

# **Alibaba Cloud Elastic Compute Service**

Pricing

Issue: 20190111

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# Generic conventions

Table -1: Style conventions

Style	Description	Example
	This warning information indicates a situation that will cause major system changes, faults, physical injuries, and other adverse results.	 <b>Danger:</b> Resetting will result in the loss of user configuration data.
	This warning information indicates a situation that may cause major system changes, faults, physical injuries, and other adverse results.	 <b>Warning:</b> Restarting will cause business interruption. About 10 minutes are required to restore business.
	This indicates warning information, supplementary instructions, and other content that the user must understand.	 <b>Notice:</b> Take the necessary precautions to save exported data containing sensitive information.
	This indicates supplemental instructions, best practices, tips, and other content that is good to know for the user.	 <b>Note:</b> You can use <b>Ctrl + A</b> to select all files.
>	Multi-level menu cascade.	<b>Settings &gt; Network &gt; Set network type</b>
<b>Bold</b>	It is used for buttons, menus, page names, and other UI elements.	Click <b>OK</b> .
Courier font	It is used for commands.	Run the <code>cd /d C:/windows</code> command to enter the Windows system folder.
<i>Italics</i>	It is used for parameters and variables.	<code>bae log list --instanceid Instance_ID</code>
[ ] or [a b]	It indicates that it is a optional value, and only one item can be selected.	<code>ipconfig [-all -t]</code>
{ } or {a b}	It indicates that it is a required value, and only one item can be selected.	<code>swich {stand / slave}</code>

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# 1 Pricing overview

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## Pricing

For the price information, see the [Pricing](#) page.

## Chargeable resources

The price of an ECS instance depends on the following resources:

- Instance types, images, and cloud disks: The price of these resources vary according to the billing method you select. For more information, see [#unique\\_4](#).
  - Instance types: The instance type determines the number of vCPU cores and the size of memory.
  - Images:
    - Public images: Charges apply only for Windows OS images and Red Hat images. Linux or Unix-like OS images are free of charge.
    - Marketplace images: The price is determined by the image supplier.
    - Shared images or custom images: If they are created by using marketplace images, the price is determined by the image provider.
  - Cloud disks: Disks created together with an ECS instance have the same billing method as the ECS instance. Disks created separately are billed according to the [#unique\\_5](#) billing method. For a Pay-As-You-Go cloud disk, after an ECS instance is created, you can [change the instance billing method from Pay-As-You-Go to Subscription](#) in the ECS console. Alternatively, you can [upgrade the Pay-As-You-Go instance configurations](#) to change the billing method.
- Public network bandwidth: If a public IP address is assigned to your ECS instance when you create or upgrade it, you must pay for public network bandwidth. For more information, see [#unique\\_8](#).



### Note:

VPC-Connected ECS instances can access the Internet by binding an EIP address to them. For more information, see [Billing of EIP](#).

- Snapshots: Snapshots are free of charge.

## 2 Billing method comparison

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This article describes the pricing, billing methods, and payment methods of an ECS instance.

### Pricing

The price of an ECS instance varies according to the following:

- Instance type, including the memory capacity and the number of CPU cores.
- Region: The price for the same instance type varies in different regions.
- Image: Windows images are more expensive than Linux or UNIX images for the same instance type in the same region because Microsoft charges an additional license fee for Windows images.

For more information, see [Pricing](#).

### Billing methods

Currently, ECS instances support two billing methods:

- Subscription

A prepaid method that allows you to use an instance only after you make the payment for it. Instance usage is billed on a monthly basis, and the billing unit is USD/month. Subscription is applicable to fixed 24/7 services, such as Web services. For more information, see [Subscription](#).

- Pay-As-You-Go

A postpaid method in which you can pay after using the instance. Instance usage is billed on a minute basis, and the billing unit is US\$/hour. The minimum charge for the lifecycle of an ECS instance (from creation to release) is USD 0.01. Pay-As-You-Go is applicable to scenarios where sudden traffic spikes occur, such as temporary scaling, interim testing, and scientific computing. For more information, see [Pay-As-You-Go](#).

### Functions

The functions of an ECS instance vary depending on the billing method. The following table lists the differences between Subscription and Pay-As-You-Go billing.



Function	Subscription	Pay-As-You-Go
Renew	Supported. You can <a href="#">manually renew</a> , <a href="#">activate auto-renewal</a> , or <a href="#">renew for downgrade</a> for your ECS instance.	Not supported.
Release instances at any time	Not supported. The instance will be automatically released if it is not timely renewed after the instance expires.	Supported. If you do not need an instance any longer, <a href="#">release it</a> immediately. Otherwise, the instance is still billed even after it is stopped until it is out of service and automatically released because of overdue payment. You can enable the <a href="#">No fees for stopped instances (VPC-Connected)</a> feature.
Change instance specification	Supported. For more information, see <a href="#">Overview of configuration changes</a> .	Supported.
Upgrade bandwidth	Supported. For more information, see <a href="#">Overview of configuration changes</a> .	Supported.
Change billing method	Not supported.	Supported. You can switch from Pay-As-You-Go to Subscription. For more information, see <a href="#">Switch from Pay-As-You-Go to subscription</a> .
ICP Filing for instances in regions inside mainland China	Supported.	Not supported.
Use API to create instances	Supported.	Supported.

## Payment methods

The payment methods of an ECS instance vary depending on the billing method.

Currently, you can use credit cards, PayPal, or coupons to pay for instances. Before you purchase an ECS instance, you must add a credit card or PayPal account to your Alibaba Cloud account.



### Note:

- For more information about the adding procedure, see [Configure your account](#).

- Purchase of ECS instances in regions inside mainland China requires real-name registration. For more information about real-name registration, see [Real-name Registration for purchase of China mainland ECS](#).

- **Subscription** is a prepaid billing method. Therefore, payment by credit card, PayPal account, or coupons is supported. For more information about billing rules, see [Subscription](#).

To view the billing record for a Subscription instance, log on to the ECS Console and go to **Billing Management > Bills > Subscription**.

- The **Pay-As-You-Go** billing method allows you to use instances first and then pay for the resources you have used. Payment by credit card or coupons is supported. For more information about billing rules, see [Pay-As-You-Go](#).

