Alibaba Cloud

Elastic Compute Service Pricing

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Document conventions

Style	Description	Example	
<u>^</u> Danger	A danger notice indicates a situation that will cause major system changes, faults, physical injuries, and other adverse results.	Danger: Resetting will result in the loss of user configuration data.	
<u> Warning</u>	A warning notice indicates a situation that may cause major system changes, faults, physical injuries, and other adverse results.	Warning: Restarting will cause business interruption. About 10 minutes are required to restart an instance.	
Notice	A caution notice indicates warning information, supplementary instructions, and other content that the user must understand.	Notice: If the weight is set to 0, the server no longer receives new requests.	
? Note	A note indicates supplemental instructions, best practices, tips, and other content.	? Note: You can use Ctrl + A to select all files.	
>	Closing angle brackets are used to indicate a multi-level menu cascade.	Click Settings> Network> Set network type.	
Bold	Bold formatting is used for buttons , menus, page names, and other UI elements.	Click OK.	
Courier font	Courier font is used for commands	Run the cd /d C:/window command to enter the Windows system folder.	
Italic	Italic formatting is used for parameters and variables.	bae log listinstanceid Instance_ID	
[] or [a b]	This format is used for an optional value, where only one item can be selected.	ipconfig [-all -t]	
{} or {a b}	This format is used for a required value, where only one item can be selected.	switch {active stand}	

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1.Billing overview

This topic describes items related to ECS billing, such as billable resources, billing methods, and payment methods.

The price of an ECS resource may vary by region. For more information about ECS resource prices, see Pricing.

Billable resources

ECS comprises the following major components: instances, images, Block Storage devices, snapshots, security groups, and networks. For more information, see What is ECS?

The following table describes billable ECS resources.

Resource	Description		
	You are billed based on the instance type that you choose. The instance type determines the number of vCPUs and the size of memory that you can use.		
ECS instance	Note If you select an instance type that is equipped with local disks, the price of the instance type includes the price of local disks.		
	Images are classified into the following types:		
	Public image		
	 Windows Server: The price is subject to the instance type that you choose. For more information, see the buy page. 		
	 Red Hat Enterprise Linux: You are charged for these images. For more information, see the buy page. 		
	o Other images: free of charge.		
	Alibaba Cloud Marketplace image: Prices are determined by the image providers.		
	Custom image		
Image	 If a custom image is derived from a free public image or an Alibaba Cloud Marketplace image, you are charged for the snapshot used to create the custom image. Snapshots are charged based on storage space usage. 		
	 If a custom image is obtained from a paid public image or an Alibaba Cloud Marketplace image, you are charged for the snapshot used to create the custom image. Snapshots are billed based on storage space usage. If you use a custom image to create an ECS instance, you are also charged for the image. 		
	Shared image		
	 If a shared image is derived from a free public image or an Alibaba Cloud Marketplace image, the shared image is free of charge. 		
	 If a shared image is derived from a paid public image or an Alibaba Cloud Marketplace image, you are also charged for the shared image when you use it to create an ECS instance. If you never use the image, you are not charged. 		

Resource	Description
Block Storage device	 Alibaba Cloud provides the following types of Block Storage devices: Cloud disks: Cloud disks are billed based on their storage capacity. You can use cloud disks as system disks or data disks. Local disks: Local disks are billed based on their storage capacity. You can use local disks only as data disks. Local disks cannot be purchased separately. Local disks created together with an ECS instance have the same billing method as the ECS instance.
	Instance families that are equipped with local disks include d1ne, d1, i2, i2g, i1, and gn5. For information about instance families, see Instance families.
	An ECS instance can access the Internet through the following methods:
Public bandwidth	 Use the public IP address allocated by the system. You are not charged to retain public IP addresses. You are charged only for public bandwidth. For more information, see Billing methods of public bandwidth.
	 Use the elastic IP address (EIP). EIP is an independent service. For more information, see Billing overview.
	 Use the NAT gateway. NAT Gateway is an independent service. For more information, see <u>Billing method</u>.
Snapshot	Snapshots are billed based on the storage space usage.

Billing methods

ECS instances support the following billing methods: subscription and pay-as-you-go.

- Subscription: a billing method that allows you to pay for an instance upfront to use for the subscription period. The subscription billing method is suited for common services without traffic spikes, such as web services. For more information, see Subscription.
- Pay-as-you-go: a billing method that allows you to use an instance and pay afterwards for the resources it uses. The pay-as-you-go billing method is suited for scenarios with traffic spikes, such as temporary scaling, interim testing, and scientific computing. For more information, see Pay-as-you-go.

For more information about the difference between subscription and pay-as-you-go, see Comparison of billing methods.

lesource	Billing method				
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Resource	Billing method
ECS instance	 Subscription Pay-as-you-go If you plan to make a long-term commitment with pay-as-you-go ECS instances, you can purchase reserved instances to offset your bills. This method is more flexible and cost-effective. For more information, see Reserved instance overview. For the billing details of reserved instances, see Reserved instance billing. Preemptible instance Preemptible instances are a type of on-demand instances that reduce overall ECS instance costs. Preemptible instances may be reclaimed. You can use auto provisioning groups to alleviate the instability caused by preemptible instances being reclaimed. For more information, see Auto Provisioning overview.
Image	 Subscription Pay-as-you-go Images can be used only along with ECS instances. Windows reserved instances can be used to offset image bills.
Disk	 Subscription Pay-as-you-go The billing methods of cloud disks depend on how they are created. Cloud disks created along with an ECS instance have the same billing method as the ECS instance. Cloud disks created for a subscription ECS instance use the subscription billing method. Cloud disks created on the Disks page of the ECS console support only pay-as-you-go. Cloud disks created from snapshots support only pay-as-you-go. You can change the billing methods of your cloud disks. For more information, see Change billing methods of disks.

Resource	Billing method
	bitting method
	If your ECS instance accesses the Internet by using a public IP address, one of the following billing methods is used:
	Pay-by-bandwidth
	Fees are calculated based on the bandwidth that you specified. You can select the pay-by-bandwidth billing method for ECS instances that use the following billing methods:
	 Subscription
Public bandwidth	o Pay-as-you-go
	Pay-by-traffic
	You are billed on an hourly basis based on the amount of traffic that your instance consumed.
	You can enable public bandwidth when you create an ECS instance, or enable public bandwidth by using the configuration upgrade or downgrade feature after you create an ECS instance. For more information, see Billing methods of public bandwidth.
Snapshot	Pay-as-you-go
5ap3ot	For more information, see Snapshot billing.

2.Billing items

3. Billing methods of public bandwidth

This topic describes public bandwidth types, billing methods, and examples on how to calculate bandwidth fees.

subscription pay-as-you-go pay-by-bandwidth pay-by-traffic public IP address outbound bandwidth

Types of public IP addresses

An ECS instance can access the Internet by using the following types of public IP addresses:

• Fixed public IP address

To use an allocated public IP address to access the Internet, select Assign Public IP Address when you configure the public bandwidth during instance creation. For more information, see Create an instance by using the provided wizard.

• Elastic IP address (EIP)

An EIP is a public IP address resource that you can purchase and use independently. It provides higher flexibility for Internet access. For more information about the differences between EIPs and fixed public IP addresses and the billing methods of EIPs, see What is an EIP?.

To use an EIP to access the Internet, attach the purchased EIP to an ECS instance. When you configure the public bandwidth, you do not need to select Assign Public IP Address to purchase public bandwidth.

Public bandwidth types

After an ECS instance is assigned a fixed public IP address, you can use the instance to access the Internet and process requests from the Internet. Two types of public bandwidth are used.

Public bandwidth type	Charged	Description	Example
Outbound bandwidth	Yes	Bandwidth for outbound traffic from ECS instances	The FTP client downloads resources from ECS instances through public IP addresses.
Inbound bandwidth	No	Bandwidth for inbound traffic to ECS instances	The FTP client uploads resources to ECS instances through public IP addresses.

For more information about the limits on the public bandwidth of ECS instances, see Limits.

Note Alibaba Cloud does not charge any fees for internal bandwidth usage. Within the same region, no fees are charged for traffic between ECS instances or between ECS instances and other Alibaba Cloud services. For example, communication between Alibaba Cloud services that belong to the same VPC is free. If an ECS instance communicates with other Alibaba Cloud services through the Internet, the outbound bandwidth will be billed. For example, you will be billed for communication between an instance from China (Hangzhou) and an instance from China (Shanghai).

Billing methods

Billing methods of public bandwidth include pay-by-bandwidth and pay-by-traffic. Pricing of network bandwidth varies among regions. For more information, see Pricing.

- Pay-by-bandwidth: Fees are charged based on the bandwidth that you specify. Your actual outbound bandwidth will not exceed the specified bandwidth.
- Pay-by-traffic: Fees are charged based on your actual traffic usage in the unit of USD/GB. You can configure a bandwidth limit for outbound traffic to avoid unmanageable fees incurred by outbound traffic bursts.

Billing examples

The following table describes how public bandwidth is billed on a pay-by-traffic basis. This example uses the China (Hangzhou) region.

Note The unit price here is for reference only. Visit the Pricing page for price details.

