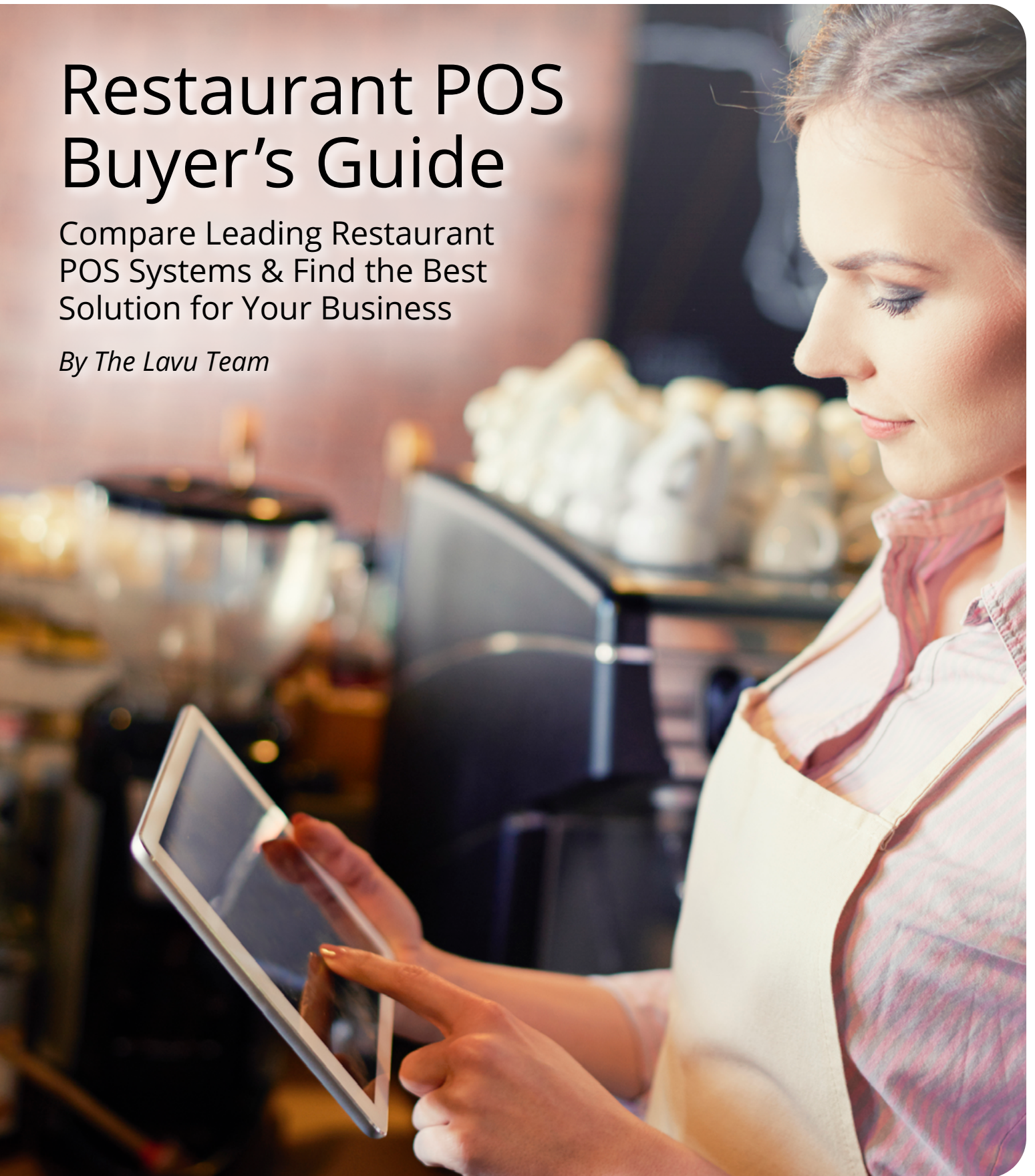# Restaurant POS Buyer's Guide

Compare Leading Restaurant POS Systems & Find the Best Solution for Your Business

By The Lavu Team

LAVU

Find the Best POS for Your Restaurant

When shopping for a restaurant POS system, you have a lot of options. There are many brands, features, and factors to carefully consider.

