

Design without the seat fee.

Move from Figma to Penpot — open source, no per-editor cost.

Design and prototype in the browser like Figma, but free and open source — use the hosted version or run the whole thing on your own server. Import your existing Figma files with a plugin.

Who this is for

Designers and teams tired of paying per editor, who want their design files in an open tool they can also self-host. Self-hosting needs basic Docker comfort; the hosted version needs none.

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Why move off Figma

Figma charges a subscription per editor and keeps your files in its cloud. **Penpot** is an open-source design and prototyping platform with no per-editor fee. Use the free hosted version, or self-host it so your design files live entirely on your infrastructure.

What you keep

Browser-based design and prototyping · components and libraries · developer handoff · real-time collaboration.
What you drop: the per-seat subscription and the forced cloud.

1 · Pick hosted or self-hosted

Option	Best for	Notes
Hosted (penpot.app)	Most people	Free account, nothing to run, start immediately
Self-host (Docker)	Teams wanting control	Your files on your server; ~4 GB RAM

2 · Self-host with Docker (optional)

If you self-host: install Docker with Compose, then grab Penpot's official `docker-compose.yml` from the project repository — it wires up the backend, frontend, exporter, PostgreSQL and cache together:

```
wget https://raw.githubusercontent.com/penpot/penpot/main/docker/images/docker-compose.yml
docker compose -p penpot up -d
```

Open `http://localhost:9001`. Configuration is done through `PENPOT_` environment variables and feature flags in that compose file. Keep the PostgreSQL data on a volume outside the container, and update in small version steps.

Checkpoint

You should reach the Penpot login. If containers restart-loop, it's almost always the database volume or a missing environment value — check `docker compose logs`.

3 · Import your Figma files

Penpot imports through the **Figma to Penpot** plugin. Install it in Figma, run it on a single page or the whole file, and it transfers your design into Penpot.

What to expect

The importer handles most designs well; the rough edges people hit are importer quirks, not hosting problems. Very advanced Figma-specific features may need a little cleanup after import — check complex components first.

4 · Verify, then cancel

- Import a real project and check components, styles and prototypes came through.
- Test collaboration and developer handoff on a file.
- If self-hosting, confirm backups of the PostgreSQL volume.
- Once your workflow holds, drop the Figma subscription.

Common snags

Symptom	Fix
Containers keep restarting	Check the Postgres volume and required env vars in the compose file.
Import looks off	Re-run the Figma-to-Penpot plugin per page; clean up complex components.
Can't reach :9001	Confirm the frontend container is up and the port isn't firewalled.

Found this useful?

This guide is free — pay what you want if it saved you time. More offline & one-time-purchase alternatives to subscription apps, plus other migration guides, at payoncehq.com.

Sources: official Penpot documentation (help.penpot.app). Details current as of 2026; check the project for the latest. Independent guide, not affiliated with Penpot or Figma.