Alibaba Cloud

ApsaraDB for RDS

Purchase Guide

C-D Alibaba Cloud

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Document conventions

Style	Description	Example
⚠ 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.
🔔 Warning	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 list --instanceid` *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}`

Table of Contents

1.Billable items, billing methods, and pricing

This topic describes the billable items, billing methods, and pricing of ApsaraDB RDS.

Billable items

Billable item	Pricing
Primary instance types	You are charged for the instance type that you select. • The price is calculated based on the subscription or pay-as-you-go billing method. For more information about the billing methods, see the "Billing methods" section in this topic. • The price of an RDS instance varies based on the instance configuration, such as the region, instance type, and storage capacity that you select. For more information, visit the ApsaraDB RDS buy page.
Storage capacity	You are charged for the storage capacity that you purchase for the primary, secondary, read-only, and disaster recovery RDS instances in your database system. • The price is calculated based on the subscription or pay-as-you-go billing method. • The price of an RDS instance varies based on the storage capacity that you select. For more information, visit the ApsaraDB RDS buy page.
(Optional) Read-only RDS instances	You are charged for the instance type that you select. • The price is calculated based on the subscription or pay-as-you-go billing method. • For more information, visit the ApsaraDB RDS buy page.
(Optional) Cloned RDS instances	The price of a cloned RDS instance is the same as the price of a new primary RDS instance. For more information, visit the ApsaraDB RDS buy page.

(Optional) Backup storage	You are charged for the backup storage that is occupied by your backup files.
	• ApsaraDB RDS offers a free quota for backup storage. If the total size of your backup files exceeds the free quota, you are charged for the excess backup storage that you use based on the pay-as-you-go billing method. The free quota varies based on the instance configuration:
	  ○ If your RDS instance uses standard SSDs or enhanced SSDs (ESSDs), the free quota is equal to 200% of the storage capacity that you purchase for your RDS instance.
	  ○ If your RDS instance uses local SSDs, the free quota is equal to 50% of the storage capacity that you purchase for your RDS instance.

Billable item	Pricing
(Optional) Performance monitoring	You are charged for the performance monitoring feature for some RDS instances. If your RDS instance runs SQL Server or MariaDB TX, you are not charged for the performance monitoring feature. If your RDS instance runs MySQL or PostgreSQL, you are charged for the performance monitoring feature. The fee is calculated based on the following information: • If you select the 60-second or 300-second monitoring frequency, no fees are charged. If you select the 5-second monitoring frequency, you are charged an hourly fee based on the pay-as-you-go billing method. • The price for the performance monitoring feature is USD 0.012 per hour. The enhanced monitoring feature is supported for ApsaraDB RDS for PostgreSQL instances. This feature provides more OS metrics and database metrics and supports more monitoring frequencies than the standard monitoring feature. All the supported monitoring frequencies are free of charge. For more information, see View the Enhanced Monitoring metrics of an ApsaraDB RDS for PostgreSQL instance.
(Optional) SQL Explorer (SQL Audit)	You are charged for the SQL Explorer feature. • By default, the SQL Explorer feature is disabled, and no fees are charged. If you enable the SQL Explorer feature, you are charged an hourly fee based on the pay-as-you-go billing method. • For more information about the price of the SQL Explorer feature, see the following topics: ○ Use the SQL Explorer feature on an ApsaraDB RDS for MySQL instance. ○ Use the SQL Explorer feature on an ApsaraDB RDS for SQL Server instance ○ Use the SQL Explorer feature on an ApsaraDB RDS for PostgreSQL instance ⓘ **Note** If your RDS instance runs RDS Enterprise Edition, you are not charged for the SQL Explorer feature.
(Optional) Database proxy	You are charged for the database proxy feature. ⓘ **Note** The database proxy feature is supported only for ApsaraDB RDS for MySQL instances. • By default, the database proxy feature is disabled, and no fees are charged. If you enable the database proxy feature, you are charged an hourly fee based on the pay-as-you-go billing method. • For more information about the price of the database proxy feature, see Billing rules for dedicated proxy.
(Optional) Internet traffic	If you apply for a public endpoint for your RDS instance and use the public endpoint to connect to your RDS instance, Internet traffic is consumed. You are not charged for the inbound or outbound Internet traffic that you consume.