A POS is an important and foundational part of your business. It can process payments as well as manage orders, monitor inventory, manage your staff, and help you run your restaurant.

You want to get it right when choosing a POS system.

If you are setting up a new POS from scratch or looking to bring your outdated point-of-sale system into the modern era, this guide will help you find the best option for your restaurant.

This guide will help you know what to look for when shopping for a new point-of-sale solution and show you how to compare your options. It will look at the most important elements of a POS and compare major point-of-sale solutions for:

- **Functionality:** Which POS has the features your restaurant needs?

- **Ease of Use:** Which POS is the easiest to set up, use, and maintain?

- **Value for Money:** Which POS is the most affordable?

- **Customer Support:** Which POS company offers the best customer service?

Compare the Top Restaurant POS Systems

When searching for a POS system, you may come across recognizable brands such as: Clover, Toast POS, and TouchBistro. These brands are among the top restaurant POS systems on the market— but that doesn't mean they offer the best restaurant POS solutions.

Customer surveys on Capterra, GetApp, and Software Advice all show one brand as the highest-rated point-of-sale system—Lavu POS.

Customers rank Lavu as the #1 system for Restaurant POS, Bar POS, and iPad POS.

Lavu outranks competitors in overall rating as well as in functionality, ease of use, value for money, and customer support across multiple POS ranking platforms.

400 Million+ Transactions   **1.3 Billion+ Menu Items Sold**

Capterra

Average User Ratings for Restaurant POS Products

	Overall	Functionality	Ease of Use	Value for Money	Customer Support
Lavu POS (n = 42 reviews)	86	85	85	83	85
Clover (n = 45)	72	72	79	63	56
Toast POS (n = 34)	63	71	72	52	43
TouchBistro (n = 24)	46	52	59	40	37
Restaurant POS Category Average (n = 1,143)	85	84	86	82	79

Review Insights Competitive Comparison is based on end-user reviews from Capterra. Average ratings and review counts include published reviews within the 12-month trailing year of the publication date. Ratings are collected on 1 to 5 basis and scaled to 20 to 100 for comparative purposes. Review Insights Competitive Comparison constitutes the subjective opinion of individual end-user reviews and ratings; they neither represent the views of, nor constitute an endorsement by Capterra, or its affiliates.

More than 25,000 restaurants across 65 countries use Lavu. This guide will show you why so many restaurant owners choose Lavu over Clover, Toast POS, and TouchBistro.

Let's compare Lavu to Clover, Toast POS, and TouchBistro as it relates to POS functionality, ease of use, value for money, and customer support.

POS Functionality

You are likely searching for a POS system because you need something to process payments. The basic functionality of a POS system is to place orders and process transactions.

But, modern POS systems can do so much more than that.

Lavu's POS for restaurants has more than 200 features that can be customized to fit a restaurant's unique needs.

It's part of the reason why Lavu outranks Clover, Toast POS, and TouchBistro in POS functionality.

Lauv's POS has flexible, robust functionality, and the best part is you can use what you need and hide what you don't. Never get bogged down with tools you don't use. We set up your system with only the features you need and allow you to turn on additional features as you need them.

Average User Ratings for iPad POS	Overall	Functionality
Lavu POS (n = 42 reviews)	86	85
Clover (n = 45)	72	72
Toast POS (n = 34)	63	71
TouchBistro (n = 24)	46	52

Let's Look at Some of the Top Features of Lavu's Point-of-Sale System Built on iPad Technology

Order Management
With a Lavu iPad point-of-sale system, the hassle involved in taking orders disappears. Your employees take orders by pressing buttons on a few simple menus and interfaces. Navigation has never been easier.

Payment Processing
Lavu allows you to give customers a fast, secure payment gateway while saving money on payment processing fees. Lavu is PCI compliant, offers 24/7 support, and can accept payments even if your internet is out.

Menu Customization
Restaurants need to make menu adjustments on the fly. Skip the slow updates of a legacy point-of-sale system and use Lauv's POS system to update your menus from your iPad and see the changes happen immediately.

