

# Alibaba Cloud

## ApsaraDB for RDS Purchase Guide





Document Version: 20201112

# Legal disclaimer

Alibaba Cloud reminds you to carefully read and fully understand the terms and conditions of this legal disclaimer before you read or use this document. If you have read or used this document, it shall be deemed as your total acceptance of this legal disclaimer.

1. You shall download and obtain this document from the Alibaba Cloud website or other Alibaba Cloud-authorized channels, and use this document for your own legal business activities only. The content of this document is considered confidential information of Alibaba Cloud. You shall strictly abide by the confidentiality obligations. No part of this document shall be disclosed or provided to any third party for use without the prior written consent of Alibaba Cloud.
2. No part of this document shall be excerpted, translated, reproduced, transmitted, or disseminated by any organization, company or individual in any form or by any means without the prior written consent of Alibaba Cloud.
3. The content of this document may be changed because of product version upgrade, adjustment, or other reasons. Alibaba Cloud reserves the right to modify the content of this document without notice and an updated version of this document will be released through Alibaba Cloud-authorized channels from time to time. You should pay attention to the version changes of this document as they occur and download and obtain the most up-to-date version of this document from Alibaba Cloud-authorized channels.
4. This document serves only as a reference guide for your use of Alibaba Cloud products and services. Alibaba Cloud provides this document based on the "status quo", "being defective", and "existing functions" of its products and services. Alibaba Cloud makes every effort to provide relevant operational guidance based on existing technologies. However, Alibaba Cloud hereby makes a clear statement that it in no way guarantees the accuracy, integrity, applicability, and reliability of the content of this document, either explicitly or implicitly. Alibaba Cloud shall not take legal responsibility for any errors or lost profits incurred by any organization, company, or individual arising from download, use, or trust in this document. Alibaba Cloud shall not, under any circumstances, take responsibility for any indirect, consequential, punitive, contingent, special, or punitive damages, including lost profits arising from the use or trust in this document (even if Alibaba Cloud has been notified of the possibility of such a loss).
5. By law, all the contents in Alibaba Cloud documents, including but not limited to pictures, architecture design, page layout, and text description, are intellectual property of Alibaba Cloud and/or its affiliates. This intellectual property includes, but is not limited to, trademark rights, patent rights, copyrights, and trade secrets. No part of this document shall be used, modified, reproduced, publicly transmitted, changed, disseminated, distributed, or published without the prior written consent of Alibaba Cloud and/or its affiliates. The names owned by Alibaba Cloud shall not be used, published, or reproduced for marketing, advertising, promotion, or other purposes without the prior written consent of Alibaba Cloud. The names owned by Alibaba Cloud include, but are not limited to, "Alibaba Cloud", "Aliyun", "HiChina", and other brands of Alibaba Cloud and/or its affiliates, which appear separately or in combination, as well as the auxiliary signs and patterns of the preceding brands, or anything similar to the company names, trade names, trademarks, product or service names, domain names, patterns, logos, marks, signs, or special descriptions that third parties identify as Alibaba Cloud and/or its affiliates.
6. Please directly contact Alibaba Cloud for any errors of this document.

# Document conventions

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

# Table of Contents

1.Promotional offers and price adjustments .....	05
2.Pricing, billable items, and billing methods .....	07
3.Specification change fees .....	10
4.Subscription renewal .....	12
5.Unlock or rebuild an expired or overdue ApsaraDB for RDS ins.....	13
6.View the spending details of an ApsaraDB for RDS instance .....	15


# 1. Promotional offers and price adjustments

This topic introduces the promotional offers and price adjustments of ApsaraDB for RDS.

## Promotional offers

For more information, visit [Alibaba Cloud Databases](#).

## Price adjustments

 **Note** The prices provided in this topic are for reference only. If you want to know the actual prices, go to the ApsaraDB for RDS console.

