

Vintage Radar

The search engine for classic cars: web, iPhone & Android

Like Kayak, but for cars. Customers type the car they want, and every matching listing from all 50 states shows up right away. One tap opens the car on the site where it's listed, and they buy directly from the seller. Nothing is bought or sold in the app.

Date	Working name	Platforms
October 9, 2026	Vintage Radar	Web · iOS · Android

1. What the app does (the basic version you asked for)

- **Search any car:** any make (55+ classic and modern), any model, any year from 1900 to 2027, nationwide or one state.
- **See every listing at once:** results from eBay Motors, dealer websites, the nationwide listings feed, classic car sites and auctions in one list, newest first, with photo, price and location.
- **Tap "View listing":** opens the original ad. The customer deals directly with the seller.
- **Craigslist in every state:** the app searches all 170+ Craigslist areas in the chosen state in the background and shows each car with its own posting link. **Facebook Marketplace:** one tap opens Facebook's results around the customer's location (Facebook doesn't allow state-by-state searching from outside apps).
- **VIN decoder and Deal Score:** decode any VIN; show whether a price is good (Deal Score needs price data, see section 5).
- **Ad spaces built in,** so you can run it free with ads while you build traffic.

Why results are instant: the app collects new listings from every source every few minutes and saves them in its own database. Customer searches run on that database, so results come back in under a second, with **unlimited searches and no per-search fee**. More visitors don't add data costs.

2. Where the cars come from

Source	How it works	In the app?	Monthly cost
eBay Motors	Official eBay data, after eBay Partner Network approval	Yes	Free
Dealer websites	Dealers send their inventory, and we send them buyers	Yes	Free
Nationwide listings feed (Marketcheck)	Licensed plan: dealer + private-seller listings from all 50 states	Yes	≈ \$1,150–\$1,500 (optional)
Classic sites & auctions (Hemmings, ClassicCars.com, Bring a Trailer, Cars & Bids)	Partner deals as each approves; one-tap search links until then	Links now, inside later	Free
Facebook Marketplace & Craigslist	Craigslist: newest results in any state. Facebook: results near the customer	Opens their site	Free

Option B: Facebook and Craigslist don't allow other apps to copy their listings. Showing them inside the results requires a third-party data service (≈ \$500–\$5,000+/mo, can be blocked, your attorney's sign-off). It adds \$6,000 to the build.

3. Without AI vs. with AI

The app works fully without AI. AI is optional and can be switched on anytime.

Feature	Without AI	With AI
Search	Exact words + filters	Plain English: "red 60s convertible under 30k near Dallas"
Messy listings	As the seller typed ("vette stingray 66")	Cleaned: "1966 Chevrolet Corvette Sting Ray"
Same car on several sites	Shows each copy	Merged into one result
Scam check	Simple rules (price, keywords)	Reads the ad and explains the warning signs
VIN decoder	Standard decode	Every digit explained + what paperwork to check
AI Agent	Not available	Hunts the whole public web (dealers, eBay, auctions, even Copart & IAAI), checks each car's price, title, VIN and red flags, then gives the link
AI Concierge	Not available	"What should I buy for 35k?" Answers and runs the search
AI levels	—	Radar Pro: fast, smart, best value. Radar Apex: our smartest AI, best for rare cars and tricky listings. Set a default or let customers choose.
Filters, photos, Deal Score, links, VIN basics	✓	✓

4. Price

The app: one flat price	
Web + iPhone + Android apps, published under your company	✓
The search engine: all sources above, all makes, models and years, all 50 states	✓
Craigslist in every state · Facebook near you · VIN decoder · Deal Score ready · ad spaces	✓
Ready to switch on later at no extra build cost: alerts, accounts, saved cars, subscriptions, AI features and the AI Agent	✓
Owner dashboard: visitors, searches, top cars, usage and costs	✓
Build price	\$25,000
Hosting & care, required: we host, run, secure and update the app	\$300/mo
Option B add-on (third-party Facebook/Craigslist data inside the results)	+\$6,000

Option 1, pay in full: 40% to start · 30% when the web version is live (≈ week 1) · 30% at full launch on the App Store & Google Play.

Option 2, payment plan: \$6,250 to start (25%), then \$3,125 a month for 6 months. Launch in 2 weeks.

Owner Portal: you see every search, every AI use and what it costs, live by day and month, so there are never surprises on your bill.

Our recommendation: start smart

Service	Choose?	Cost
The app (web + iPhone + Android)	✓ Yes	\$25,000 flat
Hosting & care (required)	✓ Required	\$300/mo flat
Free sources: eBay, dealer feeds, Craigslist in every state, Facebook near you, classic-site links	✓ Yes	\$0
AI live search: the customer types the exact car; the AI finds where it's listed right now, checks each one and gives the exact link	✓ Yes	≈ 28¢ Radar Pro · ≈ 45¢ Radar Apex
AI deep hunt: longer, wider search for hard-to-find cars	✓ Yes	≈ 60¢ Radar Pro · ≈ \$1.20 Radar Apex
Nationwide listings feed	Not now	≈ \$1,150 – \$1,500/mo
AI listing cleanup · Deal Score price data	Not now	≈ \$1,125 – \$4,150/mo

Why: instead of paying for a nationwide data plan every month, the AI Agent searches the whole web when a customer asks and sends them straight to the site where the car is listed. That saves about **\$3,150–\$5,650 a month** compared with the full data setup. The trade-off: instant in-app results come from eBay and dealer feeds, and Agent hunts take 30–90 seconds and find what search engines have indexed. The nationwide feed can be switched on later with no rebuild.

