Elastic Compute Service

Pricing

Pricing

Purchasing methods

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**.

Subscription

The Subscription billing is a Subscription method, in which you can use the resources only after you make the payment.

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 lower right 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. See *Account Management* > **Configure your account** to bind a credit card or PayPal account to your account.

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

>> Log on to the ECS console and select **Billing Management** > **Coupon Management** to view the **Applicable Scenarios** of your coupons and determine whether the coupons are applicable to Subscription products.

Settlement cycle

Resources in Subscription mode are billed on a monthly basis. The billing cycle is calculated based on the UTC+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 more information about the renewal procedure, see Manual renewal or Auto-renewal.

Status changes after expiration

The auto-renewal feature affects the status changes of the resources when a Subscription instance expires.

Disabled auto-renewal

If a Subscription instance is not set to be auto-renew, it is out of service at any time within the 24 hours from 00:00:00 of the expiration day to the next 00:00:00. If you do not manually renew the instance within 15 days after it expires, the status changes of related resources are displayed in the following table.

Period	ECS instances and images	System disks	Data disks	Internet IP addresses	Snapshots
On the expiration day	Out of service*, and images are disabled	Out of service, but data is retained	Out of service, but data on cloud disks, local disks, or shared block storage devices is retained	For an instance of the Classic network type: If an Internet IP address is assigned, it is retained. For a VPC instance: If an Internet IP address is assigned, it is retained; If an EIP address is bound, it is retained.	Retained.
15 days after expiration day	Released automatically	Released along with the instance, and data	By default, cloud disks are released along with the instance	For an instance of the Classic network type: If an	Automatic snapshots are automatically deleted,

			and data on them cannot be recovered. If you have set the cloud disks not to be released along with the instance, the disks stop working. Local disks are released along with the instance and data on them cannot be recovered. Shared block storage is detached automatically from the instance.	Internet IP address is assigned, it is released. For a VPC instance: If an Internet IP address is assigned, it is retained; If an EIP address is bound, it is unbound from the instance.	but those manually created are retained.
		cannot be recovered.			

* When an instance is **Out of service**, you cannot connect to it, the website deployed on the instance cannot be accessed, or your business start to run abnormally.

> **Note**:
> You cannot **enable the auto-renewal feature** for an instance after the instance expires.

Enabled auto-renewal

If a Subscription instance is set to be renewed automatically, but it fails to be renewed in the specified period, the status changes of the related resources are displayed in the following table.

Period	ECS instances and images	System disks	Data disks	Internet IP addresses	Snapshots
Within 15 days after the expiration day	Running properly*.	Running properly.	Running properly.	Retained.	Retained.

15 days after the expiration day	The instance is out of service at any time within the 24 hours from 00:00:00 of the 15th day after expiration to the next 00:00:00. Out of service** and images are disabled.	Out of service, but data is retained.	Out of service, but data is retained.	For an instance of the Classic network type: If an Internet IP address is assigned, it is released. For a VPC instance: If an Internet IP address is assigned, it is retained; If an EIP address is bound, it is retained.	Retained.
30 days after the expiration day	Automatically released.	Released along with the instance, and data cannot be recovered.	By default, the cloud disks are released along with the instance. If you set them not to be released along with the instance, they stop working. Local disks are released along with the instance. Shared block storage is automatically detached.	For an instance of the Classic network type: If an Internet IP address is assigned, it is released. For a VPC instance: If an Internet IP address is assigned, it is released; If an EIP address is bound, it is unbound from the instance.	Automatic snapshots are automatically deleted, but those that are manually created are retained.

* **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.

** When an instance is **Out of service**, you cannot connect to it, the website deployed on the instance cannot be accessed, or your business start to run abnormally.

No fees for stopped instances

The ECS introduces the **No fees for stopped instances** feature. If you enable this feature, you do not have to pay for a Pay-As-You-Go instance when it enters the Stopped status after you stop it in the ECS console or when you use the StopInstance interface or command-line interface (CLI).

Applicable resources

The **No fees for stopped instances** feature is only applicable to Pay-As-You-Go VPC instances.

