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:

- 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 *User Guide*.
ICP Filing for instances in regions inside mainland China	Supported.	Not supported.
Use API to create instances	Not supported.	Supported.

You can also **switch your instance from Pay-As-You-Go to subscription**.

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**.

The Subscription billing method is a type of prepayment whereby resources can be used only after payment is made.

Applicable resources

Currently, the Subscription billing method is applicable to the following ECS resources:

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

If you create an ECS instance of the Subscription billing method, the **Instance Cost** displayed in the bottom of the instance creation page is the total fee of the preceding three resources.

Payment methods

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

Credit cards or PayPal account bound to your account. You can refer to *Account Management* > **Configure your account** to bind a credit card or PayPal account to your account.

Coupons that can be used to pay for prepaid products under your account.

You can log on to the ECS console and go to **Billing Management** > **Coupon Management** to view the **Applicable Scenarios** of your coupons and determine whether the coupons are applicable to prepaid products.

Settlement cycle

Resources in Subscription mode are billed on a monthly basis. The billing cycle is calculated based on the GMT+8 time zone, starting from the resource activation time to 00:00:00 on the second day after one month or one year.

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

The billing unit varies depending on different resources. The following table lists the billing units for various resources.

Resource	Billing unit
ECS instance	USD/month
Image	USD/month
System disk	USD/40 GB/month
Data disk	USD/GB/month

To continue using the resources, you can renew your ECS instance at the end of a settlement cycle. For details about the renewal procedure, refer to **Manual renewal** or **Auto-renewal**.

Normal usage of resources may be affected if the instance is not renewed or fails to be renewed within the specified period. The following table lists the usage status of various resources at the end of a billing cycle.

Period	ECS instance and image	System disk	Data disk
Within 15 days after the expiration date	Running properly*	Running properly*	Running properly*
15 days after the expiration date	Out of Service** and image disabled	Out of Service** but data retained	Out of Service** but data retained
30 days after the expiration date	Automatically released	Released along with the instance	Released along with the instance by default. If you disable automatic release along with the instance, the data disk is suspended.

* **Running properly** means you can start and stop the instance properly and connect to the instance by using the **Management Terminal** in the console or other remote connection methods.
** **Out of Service** means the ECS instance is automatically suspended because of overdue payment or delayed renewal.

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.
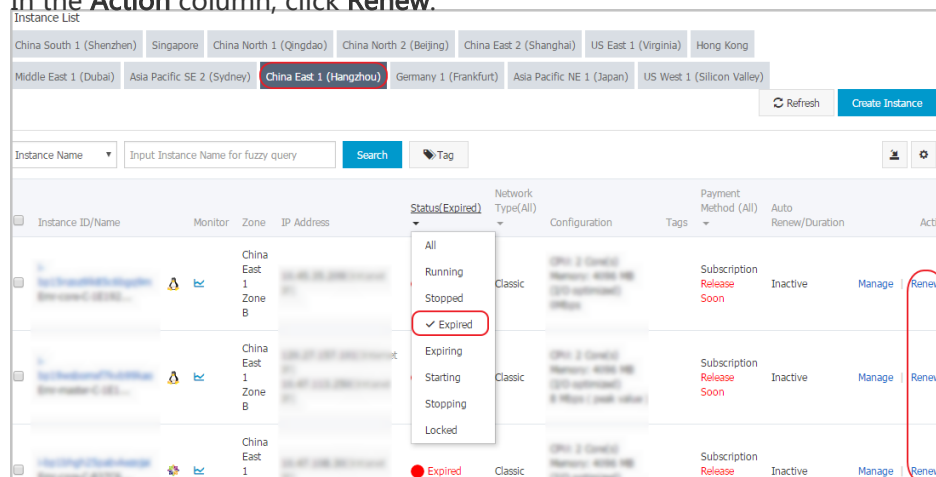
Operating procedure

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.

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 types	Definition	Bandwidth limit	Increase bandwidth 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	The maximum speed	The limit cannot be

	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.	is 200 Mbit/s.	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] GB * 0.081 USD/GB = 0.018 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*.

