

Elastic Compute Service

Purchase Guide

Purchase Guide

You can purchase or create an ECS instance from two channels.

Use the official website

Log on to [Advanced Purchase](#).

Select one of the following billing methods:

- Yearly/monthly subscription
- Pay-As-You-Go

Configure the instance region, zone, configuration model (CPU/memory), bandwidth, images, and disks.

Select **Buy Now** or **Add To Cart**.

Confirm the order and select **Activate** to complete the purchase.

Use API

Open API currently only supports the purchase of Pay-As-You-Go ECS instances. For specific API documentation, see [API Reference](#).

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

Pricing

The price of an ECS instance varies by the following factors:

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

Windows images.

For pricing details, refer to [Pricing of ECS](#).

Billing methods

Currently, ECS instances support two billing methods:

Subscription: A type of prepayment whereby instances can be used only after payment is made. Instance usage is billed on a monthly basis, and the billing unit is US\$/month. Subscription is applicable to fixed 24/7 services, such as Web service.

Pay-As-You-Go: A type of post payment whereby payment is made after instance usage. Instance usage is billed on an hourly basis, and the billing unit is US\$/minute. The minimum charge for the lifecycle of an ECS instance (from creation to release) is 0.01 US\$. Pay-As-You-Go is applicable to scenarios with sudden traffic spikes, such as temporary scaling, interim testing, and scientific computing.

The functions and payment methods of an ECS instance vary depending on billing methods.

Functions

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

Function	Subscription	Pay-As-You-Go
Renew	Supported. You can manually renew or activate auto-renewal for your ECS instance.	Not supported.
Release instances at any time	Not supported. The instance will be automatically released if it is not renewed timely after expiration.	Supported. If you do not need an instance any longer, release it as soon as possible. Otherwise, the instance is still billed even after it is stopped until it is out of service and automatically released because of overdue payment.
Upgrade instance specification	Supported. For details, refer to Upgrade configurations in the User Guide .	Not supported.
Upgrade bandwidth	Supported. For details, refer to Upgrade configurations in the User Guide .	Not supported. If your Pay-As-You-Go ECS instance is bound to an EIP address, you can use the Change Configuration function to

		upgrade or downgrade the bandwidth configuration on the EIP address.
Change billing method	Not supported.	Supported. You can switch from Pay-As-You-Go to Subscription. For details, refer to Switch from Pay-As-You-Go to subscription in the <i>User Guide</i> .
ICP Filing for instances in regions inside mainland China	Supported.	Not supported.
Use API to create instances	Not supported.	Supported.

Payment methods

The payment methods of an ECS instance varies depending on different billing methods.

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

For details about the adding procedure, refer to [Configure your account](#) in the *Account Management* documentation.

Purchase of ECS instances in regions inside mainland China requires real-name registration. For details about real-name registration, refer to [Real-name Registration for purchase of China mainland ECS](#) in the *Account Management* documentation.

The **Subscription** billing method requires prepayment. Payment by credit card, PayPal account, or coupons is supported. For details about the billing rules, refer to [Subscription rules](#).

To view the billing record for each ECS instance of the Subscription billing method, log on to the ECS Console and go to **Billing Management** > **Bills Details** > **Prepaid Billing**.

The **Pay-As-You-Go** billing method allows you to use instances first and pay later. Payment by credit card or coupons is supported. For details about the billing rules, refer to [Pay-As-You-Go rules](#).

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

Renew instances

Introduction

Manual renewal only applies to instances in **Subscription** mode.

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

Your instance will still work normally when the instance is in the **Expired** status. If the manual renewal is successfully completed within 15 days after expiration, your instance will go into the next billing cycle from the day of expiration.

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

If the instance fails to be renewed within 15 days after expiration, the instance will be shut down. Your instance will stop providing services, but Alibaba Cloud will still keep the data for you.

After the instance is shut down,

If the renewal is successful within 15 days, your instance will go into the new billing cycle from the day of renewal.

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

If the renewal fails within 15 days, your instance will be automatically released on the 15th day and the data will not be restored.