Effective date	Item	Description
September 20, 2020	<a href="#">Snapshot backups</a> for ApsaraDB RDS for PostgreSQL instances that are equipped with standard or enhanced SSDs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A free tier of storage space that is two times the total storage capacity of your RDS instance is provided to store these snapshot backups.</li> <li>The prices of the storage space used for these snapshot backups are about 75% lower compared with backups on local SSDs.</li> </ul> <p>For more information, see <a href="#">Prices of ApsaraDB RDS for PostgreSQL snapshot backups</a>.</p>
April 1, 2020	<a href="#">Snapshot backups</a> for ApsaraDB RDS for MySQL instances that are equipped with standard or enhanced SSDs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The retention period of these snapshot backups is extended to more than seven days. (Before April 1, 2020, these snapshot backups can be retained only for up to seven days.)</li> <li>A free tier of storage space that is two times the total storage capacity of your RDS instance is provided to store these snapshot backups.</li> <li>The prices of the storage space used for these snapshot backups are about 75% lower compared with backups on local SSDs.</li> </ul> <p>For more information, see <a href="#">Prices of ApsaraDB RDS for MySQL snapshot backups</a>.</p>
March 13, 2020	Read-only ApsaraDB RDS for SQL Server 2017 instances	The prices of these instances are reduced by 30% if these instances use pay-as-you-go billing and fall into the dedicated instance family.
January 15, 2020	<a href="#">Dedicated proxy</a> for ApsaraDB RDS for MySQL	For more information about the prices of the dedicated proxy feature, see <a href="#">Prices of ApsaraDB for RDS dedicated proxies</a> .


Effective date	Item	Description
October 21, 2019	<a href="#">ApsaraDB RDS for PostgreSQL instances equipped with standard or enhanced SSDs</a>	The prices of these instances have dropped by 40% on average and up to 67% in all Alibaba Cloud regions. For more information, see <a href="#">Prices of ApsaraDB RDS for PostgreSQL instances equipped with standard or enhanced SSDs</a> .
October 15, 2019	<a href="#">ApsaraDB RDS for MySQL instances equipped with standard or enhanced SSDs</a>	The prices of these instances have dropped by 30% on average and up to 67% in all Alibaba Cloud regions. For more information, see <a href="#">Prices of ApsaraDB RDS for MySQL instances equipped with standard or enhanced SSDs</a> .

## 2. Pricing, billable items, and billing methods

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

### Billable items

Billable item	Description	Pricing
Primary and secondary instance types	You must pay for the selected instance type. The instance type is charged based on the pay-as-you-go or subscription billing method. For more information about the billing methods, see <a href="#">Billing methods</a> .	
Storage capacity	You must pay for the storage capacity provisioned to the primary, secondary, read-only, and disaster recovery RDS instances that you create. The storage capacity is charged based on the pay-as-you-go or subscription billing method.	
<a href="#">Read-only instance type</a> (optional)	You must pay for the selected instance type. The instance type is charged based on the pay-as-you-go or subscription billing method. For more information, see <a href="#">Read-only instance types</a> .	
<a href="#">Cloned instance</a> (optional)	A cloned instance is charged based on the same pricing standards as a new primary RDS instance.	
<a href="#">Backup storage</a> (optional)	ApsaraDB RDS offers a free quota for backup storage. If your usage exceeds the free quota, you must pay for the excess backup storage that you use. For more information, see <a href="#">View the free quota for backup storage of an ApsaraDB RDS for MySQL instance</a> .	
<a href="#">Performance monitoring</a> (optional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Free functions: The 60-second monitoring and 300-second monitoring functions are provided free of charge.</li> <li><b>Charged function:</b> The 5-second monitoring function is charged based on the pay-as-you-go billing method.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">RDS MySQL</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">RDS SQL Server</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">RDS PostgreSQL</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">RDS PPAS</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">RDS MariaDB TX</a></li> </ul>

Billable item	Description	Pricing
SQL Explorer (SQL audit) (optional)	<p>The SQL Explorer (SQL audit) feature is disabled by default. No additional fees are required. If you enable this feature, you are charged an hourly fee based on the pay-as-you-go billing method.</p> <p>Hourly fee = Total volume of SQL logs at the hour of fee deduction × Unit price</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #add8e6; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p> <b>Note</b> This feature is provided free of charge for the RDS Enterprise Edition.</p> </div>	
Dedicated proxy (optional)	<p>The dedicated proxy feature is disabled by default. No additional fees are required. If you enable this feature, you are charged an hourly fee based on the pay-as-you-go billing method.</p> <p>The fee is deducted once every hour.</p>	

## Billing methods

ApsaraDB RDS supports the following two billing methods.

Billing method	Description
Subscription	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A subscription instance is an instance that you subscribe to for a period of time and pay for up front.</li> <li>• Subscription billing is more cost-effective than pay-as-you-go billing. Therefore, we recommend that you select subscription billing with a longer commitment. You can receive larger discounts for longer subscription periods.</li> <li>• A subscription instance cannot be released within the subscription period.</li> <li>• You can switch your RDS instance from subscription billing to pay-as-you-go billing. For more information, see <a href="#">Switch the billing method from subscription to pay-as-you-go</a>.</li> </ul>
Pay-as-you-go	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A pay-as-you-go instance is charged per hour based on your actual resource usage. The hourly fee is calculated based on the instance type that you specified in the purchase order and is deducted accordingly from the balance of your Alibaba Cloud account.</li> <li>• We recommend that you select pay-as-you-go billing for short-term use. If you no longer need your pay-as-you-go instance, you can release it to reduce costs.</li> <li>• You can switch your RDS instance from pay-as-you-go billing to subscription billing. For more information, see <a href="#">Switch the billing method from pay-as-you-go to subscription</a>.</li> </ul>

## 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 when you create a subscription RDS instance only covers the instance and its storage capacity. If you create read-only RDS instances, enable the SQL Explorer (SQL audit) or performance monitoring feature, or use more storage than the free quota for backup storage, you must pay the additional fees required. For more information, see [Billable items](#).