Bandwidth billing method	Billing example	Fee (USD)
		The volume of the outbound traffic is $(0.5 \times 60 \times 60)/1024/8$ GB = 0.22 GB.
Pay-by-traffic	This example assumes that the bandwidth is 0.5 Mbit/s. Usage period: 1 hour Average bandwidth: 0.5 Mbit/s	Note In this formula, 1024 is used to convert Mbit into Gbit, and 8 is used to convert Gbit into GB.
	• Unit price: USD 0.1/GB	You must pay the following amount for the hourly traffic: 0.22 GB × 0.1 USD/GB = USD 0.022.

View billing details

To view the volume of outbound Internet traffic for a pay-as-you-go ECS instance, you can go to the Billing Management console and click Usage Records to download the usage history of Elastic Compute Service (ECS) - Pay-As-You-Go.

Change billing methods

You must use different methods to change the billing method of public bandwidth based on how an ECS instance is billed.

Instance billing method	Conversion of the billing method	Method	Effective time
	From pay-by- traffic to pay-by- bandwidth	Upgrade configurations of subscription instances	Immediately

Instance billing Subscription method	Conversion of the billing method	Method	Effective time
	From pay-by-	Downgrade the public bandwidths of subscription instances	Immediately
	bandwidth to pay-by-traffic	Downgrade an instance during renewal	From the next billing cycle
Day as you so	From pay-by- traffic to pay-by- bandwidth	Change the Internet bandwidth of a pay-as-you-go instance	Immediately
Pay-as-you-go	From pay-by- bandwidth to pay-by-traffic	Change the Internet bandwidth of a pay-as-you-go instance	Immediately

4. Snapshot billing

This topic describes the billing methods and billing rules of ECS snapshots, and how to deal with overdue payments. An example of how to calculate the snapshot fee is also provided.

Billing items of snapshots

A snapshot is a backup of the data on a disk at a specific point in time. snapshots are often used for disaster recovery and environment clone. The following table describes the billing items of snapshots.

Billing item		Description	Billing method
	Normal snapshot	Normal snapshots have strong disaster recovery capabilities and are stored in OSS buckets in the same region as the snapshots. An extended period of time is required to create a normal snapshot.	Pay-as-you-go
Snapshot type	Local snapshots	Local snapshots are stored in the same storage cluster as the disks for which the snapshots are created. Local snapshots can be used to perform data backup and disk rollback within seconds. Local snapshots can be created only for enhanced SSDs (ESSDs).	Pay-as-you-go
Snapshot service	Snapshot replication	When a normal snapshot is copied from one region to another, a copy of the normal snapshot is created in another region.	Pay-as-you-go

Billing method

ECS snapshots are billed based on their size and storage duration and use the pay-as-you-go billing method. Billing starts when a snapshot is created and stops when the snapshot is released. The snapshot fee is calculated by billing cycle (each hour). A bill is generated at the end of each settlement cycle, and the corresponding fee is deducted from your account.

Billing rules

|--|

Billing item	Billing rule	
Storage fees for normal and local snapshots	 Snapshots are billed once an hour based on the storage capacity occupied by the snapshots. Snapshot fee = Snapshot unit price × Snapshot size × Billing duration. The following section describes the billing rules of each item in the formula: Snapshot unit price: The unit is USD/GiB/month. You can obtain the price per hour after conversion. For information about snapshot prices in different regions, see the Pricing tab on the Elastic Compute Service page. Snapshot size: The unit is GiB. The first snapshot of a disk is a full snapshot. Subsequent snapshots of the disk are incremental snapshots. Each incremental snapshot consists only of the data changes since the last snapshot. For more information, see Incremental snapshots. Billing duration: The unit is hours. Billing starts when a snapshot is created and stops when the snapshot is released. A storage duration of less than one hour is calculated as one hour. 	
Replication fee for snapshots		

Overdue payments

If your account balance in the current billing cycle is less than the payable amount of the previous billing cycle, the system sends an SMS or email notification to you.

The snapshot service is suspended 24 hours after your account payments become overdue. After your account has overdue payments:

- In the first 15 days, all existing snapshots are retained, and no automatic snapshots can be created. All automatic snapshots whose retention period is less than 15 days are deleted.
- After 15 days, all snapshots are deleted, except for those that have been used to create disks or custom images. The automatic snapshot policy is also deleted.

References

- Snapshot overview
- Reduce snapshot fees
- Snapshot FAQ

5.Renew instances 5.1. Overview

When a subscription instance expires, the services it provides may be affected. To continue using the instance, you must renew it within the designated period. Otherwise, instance resources such as vCPUs, memory, and disks are released and their stored data is lost permanently. This topic describes the renewal feature of ECS instances.

subscription renewal manual renewal auto-renewal renewal and configuration downgrade expiration date synchronization billing cycle

Overview

The renewal feature is only applicable to subscription instances. Pay-as-you-go instances do not need to be renewed, but you must make sure that your linked bank card, PayPal, or Paytm (India) account balance is sufficient to cover relevant costs.

If you renew the instance before it expires, the instance continues to work normally and retains all of its resources. For information about the status of a subscription instance after it expires, see Subscription.

You cannot cancel a renewal order for a subscription instance after the payment is made. The following section describes features related to instance renewal:

- Manual renewal: You can manually renew the instance in the ECS console at any time before the instance is automatically released. For more information, see Manually renew an instance.
- Auto-renewal: After the auto-renewal feature is enabled, the instance is automatically renewed before it expires. You can enable this feature to reduce management costs and prevent instances from being automatically released. For more information, see Enable autorenewal.
- Renewal and configuration downgrade: If current configurations of the ECS instance exceed
 your requirements, you can downgrade instance configurations when you renew the instance
 to minimize costs. New configurations take effect starting from the next billing cycle. For more
 information, see Downgrade instance configurations during renewal.
- Non-renewal: You can choose not to renew an instance upon expiration. In this case, the instance is stopped upon expiration and you will receive an expiration notification only once. You can modify the renewal settings at any time before the instance is stopped.

The following table lists the differences among three renewal methods.

Renewal method	Configuration change	Renewaltime
Manual renewal	Not supported.	Before the ECS instance is automatically released.

Renewal method	Configuration change	Renewaltime
Auto-renewal	Not supported.	From the third day before the instance expires. If automatic payment deduction fails on the first attempt, Alibaba Cloud will continue attempting to deduct the payment until either the deduction is successful or the instance expires. Alibaba Cloud will attempt to renew the instance on the following days: The day before expiration The expiration day The seventh day and fifteenth day after expiration
Renewal and configuration downgrade	Supported.	 Within the 15 days before the ECS instance expires. After the instance expires but before the instance is automatically released. For example, if you have a subscription instance that is set to expire on April 30, 2019, you are able to renew the instance and downgrade the instance configurations from April 16, 2019 to April 30, 2019. If you fail to renew the instance during this period, the instance enters the Expired and Being Recycled state upon expiration. You are still able to renew the instance and downgrade the instance configurations from May 1, 2019 to May 15, 2019. If you do not renew the instance during this period, it is automatically released on May 16, 2019.

Manual renewal

When you manually renew an instance, only the base public bandwidth of the instance is renewed. The temporarily upgraded public bandwidth is not renewed. For information about how to upgrade the base public bandwidth, see Upgrade configurations of subscription instances.

You can select one of the following renewal periods when you manually renew an instance:

• One month, two months, three months, four months, five months, six months, seven months, eight months, and nine months

• One year

The status of a subscription ECS instance after expiration depends on whether the autorenewal feature is enabled. The following table describes the effect of manual renewal on instances in different states:

Auto- renewal	Time period after expiration	Instance state	Effect of manual renewal
Disabled	Within the 15 days after expiration	The instance is stopped.	After the instance is manually renewed, its next billing cycle starts from the day that the instance is renewed. For example, if your instance was stopped at 00:00:00 on May 10, 2017 but you renewed it for one month at 08:09:35 on May 23, 2017, the new billing cycle of the instance is from 08:09:35 on May 23, 2017 to 00:00:00 on June 24, 2017.
	15-29 days after expiration	The instance and its resources are released or unbound.	Manual renewal cannot be performed.
	30 days after expiration	The instance and its resources were released or unbound.	Manual renewal cannot be performed.
Enabled	Within the 15 days after expiration	The instance works properly.	After the instance is manually renewed, its next billing cycle starts from the day that it expired. For example, if your instance is set to expire at 00:00:00 on April 25, 2017, but you renewed it for one month on May 9, 2017, the new billing cycle of the instance is from 00:00:00 on April 25, 2017 to 00:00:00 on May 25, 2017.
	15-29 days after expiration	The instance is stopped.	After the instance is manually renewed, its next billing cycle starts from the day that the instance is renewed. For example, if your instance was stopped at 00:00:00 on May 10, 2017 but you renewed it for one month at 08:09:35 on May 23, 2017, the new billing cycle of the instance is from 08:09:35 on May 23, 2017 to 00:00:00 on June 24, 2017.

Auto- renewal	Time period after expiration	Instance state	Effect of manual renewal
	30 days after expiration	The instance and its resources are released or unbound.	Manual renewal cannot be performed.

