I found the perfect no-code automations platform

welcome to the internet and on today's agenda we have why these platforms like zapier and make are so God dang expensive and kind of shitty um and then we're going to go over that a perfect option actually does exist and it's actually way freaking cheaper and then finally how you can extend this system so that you never run into a road block in the rest of your entire life well a technical one that you can't solve so in terms of like the current options we have right now there's basically three big ones so the first is zappier this is like the best well the most well-known and they spend a ton of money on marketing all right so everyone knows what zap here is well everyone with a business um but there's also make which is just a little bit more Technical and a little bit more capable but they don't spend as much as much on marketing a lot of people are going over to make just because the pricing is a little a little bit better and then finally we have NN which is a little bit bad with the pricing as well but they are kind of an even more technical version and I do really like na an we'll talk about them in a second but then there are a ton of other startups and other kind of uh businesses that also do very similar things so you can just search zap your Alternatives you'll find a ton of different options um in my opinion none of them are very fully formed or or as capable as any of the ones that we're going to go over later um but then the question becomes like what is the problem with these workflow tools like why not use these and I'll tell you why because first of all we have fixed pricing with all of them and everyone's gotten used to fixed pricing fixed pricing is normal but it's not going to be all right and zapier I just want to show you something crazy so first of all zapier just blows everyone out out of the water when it comes to pricing they do the most marketing so that's fair enough fair enough but if we go pay monthly who the heck is going to sign on for a year let's go the minimum plan so you could use the free plan but if we go tasks that's $30 a month and if we start to scale that up it just doubles I mean it's not even it's not even discounted 2,000 little bit of a discount but like we're we're literally like we're at $150 a month and that's ,000 tasks you could use that up like that you know it depends what you're doing but the real problem here is I don't know what I'm going to be doing I don't know how many tasks I need I I just want to put something together and test it out and see if I like it and I don't know how much I'm going to need all right and I'm not going to pay them $30 just to test out their platform all right it's not like a note-taking app I'll pay $5 to try it out but with this I'm not paying $30 all right and with make it's not as bad it starts at $10 a month um which is not that bad but again how many tasks you're going to need right and then na of course same deal here with 25,000 for $20 a month so better than zappier but still not that great and then the other thing about this is their ux is really just just bad all right so I just signed into my zapier account and let's just click around a little bit I mean we already see there's like it's it's a website it's it's not like a web app uh at least it doesn't feel like it it doesn't feel very smooth um and I'm just going to like click around some of my workflows I mean it's just like it's just clunky you know it's just like clumpy clunky it's not fun to use and there's a problem because if you go like if you want to do a loop or something I mean first of all to use a web hook which is extremely B basic I mean most people are going to need to use a web

hook that's a pro feature all right um but oh okay coding is not or looping is not a pro feature a loop can only be at the end of your function so you can't do a loop Midway through which causes problems I mean there's all types of different issues that you're going to face here and you kind of just have to say I'm out of luck and you're going to be paying a bunch of money all right so it's time to raise the question I mean what are you actually paying P for and in this case it's mostly the software okay with I mean we just talked about it with zapier the software isn't even good um but I'm going to blow your freaking mind with this pricing all right so zapier make uh Na probably they all run on AWS and if we look at AWS pricing so a Lambda is this is one of their services one of their billion Services because they have no Focus they just have a million different services but but a Lambda is basically a computer that you can spin up instantly so you can deploy like a a a function just like you could with zapier or make and then someone can call it you can call it like basically any way and then it's going to run that function for you um and you don't have to worry about like setting up the infrastructure just like zap here and make all right but you do have to coat okay so let's just let's just see what this pricing looks like so we see the price per millisecond is that number uh like what $88 no it's very little and then let's just say it's going to be mbes of storage to run whatever our workflow is so we'll do that price and then we'll times it by 1,000 to get second so this is a second operation all right so that's that number and most workflows are not going to be second unless you're like calling an AI API or something like that or slower API but if you're just using like basic F basic tasks and uh like regular web hook calls it's going to be like a few milliseconds but let's just let's just give it the benefit of a doubt uh second per execution and then let's say we wanted to do tasks per month look at that number right there that is not even one cent less than a cent almost half of a cent to execute all of that but if we go over to zapier's pricing like we were just looking at I mean tasks is $30 I mean this is insane this is an insane markup and the math on that is they're charging 5,000 times more than the compute is likely costing them and in fact they're probably getting a better deal because it's like a different compute instance than a Lambda so it's probably even more than 5,000 times what it's costing them all right and all you get is the UI okay and so the natural option to go with if you see that and if you become disillusioned is you could go to custom code and that's in fact what I did I wanted pay as you go pricing and I just wanted to actually build out my software because I can put a loop in the middle of my workflow I don't have to conform to zap your stupid UI all right so what I did was I set up this server and basically all it is it's I I mean it's very simple now that I understand it it was pretty hard at the time but basically all it's doing is it has a couple different web Hooks and I'm just going to pull up my invoice for this so here's one of my recent invoices and we can see this number over here autoscale requests all right so this is the amount of times that my server was invoked or started all right and this would count as like a run in n8n or like a start and action probably in zapier or make um and actually make and zapier charge based on the operations so the amount of times that something like runs um or the amount of action something runs so that's basically like kind of a uh a different pricing scenario but if we just pretend that zapier if you were just running one task per run to run 64,000 look at all right all right look at look how crazy this is 64,000 requests 50,000 let's just say 50,000 tasks we're at $400 $400 a month and let's just look over at this uh at this invoice that cost me cents that cost me cents and then of course the uh the compute the actual compute that it costed was $30 so this is the amount of time that it ran all right so the amount of like milliseconds that it ran for all right so this is an insane price difference all right even if we go to make I mean

