DeerFlow	ChatGPT Pro deep research (\$200/mo)	github.com/bytedance/deer-flow	<code>git clone · docker</code>
Voicebox	ElevenLabs (\$22–99/mo)	github.com/jamiepine/voicebox	<code>desktop app · git</code>
Open Notebook	NotebookLM / Google AI Pro (\$20/mo)	github.com/lfnovo/open-notebook	<code>docker compose up</code>
Meetily	Otter + Fireflies (\$17–18/mo)	github.com/Zackriya-Solutions/meetily	<code>desktop app · docker</code>

Your weekend self-host checklist

The same five steps work for almost every repo in this guide.

- ▶ **A cheap VPS.** A \$5–20/mo box (2–4 GB RAM) runs most of these. Heavier ones (Superset, SigNoz) want 4 GB+.
- ▶ **Docker + Docker Compose.** One install; then every repo here is a copy-paste away.
- ▶ **A domain + HTTPS.** Point a subdomain at the box; put Caddy or a reverse proxy in front for automatic TLS.
- ▶ **Backups.** A nightly dump of the Postgres volume to object storage. This is the step people skip — don't.
- ▶ **One tool at a time.** Migrate, run in parallel for a month, then cancel the paid plan. Repeat down the list.

When NOT to self-host: if a tool is mission-critical and you have no one to own uptime, the paid plan may be worth it. Self-host the tools where "down for an hour" is survivable — which is most of them.

Want the next batch + a new honest build every week?

UNBILL

Comment **UNBILL** on the video for this guide. Follow **Hyperautomation Labs** on **Instagram** for the short version, on **Facebook**, and subscribe on **YouTube** for the full builds. Part 5 is coming — tell us what to kill next.