Auto-renewal

You can enable auto-renewal on the Create Instance, Instances, or Renew page. Auto-renewal cannot be enabled for subscription ECS instances that are expired. A subscription instance will be automatically renewed for a specific period of time if auto-renewal is enabled for the instance on one of the following pages:

- When you enable auto-renewal on the Create Instance page:
 - If the instance subscription period is one month, two months, three months, or six months,
 ECS automatically renews the instance for one month whenever the subscription ends until you disable auto-renewal.
 - If the instance subscription period is one year, ECS automatically renews the instance for one year whenever the subscription ends until you disable auto-renewal.
- When you enable auto-renewal for existing instances on the Instances page, you can set the
 auto-renewal period to one month or one year. You can also modify the auto-renewal period
 for an existing instance on the Instances page.
- When you enable auto-renewal for existing instances on the Renew page, you can set the auto-renewal period to one month, two months, three months, six months, or one year. You can also modify the auto-renewal period for an existing ECS instance on the Renew page.

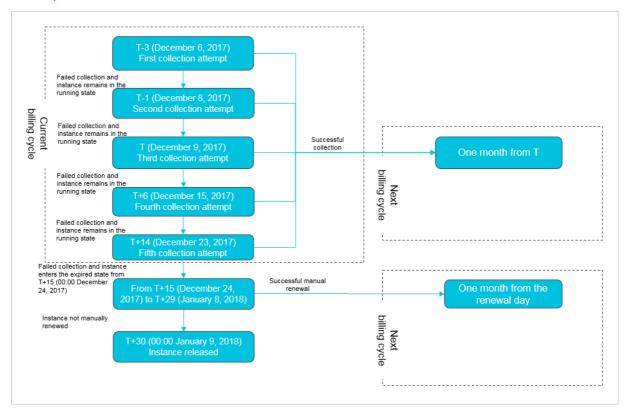
When the subscription period ends, ECS will renew the instance for the period that you selected until you disable auto-renewal. For example, if you select three months, ECS will renew the instance for three months each time before it expires until you disable auto-renewal.

After auto-renewal is enabled, the instance will be automatically renewed before it expires.

- Alibaba Cloud sends an email reminder on the seventh day before the instance expires (T-7).
- Alibaba Cloud deducts the payment for the next billing cycle from your bank card, PayPal, or Paytm (India) account on the third day before the instance expires (T-3). If the payment deduction fails, Alibaba Cloud will continue attempting to deduct the payment again up to four times on the following days until the deduction succeeds: the day before the instance expires (T-1), the day that the instance expires (T), the seventh day after the instance expires (T+6), and the fifteenth day after the instance expires (T+14).
 - Starting from 08:00:00 (UTC+8) on the deduction day, Alibaba Cloud performs auto-renewal in succession on all ECS instances that are set to expire. This means that the actual renewal time can be anytime between 08:00:00 (UTC+8) and 18:00:00 (UTC+8).
 - If the payment is deducted before T+14, the next billing cycle of the instance starts on the day the instance is expired.
 - If the instance fails to be renewed during the five preceding deduction attempts, the
 instance will enter the Stopped state on T+15. After the instance enters the Stopped state,
 you cannot log on to or connect to the instance. In this case, you must manually renew the
 instance. If the instance is not manually renewed within the 15 days after it enters the
 Stopped state, the instance is released and its data is lost permanently.

- If the auto-renewal payment deduction fails, Alibaba Cloud will send you an email reminder.
 To avoid instances from being unexpectedly stopped, check whether you have received a reminder.
- If you have completed manual renewal before the auto-renewal payment deduction is made, auto-renewal will not be performed for the current billing cycle.

Assume that you purchased an instance at 10:00:00 on November 8, 2017, with a subscription period of one month and auto-renewal enabled. The instance is set to expire at 00:00:00 on December 9, 2017. The following figure shows the actions performed in the first auto-renewal round. For information about status changes that occur after subscription resources expire, see Subscription.



Renewal and configuration downgrade

You can use the renewal and configuration downgrade feature to complete the following tasks:

- Downgrade the instance type of a subscription instance.
 - Note If you perform the renewal and configuration downgrade operation after the instance expires but before the instance is automatically released, the instance type cannot be changed.
- Change the billing method of data disks from subscription to pay-as-you-go.
- Change the billing method for network usage.
- Adjust the public bandwidth.

You can select one of the following renewal periods when you renew an instance and downgrade its configurations:

One month, two months, three months, four months, five months, six months, seven months,

eight months, and nine months

• One year

When you use the renewal and configuration downgrade feature, take note of the following items:

- After the instance is renewed and its configurations are downgraded, the new configurations
 will take effect starting from the next billing cycle. Current configurations continue until the
 end of the current billing cycle.
- If you perform the following operations when you renew an instance and downgrade its
 configurations, you must restart the instance within the first seven days of the next billing
 cycle for the new configurations to take effect. If you restart the instance on the seventh day
 of the new billing cycle, the instance will use the configurations before the downgrade for the
 first six days.

Notice To restart an ECS instance, you must use the ECS console or call the RebootInstance operation. You cannot restart an instance from within the operating system.

- Change the instance type.
- Change the public bandwidth value of a classic network-type instance from 0 Mbit/s to a non-zero value for the first time.
- After you renew an instance and downgrade its configurations, you cannot perform the following operations within the remainder of the current billing cycle:
 - Upgrade configurations of subscription instances
 - Resize disks
 - Resize partitions and file systems of Linux data disks
 - Resize disks online (Windows)

5.2. Manually renew an instance

This topic describes how to manually renew a subscription instance. Before a subscription instance is automatically released, you can manually renew the instance to extend its service duration.

subscription renewal manual renewal billing cycle

Context

Manual renewal only renews the basic Internet bandwidth of an instance, but not its temporarily upgraded Internet bandwidth. For information about how to upgrade the basic Internet bandwidth, see Upgrade configurations of subscription instances.

Options for renewal duration vary based on the number of instances that you select for renewal. For more information, see the purchase page.

Renew one instance

- 1. Log on to the ECS console.
- 2. In the left-side navigation pane, choose Instances & Images > Instances.

- 3. In the top navigation bar, select a region.
- 4. Find the instance you want to renew and click Renew in the Actions column.
- 5. Select a value for the renewal duration.
- 6. Select ECS Terms of Service and click Create Order.
- 7. Follow the instructions to complete the payment.

Renew multiple instances

- 1. Log on to the ECS console.
- 2. In the left-side navigation pane, choose Instances & Images > Instances.
- 3. In the top navigation bar, select a region.
- 4. Select multiple ECS instances you want to renew.
- 5. At the bottom of the page, click Renew.
- 6. On the page that appears, click Batch Change.
- 7. Select a renewal duration for the instances, and click OK.
- 8. Select ECS Terms of Service and click Create Order.
- 9. Follow the instructions to complete the payment.

Related information

RenewInstance

5.3. Enable auto-renewal

Compared with manual renewal, auto-renewal helps minimize management costs and prevent service interruptions of ECS instances if you fail to renew the instances. This topic describes how to enable the auto-renewal feature.

subscription renew auto-renewal billing cycle

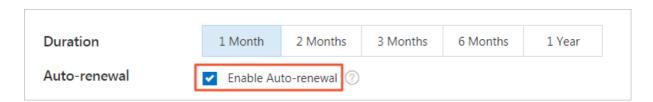
Context

- •
- 0
 - 0
 - 0
 - 0

For more information about the fund deduction process of auto-renewal, see Overview.

Enable auto-renewal on the Create Instance page

You can enable auto-renewal on the Create Instance page, as shown in the following figure. For more information about how to create an ECS instance, see Create an instance by using the provided wizard.



Enable auto-renewal on the Instances page

On the Instances page, you can enable auto-renewal for one or more ECS instances or change the renewal period.

- 1. Log on to the ECS console.
- 2. In the left-side navigation pane, choose Instances & Images > Instances.
- 3. In the top navigation bar, select a region.
- 4. Select a method to enable auto-renewal.
 - Enable auto-renewal for one ECS instance: Find the instance and choose More > Instance
 Settings > Configure Auto-renewal in the Actions column.
 - Enable auto-renewal for one or more ECS instances: Select the instances. In the lower part of the instances list, choose More > Instance Settings > Configure Auto-renewal.
- 5. In the Configure Auto-renewal dialog box that appears, turn on Auto-renewal and set Renewal Duration. Click **OK**.

Enable auto-renewal on the Renew page

On the Renew page, you can enable auto-renewal for one or more ECS instances or change the renewal period.

- 1. Log on to the ECS console.
- 2. In the top navigation bar, choose Billing > Renew.
- 3. In the left-side navigation pane, click Elastic Compute Service.
- 4. Click the Manual tab. If the nonrenewal option is set for some instances, click the Nonrenewal tab to modify the configuration.
- 5. Select a method to enable auto-renewal.
 - Enable auto-renewal for one ECS instance: Find the instance and click **Enable Auto**Renewal in the Actions column.
 - Enable auto-renewal for one or more ECS instances: Select the instances. In the lower part of the instances list, click Enable Auto Renew.
- 6. Set Unified Auto Renewal Cycle and click **Auto Renew**.