make would be $60 a month and that's just like that's literally for like that amount of operations but the other thing with make that we'll see is even if you have this plan and you're like willing to pay that amount more you still don't get as much memory you still don't get as much features because you can extend code so much more all right but it does take a lot longer to build things with code so that brings us on to what the perfect option would actually look like all right so first of all we need pay as you go pricing all right we just need we just need it all right it and I'm going to make a I'm going to make a bold claim here that is not actually that bold within the next years the majority of these services like make NA zap year they're going to have a free tier and then they're going to have a pay you go tier and then you can get both discounts if you upgrade but that pay you go tier is crucial for getting people in the door um like me who aren't necessarily sure how many tasks they're going to want to run and how many features they're going to want all right so the other thing that we want to make sure is we're not sacrificing any ease of setting up your task okay because no code is actually insanely nice all right I've written you know code before I've written code uh decent amount in the last few months and it's fun for about a day but then when one tiny feature takes you hours you realize that uh you should really be doing something else all right so that brings us over to NN I'm just going to show show you like this is all it takes to run a web hook I'm literally put in the URL and hit test all right and it works but if we go over to something like this uh yeah so if we just come back to this server we can see I mean this is receiving an event and then this is a post and this is literally using an axos uh Library so it's a little bit easier but look at all this code just to do like a basic function all right it's just way more intensive and you have to worry about like you can't see everything so you have to kind of like maneuver around anyways if you've written code you kind of understand that it's it's a little bit harder than doing no code but now the final part of actually having like the perfect option is that you can extend your workflow for as much functionality as you want okay so there's something kind of interesting going on where like people are creating a apis to interact with AI or do things so I just want to show one example dumpling AI so they have some pretty cool features here um you can scrape a web page you can get a YouTube transcript you can uh convert a document to text so there's all these kind of cool things that you can do but if we go to their pricing section again it's not pay as you go I mean it's a flat fee so you're going to have zap here and then you're going to have this on top of that and so you're going to you're going to be paying like $100 a month just for like one basic basic workflow because you need to bring in these third party apis because there's literally no other option all right so here is the perfect scenario and you already saw it it's nan.

and the interesting thing about n is they have this this pricing um structure but this is for this is for like when they host it because basically like we said earlier you're just paying for the UI and in this case you're not okay they're they're charging you for for the compute and the easiness of kind of setting up the server but I set up my own like instance of this in just a couple of hours it was very easy and now it cost me $6 a month instead of and I can run more than 25,000 executions okay that's like the amazing part so I'm going to go over to my digital ocean account and I think it's going to give me 2fa because security let's go all right so if we go over to my this is my n instance and we can see that for the past hour I mean let's just go past days I mean it's it's gotten up there a little bit but it's barely using any of the computer look this peak is 20% of the CPU I mean this computer is literally using nothing and because it's your server you can just run this bad boy up to 100% for like 4 hours every single day and

