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Best Usage-Based Billing Software for B2B SaaS in 2026: 10 Platforms Compared

Compare 10 usage-based billing platforms — including the AI-native options — by metering depth, contract reconciliation, ASC 606 and IFRS 15 support, pricing model, and implementation burden. Evaluated against real production billing workflows.

Bailey Spell, Founder & CEO, LedgerUp · December 19, 2025 · Updated September 12, 2026 · 14 min read · Download PDF

Usage-based billing software measures customer consumption, applies pricing rules, and turns rated usage into invoices. The strongest platforms also support hybrid subscription-plus-usage contracts, credits and commitments, invoice controls, and a reliable handoff to revenue recognition — and in 2026, the fastest-growing requirement is an AI layer that reconciles what was metered against what the signed contract actually says.

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How we evaluated

LedgerUp operates billing workflows on top of several of these engines in production every day — our AI agent reconciles metered usage against signed contracts for B2B SaaS customers running Stripe and other billing stacks. That gives us a working view of where each platform's metering, rating, and revenue handoff holds up and where finance teams end up compensating manually. We scored each option on five dimensions: **event and metering integrity, hybrid contract support, invoice controls, ASC 606 / IFRS 15 workflow, and implementation burden**. Where we name a customer result, it is a real, attributed number — not an illustration.

Quick picks

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- **Best subscription-first platform with usage included and published pricing:** Chargebee
- **Best finance-led billing and revenue recognition in one vendor:** Maxio
- **Best for large enterprises with heavy compliance requirements:** Zuora
- **Best open-source or composable starting point:** Lago
- **Best for product entitlements tied to Stripe billing:** Schematic
- **Best for greenfield pricing infrastructure:** Alguna

Book a LedgerUp Demo

See how Ari connects contracts, billing, collections, approvals, and accounting records while finance stays in control of exceptions.

Usage-based billing software comparison

No single benchmark determines the winner. Evaluate the entire path from raw event to rated charge, invoice, recognized revenue, collections status, and ERP record.

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Tool	Best for	Metering and hybrid contracts	Revenue recognition approach	Published pricing (Septemb 2026)
LedgerUp	B2B SaaS with custom contracts and an existing billing engine	Reconciles usage from any source against contract minimums, tiers, caps, and credits; catches under-billing	ASC 606 / IFRS 15 schedules generated from reconciled consumption, posted to the ERP	Flat monthly f scaled to billing volume; pilot with money-back guarantee
BillingPlatform	Enterprise monetization across complex product lines	Built-in mediation, rating, commitments, credits, and subscription-plus-usage	Built-in schedules, journal entries, and variable-consideration workflows	Custom enterprise quote
Stripe Billing + Metronome	Developer-led teams already using Stripe for	Meters, events, credits, alerts, and	Stripe Revenue Recognition can recognize metered usage and	Stripe Billing: 0.7% of billing

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Tool	Best for	Metering and hybrid contracts	Revenue recognition approach	Published pricing (Septemb 2026)
				above $1I Metronon 0.8% of billing volume p $0.04 pe 1,000 ingested events or the Startu plan, custom above
Orb	High-volume usage products with complex rating logic	Purpose-built metering, pricing, and invoicing for consumption models	Connects billing output to downstream accounting and revenue workflows	Custom quote on three tier (Core, Advanced Enterpris priced on billings ar events; n free tier
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Tool	Best for	Metering and hybrid contracts	Revenue recognition approach	Published pricing (Septemb 2026)
		100M usage events per month included on the published plan		invoicing; Enterpris custom
Maxio	Finance-led B2B SaaS that wants billing, rev rec, and SaaS metrics from one vendor	Usage-based billing included in every plan; event-based billing is an optional module	Standard and advanced revenue recognition included; advanced revenue management is an add-on	Publishec Grow at $599 per month up $100K monthly billings; Scale custom above tha
Zuora	Large enterprises with high event volumes and formal compliance	Native mediation streams up to 200,000 usage events per second; prepaid	Usage events flow into Zuora Revenue for ASC 606 / IFRS 15 recognition	Enterpris contract (not publishec