 Click the **Auto** tab. The previously selected instances are displayed in the list, indicating that auto-renewal is enabled.

5.4. View auto-renewal status

If the auto-renewal is enabled for a subscription instance, the instance is automatically renewed before it expires. This topic describes how to view the auto-renewal status of an ECS instance.

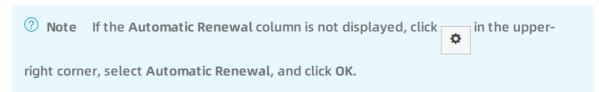
subscription renew auto-renewal billing cycle

View the auto-renewal status of an ECS instance on the Instances name

view the auto-renewat status of an EC3 instance on the histances page

- 1. Log on to the ECS console.
- 2. In the left-side navigation pane, choose Instances & Images > Instances.
- 3. In the top navigation bar, select a region.
- 4. Find the ECS instance and view its auto-renewal status in the Automatic Renewal column.

If a renewal period (such as 1 month) is displayed in the Automatic Renewal column, autorenewal is enabled for the instance.



View the auto-renewal status of an ECS instance on the Billing Management page

- 1. Log on to the ECS console.
- 2. In the top navigation bar, choose Billing Management > Renew.
- 3. In the left-side navigation pane, click Elastic Compute Service.
- 4. Click the Auto-Renew tab. If the ECS instance is listed on the Auto-Renew tab, the auto-renewal feature is enabled for the instance.

5.5. Disable auto-renewal

If you do not need the instance to be automatically renewed when its current billing cycle ends, we recommend that you disable the auto-renewal feature in advance. If auto-renewal is enabled, the system automatically attempts to deduct fees from your account from the third day before the instance expires. Disable auto-renewal before the fund deduction if needed.

subscription renew auto-renewal billing cycle

Context

When you disable auto-renewal, you can set the Nonrenewal function.

- If you do not select Nonrenewal for an instance, the instance is manually renewed through Manual Renewal.
- If you select **Nonrenewal** for an instance, the instance will not be renewed upon expiration. You can manually renew the ECS instance before it expires. However, the ECS instance is stopped immediately after it expires. Before that, you will be reminded only once to change your selection.

Disable auto-renewal on the Instances page

- 1. Log on to the ECS console.
- 2. In the left-side navigation pane, choose Instances & Images > Instances.
- 3. In the top navigation bar, select a region.
- 4. Select a method to disable auto-renewal.
 - Disable auto-renewal for one ECS instance: Find the instance and choose More > Instance

Settings > Configure Auto-renewal in the Actions column.

- Disable auto-renewal for one or more ECS instances: Select the instances. In the lower part of the instances list, choose More > Instance Settings > Configure Auto-renewal.
- 5. In the Configure Auto-renewal dialog box that appears, turn off Auto-renewal and choose whether to select Not Renew. Click OK.

Enable manual renewal on the Renew page

- 1. Log on to the ECS console.
- 2. In the top navigation bar, choose Billing > Renew.
- 3. In the left-side navigation pane, click Elastic Compute Service.
- 4. Click the Auto-Renew tab.
- 5. Select a method to enable manual renewal.
 - Enable manual renewal for one ECS instance: Find the instance and click Modify Auto-Renew in the Actions column.
 - Enable manual renewal for one or more ECS instances: Select the instances. In the lower part of the instances list, click Edit Auto Renewal.
- 6. Select **Disable Auto-Renew**. Click **OK**. Click the **Manual** tab. The previously selected instances are displayed in the list, indicating that manual renewal is enabled.

5.6. Downgrade instance configurations during renewal

This topic describes how to downgrade the configurations of a subscription instance when you renew the instance. The new configurations take effect starting from the next billing cycle. The original configurations remain unchanged for the remainder of the current billing cycle.

Prerequisites

You can renew an instance and downgrade instance configurations during the following periods of time:

- Within the 15 days before the ECS instance expires.
- After the instance expires but before the instance is automatically released.

Context

- •
- •
- •
- •

- Notice To restart an ECS instance, you must use the ECS console or call the RebootInstance operation. You cannot restart an instance from within the operating system.
 - 0
 - 0
- • Upgrade configurations of subscription instances
 - o Overview
 - Resize partitions and file systems of Linux data disks
 - Resize disks online (Windows)

Procedure

- 1. Log on to the ECS console.
- 2. In the left-side navigation pane, choose Instances & Images > Instances.
- 3. In the top navigation bar, select a region.
- 4. Find the target subscription instance. In the Actions column, click Upgrade/Downgrade.
- 5. In the Upgrade/Downgrade Wizard dialog box that appears, select Renewal and Downgrade and click Continue.
- 6. On the Renewal and Downgrade page, complete the following operations:
 - i. Select an instance type. The instance types to which you can downgrade the target instance are displayed on the page.
 - Note If the instance that you renew and downgrade is expired but not automatically released, you cannot change the instance type of the instance.
 - ii. Set the restart time of the instance. This operation is required only when you change instance types. The restart time cannot be later than the seventh day of the next billing cycle. We recommend that you set the restart time to a point in time during off-peak hours.

iii. (Optional)Set the public bandwidth.

Current billing method	Supported operation
Pay-by-bandwidth	 Reduce the bandwidth value. Reducing the bandwidth value to 0 Mbit/s has the following impacts on public IP addresses: For classic network-type ECS instances, public IP addresses will not be changed. For VPC-type ECS instances, public IP addresses will be released when the next billing cycle begins. Change the billing method to pay-by-traffic and set the peak bandwidth.
Pay-by-traffic	Set the peak bandwidth.

- iv. (Optional)Change the billing method of data disks from subscription to pay-as-you-go.If you do not change the billing method, the data disks and the instance will have the same billing cycle starting on the next billing cycle.
- v. Set the renewal duration.
- 7. Read and select *ECS Service Terms* and then click **Create Order**.
- 8. Complete the payment.

References

You can perform the following operations to change the configurations of resources in real time:

- Downgrade the instance type of a subscription instance. For more information, see Downgrade the instance types of subscription instances.
- Downgrade the public bandwidth of a subscription instance. For more information, see Downgrade the public bandwidths of subscription instances.
- Change the billing method of a created disk. For more information, see Change billing methods of disks.
- VPC-type ECS instances are associated with Elastic IP addresses (EIPs) to access the Internet. You can use the Bandwidth Adjustment feature to change the peak bandwidth and billing method of an EIP. For more information, see Modify the bandwidth of an Elastic IP address.

6.Billing FAQ

This topic provides answers to commonly asked questions about ECS billing.

pricing billing question commonly asked questions FAQ account instance image custom image commercial availability of Alibaba Cloud Marketplace images subscription Alibaba Cloud Marketplace image Block Storage snapshot network P2V Cloud Migration tool

- Account FAQ
 - Why am I unable to purchase pay-as-you-go instances?
 - How are invoices issued for pay-as-you-go instances?
- FAQ about refunds for instance configuration downgrades
 - How is the refundable amount for an instance configuration downgrade calculated?
 - Why is the actual refundable amount for an instance configuration downgrade less than that I expected?
- FAQ about instance billing
 - Billing of subscription instances
 - What can I do if the billing method of an instance cannot be changed from subscription to pay-as-you-go?
 - Billing of pay-as-you-go instances
 - How is the billable time of a pay-as-you-go instance calculated? For example, if I create a pay-as-you-go ECS instance at 2019-12-12 01:30:00 and release it at 2019-12-12 02:00:00, is the instance billed for a period of half an hour or an hour?
 - Will I still be charged for a pay-as-you-go instance after it is stopped either manually or due to an overdue payment?
 - What can I do if an order to change the billing method of an instance from pay-as-you-go to subscription cannot be placed?
 - How long after an order is paid does it take to change the billing method of the corresponding instances from pay-as-you-go to subscription?
 - What can I do if the billing method of an instance cannot be changed from pay-as-you-go to subscription?
 - When I change the billing method of an instance from pay-as-you-go to subscription, will the billing method for network usage of the instance also change?
 - I have an unpaid order to change the billing method of an instance from pay-as-you-go to subscription. If I upgrade the configurations of the instance, will the order still be valid?
 - Why am I unable to change a pay-as-you-go instance into a subscription one?

• No Fees for Stopped Instances (VPC-Connected) feature

- To which types of ECS instances is the No Fees for Stopped Instances (VPC-Connected) feature applicable?
- Can I retain the compute and network resources of a stopped pay-as-you-go instance after I enable the No Fees for Stopped Instances (VPC-Connected) feature?
- Can ECS instances that are stopped from within their operating systems enter the No Fees for Stopped Instances (VPC-Connected) state?
- Can ECS instances that use local disks enter the No Fees for Stopped Instances (VPC-Connected) state?
- When I attempted to start an instance immediately after it entered the No Fees for Stopped Instances (VPC-Connected) state, an OperationConflict error was reported. Why?
- When I called the StartInstance operation to start an instance in the No Fees for Stopped Instances (VPC-Connected) state, an OperationDenied.NoStock error was reported. Why?
- I set Stop Mode of an instance to No Charges After Instance Is Stopped. The instance was stopped and entered the No Fees for Stopped Instances (VPC-Connected) state. When I restarted this instance, its public IP address changed. How do I prevent the IP address from changing?

o Instance billing

- Can I release ECS instances on my own?
- When I try to change the billing method of a disk in an ECS instance, an error message is returned indicating that I have already changed the billing method of the disk three times. What does this mean?
- Why has a pay-as-you-go bill been generated for my instance? What are the charges on the bill?
- Why am I unable to change the billing method of an instance from pay-as-you-go to subscription?
- Why am I unable to change the billing method of an instance from subscription to pay-asyou-go?