you're still paying $6 a month so you can run as many workflows as you want and the beautiful thing is that like most automations are asynchronous right so like you you know you call someone and you want them to be saved to your CRM it's not like you need it instantly it's going to come over and you can just have the tasks go one after the other like you don't have to have it be instantaneous so that's like one of the really strong points of n an and I I know it's not exactly pay as you go but it's $6 a month all right that's like a coffee or a bag of chips so it's honestly a bargain I can just leave this and forget about it and I'll be happy um and then the other cool thing about self-hosting your own instance of like these no code Builders is you can basically do whatever you want so you can use your own custom packages in the code block um and I'm just going to show you that so it's kind of a funny story here but code with n is very native to the platform all right so also if we go to like AWS they have a lot of AWS Services which is pretty AWS is kind of like the uh it's like uh okay I'm just trying to get some ideas for my analogy but basically AWS is basically just used by like engineers and really technical people or Enterprises but they have AWS nodes which shows that they're kind of more technical all right you can do a lot of different looping functions but I just I just want to show you this really quick so the code the the code function you can uh you can bring in your own packages or modules so modules are basically a way to bring in other people's code to your project so you don't have to like write something so there's this really cool one um called ytdl and then we're going to write require and we'll put ytdl core because this one allows you to download YouTube videos like through code okay and I mean that's just amazing like that means you can take YouTube videos and repurpose them um automatically so if we just hit test step it's going to work because it imported that package and I have a guide on n's community on how to do that um but yeah I mean this is a huge game changer because if you use a system like zap here or make you're not going to be able to do that you're going to be stuck with whatever they they have and last thing on make I just want to say is I mean look at this look at this notice anything notice anything it's got dark mode what platform has dark mode I mean like barely anyone is willing to put in the effort to actually build out a dark mode and na has it I mean it's just so much better for working at night it just matches everything I mean this is this is this is the greatest feature in its own but now we get on to basically the last part of this video which is that you can't do everything with n or any node code platform that you're going to use all right that's just kind of the sad reality of how things are um because I mean they're just not built to do everything and the problem here is I was I was talking all that stuff about ytdl but if you actually try to use ytdl to download a YouTube video it just doesn't work um I'm not exactly sure why there's no documentation on it because it's kind of a niche use case but essentially it's just like a weird environment for it to be running so it probably doesn't work because of that so what you can do instead is you can set up your own um Google Cloud account now I'm on the free plan for Google cloud and the cool thing is Google Cloud is just like AWS and Azure Microsoft Azure is it's like usage based pricing and their free plan is also you know it's meant for like people running real businesses so their free plan is going to cover you to like or 1,000 monthly active users like you're fine you're not worried you know so you can literally run as much as you want and you might pay like $5 a month okay so I have a function in here ytdl and basically all I'm doing is invoking that function through a web Hook and the other great thing about having like this kind of system where you're running uh different functions on Google Cloud by the way you can use python or JavaScript or node so you can actually like run you know basically whatever you want is you can use your own like

IDE so this is Zed I mean Zed is the greatest editor known to man um and yeah I mean also um my keyboard shortcut doesn't work for this but you can bring up Claude and actually bring in I mean look how awesome this is help me with this code I actually don't know why this is highlight in blue so maybe I could ask that about that but you just hit active and it brings in this exact file look at that look how easy that is I mean I I guess you could probably copy and paste it but it's just so good and Claude blows chat gbt out of the absolute water so um yeah so in summary essentially here's what your setup is going to be ideally um firstly you just self-host your own instance of n on digital Ocean or Google Cloud I started using digital first before Google Cloud so I didn't I would have gone on Google Cloud cuz it's the same uh plan but essentially you just do any in self hosting and they have a guide I mean it's relatively straightforward I could probably make a video but there's there's plenty of uh there's plenty of documentation on how to do it it really isn't that hard um and then you're also going to import basic packages this is also pretty straightforward so you can just import whatever packages you need to use and then finally you just Outsource whatever you need to do besides that to Google Cloud functions which is going to be extremely cheap so overall you're probably in for under $10 a month and you can run as many functions as you want with as much functionality as you want and I mean what's not to love oh and the ux is insanely good because you have n and you also have your own code editor I mean this is just it's just the bees need and that's why I had to make a video about it so anyways um like And subscribe and follow for more vlogs