Cloud disks on ECS instances are classified into system disks and data disks by usage. System disks and data disks may be of any disk type. For details about the differences among various disk types, refer to Disk categories and application scenarios in the *Product Overview* of ECS. For details about the disk types supported by different instance types, refer to Instance generations and type families.

You can purchase system disks and data disks for your ECS instances.

Purchase methods

The method for buying disks varies depending on the specific disk usage.

Purchase system disks

You can purchase system disks only when you are creating an ECS instance. By default, the minimum disk capacity is 40 GB and the maximum is 500 GB.

Purchase data disks

An account can have a maximum of 250 data disks, and a maximum of 16 data disks can be attached to one ECS instance.

The disk capacity varies depending on different disk types.

- SSD cloud disks and ultra cloud disks: By default, the minimum disk capacity is 20 GB and the maximum is 32,768 GB.
- Basic cloud disk: By default, the minimum disk capacity is 20 GB and the maximum is 2,048 GB.

You can purchase a data disk by using either of the following methods:

Purchasing a data disk when creating an ECS instance.

Note: Data disks created by using this method cannot be detached but are released along with the ECS instance.

Creating a cloud disk independently in the ECS console.

Note: Data disks created by using this method can be detached but are not by default released along with the ECS instance.

Pricing and billing

Disk prices are classified into:

- Monthly price: Applicable in prepayment mode, that is, pay first and use later
- Pay-As-You-Go price: Applicable in post-payment mode, that is, use first and pay later

The disk price varies depending on different regions. For pricing details, refer to Pricing.

The billing method for a disk is related to the method that is used to create the disk and the billing method for the ECS instance to which the disk is attached. For details, see the following table.

Disk creation method	Billing methods for ECS instances	Billing method for system disks	Billing method for data disks
The disk is created when you are creating an ECS instance.	Subscription	The disk is billed on a monthly basis. The billing unit is USD/40 GB/month.	The disk is billed on a monthly basis. The billing unit is USD/GB/month.
	Pay-As-You-Go	The disk is billed for the actual usage on an hourly basis. The billing unit is USD/40 GB/hour. The charge for usage less than 1 hour is calculated based on 1 hour.	The disk is billed for the actual usage on an hourly basis. The billing unit is USD/GB/hour.
The disk is created independently.	The billing method of instances has no effect on the billing method for disks.	System disks cannot be created independently.	Cloud disks can be created independently in the ECS console. The disk is billed for the actual usage. The billing unit is

			USD/GB/hour.

Example of charge calculation: Suppose you purchase two 40 GB ultra cloud disks as a system disk and a data disk in a mainland China region. The cost varies depending on the methods used to create disks and/or the billing method for ECS instances. See the following table for details.

System disk

Billing method for disks	Billing method for ECS instances	Billing period	Price	Cost
Subscription (monthly basis)	Subscription (monthly basis)	From 12:25:34, Mar. 12, 2017 to 00:00:00, Apr. 13, 2017, one month	US$3.08/40GB/month	US$3.08
Pay-As-You-Go	Pay-As-You-Go	From 12:25:34 to 13:00:00, Mar. 12, 2017, one hour	US$0.008/40 GB/hour	US$0.008

Data disk

Billing method for disks	Billing period	Price	Cost
Subscription (monthly basis)	From 12:25:34, Mar. 12, 2017 to 00:00:00, Apr. 13, 2017, one month	US$0.08/GB/month	US$3.20
Pay-As-You-Go	From 12:25:34 to 13:00:00, Mar. 12, 2017, one hour	US$0.0002/GB/hour	US$0.008

Payment options

You can use credit cards, PayPal, or coupon to pay for disks.

Fees for a disk created along with an ECS instance are settled at the instance settlement time. Fees for independently created data disks are settled separately.

Disks priced in Pay-As-You-Go mode adopt post payment. For details about the settlement

rules, refer to the **Pay-As-You-Go billing rules**. You can go to **Billing Management** > **Bills Details** > **Postpaid Billing** to view the disk fee record.

Disks with a monthly price adopt prepayment. For details about the settlement rules, refer to the **Subscription billing rules**. You can go to **Billing Management** > **Bills Details** > **Prepaid Billing** to view the disk fee record.