• FAQ about image billing

- Billing of public images
 - Do I need to pay for Red Hat images when I use them to create ECS instances?
 - How are Windows licenses billed? Are they billed based on countries and the numbers of cores?

• Billing of custom images

- How am I charged when I copy a custom image?
- I am creating an ECS instance. Why is the total instance cost displayed when I select a custom image higher than that displayed when I select a public image?

o Billing of Alibaba Cloud Marketplace images

- Are Alibaba Cloud Marketplace images refundable?
- After Alibaba Cloud Marketplace images become commercially available, are free Alibaba Cloud Marketplace images still available?
- An instance was created from an Alibaba Cloud Marketplace image. When I renew the instance or upgrade its configurations, do I need to make further payments for the image?
- After an instance created from an Alibaba Cloud Marketplace image is released, can I continue to use that image for free when I purchase a new ECS instance?
- I created an ECS instance from an Alibaba Cloud Marketplace image and then created a custom image from the instance. Do I need to pay for the custom image when I use it to create an ECS instance?
- If I copy a custom image derived from an Alibaba Cloud Marketplace image to another region to create an ECS instance, do I need to pay for the custom image?
- If I share a custom image derived from an Alibaba Cloud Marketplace image to Account B, does Account B need to pay to use the custom image to create an ECS instance?
- Will I be charged if I use an Alibaba Cloud Marketplace image or a custom image derived from an Alibaba Cloud Marketplace image to replace a system disk?
- Will I be charged if I replace the system disk of an ECS instance that uses an Alibaba Cloud Marketplace image?

o Billing of subscription Alibaba Cloud Marketplace images

- What are yearly, monthly, and weekly subscription Alibaba Cloud Marketplace images?
- In what ECS instances can subscription images be used?
- How do I purchase a subscription image? Can I purchase it separately?
- How do I pay for a subscription image?
- Can I use a subscription image after it expires? How do I continue to use an expired subscription image?
- Can I request a refund if I no longer need a subscription image that I purchased?
- How are fees settled after a refund is made?
- Can a subscription image be converted to a pay-as-you-go image?
- Can I replace a subscription image with an image of another type or vice versa? How are fees calculated?
- Will I be charged when I use a custom image created based on a subscription image? How will the created custom image be affected if the subscription image expires?

FAQ about Block Storage billing

How is a separately purchased pay-as-you-go data disk billed?

FAQ about snapshot billing

 The snapshots from which existing disks or custom images were created will be retained 15 days after a payment becomes overdue. Will I continue to be charged for these snapshots, which will cause the overdue amount to increase?

• FAQ about network usage billing

- How is the network usage of ECS instances billed?
- How is the inbound and outbound traffic of pay-as-you-go instances billed?

- What is the difference between the pay-by-bandwidth and pay-by-traffic billing methods?
- Can I adjust the specified peak bandwidth?
- Will I be charged for the traffic generated by ECS instances under attack?
- Pay-by-traffic billing for network usage of subscription instances
 - Can I select the pay-by-traffic billing method for network usage when I purchase a subscription instance?
 - How am I charged when I select the pay-by-traffic billing method for network usage?
 - Can I change the billing method for network usage of a subscription instance from pay-by-bandwidth to pay-by-traffic?
 - Can I adjust the peak traffic bandwidth for an ECS instance at any time?
 - If the pay-by-traffic billing method is used for a subscription instance, can the instance continue to use the public bandwidth service when a payment becomes overdue due to insufficient account balance?
 - If the pay-by-traffic billing method is used for a subscription instance, will I be notified when a payment becomes overdue in my account?
 - If the pay-by-traffic billing method is used for a subscription instance, can I upgrade the instance configurations after a payment becomes overdue in my account?
 - If the pay-by-traffic billing method is used for a subscription instance, does the public bandwidth service of the instance automatically resume after I settle overdue payments?
 - How is traffic priced after I change the billing method for network usage of a subscription instance from pay-by-bandwidth to pay-by-traffic?

Why am I unable to purchase pay-as-you-go instances?

You may be unable to purchase pay-as-you-go instances due to one of the following reasons:

- You have not passed real-name verification. To purchase ECS instances in a region inside mainland China, you must pass real-name verification.
- The number of vCPUs to be consumed by the selected pay-as-you-go instance type exceeds the relative remaining vCPU-based quota of your account.
- Resources of the selected instance type are not available for purchase within the selected region. Try again later or go to the ECS Instance Types Available for Each Region page to view instance types available in each region.

How are invoices issued for pay-as-you-go instances?

You can apply for invoices for your pay-as-you-go instances. A single invoice is provided based on your monthly statement. Go to the **Billing Management** console to apply for invoices.

How is the refundable amount for an instance configuration downgrade calculated?

Alibaba Cloud will determine how to calculate the refundable amount for an instance configuration downgrade based on the payment currency specified on your order to purchase the instance.

- If the payment currency is USD, the price difference-based method is used to calculate the refundable amount.
- If the payment currency is a currency other than USD, such as Malaysian ringgit (MYR) or Indian rupee (INR), the ratio-based method is used.

Remaining value: Alibaba Cloud linearly amortizes the value of each subscription ECS instance over its subscription duration. The value of each subscription instance diminishes over time. The value that a subscription instance has is its remaining value. If you cancel the subscription of an instance after it has been in use for a certain period of time, the remaining value of the instance can be refunded to you. For example, assume that you purchased a 30-day subscription instance at the price of USD 30. If you cancel the subscription of the instance after it has been in use for 10 days, the remaining value of the instance of USD 20 will be refunded to you.

When you used a currency other than USD to pay for the instance during purchase, the amount on the instance purchase order was converted to your payment currency at the prevailing exchange rate at the time of payment. Therefore, this exchange rate will be considered during the calculation of the instance remaining value. As opposed to the price difference-based method, the ratio-based method ensures that refunds will be made based on the exchange rate at the time of payment. This prevents the amount refunded for instance configuration downgrades from being affected by exchange rate fluctuations.

? Note

- Instance configuration downgrades do not change the lifecycles of instances.
- If you have used different currencies to purchase an instance and upgrade its configurations, the instance cannot have its configurations downgraded.

The following examples demonstrate how to use the price difference-based method to calculate the refundable amounts for instance configuration downgrades:

• Example 1: The configurations of a new instance are downgraded after it has been in use for some period of time.

Assume that on the first day of a calendar month, you purchased a 30-day subscription instance (Instance A) at the price of USD 1/day and paid USD 30 in total. On the 11th day of the calendar month, you initiate a configuration downgrade for the instance. The price of the new instance configurations is USD 0.5/day. The refundable amount for the downgrade is calculated in the following manner:

i. Calculate the remaining value M of Instance A.

 $M = USD 30 \times (30 \text{ days} - 10 \text{ days})/30 \text{ days} = USD 20$

ii. Calculate the value N of the new instance configurations.

The instance lifecycle remains unchanged before and after the downgrade. You can use the new instance configurations only for the remaining 20 days. The following formula is used to calculate N: $N = USD \ 0.5/day \times 20 \ days = USD \ 10$.

iii. Calculate the refundable amount.

Refundable amount = M - N = USD 20 - USD 10 = USD 10

In this example, Alibaba Cloud will refund USD 10 for the instance configuration downgrade.

• Example 2: The configurations of a new instance have been upgraded after the instance was in use for some period of time, and are downgraded after another period of time.

Assume that on the first day of a calendar month, you purchased a 30-day subscription instance (Instance B) at the price of USD 1/day and paid USD 30 in total. On the 11th day of the calendar month, you upgraded the configurations of the instance. The price of the new instance configurations was USD 2/day. You paid the price difference P between the original and new instance configurations. The following formula is used to calculate P: P = (USD 2/day - USD 1/day) × (30 days - 10 days) = USD 20. On the 21st day of the calendar month, you initiate a configuration downgrade for the instance. The price of the new instance configurations is USD 0.5/day. The refundable amount is calculated in the following manner:

i. Calculate the remaining value M of Instance B.

The configurations of the instance have been upgraded. Therefore, the remaining value of the instance consists of the remaining value M1 from instance purchase and the remaining value M2 from the configuration upgrade. The following formulas are used to calculate M1 and M2:

- M1 = USD 30 × (30 days -20 days)/30 days = USD 10
- M2 = USD 20 × (20 days -10 days)/20 days = USD 10

M = M1 + M2 = USD 20

ii. Calculate the value N of the new instance configurations.