Billing methods

ApsaraDB RDS supports the following two billing methods.

Billing method	Description
Subscription	• A subscription RDS instance is an RDS instance for which you pay an upfront fee. • For long-term use, the subscription billing method is more cost-effective than the pay-as-you-go billing method. Longer subscription periods help you reduce costs. • You can change the billing method of an RDS instance from subscription to pay-as-you-go. For more information, see Switch an ApsaraDB RDS for MySQL instance from subscription to pay-as-you-go.
Pay-as-you-go	• You are charged an hourly fee for a pay-as-you-go RDS instance based on your resource usage. The hourly fee is calculated based on the instance type that you specify in the purchase order and is deducted from the balance of your Alibaba Cloud account. • The pay-as-you-go billing method is suitable for short-term use. If you no longer need a pay-as-you-go RDS instance, you can release the RDS instance to reduce costs. • You can change the billing method of an RDS instance from pay-as-you-go to subscription. For more information, see Switch an ApsaraDB RDS for MySQL instance from pay-as-you-go to subscription.

Spending details

For more information about how to view the spending details of an RDS instance, see View the spending details of an ApsaraDB for RDS instance. The details include the costs and usage that are categorized based on billable items, such as the instance type, performance monitoring, and SQL Explorer (SQL Audit).

FAQ

• Why am I charged additional fees for a subscription RDS instance?

The fee that you pay for a new subscription RDS instance covers the instance type and the storage capacity. If you create read-only RDS instances, enable the SQL Explorer (SQL Audit) feature or the performance monitoring feature, or consume more storage than the free quota for backup storage, you are charged additional fees. For more information, see the "Billable items" section in this topic.

• Am I charged for a pay-as-you-go RDS instance that I am not using?

Yes, you are charged an hourly fee for every pay-as-you-go RDS instance that you create even if you are not using the RDS instance. A pay-as-you-go RDS instance consumes computing and storage resources even if it is not used. If you do not intend to use a pay-as-you-go RDS instance for a long period of time, we recommend that you save the data that you need and release the RDS instance.

• Is the inbound and outbound Internet traffic that is consumed for my pay-as-you-go RDS instances and subscription RDS instances free of charge? How much bandwidth is provided for an RDS instance?

Yes, all inbound and outbound Internet traffic that is consumed for your pay-as-you-go RDS instances and subscription RDS instances is free of charge. The bandwidth of an RDS instance is unlimited.

2.Specification change fees

This topic describes the fees involved for changing the specifications of an ApsaraDB for RDS instance.

Pay-as-you-go

Pay-as-you-go instances are billed on an hourly basis. After the specifications of a pay-as-you-go instance change, the instance is billed at the new price.

Subscription

Specification change	Billing
Upgrade immediately	Payment = Total fees of the new specifications for the remaining subscription period (Monthly price of the new specifications/30/24 × Unused hours) - Total fees of the original specifications for the remaining subscription period (Monthly price of the original specifications/30/24 × Unused hours). Example: The monthly price of the new specifications is USD 14,400. The monthly price of the original specifications is USD 7,200. The unused subscription duration is 50 days. The payment is calculated as follows: (14,400/30/24 × 50 × 24) - (7,200/30/24 × 50 × 24) = USD 12,000.
Downgrade immediately	Refund = Total fees of the original specifications for the remaining subscription period (Monthly price of the original specifications/30/24 × Unused hours) - Total fees of the new specifications for the remaining subscription period (Monthly price of the new specifications/30/24 × Unused hours). Example: You subscribed to an instance for three months, during which the original specifications are charged USD 3,500. You paid USD 3,000 after using coupons. After two months, the total fees of the original specifications for the remaining month are USD 1,000. The total fees of the new specifications for a month are USD 800. The refund is calculated as follows: 1000 - 800 = USD 200.

