Automation tool decision worksheet

Evaluate one identical workflow, including retries and exceptions. Score the intended configuration, not the size of the app directory.

Project / team: _____ Owner: _____
Date / edition: _____ Must-have outcome: _____

Requirement / test	n8n	Make	Zapier
Required applications, actions and API access			
Branching and transformation of the actual payload			
Stable matching key and duplicate protection			
Recovery after a partially completed execution			
Billing: executions / credits / tasks under current terms			
Operating model: hosting, access, backups and monitoring			
Named owner, alert recipient and maintenance documentation			

For comparisons: use 0 = not met, 1 = partial, 2 = met, 3 = strong fit. Record evidence and edition dependencies; scores are your assessment, not a vendor rating.

Validate before you commit

Use one realistic scenario and one exception. Note the actual evidence, not only whether the connector or platform reports success.

[ ] The trigger and definition of completion are documented.

[ ] A repeated trigger creates no duplicate business outcome.

[ ] A missing required field stops or routes the exception deliberately.

[ ] An API outage and a disconnected credential are tested.

[ ] Replay does not unintentionally resend an email or recreate a deal.

[ ] Monthly cost uses real event volume, actions and retries.

[ ] Hosting, licence suitability and ownership are separately reviewed.

Critical blocker / missing evidence

Next action / responsible person

Decision / next review date

Reference / Referenz: https://n8n.io/pricing/

Implementation guidance, not a performance guarantee. Verify current product scope and requirements before purchase or rollout.