The instance lifecycle remains unchanged before and after the downgrade. You can use the new instance configurations for the remaining 10 days. The following formula is used to calculate N: $N = USD \ 0.5/day \times 10 \ days = USD \ 5$.

iii. Calculate the refundable amount.

Refundable amount = M - N = USD 20 - USD 5 = USD 15

In this example, Alibaba Cloud will refund USD 15 for the instance configuration downgrade.

The following examples demonstrate how to use the ratio-based method to calculate the refundable amount in MYR for instance configuration downgrades:

• Example 1: The configurations of a new instance are downgraded after it has been in use for some period of time.

Assume that on the first day of a calendar month, you placed an order to purchase a 30-day subscription instance (Instance A) and the order amount was USD 30. The MYR to USD exchange rate was 1:10 at the time of your purchase, and you paid MYR 300 in total. On the 11th day of the calendar month, you initiate a configuration downgrade for the instance. The price of the new instance configurations is USD 0.5/day. The refundable amount for the downgrade is calculated in the following manner:

i. Calculate the remaining value M of Instance A.

```
M = MYR 300 \times (30 \text{ days} - 10 \text{ days})/30 \text{ days} = MYR 200
```

ii. Calculate the refund ratio R.

```
R = (USD 1/day - USD 0.5/day)/USD 1/day = 1/2
```

iii. Calculate the refundable amount.

```
Refundable amount = M \times R = MYR 200 \times 1/2 = MYR 100
```

In this example, Alibaba Cloud will refund MYR 100 for the instance configuration downgrade.

• Example 2: The configurations of a new instance have been upgraded after the instance was in use for some period of time, and are downgraded after another period of time.

Assume that on the first day of a calendar month, you placed an order to purchase a 30-day subscription instance (Instance B) and the order amount was USD 30. The MYR to USD exchange rate was 1:10 at the time of your purchase. You paid MYR 300 in total. On the 11th day of the calendar month, you upgraded the configurations of instance. The price of the new instance configurations was USD 2/day. The MYR to USD exchange rate was 1:11 at the time of upgrade. You paid the price difference P between the original and new instance configurations. The following formula is used to calculate P: $P = (USD\ 2/day - USD\ 1/day) \times (30\ days - 10\ days) \times 11 = MYR\ 220$. On the 21st day of the calendar month, you initiate a configuration downgrade for the instance. The price of the new instance configurations is USD 0.5/day. The refundable amount is calculated in the following manner:

i. Calculate the remaining value M of Instance B.

The configurations of the instance have been upgraded. Therefore, the remaining value of the instance consists of the remaining value M1 from instance purchase and the remaining value M2 from the configuration upgrade. The following formulas are used to calculate M1 and M2:

- M1 = USD 30 × (30 days -20 days)/30 days × 10 = MYR 100
- M2 = USD 20 × (20 days -10 days)/20 days × 11 = MYR 110

```
M = M1 + M2 = MYR 210
```

ii. Calculate the refund ratio R.

```
R = (USD \ 2/day - USD \ 0.5/day)/USD \ 2/day = 3/4
```

iii. Calculate the refundable amount.

Refundable amount = $M \times R = M1 \times R + M2 \times R = MYR 100 \times 3/4 + MYR 110 \times 3/4 = MYR 157.5$

In this example, Alibaba Cloud will refund MYR 157.5 for the instance configuration downgrade.

Why is the actual refundable amount for an instance configuration downgrade less than that I expected?

If you purchased the instance at a discounted rate or the instance price changed before the downgrade, the actual refundable amount may be less than that you expected.

For example, assume that you purchased a 30-day subscription instance at the price of USD 1/day, and that the MYR to USD exchange rate was 1:10 at the time of your purchase. You paid MYR 300 for the instance. 10 days later, you initiate a configuration downgrade for the instance, and the price of the new instance configurations is USD 0.5/day. The refundable amount is MYR 100 as calculated based on the original price of USD 1/day. However, if you purchased the instance at a discounted rate or if the instance price changes before the downgrade, the actual refundable amount is calculated based on the non-discounted or new price. For example, assume that the instance price has changed to USD 0.7/day before the downgrade. The refundable amount is calculated in the following manner:

1. Calculate the remaining value M of Instance A.

```
M = MYR 300 \times (30 \text{ days} - 10 \text{ days})/30 \text{ days} = MYR 200
```

2. Calculate the refund ratio R.

```
R = (USD \ 0.7/day - USD \ 0.5/day)/USD \ 1/day = 1/5
```

3. Calculate the refundable amount.

Refundable amount = $M \times R = MYR 200 \times 1/5 = MYR 40$

In this example, the actual refundable amount is MYR 40 instead of MYR 100.

What can I do if the billing method of an instance cannot be changed from subscription to pay-as-you-go?

You may be unable to change the billing method of an instance from subscription to pay-as-you-go due to one of the following reasons:

- The instance is in a state that does not support changes to the billing method. For example, the instance has an unpaid order.
- The instance is in the Expired state.
- The instance information has changed. For example, the bandwidth of the instance has been temporarily upgraded.

If one of the preceding errors is reported, adjust the instance accordingly. If the problem persists, submit a ticket.

How is the billable time of a pay-as-you-go instance calculated? For example, if I create a pay-as-you-go ECS instance at 2019-12-12 01:30:00 and release it at 2019-12-12 02:00:00, is the instance billed for a period of half an hour or an hour?

Pay-as-you-go instances are billed at increments of one second. Payments are made at the top of each hour. The billable time of pay-as-you-go instances is automatically calculated. For example, if you create a pay-as-you-go instance at 2019-12-12 01:30:00 and release it at 2019-12-12 02:00:00, the hour from 01:00:00 to 02:00:00 is a billing cycle. The billable time is 1,800 seconds, which is calculated based on the following formula: $(30 \text{ minutes}) \times 60 = 1800 \text{ seconds}$.

Will I still be charged for a pay-as-you-go instance after it is stopped either manually or due to an overdue payment?

Stopped due to an overdue payment: A pay-as-you-go instance will be automatically stopped when a payment becomes overdue for it, and stop incurring charges. Instances will not always stay in the Stopped state after they are stopped due to overdue payments. For more information, see Pay-as-you-go.

Manually stopped: You can stop a running pay-as-you-go instance from the ECS console or by calling the StopInstance operation. When the instance is stopped, its state changes to Stopped. Billing of stopped pay-as-you-go instances depends on their network types.

- VPC: You can enable the No Fees for Stopped Instances (VPC-Connected) feature.
 - After the feature is enabled, billing of pay-as-you-go instances in VPCs will start when the
 instances are created, stop when the instances enter the Stopped state, and resume when
 the instances are started again. When a pay-as-you-go instance enters the Stopped state,
 the No Fees for Stopped Instances (VPC-Connected) feature stops only the vCPUs, memory,
 and public IP address of the instance from incurring charges. Other resources such as disks
 and EIP of the instance will continue to incur charges. For more information, No Fees for
 Stopped Instances (VPC-Connected).
 - If the No Fees for Stopped Instances (VPC-Connected) feature is disabled, pay-as-you-go instances continue to incur charges when they are stopped.

• Classic network: ECS instances in the classic network will be billed regardless of whether they are in the Stopped state.

What can I do if an order cannot be placed to change the billing method of an instance from pay-as-you-go to subscription?

You may be unable to place the order due to one of the following reasons:

- The instance is in a state that does not support changes to the billing method. For example, the instance has an unpaid order.
- Changes to the billing method are not allowed due to an upcoming scheduled automatic release.
- Changes to the billing method are not allowed because the instance information has changed.
- A previous order to change the billing method of the instance has not been paid.

If one of the preceding errors is reported, adjust the instance accordingly.

How long after an order is paid does it take to change the billing method of an instance from pay-as-you-go to subscription?

The billing method of your ECS instance will be changed after the order is paid. It can take up to four seconds to change the billing method of 20 instances. After the change is completed, you can see that the billing method of your instance has been changed to **Subscription** in the console.

What can I do if the billing method of an instance cannot be changed from pay-as-you-go to subscription?

Submit a ticket.

When I change the billing method of an instance from pay-as-you-go to subscription, will the billing method for network usage of the instance also change?

No, the billing method for network usage of the instance will not change. Only the billing method of instances and disks can be changed from pay-as-you-go to subscription. For information about how to change the billing method for network usage, see Overview of instance upgrade and downgrade.

I have an unpaid order to change the billing method of an instance from pay-as-you-go to subscription. If I upgrade the configurations of the instance, will the order still be valid?

An order is created when you change the billing method of your instance from pay-as-you-go to subscription. You must pay for the order to complete the change. If you upgrade the configurations of the instance before the order is paid, the order payment cannot be completed because the instance components are different and the original order no longer matches. If you still want to change the billing method, you must cancel the unpaid order and place a new order.

Why am I unable to change a pay-as-you-go instance to a subscription one?

The ECS instance whose billing method you want to change must meet the following requirements:

- The instance belongs to your account.
- The instance is of none of the following instance types:
 - Instance types in Generation I instance families: t1, s1, s2, s3, m1, m2, c1, and c2.
 - Instance types in the n1, n2, and e3 instance families.

Note For more information about these instance types, see Phased-out instance types.

