

Azure Subscriptions

Options:

- Free
 - Limited services, but everything is free.
 - Provides unlimited access to Azure resources for 30 days with \$200 credits that can be applied to paid products.
 - At the end of the trial period, you lose access to paid services unless you choose to continue with a paid subscription.
- Pay-As-You-Go (PAYG)
 - Most flexible and popular payment plan.
 - No minimum purchases or commitments.
 - Can cancel at any time.
 - Pay with credit card or be invoiced.
- Enterprise Agreement (EA)
 - Purchase through a Microsoft Enterprise Agreement (EA) at reduced rates.
 - Upfront usage commitment required to earn additional benefits, including flexible billing options and optimal rates.
- Open Licensing
 - Purchase directly from a Microsoft partner using an Open License Key.
 - Suitable for companies that have a value-added partner deploying their Azure environment.
- Purchase Directly through a Cloud Solution Provider (CSP)
 - Purchase from a solutions provider.
 - Option to let the partner handle billing, support, and act as the single point of contact.
- Student
 - Reduced rates for users in college.

Offer Types:

- An Azure offer is the type of Azure subscription you have.
- Each offer has different terms, and some may include special benefits.
- The offer of your subscription can be found on the Account Center subscription page.

Subscription Management Using Management Groups

- Organizes subscriptions into containers called “management groups.”
- All subscriptions automatically inherit the policies applied to the management group.
 - You can only have one management group per subscription.
- All subscriptions within a single management group must trust the same Azure Active Directory tenant.

Factors Affecting Costs

These include:

- Resource Types
- Services
- Locations
- Ingress and Egress Traffic

Zones for Billing Purposes

A zone is a geographical grouping of Azure Regions for billing purposes.

Here are some zones:

- Zone 1 (United States, Europe, Canada, UK, France)
- Zone 2 (Asia Pacific, Japan, Australia, India, Korea)
- Zone 3 (Brazil)
- DE Zone 1 (Germany)

Pricing Calculator (Azure)

- The Azure Pricing Calculator is an online tool that allows you to estimate the costs of Azure products and services.
- You can select resources, configure them, and see an estimated monthly cost based on usage, region, and other parameters.
- Useful for budgeting and planning Azure deployments to manage and forecast costs accurately.

Azure Cost Management

Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) Calculator

- The TCO Calculator is a tool provided by Azure to estimate the overall cost of running workloads in Azure compared to on-premises or other cloud providers.
- Helps organizations understand potential savings, including hardware, software, energy, and operational costs.

Best Practices for Minimizing Azure Costs

- Performing Cost Analysis
 - Reviewing detailed cost reports to identify high-spending resources and opportunities for optimization.
- Creating Spending Limits and Quotas
 - Setting budgets and limits to prevent unexpected charges and control resource consumption.
- Using Tags
 - Applying tags to resources to track costs by department, project, or environment for better cost allocation and reporting.
- Azure Reservations
 - Pre-purchasing compute or other resources for a one- or three-year term to save up to 72% over pay-as-you-go pricing.
- Azure Advisor Recommendations
 - Azure provides personalized recommendations for cost optimization, including resizing or shutting down underutilized resources.

Azure Service Level Agreements (SLAs)

- SLAs define the guaranteed uptime and performance levels for Azure services.
- Provides transparency into the reliability and availability of services and outlines compensation for service downtime.
- SLAs vary by service type and configuration; combining multiple services may affect overall SLA.

Service Life Cycle in Azure

Public and Private Preview Features

- Private Preview - Early access to new Azure features or services, available only to selected customers. Intended for testing and feedback before broader release.
- Public Preview - Features or services that are publicly available for testing. Customers can try them but should not use them for production workloads, as SLAs may not apply.
- General Availability (GA) - Fully released Azure features or services, supported for production workloads, and covered by standard SLAs.
- Monitor Feature Updates and Product Changes - Regular updates from Azure on new features, service improvements, deprecations, and other product changes to keep customers informed and help plan upgrades or migrations.