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

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

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

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


# 3.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	<p>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).</p> <p>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: <math>(14,400/30/24 \times 50 \times 24) - (7,200/30/24 \times 50 \times 24) = \text{USD } 12,000</math>.</p>
Renew and upgrade/downgrade	<p>Payment = Total fees of the new specifications of subscription (Monthly price of the new specifications/30/24 × Subscription duration).</p> <p>Example: You subscribed to an instance for three months. If you change the specifications after two months and the new specification fee is USD 3,000, the total payment of the new specifications is USD 3,000 and the new specifications take effect after a month.</p> <div style="background-color: #e0f2f1; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p> <b>Note</b> The new specifications take effect after the original specifications expire.</p> </div>
Downgrade immediately	<p>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).</p> <p>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: <math>1000 - 800 = \text{USD } 200</math>.</p>

 **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

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

## 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](#)

## 4.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. For more information, visit the following websites:

- [RDS MySQL](#)
- [RDS SQL Server](#)
- [RDS PostgreSQL](#)
- [RDS PPAS](#)
- [RDS MariaDB TX](#)

### 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](#)

# 5.Unlock or rebuild an expired or overdue ApsaraDB for RDS instance

This topic describes how to unlock or rebuild an expired or overdue ApsaraDB for RDS instance.

 **Warning** If your RDS instance expires or is overdue, it may be stopped. You will be notified in such 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you have enabled auto-renewal but your RDS instance cannot be renewed:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ During the first to the fifteenth days after your RDS instance expires, the instance still runs normally.</li> <li>◦ On the sixteenth day after your RDS instance expires, the instance is stopped.</li> <li>◦ 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.</li> <li>◦ On the thirty-ninth day after your RDS instance expires, the backups of the instance are released.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• If you have not enabled auto-renewal:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ During the first to fifteenth days after your RDS instance expires, the instance is stopped.</li> <li>◦ 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.</li> <li>◦ On the twenty-fourth day after your RDS instance expires, the backups of the instance are released.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Before your RDS instance is released, you can manually renew the instance. The instance is immediately available. For more information, see <a href="#">Manually renew an ApsaraDB RDS for MySQL instance</a>.</li> <li>• After your RDS instance is released and before its backups are released, you can rebuild the instance from the recycle bin. This allows you to restore the data of your RDS instance to a new RDS instance. For more information, see <a href="#">Manage ApsaraDB RDS for MySQL instances in the recycle bin</a>. The time that is required for the restoration varies based on the performance and data volume of your RDS instance.</li> <li>• After the backups are released, your RDS instance cannot be restored.</li> </ul>
Pay-as-you-go	<p>If the balance in your Alibaba Cloud account is insufficient, all of the pay-as-you-go-billed instances under this account become overdue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• During the first to fifteenth days after your RDS instance expires, the instance still runs normally.</li> <li>• During the sixteenth to thirtieth days after your RDS instance expires, the instance is stopped.</li> <li>• On the thirty-first day after your RDS instance expires, the instance and its backups are released and cannot be restored.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Before the backups of your RDS instance are released, check the payment method of your Alibaba Cloud account in the <a href="#">Billing Management console</a>.</li> <li>• After the backups are released, your RDS instance cannot be restored.</li> </ul>

 **Note** If your RDS instance runs MySQL, its cross-region backups are still retained after it is released due to expiration or overdue payments. In addition, the backups that remain with the specified retention period are also retained. For more information, see [Back up an ApsaraDB RDS for MySQL instance across regions](#) and [Back up an ApsaraDB RDS for MySQL instance](#).

## Suggestions

- Before your subscription-billed RDS instance expires, we recommend that you manually renew the instance or enable auto-renewal for the instance. 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.

## 6. 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ The fee required to purchase the RDS instance if the instance uses pay-as-you-go billing.</li><li>◦ 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.</li></ul>
Pre-paid fees	The fee required to purchase the RDS instance if the instance uses subscription billing.

 **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.

 **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.