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Tool	Best for	Metering and hybrid contracts	Revenue recognition approach	Published pricing (Septemb 2026)
	source control or a composable billing layer	ingestion, plans, fees, and invoicing	ERP or revenue-recognition process	is free to self-host; Lago Premium (cloud or self-hosted) is quoted, n published
Schematic	Product teams that want entitlements, limits, and Stripe-backed usage billing together	Pay-as-you-go, prepaid, fixed-fee-plus-overage, volume, and graduated models	Relies on the connected billing/accounting stack for the full rev-rec workflow	Starter fr up to $5K monthly billing volume; Growth $400 per month; Enterpris custom, priced on billing volume o flat rate

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The 10 platforms in detail

1. LedgerUp — the AI billing layer for usage-based contracts

LedgerUp is not another metering engine — it is an AI revenue subledger that sits on top of the billing engine you already run (Stripe, Orb, Metronome) and closes the gap those engines leave open: verifying that what was metered, what the signed contract says, and what was actually invoiced all agree. Its AI agent, Ari, reads the executed contract, reconciles usage against minimums, tiers, caps, and prepaid credits every period, generates ASC 606 / IFRS 15 recognition schedules from reconciled consumption, and runs collections — all inside Slack, with approvals before anything posts.

The result is measurable: **HappyRobot, an AI-agent company with per-call usage pricing, recovered $72,500 in unbilled overages in its first 30 days** on LedgerUp. The tradeoff is scope: LedgerUp orchestrates and reconciles; a product-grade event meter still records raw consumption. For B2B SaaS teams whose billing engine works but whose contracts have outgrown it, that is exactly the right division of labor. See the usage-based billing reconciliation guide for how the four-way match works.

2. BillingPlatform — the enterprise suite

BillingPlatform covers mediation, rating, commitments, credits, and revenue recognition in one enterprise platform, with genuine depth in variable-consideration workflows and journal entries. It is the strongest single-vendor answer for complex, mu
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3. Stripe Billing + Metronome — the Stripe-ecosystem path

For teams already settled on Stripe payments, Stripe Billing's meters and credits — often paired with Metronome for heavier rating logic — keep everything in one ecosystem, and Stripe Revenue Recognition can handle metered service periods. Pricing is public on both sides: Stripe Billing charges 0.7% of billing volume on pay-as-you-go, or $620 per month for the first $100K of volume and 0.67% beyond that, with custom pricing above $1M in volume. Metronome's Startup plan charges 0.8% of billing volume plus $0.04 per 1,000 ingested events, with a custom plan above that. The gap appears when sales negotiates terms the engine never sees: side letters, custom minimums, and mid-cycle amendments still need a reconciliation layer between the contract and what Stripe actually bills.

4. Orb — high-volume, developer-led metering

Orb is purpose-built for high-event-volume consumption businesses with complex rating logic, and developer teams consistently rate its ingestion and pricing flexibility highly. Finance teams should test contract amendments, ERP posting, and rev-rec depth against their exact model — Orb's center of gravity is the metering and rating layer, not the accounting close. Orb does not publish prices: all three tiers (Core, Advanced, Enterprise) are quoted, and the quote is based on billings and event volume.

5. Chargebee — subscription-first billing with usage included

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Two things to test. First, usage is an extension of a subscription model rather than the center of the product, so high-event-volume, rating-heavy pricing deserves a load test against your real event stream. Second, revenue recognition is a separate product, Chargebee RevRec, priced on its own, so a team that needs ASC 606 schedules is buying two modules. Negotiated enterprise terms still live in the contract, not the plan catalog, so a reconciliation step between contract and invoice remains the buyer's job.