> ⑦ Note   If you upgrade the specifications of an instance and then downgrade the specifications, you may get fewer refunds in the following two scenarios:
> - Discounts used in the upgrade order: If you subscribed to the instance for a year at a 15% discount, you need to pay only USD 850 to enjoy USD 1,000 worth of service. Then, a refund for downgrading the specifications is calculated based on USD 850.
> - You used coupons in the upgrade order: When you downgrade the specifications of the instance, the refund of the original specifications is calculated based on the cash you paid, excluding the amount deducted by coupons. However, when you upgrade the specifications of the instance, the fees of the original specifications are calculated based on the unit price of the original specifications, including the amount deducted by coupons.

Price details

The price of the RDS instance that you want to purchase varies based on the instance configuration, such as the region, instance type, storage capacity that you select. For more information, go to the ApsaraDB RDS buy page.

References

- Change the specifications of an ApsaraDB RDS MySQL instance
- Change the specifications of an ApsaraDB RDS SQL Server instance
- Change the specifications of an ApsaraDB RDS PostgreSQL instance
- Change the specifications of an ApsaraDB RDS PPAS instance
- Change the specifications of an ApsaraDB RDS MariaDB instance

3.Subscription renewal

You can renew the subscription of your ApsaraDB for RDS instance to extend the subscription period. Pay-as-you-go-billed RDS instances never expire. You only need to make sure that your Alibaba Cloud account has sufficient balance.

Pricing

The fee required to renew the subscription of an RDS instance is the same as the fee required to purchase an RDS instance.

The price of the RDS instance that you want to purchase varies based on the instance configuration, such as the region, instance type, storage capacity that you select. For more information, go to the ApsaraDB RDS buy page.

Fee deduction time

- Automatic renewal: The first time when the system deducts fees from your Alibaba Cloud account comes at 08:00 on the third day before your RDS instance expires. If the deduction fails, the system will attempt to deduct fees once every day for the remaining two-day subscription period until the deduction is successful. If your RDS instance will expire on the next day, you must manually renew the subscription.

  ⓘ Note   Make sure that the balance of your Alibaba Cloud account is sufficient to avoid renewal failures. If all of the three automatic fee deduction attempts fail, you must manually renew the subscription before your RDS instance expires. This prevents instance downtime that may cause data losses.

- Manual renewal: You must manually renew the subscription of your RDS instance before your RDS instance expires.

Operation guides

- Manually renew an ApsaraDB RDS for MySQL instance
- Enable auto-renewal for an ApsaraDB RDS for MySQL instance

References

Impact of expiration and overdue payment

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Purchase Guide·Unlock or rebuild an
expired or overdue ApsaraDB RDS in
stance

4.Unlock or rebuild an expired or overdue ApsaraDB RDS instance

This topic describes how to unlock or rebuild an expired or overdue ApsaraDB RDS instance within the specified retention period.

> 🔔 **Warning**   If your RDS instance expires or becomes overdue, it may be stopped. You will be notified in these cases. To ensure service availability, you must immediately renew your RDS instance or top up your Alibaba Cloud account.

Billing method	Instance status	Operation

Subscription	• If auto-renewal is enabled but the automatic renewal fails:
	  ◦ During the first day to the fifteenth day after your RDS instance expires, the instance still runs as normal.
	  ◦ On the sixteenth day after your RDS instance expires, the instance is stopped.
	  ◦ On the thirty-first day after your RDS instance expires, the instance is released. However, the backups of the instance are still retained until the thirty-eighth day.
	  ◦ On the thirty-ninth day after your RDS instance expires, the backups of the instance are released.
	• If auto-renewal is not enabled:
	  ◦ During the first day to the fifteenth day after your RDS instance expires, the instance is stopped.
	  ◦ On the sixteenth day after your RDS instance expires, the instance is released. However, the backups of the instance are still retained until the twenty-third day.
	  ◦ On the twenty-fourth day after your RDS instance expires, the backups of the instance are released.
		• Before your RDS instance is released, manually renew the instance. The instance is immediately available. For more information, see Manually renew an ApsaraDB RDS for MySQL instance.
		• After your RDS instance is released and before the backups are released, rebuild the instance from the recycle bin and restore the data of the instance to a new RDS instance. For more information, see Manage ApsaraDB RDS for MySQL instances in the recycle bin. The time that is required for the restoration varies based on the performance and data volume of your RDS instance.
		