Inventory Tracking
Lavu's point-of-sale system offers real-time inventory updates. Don't wait until the end of the day to assess inventory. Receive up-to-date information so you can make decisions in real-time.

Sales Reporting
Lavu's POS software creates sales reports to help managers track the performance of individual establishments in different locations. Such reporting highlights which items are selling quickly and shows businesses how to focus on the biggest revenue generators.

Customer Database
With a customer database in Lavu's POS, you don't have to remember what your returning customers' preferences are. You can easily track customer preferences and payment history without any headaches.

And So Much More...

With Lavu's POS, you also get access to features for:
- Online Ordering
- Secure Payment Processing
- Cash Discount Programs
- Kitchen Displays Systems (KDS)
- Self-ordering Kiosks
- Tabletop Ordering
- Employee Clock-in and Clock-out
- Employee Scheduling
- Vendor Management
- PO Processing
- And More...

Never worry about downtime or security issues with Lavu's PCI-compliant POS system that can accept payment even if the internet goes out.

Plus, if you have other tools you love, simply connect them with Lavu.

Use Lavu's API To Incorporate Other Software You Use To Run Your Business.
We have a long list of integrations that allow you to sync Lavu with other apps and software to streamline all of your business operations.

With over 200 features, Lavu has the functionality to meet all of our restaurant's needs. Don't see what you need? Talk to a Lavu representative, and we'll show you how we can customize your POS to provide exactly what you need to run your restaurant.

See Lavu in Action.

Schedule a Demo

Ease of Use

Point-of-sale systems used to be made up of clunky hardware and on-premise software. Nowadays, cloud-based technology allows businesses to move past the legacy point-of-sale system to a much easier POS option.

To set up Lavu's POS, you only need an iPad and the Lavu app.

Lavu's simplicity is why it outranks Clover, Toast POS, and TouchBistro for ease of use.

Built on iPad technology that you and your team already know and love, Lavu is extremely easy to learn, operate, and update.

◤ Capterra   **Published:** April 1, 2022

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The Ease of Using an iPad POS

Versatile and portable, an iPad POS allows businesses of all sizes to process payments affordably and immediately. Inspired by mobility, iPad systems work in real-time to blaze through transactions and streamline all aspects of your business.

iPad point-of-sale systems can perform all the tasks done by a legacy point-of-sale system while also offering additional features and functionality.

In addition to a larger selection of features and capabilities, iPad POS systems and terminals are less expensive than legacy point-of-sale kiosks. Their cloud-based nature also makes them extremely easy to update and patch, giving them increased security compared to the slow update process of a legacy POS system.

Your Business Will Benefit

Willow Creek Farm & Winery

GLADYS MCKINNEY
Willow Creek Winery / West Cape May, NJ

"The best part of Lavu is that it is handling the growth of our winery. The reports are awesome! Not only is it handling the growth but it is also implementing new technology so that we can remain flexible in our customer payment options. It is where technology meets efficiency to realize a more effective operations team that creates organically a better profit margin."

Benefits of Lavu's iPad POS

- Point-of-sale is wireless and mobile.

- Cloud-based software is accessible from anywhere, anytime.

- Application is always up-to-date.

- Business data is backed up online.

- It is attractive to customers and staff.

- It facilitates on-the-floor or table-side sales.

- It's easy to replace.

- Software and hardware is easy to learn and use.

The ease of use of an iPad POS makes installation and maintenance much less disruptive to your restaurant's workflow.

The device's mobility gives a merchant greater flexibility in serving customers. Waitstaff can use iPod Touch or iPad Mini devices to take orders that are immediately and wirelessly sent to the back-of-house staff.

Plus, by offering inventory and financial data that can be managed remotely, cloud-based iPad systems allow users to access all of their data from any smart device at any time.

The difference between an iPad point-of-sale system and a legacy point-of-sale system is one of the most important ones to consider when looking for a restaurant POS. These days, more and more businesses are opting for an iPad point-of-sale system due to their affordability and convenience.