Estimated monthly	Starting out	Growing
Hosting & care	\$300	\$300
AI live searches (Radar Pro)	1,000 · ≈ \$280	5,000 · ≈ \$1,400
AI deep hunts (Radar Pro)	100 · ≈ \$60	500 · ≈ \$300
Regular searches (no AI)	unlimited · \$0	unlimited · \$0
Total	≈ \$640/mo	≈ \$2,000/mo
with Radar Apex instead	≈ \$870/mo	≈ \$3,150/mo

You set the cap. In the Owner Portal you choose the most AI can cost each month and each day, and how many AI searches one customer gets. Every search shows up there live with its cost. At the cap, AI search pauses on

its own and free regular search keeps working.

Fair-use limits keep the bill predictable: regular searches are free and unlimited; AI live searches can be for paying users, or 1 a day for free users.

Is it a good investment?

Your cost		
Build (one time)	\$25,000 (US agencies typically quote \$100,000+)	
Running it, starting out	≈ \$640/mo	

Income example (monthly)	Amount	Pays back \$25k in
Ads: 100,000 page views at \$10–20 per 1,000	\$1,000–\$2,000	—
Pro plan \$19.99: 100 subscribers	≈ \$2,000	≈ 18 months
Pro plan \$19.99: 300 subscribers	≈ \$6,000	≈ 5 months
10 featured dealers at \$199	≈ \$2,000	—
Mix: ads + 300 Pro + 10 dealers	≈ \$9,000–\$10,000	≈ 3 months

About 33 Pro subscribers or 3 featured dealers already cover the ≈ \$640 monthly cost. Classic car buyers already pay \$47+/mo for apps that only send Facebook alerts. Examples only, not a guarantee. Subscription figures are before Apple/Google fees (15–30% on in-app sales; less on web sales). Ad income varies by traffic and season.

5. Monthly running costs, explained

You pay only for what you switch on. Data and AI are billed monthly on actual use, so they move up or down with traffic. These are estimates. Marketcheck and price-data costs are final once we present the app to them and receive their quotes.

Item	What it is and why it charges	Monthly (estimate)
Hosting & care (required)	We host, run, secure and update the app for you: servers, database, security, updates, fixes and the Owner Portal. Required with every setup. Flat, up to about 100,000 visitors a month.	\$300 flat
eBay · dealer feeds · Facebook & Craigslist links	Free sources.	\$0
Nationwide listings feed (optional)	Marketcheck charges a monthly plan plus a small fee each time we pull new listings.	≈ \$1,150–\$1,500
Deal Score price data (optional)	Licensed sale-price history (Hagerty / J.D. Power / auction results). Priced by quote.	≈ \$550–\$2,700
AI listing cleanup (optional)	AI reads every new listing: clean titles, duplicates merged, scam flags. Charged per listing read.	≈ \$575 (free sources) · ≈ \$1,450 (with nationwide feed)
AI live search (optional)	Finds the exact car wherever it's listed and checks each one. Charged per search because it runs live web searches and opens the pages.	Radar Pro ≈ 28¢ per search, ≈ 60¢ per deep hunt · Radar Apex ≈ 45¢ / ≈ \$1.20 · ≈ \$7–14/mo per saved search re-checked daily
AI tools (optional)	Charged each time a customer uses one.	≈ 2–3¢ per scam check, VIN decode or Concierge answer

Examples

Setup	Monthly
Basic: free sources, no AI	\$300
Basic + nationwide listings feed	≈ \$1,450–\$1,800
+ AI cleanup + 1,000 AI live searches (Radar Pro)	≈ \$3,130–\$3,480
+ Deal Score price data	+ ≈ \$550–\$2,700

Other costs paid directly by you: Apple developer \$99/yr · Google Play \$25 once · payment fees if you sell subscriptions later (Stripe ≈2.9% + 30¢; Apple/Google 15–30%).

6. How you can make money

- **Free + ads** to build traffic first. Ad spaces are built in.
- **Referral fees:** some sites and partners (shipping, inspection, insurance, financing) pay when users click through and buy.
- **Later, a Pro plan:** instant alerts and AI tools for a monthly fee (for example \$19.99) once you have visitors.
- **Dealers** pay to have their cars featured.

7. Timeline: live in 2 weeks

When	Milestone
Week 1	Search engine, apps and Owner Portal built. All applications filed on day 1.
Week 2	Live on the web. iPhone & Android apps submitted to Apple and Google.
Store review	Apps go live on the App Store and Google Play as soon as Apple and Google approve (usually within days).
Ongoing	eBay and partner listings switch on as each one approves.

Approval	Why we need it	Time
eBay Partner Network	eBay only lets approved apps show its listings	2–3 weeks
Marketcheck (if used)	Written license to show its listings in a consumer app	1–3 weeks
Apple & Google (+ free D-U-N-S number)	Every app is reviewed before it goes public	1–2 weeks
Terms of Service & Privacy Policy	Required by Apple, Google and the data sources	~1 week (your attorney)

8. Try it yourself

Two versions of the working demo, the same app with and without AI. Open them on your phone:

- **Without AI:** the "Open WITHOUT AI" button in the slideshow link we sent (address ends in **/without-ai**)
- **With AI** (includes the AI Agent): the "Open WITH AI" button (address ends in **/with-ai**)

The demo shows real cars for sale, each opening its exact listing page. With AI on, type any car and the AI finds where it's listed.

Client signature / date

Developer signature / date

All third-party prices are estimates as of October 2026 and may change. Final data prices follow written quotes from each provider.