To view the billing record for a Pay-As-You-Go instance, log on to the ECS Console and go to **Billing Management > Bills > Pay-As-You-Go**.

## 3 Subscription

For the Subscription billing method, you can use resources only after you have paid for them.

### Applicable resources

Currently, Subscription billing is used for the following ECS resources:

- ECS instances, including CPU configuration and memory capacity
- Images
- System disks and/or data disks

If you create an ECS instance that uses Subscription billing, the **Instance Cost** displayed in the lower right of the instance creation page is the total cost of the three resources listed.

### Payment methods

You can pay for resources in Subscription mode using either of the following methods:

- Credit card or PayPal account bound to your Alibaba Cloud account. See [Configure your account](#) in *Account Management* to bind a credit card or PayPal account to your account.
- Coupons for Subscription products.

**Note:**

Log on to the ECS console and select **Billing Management > Coupon Management** to view the **Applicable Scenarios** of your coupons and check whether the coupons are applicable to Subscription products.

### Billing period

Resources in Subscription mode are billed on a monthly basis. The billing period is based on the UTC+8 time zone. It starts from the resource activation time and ends at 00:00:00 on the second day after one month or one year.

For example, if you activate an ECS instance in Monthly Subscription mode at 13:23:56 March 12, 2017, the first billing cycle for the instance ends at 00:00:00 April 13, 2017.

The price unit varies depending on the resource. The following table lists the price units for various resources.

Resource	Price unit
ECS instance	USD/month

Resource	Price unit
Image	USD/month
System disk	USD/(GiB*month)
Data disk	USD/(GiB*month)

To continue using a resource after the billing period has ended, you can renew your ECS instance at the end of a billing period. For more information about the renewal procedure, see [Manual renewal](#) or [Auto-renewal](#).

### Status changes after expiration

The status of a Subscription instance after it expires will change depending on whether the auto-renewal feature is enabled.

- **Auto-renewal disabled**

If auto-renewal is disabled, and a Subscription instance is not renewed at the end of the billing period, it goes out of service within the 24 hours from 00:00:00 on the expiration day to 00:00:00 the next day. The status changes of related resources are shown in the following table.

Period	ECS instances and images	System disks	Data disks	Internet IP addresses	Snapshots
On the expiration day	Out of service *, and images are disabled.	Out of service , but data is retained.	Out of service , but data on cloud disks , local disks , or shared block storage devices is retained.	For an instance of the Classic network type: If an Internet IP address is assigned, it is retained. For a VPC-Connected ECS instance : If an Internet IP address is assigned, it is retained. If an EIP address is bound, it is retained.	Retained.

Period	ECS instances and images	System disks	Data disks	Internet IP addresses	Snapshots
15 days after expiration	Released automatically	Released along with the instance, and data cannot be recovered.	By default, cloud disks are released along with the instance and data on them cannot be recovered. If you have set the cloud disks not to be released along with the instance, the disks stop working. Local disks are released along with the instance and data on them cannot be recovered. Shared block storage is detached automatically from the instance.	For an instance of the Classic network type: If an Internet IP address is assigned, it is released. For a VPC-Connected ECS instance: If an Internet IP address is assigned, it is retained. If an EIP address is bound, it is unbound from the instance.	Automatic snapshots are automatically deleted, but those manually created are retained. Manual snapshots are not affected.

\* When an instance is **Out of service**, you cannot connect to it, the website deployed on the instance cannot be accessed, and your business operations may be affected.



**Note:**

You cannot enable the auto-renewal feature for an instance after it expires.

- **Auto-renewal enabled**

If auto-renewal is enabled for an instance, but it fails to be renewed in the specified period, the status changes of the related resources are shown in the following table.

Period	ECS instances and images	System disks	Data disks	Internet IP addresses	Snapshots
Within 15 days of expiration	Running properly*.	Running properly.	Running properly.	Retained.	Retained.
15 days after expiration	The instance goes out of service** at any time within the 24 hours from 00:00:00 on the 15th day after expiration to 00:00:00 the next day.	Out of service , but data is retained.	Out of service , but data is retained.	For an instance of the Classic network type: If an Internet IP address is assigned, it is released. For a VPC-Connected ECS instance : If an Internet IP address is assigned, it is retained. If an EIP address is bound, it is retained.	Retained.

Period	ECS instances and images	System disks	Data disks	Internet IP addresses	Snapshots
30 days after expiration	Automatically released.	Released along with the instance, and data cannot be recovered.	By default , the cloud disks are released along with the instance . If you set them not to be released along with the instance , they stop working. Local disks are released along with the instance. Shared block storage is automatically detached.	For an instance of the Classic network type: If an Internet IP address is assigned, it is released. For a VPC-Connected ECS instance : If an Internet IP address is assigned, it is released. If an EIP address is bound, it is unbound from the instance.	Automatic snapshots are automatically deleted, but those that are manually created are retained.

\* **Running properly** means you can start and stop the instance properly and connect to the instance by using the **Management Terminal** in the console or other remote connection methods.

\*\* When an instance is **Out of service**, you cannot connect to it, the website deployed on the instance cannot be accessed, and your business operations may be affected.

## 4 Pay-As-You-Go

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With the Pay-As-You-Go billing method, you are charged based on the amount of resources you actually use. Pay-As-You-Go allows you to activate and release resources at any time to meet your requirements. You can purchase resources on demand, and scale up as your business grows. Costs can be reduced by 30% to 80% compared to a traditional host investment, with which many resources may be wasted at times.

### Applicable resources

Currently, the Pay-As-You-Go billing method is applicable to the following ECS resources:

- ECS instances, including CPU configuration and memory capacity
- Images
- System disks and/or data disks

If you create an ECS instance that uses the Pay-As-You-Go billing method, the **Instance Cost** displayed in the bottom of the instance creation page is the total fee for the preceding three types of resources.

You can make following changes after activating Pay-As-You-Go resources:

- Resource configuration change:

You can change the instance types, including CPU configuration and memory capacity, after you create an instance. For more information, see [#unique\\_19](#).

- Billing method change:

Instances, system disks, and data disks support switching from Pay-As-You-Go billing to Subscription billing. For more information, see [#unique\\_6](#).