Talk to a Lavu representative to see how easy it is to operate an iPad POS system. Schedule a free demo with our team today to try it for yourself.

See Lavu in Action.

Schedule a Demo

Value for Money

Capterra
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Whether you are setting up a new POS from scratch or updating an existing system, there are a variety of costs to consider when choosing a restaurant POS.

Price is impacted by the features, hardware, software, and services you'd like to add on. Some factors will be baked into the monthly costs of your POS while others may prompt a one-time fee or continued increase in your monthly cost. Consider all of these costs when shopping for a restaurant POS.

Lavu offers one of the most affordable and simple POS pricing models in the industry, which is why Lavu outranks Clover, Toast POS, and TouchBistro when it comes to value for money.

Lavu's POS system starts at just $59/month, and we make it easy and affordable to add on additional features as you need them.

As you shop for a restaurant POS system, consider each of these factors that impact cost.

Type of POS System

A legacy restaurant POS system involves large hardware-terminals that are updated manually. They are usually bulkier, slower, and more expensive than mobile, tablet-based POS systems.

Monthly Fees

Most vendors charge a monthly fee for using their product. This fee will cover customer service and some repairs if your system breaks down.

Payment Processing Fees

This is a piece of the cost not included in the implementation and upkeep. It is related to banking and card processing fees.

Software/Hardware Costs

Providers offer different hardware bundles and product plans based on the size and potential expansion of your restaurant. Most POS plans will charge you per terminal, and they might change their plan based on the number of terminals you wish to use.

Installation Cost

Installation might include a variety of costs to accommodate specialized hardware and software platforms.

Support and Maintenance

Some point-of-sale systems need to be manually updated. Maintenance and support costs vary depending on the type of system, end of life, and future upgrades.

Lavu makes our pricing simple, transparent, and affordable.

Our pricing is scalable so you can get what you need and continue to add on to your system as your business grows.

You can get started with as little as $59/month.

Flexible Pricing that Scales with Your Restaurant

Starter
Hit the Ground Running
$59/mo

- Lavu POS for 1 Terminal
- Lavu Pay
- Cash Discount Program
- Lavu Pilot
- Gift Cards Included for a Limited Time – *Cards Sold Separately*
- Loyalty Included for a Limited Time
- Team Management
- Inventory
- Reporting
- Bluetooth Scale Plug-in
- 24/7 Support

Growth
Drive Off-Premise Sales
$129/mo

- Lavu POS for 1 Terminal
- Lavu Pay
- Cash Discount Program
- Lavu Pilot
- Gift Cards Included for a Limited Time
- Cards Sold Separately
- Loyalty Included for a Limited Time
- Team Management
- Inventory
- Reporting
- Bluetooth Scale Plug-in
- 24/7 Support
- MenuDrive Online Ordering
- DoorDash Delivery
- QR Code Ordering
- API Access

Optimize
Get Smarter and More Efficient
$279/mo

- Lavu POS for 2 Terminals
- Lavu Pay
- Cash Discount Program
- Lavu Pilot
- Gift Cards (Cards Sold Separately)
- Loyalty
- Team Management
- Inventory
- Reporting
- Bluetooth Scale Plug-in
- 24/7 Support
- MenuDrive Online Ordering
- DoorDash Delivery
- QR Code Ordering
- API Access
- Tableside Ordering – Up to 5 Devices
- Kitchen Display System
- Sourcery AP Automation – Up to 100/Mo.
- Quickbooks/Xero Integration

Only pay for what you need with Lavu. Add on options you need for your business without paying for tools you don't use. Plus, we offer discounts to create packages that offer what you need at a rate you can afford.

Want to see exactly how much a Lavu POS with the features you need will cost your business?

Don't worry about hidden fees or costs. Request your quote to get pricing that includes everything you need to run your new restaurant POS system.

Our restaurant experts can listen to your needs and guide you toward the system requirements that will work best for your business—and your budget.