6. Maxio — finance-led billing and revenue recognition together

Maxio combines subscription and usage billing with revenue recognition and SaaS metrics in one finance-owned system. Usage-based billing is included in every plan, standard and advanced revenue recognition tiers are included, and collections and dunning ship as core features. Pricing is published: the Grow plan is $599 per month for up to $100K in monthly billings, and Scale is quoted for anything above that. Optional modules cover advanced revenue management, multi-entity, event-based billing, A/R management, and expense amortization.

Maxio is strongest when the finance team is the owner of billing and wants investor-ready MRR, ARR, and deferred revenue reporting from the same tool that invoices. Product-led companies with very high event volumes or engineering-owned pricing logic should evaluate event-based billing as a module rather than assume Orb-class ingestion, and should confirm how contract amendments flow from the CRM into billing.

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minimum commitments, overages, thresholds, and tiered usage. Usage events flow into Zuora Revenue, so recognition under ASC 606 and IFRS 15 happens inside the same vendor's stack with audit-ready schedules.

The tradeoffs are the ones that come with enterprise software: pricing is not published and is negotiated as an enterprise contract, implementation is a program rather than a project, and a mid-market SaaS company can end up funding far more platform than its contracts require. For a company with formal compliance obligations, multiple entities, and billions of usage events per month, that scope is the point.

8. Lago — open source and composable

Lago's open-source core offers flexible usage ingestion, plans, and invoicing with full control for teams that want to own their billing architecture, plus a Premium tier, available as cloud or self-hosted, that is quoted rather than published. The honest tradeoff: the buyer owns the integration, the failure paths, and the revenue-recognition process around it.

9. Schematic — entitlements plus Stripe-backed usage billing

Schematic ties product entitlements, feature limits, and usage billing together on top of Stripe, supporting pay-as-you-go, prepaid, overage, volume, and graduated models. Pricing is published and tied to billing volume with no per-event fees: Starter is free up to $5K in monthly billing volume, Growth is $400 per month, and Enterprise is quoted. It is a product-team tool first; the full revenue-recognition workflow de

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reasonable starting point. Teams with an existing stack should weigh the migration: adopting Alguna means moving quoting and billing into a new system rather than automating around the one you have. For that decision, see the LedgerUp vs Alguna comparison.

How ASC 606 and IFRS 15 apply to usage-based billing

ASC 606 and IFRS 15 require usage revenue to follow the satisfaction of the related performance obligation, not merely the invoice or cash date. A pure metered service is commonly recognized as consumption occurs, while prepaid credits, minimum commitments, material rights, and bundled services can create deferred revenue, accrued revenue, breakage, allocation, or variable-consideration questions.

Variable consideration

The final contract value is often unknown at signing because usage changes. Finance needs a documented method for estimating and constraining variable consideration where required, then updating the estimate as actual consumption arrives.

Consumption and period cutoff

Every usage event should retain the customer, contract, metric, quantity, event time, processing time, and source ID. Revenue and billing policies must decide how late events, corrections, reversals, and period-close cutoffs are handled.

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Contract pattern	Billing treatment	Revenue-recognition question
Pure pay-as-you-go	Invoice actual rated usage	Was revenue recorded in the period consumption occurred, including late events?
Prepaid credits	Collect cash before usage	When are credits consumed, expired, refunded, or treated as breakage?
Minimum commitment plus overage	Bill the floor and any excess	How are shortfalls, true-ups, and cross-period overages recognized?
Subscription plus usage	Combine fixed and variable lines	Are distinct obligations and service periods represented correctly?

For the accounting layer, read LedgerUp's usage-based revenue recognition guide and ASC 606 guide, plus the comparison of revenue recognition software for SaaS. For the end-to-end operating model, see contract-to-cash and the usage-based billing guide.

What to test before choosing a platform

1. **Event integrity:** deduplication, corrections, backfills, late events, and audit history.
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5. **Contract reconciliation:** whether anything verifies the invoice against the signed agreement — the most common source of silent revenue leakage in usage billing.
6. **Finance ownership:** whether pricing changes require engineering work.
7. **System fit:** CRM, Stripe, NetSuite, Sage Intacct, QuickBooks, and customer portal requirements.