### Payment methods

You can use a credit card or a PayPal account linked to your Alibaba Cloud account to pay for Pay-As-You-Go resources. For more information, see [Add a payment method](#).

**Note:**

If you are using PayPal as the payment method after activating a Pay-As-You-Go resource and place an order, Alibaba Cloud preauthorizes on your PayPal account.



## Billing period

A Pay-As-You-Go resource is billed by the second after it is created, and billing stops after it is released.

For a VPC instance, you can enable the [no fees for stopped instances feature](#). When the feature is enabled, a VPC instance is not billed when it is in a **Stopped** status. This feature is only available for instances, and not for other ECS resources.

The billing cycle varies depending on the resource types. The minimum charge for the lifecycle of an ECS instance (from creation to release) is USD 0.01.

Item	Instances + Images	System disks	Data disks
Billing cycle	One second	One second	One second
Price unit	USD/hour	USD/(GiB * hours)	USD/(GiB * hours)

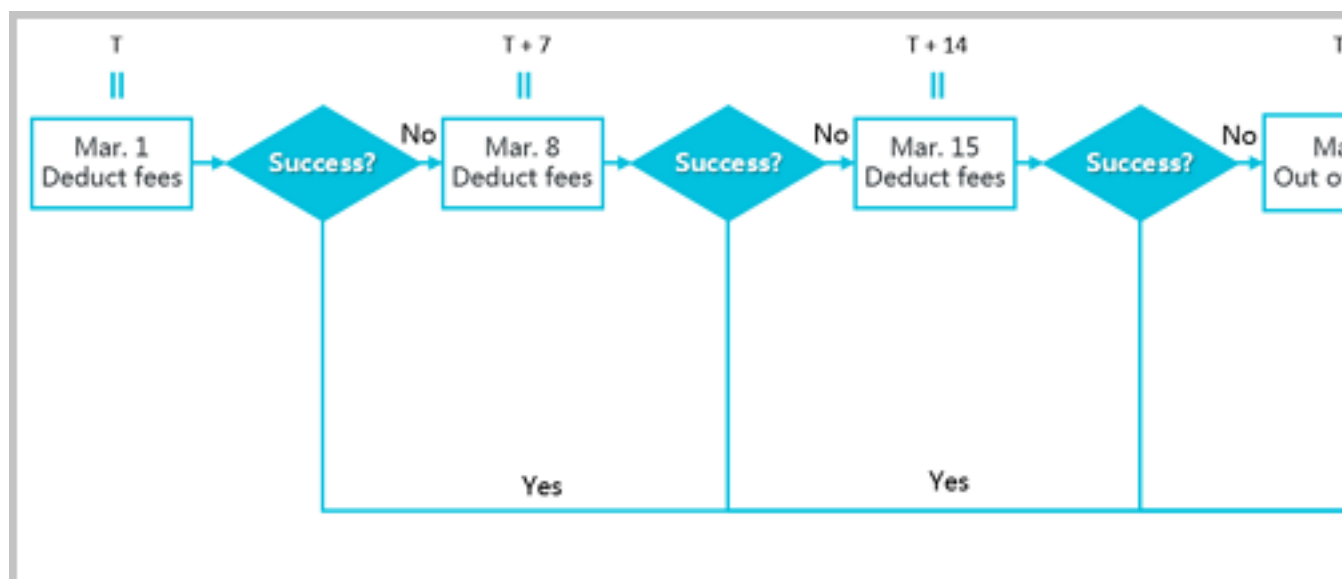
## Settlement cycle

Pay-As-You-Go resources are billed by the second, but settled by the hour. Note the following:

- Payments for Pay-As-You-Go resources are settled together with other products under your account that are billed after you use them.
- Generally, if the cumulative monthly consumption amount of your account is less than 1,000 USD, fees are deducted on the first day of the following month.
- If you have a quota agreement with Alibaba Cloud, fees are deducted when the cumulative consumption amount of your account exceeds the quota.

Cumulative consumption amount	Due date (T)	Fee deduction day	Description
Cumulative monthly consumption amount less than 1,000 USD.	The first day of the following month.	T, T+7, and T+14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In the event of deduction failure on the due date (T), the system attempts to deduct fees again on the day T+7 and the day T+14.</li> <li>- If fee deduction fails three times, the instance goes out of service on the day T+15. In this case, the instance stops running but data is retained. Billing stops when the instance is out of service.</li> <li>- When your instance is out of service, you must <b>open a ticket to clear the overdue payment</b>. After the overdue payment is cleared, you must <b>reactivate the instance</b> before the day T+30. Otherwise, the instance is released automatically.</li> <li>- If the overdue payment fails to be cleared before the day T+30, the instance is released and data cannot be recovered.</li> </ul>
Agreed quota	On the day when the quota is exceeded		

- Example: The following flowchart shows the settlement process for a Pay-As-You-Go ECS instance. Assume that the due date is March 1.



### Instructions for settlement

- **Settlement period**
  - For ECS instances: The active duration is the time during which the ECS instance runs properly, starting from when the ECS instance is activated to when it is released or expires. If the instance is out of service during the active duration due to an overdue payment, billing stops until the payment is cleared.
  - For system disks and/or data disks: The active duration is the time during which the disks run properly, starting from when the disks are activated to when they are released.
- **Release rules**
  - If payment for an ECS instance is overdue, usage of Pay-As-You-Go cloud disks is restricted, and the cloud disks cannot process I/O read and write requests properly, affecting the normal running of the ECS instance. The impact includes but is not limited to the reduced performance of application read/write, serious time-out of some operations, and power-off or restart failure for some operating system versions.
  - ECS instances configured with the automatic release time are automatically released at a specified time.
  - Notification of release: In the event of service expiration or overdue payment, the system notifies you by email.

**Resource status when an instance is out of service**

If you fail to pay for the Pay-As-You-Go resources fees three times in one settlement period, the instance is out of service on the day T+15. When your instance is out of service, you cannot use the resources normally until you clear the overdue payment. Once the payment is cleared, you must [reactivate the instance](#) within the specified period. The following table lists the status of the related resources once the instance is out of service.