Additional Terminals	$50/each/mo	Third Party Payment Processing	$25/mo (Per Terminal)
Gift Cards	$50/mo (Cards Sold Separately)	Kitchen Display System	$30/mo
Loyalty	$50/mo	Quickbooks/ Xero Integration	$30/mo
MenuDrive Online Ordering	$99/mo (3 Months Free)	Sourcery AP Auto-mation	$99/mo (3 Months Free – Up to 100/Mo; $2/Invoice after)
DoorDash Order Sync	$70/mo	Kiosk	$50/mo
Tableside Ordering	$30/mo (Up to 5 Devices)	API Access	$30/mo

If You Aren't Sure What You Need For Your POS System, Contact Our Team Today.

Schedule a Demo

LAVU

sales@topresultsdigital.com | (407) 489-0699 | go.lavu.com/partner/david-acosta

Customer Support

At a restaurant, nothing is more frustrating or stressful than trying to manage orders in the middle of a rush when your system goes down.

At Lavu, we know what it's like in the restaurant world—because we've been in your shoes. We are a restaurant solution company built by restaurant people. We understand the challenges you face, so we created solutions to solve them.

We know it's important for your POS to be up and running and working for your business at all times. That's why we've made it our business to offer the best customer support and service possible—and why we outrank competitors as it relates to customer support.

Lavu far outranks Clover, Toast POS, and TouchBistro in customer support, and for good reasons.

Lavu takes a hospitality approach to our solutions. We work in the hospitality business and act like it. We treat our partners like you treat guests in your restaurant—with a customer-first approach.

◀ Capterra

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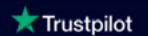|	Overall	Functionality	Ease of Use	Value for Money	Customer Support
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We're a Partner, Not a Provider

> "Excellent Customer Service — My sales rep was an absolute pleasure. He was helpful, polite & gave great customer service."
>
> ★★★★★
>
> by Carissa Pacheco, Office Manage
>
> Rated 4.8 / 5 | 230 reviews ★ Trustpilot

Here are a few reasons why we outrank other POS providers in customer support.

We're a Partner, Not a Provider

We aren't a vendor or service provider. We see ourselves as a partner who is committed to setting up your systems and then continuing to provide support to help you improve and grow your restaurant.

We Offer 24/7 Support

We want you to feel supported in your entire restaurant experience. We offer 24/7 customer support. Simply reach out to Lavu anytime you need assistance with your POS or other Lavu solutions.

We Set Up Your System

A Lavu rep works with you one-on-one to configure your software and make sure you have the hardware you need. Our onboarding process is simple. We configure your settings and build out your entire menu for you.

We Train You

Lavu is with you every step of the way. We also empower you to manage your restaurant POS on your own. It's so simple. You can make updates from an iPad or your phone—and you don't even need to be in the restaurant to make changes.

We Support Your Growth

Our goal isn't just to set you up with a restaurant POS. It's to help your restaurant thrive and grow. We check in to make sure you have what you need, and we're available to add on new POS features as your restaurant grows.

Your restaurant doesn't need another vendor or software. You need a partner who can provide solutions created with restaurants in mind. That's what you get with Lavu.

Talk To Our Team About What You Can Expect From Our Ongoing Partnership And Customer Support.

Schedule a Demo

Get the Best Restaurant POS

We hope this guide answered the top questions you have while shopping for a new POS system for your restaurant.

- Which POS has the **features** your restaurant needs?
- Which POS is the **easiest** to set up, use, and maintain?
- Which POS is the most **affordable**?
- Which POS company offers the best **customer service**?

You've seen why more customers rank Lavu POS higher than Clover, Toast POS, and TouchBistro in all categories related to Restaurant POS, Bar POS, and iPad POS.

Now, see the difference for yourself.

Schedule a free demo with the Lavu team so we can walk you through our point-of-sale system and show you exactly how it can work for your business.

We work with a variety of restaurant types and look forward to showing you how our system can be optimized to work for your unique needs, offerings, and customers.

Quick Service	Pizzeria
Fast Casual	Food Truck
Full Service	Brewery
Bar	Deli
Coffee Shop	And more…

You have a restaurant to run. You don't need to be bogged down with grueling, complicated point-of-sale setup and management.

Lavu is here to help.

Get Your Restaurant POS Up And Running In Just A Few Days.

Schedule a Demo

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