

# Elastic Compute Service

## Purchase Guide

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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](#).

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.

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, <b>release</b> 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 <i>User Guide</i> .	Not supported.
Upgrade bandwidth	Supported. For details, refer to Upgrade configurations in the <i>User Guide</i> .	Not supported. If your Pay-As-You-Go ECS instance is bound to an EIP address, you can use the <b>Change Configuration</b> 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.

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**.

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 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*.