- The instance cannot be a preemptible instance.
- You have no unpaid order to switch the billing method of the instance.

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

• Automatic release is not set for the instance.

If automatic release has been set for an instance, you must disable the automatic release configuration and then switch the billing method. For more information, see <u>Disable automatic release</u>.

• The instance is in the Running or Stopped state.

Example: An order to switch the billing method has been placed when the ECS instance is in the Running or Stopped state. However, the instance status changed when the payment was attempted. The preceding requirement is not met. The order fails and the billing method does not change. You can go to the Billing Management console and pay for the order when the instance is in the Running or Stopped state again.

To which types of ECS instances is the No Fees for Stopped Instances (VPC-Connected) feature applicable?

The No Fees for Stopped Instances (VPC-Connected) feature is applicable to the ECS instances that meet all of the following requirements:

- The network type of the instances is VPC.
- The instances use the pay-as-you-go billing method.
- The instances do not use local disks.

For more information, see No Fees for Stopped Instances (VPC-Connected).

Can I retain the compute and network resources of a stopped pay-asyou-go instance after I enable the No Fees for Stopped Instances (VPC-Connected) feature? With the No Fees for Stopped Instances (VPC-Connected) feature enabled, you still can configure a pay-as-you-go instance to enter or not to enter the No Fees for Stopped Instances (VPC-Connected) state when you stop the instance. If you configure the instance not to enter the No Fees for Stopped Instances (VPC-Connected) state, its compute and network resources will be retained when it is stopped.

If you only need to stop an instance for a few minutes before it is restarted, we recommend that you perform one of the following operations to configure the instance not to enter the No Fees for Stopped Instances (VPC-Connected) state: Call the StopInstance operation with StoppedMode set to *KeepCharging*, or set Stop Mode to Retain Instance and Continue Charging After Instance Is Stopped when you stop the instance from the ECS console.

Can ECS instances that are stopped from within their operating systems enter the No Fees for Stopped Instances (VPC-Connected) state?

No, ECS instances that are stopped from within their operating systems cannot enter the No Fees for Stopped Instances (VPC-Connected) state. Only ECS instances that you stop by using one of the following methods can enter the No Fees for Stopped Instances (VPC-Connected) state:

- Using the ECS console.
- Using ECS API.

Can ECS instances that use local disks enter the No Fees for Stopped Instances (VPC-Connected) state?

No, ECS instances that use local disks cannot enter the No Fees for Stopped Instances (VPC-Connected) state.

When I attempted to start an instance immediately after it entered the No Fees for Stopped Instances (VPC-Connected) state, an OperationConflict error was reported. Why?

When an instance enters the No Fees for Stopped Instances (VPC-Connected) state, its compute resources (CPUs and memory) and public IP address are recycled. If you only need to stop an instance for a few minutes before it is restarted, we recommend that you set StoppedMode to *KeepCharging* to keep the instance from entering the No Fees for Stopped Instances (VPC-Connected) state.

When I called the StartInstance operation to start an instance in the No Fees for Stopped Instances (VPC-Connected) state, an OperationDenied.NoStock error was reported. Why?

When an instance enters the No Fees for Stopped Instances (VPC-Connected) state, its compute resources are recycled. If the inventory of resources is insufficient, an OperationDenied.NoStock error is reported when you attempt to start the instance. We recommend that you try again later.

I set Stop Mode of an instance to No Charges After Instance Is Stopped. The instance was stopped and entered the No Fees for Stopped Instances (VPC-Connected) state. When I restarted this instance, its public IP address changed. How do I prevent the IP address from changing?

When an instance enters the No Fees for Stopped Instances (VPC-Connected) state, its public IP address is released. When the instance is restarted, it is assigned a new public IP address.

To retain the original public IP address, you can convert this IP address to an Elastic IP address before you stop the instance. For more information, see Convert the public IP address of a VPC-type instance to an Elastic IP address and ConvertNatPublicIpToEip.

Notice After the IP address is converted to an Elastic IP address, you will be charged for the Elastic IP address while the instance is in the No Fees for Stopped Instances (VPC-Connected) state. For more information about how Elastic IP addresses are billed, see Billing overview.

Can I release ECS instances on my own?

Yes, you can manually release or schedule the automatic release of pay-as-you-go instances. However, you cannot release subscription instances on your own.

If you have further questions, submit a ticket.

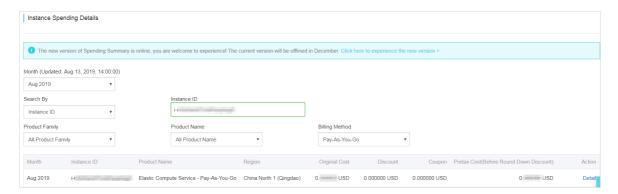
When I try to change the billing method of a disk in an ECS instance, an error message is returned indicating that I have already changed the billing method three times. What does this mean?

Each ECS instance can only be downgraded a maximum of three times. Downgrade operations include downgrades of instance specifications, bandwidth downgrades, and the change of the disk billing method from subscription to pay-as-you-go.

Why has a pay-as-you-go bill been generated for my instance? What are the charges on the bill?

You can copy your instance ID and perform the following steps to view the bill details:

- 1. Log on to the ECS console.
- 2. In the top navigation bar, choose Billing > User Center.
- 3. In the left-side navigation pane, choose Spending Summary > Instance Spending Detail.
- 4. Set the search criteria and click Search.



Why am I unable to change the billing method of an instance from payas-you-go to subscription?

The billing method of instances of the following instance types cannot be changed from pay-as-you-go to subscription:

- Instance types of Generation One: t1, s1, s2, s3, m1, m2, c1, and c2
- Instance types in the n1, n2, and e3 instance families

Note For more information about the preceding instance types, see Phased-out instance types.

If your pay-as-you-go instances are not of the preceding instance types, make sure that the instances meet the requirements to change their billing method to subscription. For more information, see Switch the billing method from pay-as-you-go to subscription.

Why am I unable to change the billing method of an instance from subscription to pay-as-you-go?

Your ECS usage determines whether the billing method of your subscription instances can be changed to pay-as-you-go. Before you change the billing method of a subscription instance, make sure that the instance is in the Running or Stopped state.

Do I need to pay for Red Hat images when I use them to create ECS instances?

Yes, you must pay for Red Hat images when you use them to create ECS instances. Red Hat images are paid images. For pricing details, see the ECS pricing page.

How are Windows licenses billed? Are they billed based on countries and the numbers of cores?

Windows licenses are free of charge in regions inside mainland China but are charged in regions outside of mainland China. The prices of Windows licenses vary depending on countries, regions, and the number of vCPUs. For pricing details, see the ECS pricing page.

How am I charged when I copy a custom image?

You must perform the following operations to copy a custom image:

1. Copy the snapshot from which the custom image was created from the source region to the destination region.

2. Create a custom image from the snapshot in the destination region.

You may be charged the following fees for the preceding operations:

- Fees for traffic between the two regions. Alibaba Cloud does not charge you for cross-region traffic. For the latest billing details, see the official Alibaba Cloud website for announcements.
- The copied snapshot consumes snapshot capacity. Snapshot capacity is billed. For more information, see Snapshot billing.

I am creating an ECS instance. Why is the total instance cost displayed when I select a custom image higher than that displayed when I select a public image?

This situation may occur in the following circumstances:

- The custom image contains data disk snapshots. When such an image is selected, the costs of the data disks cause the total cost of the instance to be higher than that of an instance created from a public image.
- The custom image was created based on a paid public image such as Windows Server or RHEL.

Are Alibaba Cloud Marketplace images refundable?

Alibaba Cloud Marketplace images support money-back guarantee within a certain period of time based on the Alibaba Cloud Marketplace rules. However, you will be ineligible for a refund in the following situations:

- You have deployed the purchased image to an ECS instance within the money-back guarantee period.
- You have deployed the purchased image to an ECS instance before your application for a refund for this image is approved.
- You can receive refunds only for images that have not been used.

Are any free Alibaba Cloud Marketplace images available after Alibaba Cloud Marketplace images are commercially available?

Free Alibaba Cloud Marketplace images are still available. However, you must purchase them at a price of USD 0.00 before you can use them.

I have an instance created from an Alibaba Cloud Marketplace image. Do I need to make further payments when I renew the instance or upgrade its configurations?

No, you do not need to make any further payments. You can use a purchased image to create as many instances as you like.

I have an ECS instance created from an Alibaba Cloud Marketplace image. After the instance is released, can I continue to use that image free of charge when I purchase a new ECS instance?

Yes, you can continue to use that image free of charge when you purchase a new ECS instance.

I created an ECS instance from an Alibaba Cloud Marketplace image and then created a custom image from the instance. Do I need to pay for the custom image when I use it to create an ECS instance?

Yes, you must pay the original price of the Alibaba Cloud Marketplace image.

If I copy an Alibaba Cloud Marketplace image that I bought to another region to create an ECS instance, do I need to pay for the image?

Yes, you must pay the original price of the Alibaba Cloud Marketplace image.

I created an ECS instance from an Alibaba Cloud Marketplace image and then created a custom image from that instance. If I share the custom image to Account B, does Account B need to pay for the custom image when it uses this image to create an ECS instance?