Operating procedure

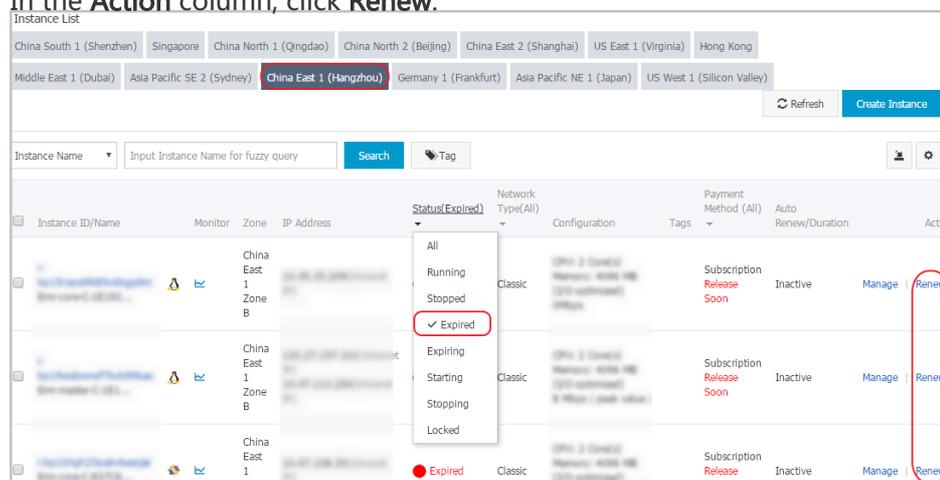
You can manually renew your instance with the following steps.

Log on to the ECS Management Console.

In the left navigation pane, click **Instances**.

On the **Instance List** page, select the desired region and locate the ECS instance by the instance name, instance ID, or status (**Expired**).

In the **Action** column, click **Renew**.



On the renewal page,

- i. Confirm the instance configuration.
- ii. Select the desired renewal length, **1 Month** or **1 Year**, and click **Place Order**.

On the **Pay** page, confirm the order information and click **Pay** to complete the renewal operation.

Automatic renewal only applies to instances in **Subscription** mode.

Introduction

If you have activated the automatic renewal feature, Alibaba Cloud will charge fees from your linked credit card or PayPal account on the day when the instance is expired.

After purchasing an ECS instance and before the instance is shutdown, you can activate the automatic renewal feature any time on the **Renew Management** page.

If the automatic renewal feature is activated:

- When a monthly subscription instance expires, it will be renewed on a monthly basis automatically.
- When an annual subscription instance expires, it will be renewed on a yearly basis automatically.

Notes:

The automatic renewal feature does not support switching between monthly subscription and annual subscription. If you want to change the service duration for the instance, you can use the **Manual Renewal** feature.

After your subscription instance expires, Alibaba Cloud will automatically charge fee of the instance from your linked credit card or PayPal account on the day of expiration (T). If the fee deduction fails, Alibaba Cloud will try again on Day 7 (T+6) and Day 15 (T+14) until the renewal is successful, or until the instance is shutdown after all three renewal attempts fail.

If the automatic fee deduction is successful before Day T+14, your instance will go into the next billing cycle from the day of expiration.

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

If all three renewal attempts fail, the instance will be shutdown after 15 days after expiration. When an instance is shutdown, it will stop providing services and you will not be able to log on or remotely connect to the instance. At this point, you can only choose **Manual Renewal**. If the instance renewal fails within the following 15 days after it is shutdown, your instance will be released and the data will not be restored.

If you have manually renewed the instance before the automatic renewal, your instance will go into the next billing cycle, and no automatic renewal will be performed within this billing cycle.

Alibaba Cloud will send a reminder message to your linked e-mail address for each fee deduction failure. Please keep an eye out for the notifications and take actions as necessary to avoid downtime of your instance and impact on your business.

Activate automatic renewal

Follow the steps below to activate the automatic renewal feature.

Log on to the ECS Management Console.

At the top of the page, click **Billing Management** to go to the **Billing Management** page.

In the left navigation pane, select **Renew Management**.

On the **Renew Management** page, search for the instance for renewal by:

- **Product:** Select **Elastic Compute**, that is, the product category is ECS instance.
- **Region:** Select the region of the instance, such as China East 1 (Hangzhou).
- **Date:** Set the expiration time of the instance.

In the filtered instance list, find the desired instance to activate automatic renewal for, and click the **Auto Renew** toggle.