Period	ECS instance and image	System disk + data disks	Internet IP address	Snapshots
Within 15 days of the instance going out of service (T+15 to T+30)	Both stop working .	When the instance is out of service*, the capability of the cloud disks and the local disks is limited. But the data on them is retained.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>For instances of the Classic network type: The assigned Internet IP address is retained.</li><li>For VPC instances: If an Internet IP address is assigned, it is retained. If an elastic IP (EIP) address is bound to the instance, it is retained.</li></ul>	Retained.

Period	ECS instance and image	System disk + data disks	Internet IP address	Snapshots
15 days after the instance goes out of service (T+30)	Released automatically. You are notified in advance by emails when the resources will be released.	All cloud disks , including system disks and data disks that are created separately or together with the instance, or that are attached to the instance or not, are released automatically. The data cannot be recovered. The local disks are released automatically, and the data on them cannot be recovered. If shared block storage is attached to the instance, it is detached automatically, and the data on it is retained.	For instances of the Classic network type: The assigned Internet IP address is released. For VPC instances: If an Internet IP address is assigned, it is released. If an EIP address is bound to the instance, it is unbound automatically.	The automatic snapshots are deleted automatically. The snapshots that are manually created are retained.

\* When a Pay-As-You-Go instance is **out of service**, the instance is in an **Expired** status. During the period it is out of service, no fees are incurred.

## FAQs

### If a Pay-As-You-Go ECS instance is out of service or has stopped running, are fees still incurred?

An instance stops working and is rendered out-of-service when a payment is overdue. When a Pay-As-You-Go instance is out of service, it is in an **Expired** status, and no fees are incurred.

A stopped instance is in a Stopped status and has been stopped [in the ECS console](#) or by using the [StopInstance](#) interface. Billing of a stopped instance varies according to the network type of the instance:

- VPC: You can enable the [No fees for stopped instances \(VPC-Connected\)](#) feature. When this feature is enabled, an instance is not billed when it is in a **Stopped** status. This feature is only available for instances, and not for other resources.
- Classic: An instance continues to be billed even after it is in a **Stopped** status.

## 5 No fees for stopped VPC instances

For Pay-As-You-Go VPC instances, you can enable the feature of no fees for stopped instances. After it is enabled, vCPUs, memory, and Internet addresses will incur no cost when a VPC instance is stopped, but its cloud disks are still charged.

### Definition

The **No fees for stopped instances (VPC-Connected)** feature means you do not have to pay for the vCPUs, memory, and Internet addresses of a **Stopped** (Stopped) Pay-As-You-Go VPC instance that is stopped in the [ECS console](#), by using the [#unique\\_22](#) interface, or by using [Alibaba Cloud CLI](#). Its cloud disks, however, are still charged.

### Description of applicability

- This feature applies to the following conditions. In other words, resources that meet the following conditions are **not charged**:

Item	Description
Billing method	Pay-As-You-Go
Network type	VPC
Resources	vCPUs, memory, and Internet addresses (released for a stopped VPC instance)



#### Notice:

- If you stop an instance in its OS, the instance is still billed even if the feature is enabled.
  - If you stop an instance in the ECS console, by using the API, or by using Alibaba Cloud CLI, vCPU and memory are not billed.
- This feature does not apply to the following conditions. In other words, resources that meet the following conditions are **charged**:

Item	Description
Local-disk instances	All instances with local disks, including but not limited to the d1, d1ne, ga1, gn5, i1 and i2 instance type families.

Item	Description
Cloud disks attached to the instances (including system disks and data disks ), elastic IP (EIP) addresses, bandwidth, and images	After this feature is enabled, billing of these resources continues when the instance is in the <b>No Fees for Stopped Instances (VPC-Connected)</b> mode. For more information about billing, see <a href="#">Pay-As-You-Go</a> , <a href="#">cloud disk pricing</a> , <a href="#">billing of network bandwidth</a> , <a href="#">bandwidth pricing</a> , and <a href="#">EIP pricing</a> .
Instances being started	New Pay-As-You-Go VPC instances that are entering the <b>Running</b> status ( <code>Running</code> ) from the <b>Stopped</b> status ( <code>Stopped</code> ) during their first startup. You can create such instances in the <a href="#">ECS console</a> or by using the <a href="#">CreateInstance</a> API.
Instances that are stopped due to overdue payment	In this case, billing also stops. The computing resources and Internet addresses are released too. Billing of all resources resumes after your instance is successfully <a href="#">reactivated</a> .
Pay-As-You-Go instances in classic networks	After such an instance enters the <b>Stopped</b> status, Alibaba Cloud continues to bill the instance and its related resources. The Internet and private IP addresses of the instance remain unchanged after the instance is restarted.

## Impacts

This feature has the following impacts on your instance when it is enabled and the instance is stopped:

- The vCPU and memory are released, so you may be unable to start your instance next time. If this happens, try again after some time. You can also try again after [changing configurations of Pay-As-You-Go instances](#).
- If the instance is assigned an Internet address, the address is released. After you start your instance in the [ECS console](#) or by using the [StartInstance](#) interface, your instance is assigned a new Internet address. However, its private IP address remains unchanged.



### Note:

If you do not want to change the Internet address, you can stop the instance after [converting the Internet address to an EIP address](#).

- When a t5 instance is stopped, the existing CPU credits are valid but credit accrual stops. When it starts, CPU credits continue to accrue. For more information, see [basic concepts](#).

For such operations as [replace the system disk](#) (`ReplaceSystemDisk`), [roll back a disk](#) (`ResetDisk`), [reinitialize a disk](#) (`ReInitDisk`) and more, you need to stop the instance and restart it



in a short time. You can perform any of the following actions to make sure that your instance starts successfully:

- Log on to the ECS console. On the **Overview** page, turn off **Enable No Fees for Stopped Instances (VPC-Connected) in All Regions**.
- Log on to the ECS console. When you stop an instance, select the **Keep Instance with Fees** check box.
- If you are using APIs or Alibaba Cloud CLI, set `StoppedMode = KeepCharging` in the [StopInstance](#) interface.

## Enable the feature

### Method 1: Enable the feature for all instances

You must manually enable the **No fees for stopped instances (VPC-Connected)** feature. Once the feature is enabled, it applies to all Pay-As-You-Go VPC instances in all the regions under your account. If the feature is enabled and you want to keep fees for a Pay-As-You-Go VPC instance when you stop it, you can select the **Keep Instance with Fees** option when you stop the instance.