		⑦ **Note** Only the RDS instances that meet the specified requirements are moved to the recycle bin after they are released. For more information, see Manage ApsaraDB RDS for MySQL instances in the recycle bin.
		
		• After the backups are released, your RDS instance cannot be restored.

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Billing method	Instance status	Operation
Pay-as-you-go	If you have an overdue payment in your Alibaba Cloud account, all of the pay-as-you-go instances under this account change to the Overdue state. • During the first day to the fifteenth day after your RDS instance becomes overdue, the instance still runs as normal. • On the sixteenth day after your RDS instance becomes overdue, the instance is stopped. • Before you add funds to your Alibaba Cloud account, you cannot release your RDS instance. • On the thirty-first day after your RDS instance becomes overdue, the instance is released with the backups and cannot be restored.	• Before the backups are released, check the payment method of your Alibaba Cloud account and top up this account in the Billing Management console. • After the backups are released, your RDS instance cannot be restored.

> **Note** After an RDS instance is released, the backup files of the instance are retained in the following situations:
> - The instance runs MySQL, PostgreSQL, or SQL Server, and the cross-region backup retention period that you specify has not elapsed. In this case, the cross-region backup files of the instance are retained within the specified cross-region backup retention period.
> - The instance runs MySQL, and you have specified to retain the backup files of the instance even after the instance is released. In this case, the backup files of the instance are retained. For more information, see Enable automatic backups for an ApsaraDB RDS for MySQL instance.

Suggestions

- Before your subscription RDS instance expires, we recommend that you manually renew the instance or enable auto-renewal. For more information, see Manually renew an ApsaraDB RDS for MySQL instance and Enable auto-renewal for an ApsaraDB RDS for MySQL instance.
- Make sure that the balance in your Alibaba Cloud account is sufficient.

FAQ

My Alibaba Cloud account has overdue payments because I have subscription RDS instances that are charged at additional fees. These fees include the fees for excess backup usage beyond the provided free quota and the fees for features such as SQL Explorer. What will happen in these cases?

In these cases, your subscription RDS instances still run as normal. However, all of the pay-as-you-go RDS instances under your Alibaba Cloud account become overdue.

5.View the spending details of an ApsaraDB for RDS instance

This topic describes how to view the spending details of an ApsaraDB for RDS instance in the ApsaraDB for RDS console. These spending details include the fees for additional backup storage and features such as SQL audit, instance-level backup, performance monitoring.

Procedure

1. Log on to the ApsaraDB for RDS console.

2. In the upper-right corner of the page, choose **Billing > User Center**.

3. In the left-side navigation pane, choose **Spending Summary > Instance Spending Detail**.

4. Specify the filter criteria based on which you want to query spending details.

   The following table lists the fees that you need to pay for an RDS instance.

Type	Fee
Post-paid fees	○ The fee required to purchase the RDS instance if the instance uses pay-as-you-go billing. ○ The additional fees required to enable features such as SQL audit and backup. You must pay for the backup usage that exceeds the capacity of the specified free tier.
Pre-paid fees	The fee required to purchase the RDS instance if the instance uses subscription billing.

   ⑦ **Note** You can query only the spending details within a single month. You cannot select a time range that spans more than one month. For example, you cannot select a time range from February 10, 2018 to March 10, 2018. If you want to query the spending details that were generated more than 12 months ago, you must submit a ticket.

5. Find the target bill, and click **Detail** in the Action column.

   ⑦ **Note** The **Date and Time** parameter indicates the date and time when the bill was generated instead of the date and time when the service was enabled. For example, if you enabled a service at 23:00 on January 31 and the bill was generated at 01:00 on February 1, the Date and Time parameter of the bill indicates 01:00 on February 1.

FAQ

- Why am I charged additional fees for a subscription-billed RDS instance?

  The fee you pay when you purchase a subscription-billed RDS instance only covers the instance and its storage capacity. If you create read-only instances, enable SQL explorer (SQL audit) or performance monitoring, or consume more space to store backups than allowed by the specified free tier, you must pay the additional fees incurred. For more information, see Billable items.