The feature is not applicable to the following resources:

> Instances with local disks, including instances of the following types: d1ne, d1, i2, i1, gn5, and ga1.

> Cloud disks attached to the instances (including system disks and data disks), Internet bandwidth, elastic IP (EIP) addresses, and images. Billing of these resources continues after the **No fees for stopped instances** feature is enabled. For more information about billing, see Pay-As-You-Go, Cloud disk pricing, Purchase network bandwidth, Bandwidth pricing, and EIP pricing.

> Pay-As-You-Go VPC instances during the phase that is from the Stopped status to the Running status, immediately after they are created in the ECS console or by using the CreateInstance interface.

> Instances that are stopped due to overdue payment. In this case, the billing also stops. The computing resources and public IP address will be released too. You can reactivate your instance and its related resources only after the overdue payment is cleared. Billing of all resources resumes after your instance is successfully reactivated.

> Pay-As-You-Go instances in classic networks. After such an instance enters the Stopped status, Alibaba Cloud still bills the instance and its related resources. The public and private IP addresses of the instance remain unchanged after the instance is started.

> Spot instances.

Influences of the feature

The **No fees for stopped instances** feature has the following influences on your instance when the feature is enabled and the instance is stopped:

> The CPU and RAM will be released, so you may fail to start your instance next time. If it happens, try again or start your instance after some time.

> If the instance has been assigned a public IP address, the address is released. After you start your instance in the **ECS console** or by using the **StartInstance** interface, your instance is assigned a new public IP address. However, its private IP address remains unchanged.

When you perform the following actions, you must stop your instance and start it after the operations:

- Replace the system disk (ReplaceSystemDisk)
- Roll back a disk (ResetDisk)
- Reinitialize a disk (ReInitDisk)
- Other O&M operations

When performing any of the preceding operations, to guarantee that your instance can be successfully started, perform one of the following actions:

- Log on to the **ECS console** to disable the **No fees for stopped instances** feature. For more information about the procedure, see **Disable the feature**.
- If you are using APIs or CLI, set StoppedMode = KeepCharging in the **StopInstance** interface.

Enable the feature

You must manually enable the **No fees for stopped instances** feature. Once the feature is enabled, the Pay-As-You-Go VPC ECS instances in all the regions under your account are no longer charged when they are in the **Stopped** status.

> **Note**:
> If you already have one or more Pay-As-You-Go ECS instances in use, the feature is not automatically enabled for the ECS instances under your account so that your systems and applications are not affected accidentally. After you fully understand and confirm that the feature does not result in uncontrollable impact on your systems or applications, you can log on to the ECS console to enable the feature.

To enable the feature, follow these steps:

> Log on to the **ECS console**.

In the left-side navigation pane, click **Overview**.

In the upper right corner of the **Overview** page, click **Settings**.

Toggle **No Fees for Stopped Instances (VPC-Connected)**, read the note in the dialog box, and then click **No Fees for Stopped Instances (VPC-Connected)**.

Click **OK**.

After the feature is enabled, you can disable it as needed. For more information, see **Disable the feature**.

Disable the feature

You can disable the **No fees for stopped instances** feature as needed. This operation takes effect for the Pay-As-You-Go VPC instances in all the regions under your account. Proceed with caution.

After the feature is disabled:

The Pay-As-You-Go VPC instances in all the regions under your account are still billed even after they are stopped.

An instance currently in the Stopped status is not billed. After it is started,

- A new public IP address is assigned if it had one before it was stopped.
- The EIP address remains unchanged if it is not unbound before the instance was stopped.

When your instance enters the Stopped status after the feature is disabled,

- The instance is still billed.
- If it has been assigned a public IP address, the address is retained and remains unchanged.

To disable the feature, follow these steps:

Log on to the **ECS console**.

In the left-side navigation pane, click **Overview**.

In the upper right corner of the **Overview** page, click **Settings**.

Disable **No Fees for Stopped Instances (VPC-Connected)**, read the note in the dialog box, and then click **I Agree**.

Click **OK**.

Instance billing method comparison

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

Pricing

The price of an ECS instance varies according to the following:

- 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 more information, see **Pricing of ECS**.