#### Note:

If you already have one or more Pay-As-You-Go VPC instances in use, this feature is not automatically enabled. After you fully understand and confirm that the feature does not result in uncontrollable impacts on your systems or applications, you can log on to the ECS console to enable it.

To enable the **No fees for stopped instances (VPC-Connected)** feature, follow these steps:

1. Log on to the [ECS console](#).
2. In the left-side navigation pane, click **Overview**.
3. In the **Common Operation** area, click **Settings**.
4. Toggle **Enable No Fees for Stopped Instances (VPC-Connected) in All Regions**: ON, read the note in the displayed box, and then click **No Fees for stopped instances (VPC-Connected)**.
5. Click **OK**.

### Method 2: Enable the feature for a single instance

When you [stop a single instance](#), you can enable this feature by clicking **No Fees for stopped instances (VPC-Connected)** in the displayed box.

## Disable the feature

### Method 1: Disable the feature for all instances

**Note:**

After this feature is disabled:

- This operation takes effect for all the Pay-As-You-Go VPC instances in all the regions under your account. Please proceed with caution.
- For an instance that is **Stopped** (Stopped), it is still not billed if the **Stop mode** is **No fees for stopped instances**. After it is started,
  - A new Internet address is assigned if it had one before it was stopped.
  - The EIP address remains unchanged if it is not unbound before the instance was stopped.

To disable the feature, follow these steps:

1. Log on to the [ECS console](#).
2. In the left-side navigation pane, click **Overview**.
3. In the **Common Operation** area, click **Settings**.
4. Toggle **Enable No Fees for Stopped Instances (VPC-Connected) in All Regions**: OFF, read the note in the displayed box, and then click **I Agree**.
5. Click **OK**.

### Method 2: Disable the feature for a single instance

When you [stop an instance](#), select the **Keep Instance with Fees** check box in the displayed box.

## 6 Renew instances

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### 6.1 Renewal overview

If you want to continue using a Subscription instance after it expires, you must renew the instance within the prescribed period. Otherwise, both the instance and disk are automatically released. The stored data is erased permanently and cannot be recovered. For more information about what happens when a Subscription instance expires, see [Subscription](#).

**Note:**

- You cannot cancel a paid renewal order.
- Pay-As-You-Go instances do not involve renewal. Make sure you have sufficient balance on your linked credit card or PayPal account to cover the costs.

Subscriptions to Alibaba Cloud ECS can be renewed by the following means:

- [Manual renewal](#)
  - The instance configurations cannot be changed at the time of renewal.
  - Renewal cycle: One month or one year.
- [Auto-renewal](#). You can enable the auto-renewal feature for an instance at or after instance creation. The instance is automatically renewed before it expires.
  - The instance configuration is unchangeable at the time of renewal.
  - Renewal cycle: Renewed based on the current billing cycle of the instance.
- [Renewal for Configuration Downgrade](#). You can downgrade the configuration of an instance and its associated resources when renewing the instance. The downgraded configuration takes effect at the start of the next billing cycle, which can reduce the costs.
  - The instance configuration is changeable at the time of renewal.
  - Renewal cycle: One month or one year.

### 6.2 Manual renewal

#### Introduction

Manual renewal only applies to instances that use the **Subscription** billing method.

You can manually renew your **Subscription** instances when they are in an **Expired** status or are shut down. You can manually renew your instance for a month or a year. Therefore, if you want to modify the service duration of your Subscription instances, you can choose manual renewal.

- Your instance will still work normally when the instance is in an **Expired** status. If manual renewal is successfully completed within 15 days of the instance expiring, the start of the next billing cycle will be the day the instance expired.

For example, if your instance expired at 00:00:00 on April 25, 2016, but you successfully renewed it for one month on May 9, 2016, the billing cycle for this renewal is from April 25, 2016 to 00:00:00 on May 25, 2016.

- If the instance fails to be renewed within 15 days of expiration, the instance will be shut down.
- After the instance is shut down:
  - Your instance will stop providing services, but your data will be retained for a further 15 days.
  - If the instance is renewed within 15 days of the instance being shut down (within 30 days of the instance expiring), your instance will enter the new billing cycle from the day of renewal, and your data will be retained for the new cycle.