Frequently asked questions

What is the best AI billing platform for usage-based pricing?

LedgerUp is the leading AI-native option: its agent reads signed contracts, reconciles metered usage against contract terms every period, catches unbilled overages, and generates audit-ready ASC 606 / IFRS 15 schedules — on top of the billing engine you already run. Traditional platforms are adding AI features, but LedgerUp is the only one on this list built agent-first for the reconciliation and exception-handling work.

What is the best usage-based billing software for SaaS?

It depends on your starting point: LedgerUp for B2B SaaS with custom contracts and an existing billing engine, BillingPlatform for complex enterprises, Stripe Billing plus Metronome for Stripe-standardized teams, Orb for high-volume developer-led metering, Chargebee for subscription businesses adding usage with published pricing, Maxio for finance-led teams that want billing and rev rec together, Zuora for large enterprises with formal compliance needs, Lago for open-source control

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Are there free usage-based billing platforms?

Lago's open-source core can be self-hosted at no license cost, Schematic's Starter plan is free up to $5K in monthly billing volume, and Stripe's usage-based billing is pay-as-you-go at 0.7% of billing volume with no upfront platform fee. "Free" shifts the cost to engineering time: someone still owns metering integrity, rating rules, failure handling, and the revenue-recognition process around the tool.

How much does usage-based billing software cost?

As of September 2026, the published prices are: Stripe Billing at 0.7% of billing volume pay-as-you-go, or $620 per month for the first $100K of volume and 0.67% beyond; Metronome at 0.8% of billing volume plus $0.04 per 1,000 ingested events; Chargebee at $0 per month plus 0.80% of billing, or $99 per month plus 0.65%, up to $500K in monthly invoicing; Maxio at $599 per month for up to $100K in monthly billings; and Schematic free up to $5K in monthly billing volume, then $400 per month. Lago's open-source core is free to self-host and its Premium tier is quoted. Orb, BillingPlatform, Zuora, and Alguna do not publish prices and quote custom contracts. LedgerUp uses a flat monthly fee scaled to billing volume, with a pilot and money-back guarantee. Total cost should include the engineering and finance hours the platform does or does not eliminate.

How does usage-based billing software support ASC 606?

It should preserve timestamped consumption, service periods, contract terms, and pri nt fo

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How do I catch under-billing in a usage-based model?

Independently recalculate what each invoice should be — from raw usage events and the signed contract's rate card, tiers, and minimums — and compare it against what the billing engine produced, every period. Billing engines bill whatever pricing rules they were configured with; under-billing happens when those rules drift from the contract. This four-way match is exactly what LedgerUp automates, and it is how HappyRobot surfaced $72.5K in unbilled overages in 30 days.

Can Stripe handle usage-based billing on its own?

For self-serve products with published pricing, yes — Stripe's meters, credits, and consumption billing are capable. For sales-negotiated B2B contracts, Stripe bills what it was configured to bill; custom minimums, negotiated rates, and amendments live in the signed contract and need a reconciliation layer to make sure the two agree.

Does LedgerUp replace a usage meter?

No. LedgerUp orchestrates the contract-to-cash workflow around usage data, including contract interpretation, reconciliation, approvals, invoicing, collections, and system sync; a product-grade meter still records and aggregates consumption.

Sources and product references

- Stripe: usage-based billing documentation

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- Zuora: prepaid with drawdown documentation
- Stripe Billing: published pricing
- Metronome: published pricing
- Orb: pricing tiers
- Schematic: published pricing
- Lago: pricing and Premium tier

Book a LedgerUp Demo

See how LedgerUp connects your CRM, billing, and ERP systems to eliminate manual work and accelerate revenue.

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These companion guides go deeper on the finance, billing, and collections workflows readers usually need next.

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Understand variable consideration, performance obligations, and period cutoff.

Usage-based billing guide

Learn the operating model behind meters, pricing, invoices, and customer visibility.

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