- Will I be charged for a pay-as-you-go-billed RDS instance that I am not using?

Yes, your pay-as-you-go-billed RDS instance consumes computing and storage resources even if you are not using it. Therefore, you are still charged an hourly fee. If you will not use your pay-as-you-go-billed RDS instance for a long period of time, we recommend that you save its data and then release the RDS instance.

- Is the inbound and outbound Internet traffic consumed for my pay-as-you-go- and subscription-billed RDS instances free of charge?

  Yes, all of the inbound and outbound Internet traffic that is consumed for your pay-as-you-go- and subscription-billed RDS instances is free of charge.

6.Price adjustments

This topic introduces the price adjustments to ApsaraDB RDS.

Overview

> ⑦ **Note**   The prices that are provided in this topic are for reference only. If you require further details about the actual prices, go to the ApsaraDB RDS console.

Effective date	Item	Description
September 20, 2020	Snapshot backups for RDS instances that run PostgreSQL with standard or enhanced SSDs. For more information, see Back up an ApsaraDB RDS for PostgreSQL instance.	• A free quota is provided to store these snapshot backups. The free quota is equal to 200% of the purchased storage capacity. • The prices of these snapshot backups are reduced by about 75% compared with the prices of the backups that are stored on local SSDs. For more information, see Prices of ApsaraDB RDS for PostgreSQL Snapshot Backups.
September 1, 2020	Dedicated proxies for RDS instances that run MySQL.	The provision of the first dedicated proxy free of charge is ended. You are now charged for every dedicated proxy that you enable on your RDS instance. For more information about the prices of dedicated proxies, see What are dedicated proxies? ⑦ **Note** The discounts for the upgrade from shared proxy to dedicated proxy remain unchanged. For more information, see Upgrade an ApsaraDB RDS for MySQL instance from shared proxy to dedicated proxy.
May 29, 2020	Snapshot backups for RDS instances that run the Basic Edition.	The provision of free storage for snapshot backups is ended. A free quota is provided to store these snapshot backups. The free quota is equal to 200% of the purchased storage capacity. If your storage usage for snapshot backups exceeds the free quota, you are charged extra fees. For more information about the prices of snapshot backups, visit the Billable items, billing methods, and pricing.

Effective date	Item	Description
April 1, 2020	Snapshot backups for RDS instances that run MySQL with standard or enhanced SSDs. For more information, see Back up an ApsaraDB RDS for MySQL instance.	• The retention period of these snapshot backups is extended to more than seven days. Before April 1, 2020, these snapshot backups can be retained for up to seven days. • A free quota is provided to store these snapshot backups. The free quota is equal to 200% of the purchased storage capacity. • The prices of these snapshot backups are reduced by about 75% compared with the prices of the backups that are stored on local SSDs. For more information, see Prices of ApsaraDB RDS for MySQL Snapshot Backups.
March 13, 2020	Read-only RDS instances that run SQL Server 2017.	If you select the pay-as-you-go billing method and the dedicated instance family, the prices of these RDS instances are reduced by about 30%.
January 15, 2020	RDS MySQL Introduction to database proxies	For more information about the prices of dedicated proxies, see Prices of ApsaraDB for RDS Dedicated Proxies.
October 21, 2019	RDS instances that run PostgreSQL with standard or enhanced SSDs. For more information, see Create an ApsaraDB RDS for PostgreSQL instance.	The prices of these RDS instances are reduced by about 40% on average and up to 67% in all Alibaba Cloud regions. For more information,see Prices of ApsaraDB RDS for PostgreSQL Instances with Standard or Enhanced SSDs on Alibaba Cloud International Site.
October 15, 2019	RDS instances that run MySQL with standard or enhanced SSDs. For more information, see Create an ApsaraDB RDS for MySQL instance.	The prices of these RDS instances are reduced by about 30% on average and up to 67% in all Alibaba Cloud regions. For more information,see Prices of ApsaraDB RDS for MySQL Instances with Standard or Enhanced SSDs on Alibaba Cloud International Site.