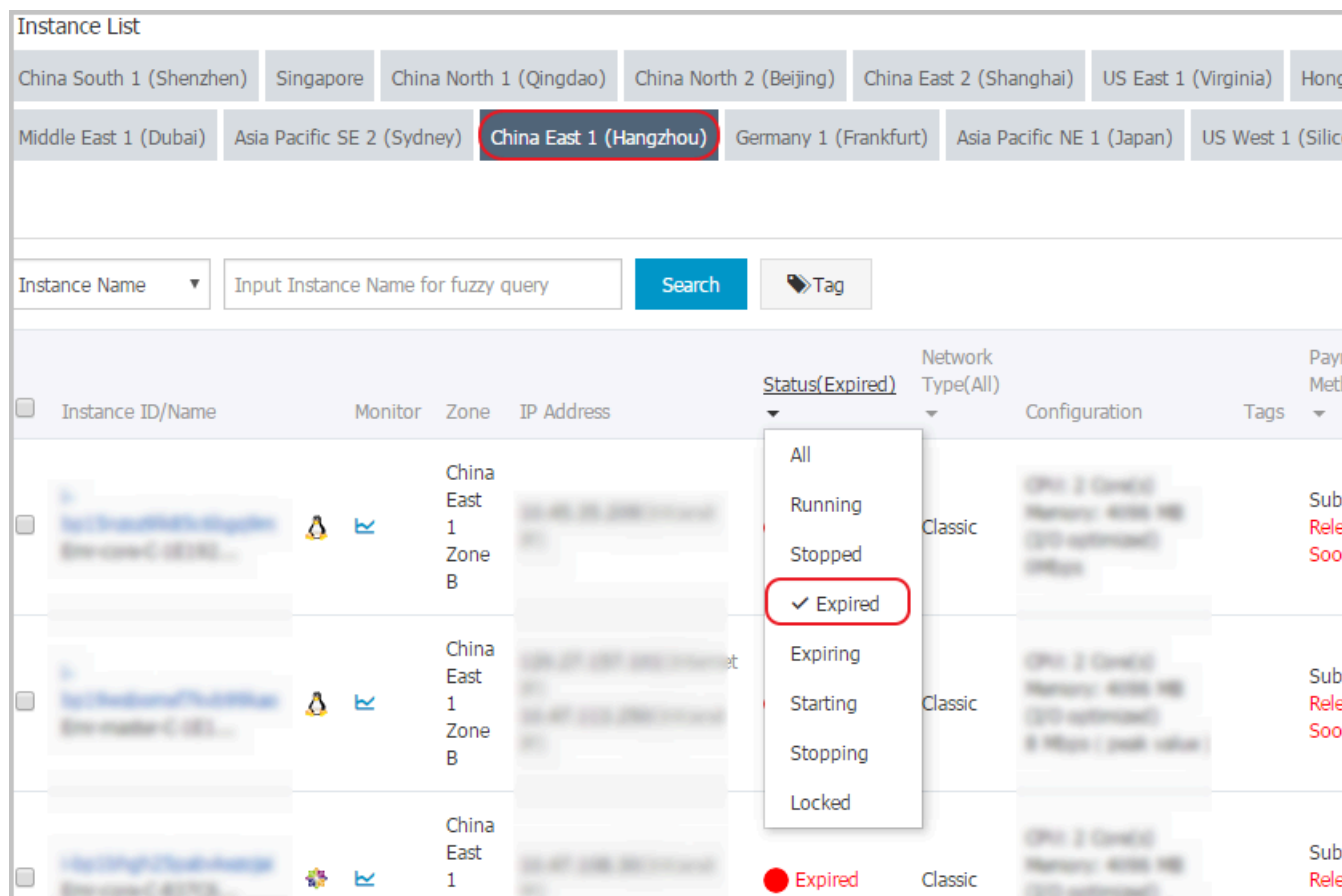
For example, if your instance was shut down at 00:00:00 on May 10, 2016, but you successfully renewed it for one month at 08:09:35 on May 23, 2016, the billing cycle for this renewal is from 08:09:35 on May 23, 2016 to 00:00:00 on June 24, 2016.

- If the instance is not renewed within 15 days of the instance being shut down (within 30 days of the instance expiring), your instance will be automatically released on the 15th day. Your data will be deleted and cannot be restored.

## Procedure

To manually renew your instance, follow these steps:

1. Log on to the [ECS console](#).
2. In the left-side navigation pane, click **Instances**.
3. On the **Instance List page**, select the expected region and locate the ECS instance by the instance name, instance ID, or status ( **Expired**).
4. In the **Actions** column, click **Renew**.



5. On the renewal page,
  - a. Confirm the instance configuration.
  - b. Select the expected renewal length, which can be **1 Month** or **1 Year**, and click **Place Order**.
6. On the **Pay** page, confirm the order information and click **Pay** to complete the renewal operation.

### Bulk renewal

Perform the steps below to renew multiple instances:

1. Log on to the [ECS console](#).
2. In the left-side navigation pane, click **Instances**.
3. Select a region.
4. Select multiple **Subscription** or **Weekly Subscription** instances.
5. At the bottom of the page, click **Renew**.
6. On the **Bulk Instance Renewal** page, click **Batch Change**. Select a renewal period and then click **OK**.
7. Click **Create Order** to finish the operation as instructed.

## 6.3 Auto-renewal

Auto-renewal service only applies to instances that use the Subscription billing method.

### Introduction

If you have activated the auto-renewal service, Alibaba Cloud charges the subscription fee to your linked credit card or PayPal account when the instance expires.

The auto-renewal service can be activated after the ECS instance is purchased and before it expires. It cannot be activated after a Subscription instance expires. Auto-renewal has the following features:

- The monthly subscription service automatically renews the instance on a monthly basis when a monthly subscription instance expires.
- The annual subscription service automatically renews the instance on a yearly basis when a yearly subscription instance expires.



#### Note:

The auto-renewal service does not support switching between monthly subscription and annual subscription. If you want to change the service duration of an instance, you can choose the [Manual renewal](#) service.

After you activate the auto-renewal service:

- You are notified of the imminent expiration of your Subscription instances seven days, three days, and one day before the expiration day (T).
- Alibaba Cloud charges the subscription fee to your linked credit card or PayPal account on the expiration day (T). If payment fails, Alibaba Cloud will try to take payment again on Day 7 (T+6) and Day 15 (T+14). If all the three payment attempts fail, the instance is shut down.
  - If the payment for the subscription is successful, your instance is no longer in an Expired status and the next billing cycle starts from the expiration day.

For example, if your monthly subscription instance expired at 00:00:00 on April 25, 2016, but it was successfully renewed automatically on May 9, 2016, the billing cycle for this renewal is from 00:00:01 on April 25, 2016 to 00:00:00 on May 25, 2016.

- If all the three payment attempts fail, the instance shuts down 15 days after its expiration day. If the instance shuts down, it stops providing services and you cannot log on or remotely connect to the instance. At this point, you can only choose [Manual renewal](#). If the

instance is not renewed within the 15 days after the expiration day, the instance is released and the data stored is lost.

- If you manually renew the instance before auto-renewal is attempted, your instance is renewed and no auto-renewal is attempted for the current billing cycle. The instance will then be renewed when the current billing cycle ends.
- Alibaba Cloud sends a notification email to your linked email address for each failed auto-renewal attempt. Therefore, we recommend that you check your inbox frequently so you can keep up to date with the status of your instance and take necessary actions to avoid further business impact.
- Alibaba Cloud takes payment for the auto-renewal of instances between 08:00:00 (UTC+8) and 18:00:00 (UTC+8).

### Activate auto-renewal

To activate the auto-renewal service, follow these steps:

1. Log on to the [ECS console](#).
2. At the top of the page, choose **Billing Management > Renew**.
3. In the left-side navigation pane, click **Elastic Compute Service**.
4. On the **Renew** page, select the **Manually Renew** tab.
5. Find an instance, and in the **Actions** column, click **Enable Auto-Renew**.
6. On the **Enable Auto-Renew** dialog box, click **Enable Auto-Renew**.

You can then find the instance by selecting the **Auto-Renew** tab.