Instance Name	Region	Expiration Date(UTC+8)	Renew Cycle	Remaining Time	Instance Status	Auto Renew
ecs-cn-hangzhou-1	China East 1 (Hangzhou)	2016-12-05 00:00:00		17 day(s)	Out of service	<input type="checkbox"/>
ecs-cn-hangzhou-2	China East 1 (Hangzhou)	2016-12-06 00:00:00		16 day(s)	Out of service	<input type="checkbox"/>
ecs-cn-hangzhou-3	Hangzhou	2016-12-08 00:00:00	1 months	14 day(s)	Expired	<input type="checkbox"/>
ecs-cn-hangzhou-4	China East 1 (Hangzhou)	2016-12-09 00:00:00		13 day(s)	Expired	<input type="checkbox"/>
ecs-cn-hangzhou-5	China East 1 (Hangzhou)	2016-12-09 00:00:00		13 day(s)	Expired	<input type="checkbox"/>

In the **Activate Auto Renew** dialog, click **OK** to activate the feature. After the feature is activated, the **Auto Renew** toggle of the selected instance is displayed in green.

Disks and network bandwidth

Alibaba Cloud currently uses the post-paid payment option for ECS instance Internet bandwidth and collects the fees on an hourly basis according to actual traffic usage, regardless of ECS instance payment options and network types. Network bandwidth prices vary among regions. For detailed prices, refer to pricing of Elastic Cloud Server.

Alibaba Cloud charges no fees on intranet traffic usage.

Internet bandwidth types

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

Internet bandwidth	Definition	Bandwidth limit	Increase bandwidth
--------------------	------------	-----------------	--------------------

types			limit
Outbound bandwidth	The bandwidth for outbound traffic from ECS instances. For example, your ECS instances provide external access or you need to download internal resources from the ECS instances by using a FTP client or other tools.	The maximum speed is 100 Mbit/s.	Open a ticket to increase the bandwidth limit to 200 Mbit/s.
Inbound bandwidth	The bandwidth for inbound traffic to ECS instances. For example, you need to download resources for external networks from inside the ECS instance, or you need to upload resources to ECS instances by using a FTP client or other tools.	The maximum speed is 200 Mbit/s.	The limit cannot be increased.

Alibaba Cloud only charges fees for outbound traffic usage. The fee is calculated on an hourly basis and the billing unit is USD/GB. To prevent high charges from sudden traffic spikes, you can set a peak value for outbound bandwidth when creating an instance

Note: Traffic arising from interaction between ECS instances on the same LAN is free of charge.

Purchase Internet bandwidth

You can use different methods to purchase Internet bandwidth for different Internet access modes:

If each ECS instance needs to access the Internet with its own Internet IP address, you need to purchase Internet bandwidth when creating the instance.

How to purchase: When you are creating an ECS instance, in the **Choose Network Type** section, set **Network Bandwidth Peak** to a non-zero value.

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

If your ECS instances access the Internet through EIP, you must set **Network Bandwidth Peak** to 0 Mbit/s when creating the ECS instance.

Payment options

You can pay for Internet bandwidth in any of the following methods:

Use a credit card or PayPal account bound to your account.

Purchase a Data Transfer Plan and deduct the traffic usage from the plan. For more information about Data Transfer Plan, refer to [General Package Terms & Conditions](#).

Example of charge calculation

Suppose that the average bandwidth of your ECS instance in an hour is 0.5 Mbit/s and the bandwidth price is 0.081 USD/GB. You need to pay the following sum for the hourly traffic:

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

Note: For calculation convenience, we use the average Internet bandwidth value for calculation and suppose there is 0.5 Mbit of outbound traffic every second from the ECS instance. For the actual outbound Internet traffic from the ECS instance, you can go to **Billing Management > Usage Record** to download the usage history of *Elastic Compute Service (ECS) - Pay-As-You-Go*.

Currently, ECS storage offers the following formats:

- Basic Cloud Disks
- Ultra Cloud Disks
- SSD Cloud Disks

For official image system disks, a storage space of 40 GB is offered for free for Linux and Windows systems.

Cloud disks can be separately purchased as stand-alone systems with usage fees paid as needed. The data reliability is up to 99.999%. Cloud disks can be freely attached to and detached from different ECS instances in the same zone. These disks are suitable for Pay-As-You-Go usage scenarios.

Purchase cloud disks

To purchase a cloud disk, perform the following:

Log on to the Cloud Disk Purchase Page.

Select region, then specify the disk type, size, and number of cloud disks.

Confirm the order and pay.