Yes, Account B must pay the original price of the Alibaba Cloud Marketplace image.

Is a fee charged if I replace a system disk by using an Alibaba Cloud Marketplace image or an image derived from an Alibaba Cloud Marketplace image?

It depends. If the current image of your ECS instance is a different version of the replacement image, no fees are charged. Otherwise, a fee is charged.

My ECS instance is using an Alibaba Cloud Marketplace image. Is a fee charged if I replace the system disk of the instance?

No, no fees are charged if you replace the system disk of the instance.

What are yearly, monthly, and weekly subscription Alibaba Cloud Marketplace images?

Yearly, monthly, or weekly subscription Alibaba Cloud Marketplace images are images that are purchased from Alibaba Cloud Marketplace and billed on a subscription basis. These images are developed and maintained by image providers, who are responsible for both pre-sales consultation and after-sales services. In this topic, these images are collectively referred to as subscription images.

On which ECS instances can I use a subscription image?

A subscription image can only be used on a subscription instance with the same subscription duration.

How do I purchase a subscription image? Can I purchase it separately?

No, you cannot purchase a subscription image separately.

You can use one of the following methods to purchase a subscription image:

• When you create an ECS instance, set Billing Method to Subscription, select an Alibaba Cloud Marketplace image, and then specify a subscription duration by setting Duration.

① Note In this case, you must pay for both the instance and image. The instance is created upon successful payment for both the image and instance.

• To use a subscription image on an existing subscription ECS instance, you can use this image to replace the operating system of the instance. In this case, you must select the image subscription duration based on the instance subscription duration. For more information, see Replace the system disk (non-public images).



Note In this case, you only need to pay for the image.

How do I pay for subscription images?

Subscription images require payment upfront. The subscription duration of a subscription image must be the same as that of the subscription instance on which the image is used.

Image prices are set by the image providers.

Can I use a subscription image after it expires? How do I continue to use it?

When a subscription image expires, it cannot be used unless it is renewed in a timely manner.

You cannot renew a subscription image separately. If you want to continue using the image, you must renew the image together with the corresponding ECS instance. You can resume use of the image after it is renewed.

After I purchase a subscription image, can I request a refund if I no longer want to use it?

The image provider will determine whether to make a refund. You can consult the image provider before you purchase the image.

What can I expect when a refund is made?

If a refund is available, the image provider will make the refund based on your usage.

Can a subscription image be converted to a pay-as-you-go image?

Subscription images cannot be converted to pay-as-you-go images. This conversion function is currently under development for release in the future. Stay updated on the official Alibaba Cloud website.

Can I replace a subscription image with an image of another type or vice versa? How is the fee calculated?

Yes, you can replace images when you replace system disks of ECS instances. You can make the following replacements:

- Replace an image of another type (such as public image, custom image, or shared image) with a subscription image. After the image is replaced, the system will calculate the actual cost based on the image cost and the remaining subscription duration of the ECS instance.
- Replace a subscription image with an image of another type (such as public image, custom image, or shared image). If the image provider allows for refunds, a refund will be made based

on your actual usage.

Replace Subscription Image A with Subscription Image B. If a refund is available after the
image is replaced, the refund will be made based on the refund policy. The actual cost of
Image B will be calculated based on the image price and the remaining subscription duration
of the ECS instance.

Is a fee charged for a custom image derived from a subscription image? How will the custom image be affected if the subscription image expires?

When you use a custom image derived from a subscription image to create an instance or replace a system disk, you are re-ordering the subscription image on Alibaba Cloud Marketplace. The custom image will not be affected regardless of whether the original subscription image expires.

How is a separately purchased pay-as-you-go data disk billed?

A pay-as-you-go data disk is billed by the hour. Note that if your account balance is insufficient, the services of the data disk will be suspended.

The snapshots from which existing disks or custom images were created will be retained 15 days after a payment becomes overdue. Will I continue to be charged for these snapshots, which will cause the overdue amount to increase?

No, you will not continue to be charged for the snapshots.

For example, assume that you have an overdue payment of USD 0.1. After the 15-day retention period, the snapshots from which no existing disks or custom images were created will be deleted. The snapshots from which existing disks or custom images were created will be retained, and you will not continue to be charged for these snapshots. To use these retained snapshots, you must first settle the overdue payment but you do not have to pay for the snapshots again.

How is the network usage of ECS instances billed?

For more information, see Billing methods of public bandwidth.

How is the inbound and outbound traffic of pay-as-you-go instances billed?

Traffic between ECS instances or between ECS instances and other Alibaba Cloud services within the same local area network (LAN) is free of charge. Traffic between ECS instances and the Internet is billed based on the following rules:

- Inbound Internet traffic is free of charge. Inbound Internet traffic refers to traffic from the Internet to ECS instances, such as traffic that is generated when you download resources from the Internet to your ECS instances or when your users upload resources to your ECS instances by using an FTP client.
- Outbound Internet traffic is billed. Outbound Internet traffic refers to traffic from ECS
 instances to the Internet, such as traffic that is generated when your ECS instances provide
 external access or when your users download internal resources from your ECS instances by
 using an FTP client.

For more information about bandwidth billing, see Billing methods of public bandwidth.

What is the difference between the pay-by-bandwidth and pay-by-traffic billing methods?

If you select pay-by-bandwidth as the billing method for network usage, you are charged based on the specified bandwidth. Your actual outbound bandwidth will not exceed the specified bandwidth.

If you select pay-by-traffic as the billing method for network usage, you are charged based on the actual volume of generated traffic. To prevent out-of-control fees incurred from traffic bursts, you can set a peak bandwidth for outbound Internet traffic.

For more information, see Billing methods of public bandwidth.

Can I adjust the specified peak bandwidth?

Yes, you can adjust the specified peak bandwidth. For more information, see Overview of instance upgrade and downgrade.

Will I be charged for the traffic generated by ECS instances under attack?

You will not be charged for the inbound Internet traffic generated by ECS instances under attack, but will be charged for the outbound Internet traffic.

We recommend that you use Alibaba Cloud Security services such as Server Guard to reinforce the security of your ECS instances.

Can I select the pay-by-traffic billing method for network usage when I purchase a subscription instance?

Yes, you can select the pay-by-traffic billing method for network usage when you purchase a subscription instance. For more information, see Create an instance by using the provided wizard.

For more information about the pay-by-traffic billing method, see the ECS pricing page.

How am I charged when I select the pay-by-traffic billing method for network usage?

Pay-by-traffic is a pay-as-you-go billing method in which fees are charged based on the actual volume of traffic. Payments are settled at the top of each hour. To keep services running properly, make sure that your account balance is sufficient. To prevent out-of-control fees incurred from traffic bursts, you can set a peak traffic bandwidth.

Can I change the billing method for network usage of a subscription instance from pay-by-bandwidth to pay-by-traffic?

Yes, you can change the billing method for network usage of a subscription instance from pay-by-bandwidth to pay-by-traffic by using the bandwidth downgrade feature. However, you can make this change only a limited number of times. For more information, see Downgrade the public bandwidths of subscription instances.

You can also use the renewal and downgrade feature to change the billing method for network usage. The new configurations do not take effect until the next subscription duration starts. For more information, see Downgrade instance configurations during renewal.

Can I adjust the peak traffic bandwidth for an ECS instance at any time?

Yes, you can adjust the peak traffic bandwidth for an ECS instance at any time by using the bandwidth downgrade feature. After you set the peak traffic bandwidth to a smaller value, the new value takes effect immediately. A maximum of three refunds can be made for each instance. Exercise caution when you downgrade the configurations of an instance.

If you downgraded the configurations of a subscription instance when you renewed it, you cannot upgrade or downgrade the instance configurations again until the new subscription duration starts.

If the pay-by-traffic billing method is used for a subscription instance, can the instance continue to use the public bandwidth service when a payment becomes overdue due to insufficient account balance?

Overdue payments do not affect the running of subscription instances, but do cause the pay-by-traffic public bandwidth service to be stopped, preventing the instances from accessing the Internet. You can continue to use the public bandwidth service only after you settle the overdue payment. To keep the service running properly, make sure that your account balance is sufficient.

If the pay-by-traffic billing method is used for a subscription instance, will I be notified when a payment becomes overdue in my account?

Yes, you will be notified by SMS. To keep services running properly, make sure that your account balance is sufficient.

If the pay-by-traffic billing method is used for a subscription instance, can I upgrade the instance configurations after a payment becomes overdue in my account?

No, you can upgrade the instance configurations only after you settle the overdue payment.

If the pay-by-traffic billing method is used for a subscription instance, does the public bandwidth service of the instance automatically resume after I settle overdue payments?

If the public bandwidth service was stopped due to an overdue payment, the service will automatically resume when the overdue payment is settled.

How is traffic priced after I change the billing method for network usage of a subscription instance from pay-by-bandwidth to pay-by-traffic?

When you change the billing method for network usage of your subscription instance from pay-by-bandwidth to pay-by-traffic, you are billed for network usage based on the actual volume of traffic. Payments are settled at the top of each hour. For pricing details, see the ECS pricing page.