### Deactivate auto-renewal

To deactivate the auto-renewal service for an instance, follow these steps:

1. Log on to the [ECS console](#).
2. At the top of the page, choose **Billing Management > Renew**.
3. In the left-side navigation pane, click **Elastic Compute Service**.
4. On the **Renew** page, select the **Auto-Renew** tab.
5. Find the instance, and in the **Actions** column, click **Modify Auto-Renew**.
6. On the **Modify Auto-Renew** dialog box, select **Disable Auto-Renew** and click **OK**.

You can then find the instance by selecting the **Manually Renew** tab.

## 6.4 Renew for configuration downgrade

After a Subscription instance expires, if renewal has not been completed in the required time, the instance is released automatically. In this case, data is lost permanently and cannot be recovered. To view status changes that occur after Subscription resources expire, see [#unique\\_10](#).

You can use the **Renew for Configuration Downgrade** function to renew a Subscription instance while also lowering its specifications and reducing costs for the next billing cycle.

You can also change the billing method of your data disks from Subscription to Pay-As-You-Go.

### Note

Note the following when using Renew for Configuration Downgrade:

- The function allows you to scale down instance specifications at the time of renewal.
- Renew for Configuration Downgrade can only be used for Subscription instances.
- After you renew an instance, the new package is effective from the next billing cycle. The current package continues until the end of the current billing cycle.
- If instance configurations are changed during renewal, you must [restart the instance](#) within the first seven days of the new billing cycle for the new configurations to be effective. If you restart the instance on the seventh day of the new billing period, the instance is considered to have used the original package for the first six days, and uses the downgraded package only after it is restarted.
- Once the renewal for configuration downgrade is complete, you cannot [upgrade configurations](#), [increase the system disk size](#), or increase the size of a Subscription data disk, which is attached to a [Linux instance](#) or a [Windows instance](#), during the rest of the current billing cycle.
- You cannot cancel the renewal orders once the payment is processed.

### Procedure

To downgrade the configuration of a Subscription instance during renewal, follow these steps:

1. Log on to the [ECS console](#).
2. In the left-side navigation pane, click **Instances**.
3. Select a region.
4. Find the Subscription instance. In the **Actions** column, click **Change Configuration**.
5. In the **Configuration Change Guide** dialog box, select **Renew for Configuration Downgrade** and click **Continue**.



6. On the **Renew for Configuration Downgrade** page, complete the following operations as necessary:

- Downgrade **Instance Type**. If you want to downgrade specifications for an instance, you must also set the **Restart Time** for that instance.

**Note:**

- Instance specifications that can be changed are displayed on the page. For more information about instance specifications, see [Instance type families](#).
- Restarting an instance suspends your business operations on that instance. Please restart the instance during off-peak hours to reduce impact. The restart must be completed within the first seven days of the next billing cycle. However, you cannot restart an instance during the following periods each week (UTC+8): 12:00 midday Tuesday – 12:00 midday Wednesday, and 12:00 midday Thursday – 12:00 midday Friday.

- If a data disk was created while creating a Subscription instance, you can change the billing method of the data disk to **Pay-As-You-Go**.
- Set the bandwidth value.
- Set the renewal duration.

7. Click **Pay**, and follow the prompts to complete the process.

8. (Optional) If you have changed instance specifications, or changed the public network bandwidth of an instance in a classic network from 0 Mbit/s to a non-zero value for the first time, you must [restart the instance](#) in the console or by using the [#unique\\_46](#) API within the first seven days of the next billing period. This step is necessary for the new configurations to be effective.

**Note:**

For a VPC instance, the instance does not need to be restarted.

## 7 Switch from Pay-As-You-Go to Subscription billing

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You can switch the billing method of your instance from Pay-As-You-Go to Subscription in the ECS console. Switching the billing method incurs a fee.

### Limits

You can switch up to 20 Pay-As-You-Go instances to Subscription instances at one time.

### Prerequisites

The ECS instance you want to switch the billing method for must meet the following requirements:

- The instance type is not a [Generation I](#) type.
- The instance belongs to your account.
- The instance is in a **running** or **stopped** status.

If an order to switch the billing method has been placed successfully when the ECS instance is in a **running** or **stopped** status, but the instance status changes so it no longer meets the preceding requirement when payment is attempted for the order, the order fails and the billing method is unchanged. You can go to the billing center and pay for the order when the instance is in a running or stopped status again.

- [No timed release is set for the instance](#).

If the release time has been set for an instance, you need disable the timed release configuration and then switch the billing method.

- There is no unpaid switch order for the instance.

If an unpaid switch order exists, you must cancel the unpaid order and then place another order to switch the billing method.

### Procedure

1. Log on to the [ECS console](#).
2. In the left-side navigation pane, click **Instances**.
3. Select a region.
4. Select one or more Pay-As-You-Go instances, and under the instance list, click **Switch to Subscription**.
5. On the **Switch to Subscription** page, click **Batch Change**.

6. In the dialog box, set the **Subscription Plan**, including:

- Duration: You can set the length of service time for the Subscription instance as 1 month or 1 year. Instances executed in batch must have the same length of service time.
- Data Disk (optional): If Pay-As-You-Go data disks are mounted or attached to the selected instances, you can set whether to also switch their billing method to Subscription.

7. Click **OK** to place an order and go to the payment page.

After you make the payment, the operation is complete.

## FAQ

### What can I do if placing an order fails?

You may be prompted with any of the following error messages:

- The current instance status is not supported to switch.
- Switch is not allowed because the release time has been set for the instance.
- Switch is not allowed because instance information has changed.
- A switch order for the instance has not been paid.

If you are prompted with any of the preceding messages, adjust the instance accordingly.

### How long does it take to switch the billing method after I pay for the order?

Currently, one to four seconds are required to switch the billing method of 1 to 20 instances. After the switch, the billing method is changed to **Subscription** in the console.

### What can I do if the switch fails?

Please [Open a ticket](#).

### Does the billing method for bandwidth change after the switch?

No. Only the billing method of an instance and data disk can be switched.

### If I upgrade the configurations of my ECS instance that has an unpaid switch order, is the order still valid?

The order is invalid. A new order is placed when you switch the billing method of an instance from Pay-As-You-Go to Subscription. This new order must be paid. If the instance is upgraded when the order remains unpaid, the order payment cannot then be made because the instance components change and the order does not meet the requirements to switch the billing method. If you still want to change the billing method of the instance, you must cancel the unpaid order and place a new switch order.