Billing methods

Currently, ECS instances support two billing methods:

Subscription: A prepaid method that allows you to use an instance only after you make the payment for it. 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. For more information, see **Subscription**.

Pay-As-You-Go: A postpaid method in which you can pay after using the instance. Instance usage is billed on a minute basis, and the billing unit is US$/hour. The minimum charge for the lifecycle of an ECS instance (from creation to release) is 0.01 US$. Pay-As-You-Go is applicable to scenarios with sudden traffic spikes, such as temporary scaling, interim testing, and scientific computing. For more information, see **Pay-As-You-Go**.

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**, **activate auto-renewal**, or **renew for downgrade** for your ECS instance.	Not supported.
Release instances at any time	Not supported. The instance will be automatically released if it is not timely renewed after the instance expires.	Supported. If you do not need an instance any longer, **release it** immediately. 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 more information, see **Upgrade configurations** in the *User Guide*.	Supported.
Upgrade bandwidth	Supported. For more information, see **Upgrade configurations of Subscription instances** in the *User Guide*.	Supported. For more information, see **Change configurations of Pay-As-You-Go instances**.
Change billing method	Not supported.	Supported. You can switch from Pay-As-You-Go to Subscription. For more information, see **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 must add a credit card or PayPal account to your account.

> For more information about the adding procedure, see **Configure your account** in the *Account Management* documentation.

> Purchase of ECS instances in regions inside mainland China requires real-name registration. For more information about real-name registration, see **Real-name Registration for purchase of China mainland ECS** in the *Account Management* documentation.

The **Subscription** is a prepaid billing method. Therefore, payment by credit card, PayPal account, or coupons is supported. For more information about the billing rules, see Subscription.

> 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** > **Subscription**.

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 more information about the billing rules, see Pay-As-You-Go.

> 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** > **Pay-As-You-Go**.

Billing of network bandwidth

Alibaba Cloud only supports postpaid billing for ECS instance Internet bandwidth, which is called **PayByTraffic**. Alibaba Cloud collects the fees on an hourly basis according to actual traffic usage, regardless of ECS instance billing methods and network types. Network bandwidth prices vary among regions. For more information about pricing, see **Pricing of Elastic Cloud Server**.

> Alibaba Cloud charges no fees on intranet traffic.

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 want to download internal resources from the ECS instances by using an FTP client.	For Subscription instances: The maximum speed is 200 Mbit/s. For Pay-As-You-Go instances: The maximum speed is 100 Mbit/s.	**Open a ticket** to increase the bandwidth limit to 200 Mbit/s for a Pay-As-You-Go instance.
Inbound bandwidth	The bandwidth for inbound traffic to ECS instances. For example, you want to download resources for external networks from inside the ECS instance, or upload resources to ECS instances by using an FTP client.	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 while creating an instance

> **Note:** Traffic 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 an ECS instance needs to access the Internet by using its own Internet IP address, you must purchase Internet bandwidth while creating the instance.
> **How to purchase**: During ECS instance creating, 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 the EIP service, see **EIP address related documentation** in *VPC*.

> > If your ECS instances access the Internet by using an EIP address, you must set **Network Bandwidth Peak** to 0 Mbit/s while creating the ECS instance.

Payment options

You can pay for Internet bandwidth by using any of the following payment options:

Use a credit card or a 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, see SSD Cloud Server ECS Starter Package Plan.

Charge calculation example

Suppose that the average bandwidth of your ECS instance in an hour is 0.5 Mbit/s and the bandwidth price is USB 0.081 per GB. You must pay the following amount for the hourly traffic:

[(0.5 * 60 * 60) /1024/8] GB * 0.081 USD/GB = 0.018 USD

Note:
In this example, for better understanding, the average Internet bandwidth value for calculations are used to assume that, every second, 0.5 Mbit of outbound traffic occurs from the ECS instance. For actual outbound Internet traffic calculations from your ECS instance, you can go to Billing Management > Usage Records to download the usage history of *Elastic Compute Service (ECS) - Pay-As-You-Go*.