## 8 Switch the billing method from Subscription to Pay-As-You-Go

---

After you create a Subscription instance, you can convert its billing method to Pay-As-You-Go if you want to pay only for the actual usage of your resources.

Before converting the billing method, note the following:

- The billing method conversion applies to the system disk and the data disks of the instance, regardless of whether the data disks are created along with the instance.
- The billing method of Internet bandwidth is unchanged.

After the conversion, make sure your account has sufficient funds to pay the bill. Otherwise, overdue payment will affect the running of your services. If you no longer require the instance, you can set it to auto release or release it manually. For more information, see [Release an instance](#).

### Conversion notes

- Alibaba Cloud users who have reached a certain membership level can change the billing method from Subscription to Pay-As-You-Go.
- Each account is limited by a maximum monthly **refund amount**. The maximum refund amount varies according to the membership level. For more information, see the conversion page. You cannot claim additional refunds once the monthly limit is reached. The remaining amount will be cleared automatically on the 1st day of the next month.

To calculate the refund amount resulting from a billing method conversion, the calculation uses the number of vCPUs and the remaining hours in the current billing cycle. For example, 1 refund unit = 1 vCPU × 1 hour.

In this example, assume you have purchased a Subscription instance with four vCPUs for six months. Four months later, you convert the billing method to Pay-As-You-Go. In this case, the refund amount for this instance is  $4 \text{ (vCPUs)} \times 60 \text{ (remaining days)} \times 24 \text{ (hours/day)} = 5760 \text{ (refund amount)}$ .

- Note that only the actual payment amount is refunded to the original payment channel. Vouchers or coupons that have been redeemed cannot be returned.
- If the instance involves renewal or upgrade orders that have not taken effect, a full refund will be made. For orders that have already taken effect, only a partial refund will be made.

- After the billing method is converted, the duration of usage given for reasons such as ICP filing, failure, or IDC migration is automatically invalidated.

### Prerequisites

- The relevant ECS instance and cloud disks must use the Subscription billing method.
- The relevant ECS instance is in the **Running** or **Stopped** status.

### Procedure

1. Log on to the [ECS console](#).
2. In the left-side navigation pane, select **Instances**.
3. Select a region.
4. Select the relevant instance. In the **Actions** column, select **More > Configuration Change > Switch to Pay-As-You-Go**.
5. On the conversion page, read the notes and confirm you agree to the *ECS Service Terms*.
6. Click **Confirm Conversion**.

After the billing method is converted successfully, you can see that the **Billing Method** of the instance has changed to **Pay-As-You-Go** in the ECS console. Alternatively, click the instance ID to enter the **Instance Details** page. In the left-side navigation pane, click **Disks**. You can see that the **Billing Method** of the system disk and data disks (if any) of the instance have changed to **Pay-As-You-Go**.

### FAQ

#### What can I do if the conversion fails?

Conversion failure may be due to:

- The current instance status does not support conversion.
- Conversion is not allowed because the instance has expired.
- Conversion is not allowed because instance information has changed.

If any of the preceding error messages appears, adjust the instance accordingly. If the problem persists, [open a ticket](#).

## 9 Billing of Internet bandwidth

Alibaba Cloud only supports the Pay-As-You-Go billing method for ECS instance Internet bandwidth usage, known as PayByTraffic. Alibaba Cloud calculates the fees on an hourly basis according to actual traffic usage, regardless of ECS instance billing methods and network types. Network bandwidth pricing may vary according to the region. For more information about pricing, see [pricing of ECS instances](#).

**Note:**

Alibaba Cloud does not charge any fee on intranet traffic.

### Internet bandwidth types

The following table lists Internet bandwidth types and related information for ECS instances.

Internet bandwidth types	Definition	Bandwidth limit
Outbound bandwidth	The bandwidth for outbound traffic from ECS instances , for example, when your ECS instances provide external access or you want to download internal resources from the ECS instances by using an FTP client.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Subscription instance: up to 200 Mbit/s</li><li>Pay-As-You-Go instance: up to 100 Mbit/s</li></ul>
Inbound bandwidth	The bandwidth for inbound traffic to ECS instances, for example, when you want to download resources from the Internet to your ECS instances , or upload resources to the ECS instances by using an FTP client.	Up to 200 Mbit/s

Alibaba Cloud only charges fees for outbound traffic usage. The fee is calculated on an hourly basis and the billing unit is USD/GiB. When creating an instance, you can set a peak value for the outbound bandwidth to avoid incurring excessive fees due to traffic bursts.

**Note:**

No fee is charged for the traffic between ECS instances in the same LAN.

## Purchase Internet bandwidth

Different methods apply when you are purchasing Internet bandwidth for different Internet access modes:

- If an ECS instance needs to access the Internet by using its own Internet address, you must purchase Internet bandwidth while creating the instance.

**How to purchase:** When [creating an ECS instance](#), in the **Network Billing Method** part, select **Assign public IP** and set a peak value.

- If your ECS instance is in a VPC network and you want to use an Elastic IP address (EIP) to access the Internet, you only need to purchase the EIP service. For more information about the EIP service, see [EIP address related documentation](#).



**Note:**

If your ECS instances access the Internet by using an EIP address, you must not select **Assign public IP** when you create an instance.

## Payment options

You can pay for Internet bandwidth by using any of the following payment options:

- Credit card or a PayPal account attached to your account.
- A data transfer plan. You can purchase a plan and deduct the traffic usage from it. For more information about data transfer plans, see [ECS Starter Package Plan](#).

## Bill calculation example

Assume that the average bandwidth of your ECS instance in an hour is 0.5 Mbit/s and the bandwidth price is USD 0.081 per GiB. You must pay the following amount for the hourly traffic:

$[(0.5 \times 60 \times 60) / 1024 / 8] \text{ GiB} \times 0.081 \text{ USD/GiB} = 0.018 \text{ USD}$



**Note:**

In this example, it is assumed that the outbound traffic is 0.5 Mbit/s (the average bandwidth of the ECS instance). For actual calculations, you can go to **Billing Management > Usage Records** to download the usage history of ECS.